

Parish Bulletin, St Mary's Inverness

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Parish Clergy Laurence Gambella (*Administrator, Hospital Chaplain*);
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Carol MacLean (*Finance*); Marvia MacCulloch (*Sacristan*);
Eddie Docherty (*Music*); Christine Cameron (*Safeguarding*).

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

1 st Reading		Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
Eze. 34:11-12.15-17		Psalm 22	1 Cor. 15:20-26,28	Matthew 25:31-46
Sunday 26 NOVEMBER	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe		Mass 09.00 Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30	
Monday 27 NOVEMBER	Monday of 34 th Week of the Year		Rosary&Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30	
Tuesday 28 NOVEMBER	Memorial of St Catherine Laboure			
Wednesday 29 NOVEMBER	Wednesday of 34 th Week of the Year			
Thursday 30 NOVEMBER	Solemnity of St Andrew		Mass in Church 10.00	
Friday 1 DECEMBER	Memorial of St Charles de Foucauld		Rosary&Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30	
Saturday 2 DECEMBER	Saturday of the Blessed Virgin Mary		Confessions 10.00 Mass 10.30 Vigil Mass 18.00	
Sunday 3 DECEMBER	1 st SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Heating		Mass 09.00 Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30	

Children's Liturgy – During the 11.00 Mass

Hospital Mass - Mass at the hospital will take place every Wednesday at 15.00.
Please advise Fr Laurence or the Parish Office if you are going into hospital.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

We continue to pray for priestly vocations and for our Seminarians Aidan & Anh

+ SICK +

+ Joyce Connelly + Ann Cameron + Isobel Kelly + Winifred Kelly + Roddy Corbett +
+ Tommy Robertson + Marjory Trace + Eilidh Gillespie + Norah Hardie + Brian Lamond +
+ John and Mary Bell + Fr Joachim Zok + Lennie Stirling + Heather Taylor + Tony Grant +
+ Danuta Faferek + Justyna Tymecka + Teresa Graczykowska + David Reid +
+ Joan Murray + Isobel MacDonald +

+ ANNIVERSARIES +

+ Jane Gleniecki + John Shields + Agnes Alexander + Angela Deans + John Adams +
+ Margaret Hamill + Mary Ann MacDonald + anne MacDonald + Margaret Kerin +
+ Julia Bieinal + Patrick McCann + Evelyn Kennedy + Christopher Harling + Helen Rae +
+ Mary Brogan + Alexander McCulloch + William Friery + Margaret Cameron +
+ Anne Bowyer +

Advent Feeding Project

Many thanks for the overwhelming response to our Advent initiative. There were over 60 people in attendance from various parishes of our deanery. This now means, unfortunately, that some days now have too many volunteers, so please don't be offended if you are given a week off! Finalised information will be sent out later this week.

Advent Reflections: each Wednesday evening during Advent,

The first of these will take place on Wednesday 6 December at St. Ninian's Inverness. Each evening will commence, at 6.00pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, & opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession followed by the Advent Reflection, concluding with Night Prayer, Benediction and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This week's Reflection will be given by Fr. Justin.

Advent Day of Reflection at Stratherrick on Saturday 9th December 10.00 – 15.00. This will also commemorate the Patronal Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

RCIA/Deepening the Faith continues on Tuesdays at 18.30 in the Marian Room.

Highland Catholic Men's Group - Next meeting: Friday 8 December, from 18.30-20.00 in the Presbytery. Please contact Iain McIntyre at iadmccintyre1234@gmail.com

Faith Winter Session for Young Catholics at Emmaus Youth Village, Newcastle.

The Winter Session from 2-4 January 2024 attracts young Catholics from all over Britain and offers a blend of catechetical, spiritual and social activities. Although this is not a retreat, one of the keys to the spirit it creates comes from joining in common prayer and sharing the Sacraments. The cost for the weekend is £110, coach travel is available from Edinburgh for £25. If you are interested, please see Fr. Laurence for more information.

