

Parish Bulletin, St Mary's Inverness

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Parish Clergy Laurence Gambella (*Administrator, Hospital Chaplain*);
Justin Edathil (*Assistant Priest*); Patrick Darbyshire (*Deacon*);
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Administration Przemysław "PJ" Faferek (*Office & Site Maintenance*);
Carol MacLean (*Finance*); Marvia MacCulloch (*Sacristan*);
Eddie Docherty (*Music*); Christine Cameron (*Safeguarding*).

Sunday 28 January	4th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 1 st Reading: Deut 18:15-20 Psalm: 94 2 nd Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35 Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28 Second Collection: Education	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30
Monday 29 January	Monday of the 4th Week of the Year	Rosary & Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30
Tuesday 30 January	Tuesday of the 4th Week of the Year	
Wednesday 31 January	Memorial of St John Bosco	
Thursday 1 February	Memorial of St Brigid	
Friday 2 February	Feast of the Presentation of The Lord	
Saturday 3 February	Memorial of St Blaise	Confessions 10.00 Mass 10.30 Vigil Mass 18.00
Sunday 4 February	5th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR Second Collection: Heating	Mass 09.00 Live Stream 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 on Wednesdays 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 +
+ Danuta Faferek + Justyna Tymecka + Teresa Graczykowska + David Reid +
+ Joan Murray + Alistair Murray +

+ ANNIVERSARIES +

+ Annie Quinn + Williamina McQueen + Joyce Persichini + Mary Duncan +
+ Neil Morrison + John MacKinnon + Ewan MacKintosh + Patrick Haran +
+ Mary MacDonald + Michael Flannigan + Thomas Waters + Catherine Hogan +
+ Leonella Longmore + Mary Ross +

St Joseph's School: A member of Staff from the school will speak at all Masses this weekend, prior to the Enrolment Week for primary 1 which takes place from Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February, to highlight the importance of Catholic education. For further information about the school and to view the school handbook please visit the school website www.stjosephsrcprimary.com Please remember the school in your prayers. A second collection will be taken at all Masses for Catholic Education.

Stratherrick Day of Reflection in preparation for Lent

A day of reflection in preparation for Lent will take place on Saturday 10th February from 10.00- 15.30. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Justin or the parish office.

Music at Weekend Masses:

It has been suggested that we introduce a small amount of music at all our weekend Masses. This would involve singing the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus and the Agnus Dei along with a hymn at the beginning and end of Mass. We appreciate that people have work commitments and may find it difficult getting to Mass at all, however we would like to make the Sunday Liturgy more special by introducing some singing. We would not take any decisions about this until we have some feedback from the congregation. We would be grateful for your opinions regarding this matter.

Sunday Meal Service: If you were unable to attend last week's meeting for the rollout of this project during Lent, but would like to volunteer, please contact Fr. Laurence or the parish office.

"Death of a Martyr" - written by Michael Gutteridge

For all those involved, a rehearsal will take place in the Marian Room on 31st January at 6.30 pm. It is hoped that a public performance will take place in the near future.

The Paschal Triduum at Pluscarden Abbey

The Abbot and Monks of Pluscarden invite young men and women (aged 18-35) to celebrate the 2024 Paschal Triduum with them. The invitation extends from Thursday of Holy Week, 28 March, until Easter Monday, 1 April 2024. This will be an opportunity for a focussed participation in the central mysteries of our faith, celebrated in both life and liturgy, with of course a particularly monastic emphasis. Meals will be taken together at St Scholastica's women's guest house. This will also encourage the "networking" aspect of the weekend, so that participants may help build up one another in the faith. Numbers will necessarily be limited to the number of available rooms in the male and female Abbey Guesthouses.

For more information: [The Paschal Triduum at Pluscarden Abbey](#)

Pilgrimage to England:

It is hoped to be able to organise a pilgrimage to England from Sunday 25th August to Saturday 31st August for around 20 people. Going at this time means that we can be at the shrines of Blessed Dominic Barberi and Margaret Clitherow on their feast days and on Lindisfarne for the feast of St Aidan. Also included will be Holywell, the shrine of St Winefride in North Wales, Durham Cathedral, where St Cuthbert is buried and Catholic Liverpool and Manchester. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Laurence for further details.

Eccumenical Prayer Service and Burns Supper:

Many thanks to all those who attended the Service of Prayer for Christian Unity and our Burns Supper. All of our guests enjoyed and were very complimentary about the hospitality shown to them by St. Mary's. It shows the importance of the social life of the parish and the importance of regular social events for all to join in. However, there are some lessons to be learned about the practicalities of staging these events, not least the need for more volunteers. More will be said about this next week

Church Hall: The hall is available for hire for private functions. Details can be obtained from the parish office.

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.

Collections: Offertory £998

Dear Friends in Christ,

.....And breathe! Last week was particularly action-packed, hosting the Deanery gathering, meetings about the hall and the future of the meal service, the Ecumenical prayer service and Burns' supper, Mass in the school and a 60th wedding anniversary and 80th birthday, in addition to the ordinary parish and hospital business. Thank God for team work!

*At the start of the calendar year there is a natural busyness, a missionary impulse in imitation of Christ, who Himself begins His mission with dynamic force. Pope Francis has talked repeatedly about the need for us to become "missionary disciples" and his forebear but one, John Paul II, in *Redemptoris Missio*, described the need for the missionary to be a "contemplative in action". Indeed, he asserted, "unless the missionary is a contemplative, he cannot proclaim Christ in a credible way". Busyness – business - then is good, as long as it is the Lord's business and as long as it is counterbalanced by an equally intense life of prayer.*

This week's saints help us to understand how contemplation and action necessarily combine within true mission. Today, 28th January, the Church normally celebrates the feast of St Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, whose synthesis of philosophy and theology is the blueprint for our formal understanding of the Faith. St Thomas spoke about "an active life which gives to others the fruits of contemplation" as being the most perfect situation and spent his whole life working avidly to harmonise Faith and reason