Mary's Meals – Double the Love

From 22 November 2023 to 22 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. Amongst the many challenges we see in today's world, from conflict to the cost-of-living crisis, your little acts of love can go further thanks to Double the Love, bringing hope to desperately hungry children and their families. Please pray that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. There are many ways to give, including our gift cards and e-cards. Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk

“Walking in the Footsteps of St. John Paul II”

Fr. Domenico Zandre (St. Columba's Culloden & St. Mary's Nairn) is leading a pilgrimage to Poland from 4-11 October 2024. We have 38 places in total, and most of these have already been taken. Cost £1,470 this can be paid throughout the year, with the final payment to be made by 12 July 2024. Please see the Poster for further information.

“Loss and Damage: A Call to Action”

At COP26 in Glasgow, one of the biggest disappointments was the failure to agree a fund for Loss and Damages. Countries which are most vulnerable to climate change and yet the least responsible, need financial support from industrialised countries who were, and continue to be, responsible for gas emissions. A Dialogue was set-up to continue the conversation. At COP27 in Egypt no conclusion was brought to this dialogue. Now is the moment for world leaders to take responsibility for the damage caused by climate change especially affecting the smallest and most vulnerable countries. COP28 in the United Arab Emirates should not be mere talk but take decisive action to create a robust fund to aid those struggling with climate change that threatens their very existence. *May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame.* (Laudate Deum 60) I pray that the hearts and consciences of all participants will be sensitive and open to the cries of the poor and weak and I entrust them to the intercession of St Andrew, our patron saint, on whose feast day COP28 will begin in Dubai.

Archbishop William Nolan

President of Justice and Peace, Bishops' Conference of Scotland

Parish Finances: If you wish to make any payments or donations to the parish, cheques should be made out as follows: **RCD – Inverness St Mary's**

Please ensure the wording is correct, as the bank will not accept anything other than the above. Donations may still be made in cash! If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid for any contributions to the parish.

Last week's Collections: Offertory £988 Aid to the Church in Need £601

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ave Christus Rex Universorum! This weekend we celebrate the triumph of Christ as Lord of all creation. Surprisingly, this is a relatively new feast in the Church, having only been inaugurated by Pope Pius XI in 1925. Its position as the final Sunday in the liturgical calendar is even more recent, within the living memory of many parishioners, having been moved from the last Sunday in October to the last in November only in 1970. Interestingly, 25th October 1970, the last Sunday of October that year, was also the day that the forty martyrs of England and Wales were canonised and until relatively recently (still in Wales) this remained their feast day. How ironic and fitting, perhaps even intentional, that these saints, who lost their lives for supposed disloyalty to an earthly monarch, should have their reward confirmed on a day until then associated with Christ's Heavenly rule, members of His Kingdom that we know is not of this world.

Like most feasts, the celebration of Christ the King did not arise in a vacuum. The end of October was associated with the Reformation and so part of the motivation was to serve as a reminder of the temporal authority of His Body, the Church, channelled through Tradition, the hierarchy and the Magisterium. The focus was on Christ's rights over us in the here and now and our corresponding responsibilities to Him as subjects. In the Encyclical that precipitated the feast, Pius XI himself stated that "All men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. In Him is the salvation of the individual, in Him is the salvation of society" (Quas Primas 18). Celebrating this feast at the end of October was also intended to be close to All Saints' Day, to emphasise how a Heavenly reward was available and accessible for those who continue Christ's mission, while on earth, of creating His Kingdom. The change to the end of November shifts the emphasis from the temporal to the cosmic and eschatological. This is thematically linked to the idea of the Second Coming which dominates at the beginning of Advent and so highlights the unbroken continuity of the liturgical cycle, a mission - "ite, Missa est" - which has as its purpose the triumph of Christ in all hearts. This reality is only present at the moment "in mystery", as Lumen Gentium (#3) reminds us, and will only be perfected at the end of time.

We are reminded of this well-founded expectation at every Mass. We affirm in the Creed that "He will come again in glory to judge the living in the dead" and in the prayers after the Our Father, the priest says "...As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ" and the people respond "...For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever". Perhaps today, as we say these words, we may reflect on the glory that is only Christ's, that is only won by His victory on the Cross, that has begun already and will endure for all eternity, that we belong to through our baptism, when we became members of His royal family. So, we hail our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the Divine Redeemer, and we crown with many crowns the Lamb upon His throne today and for all eternity.

God bless for now, Fr Laurence.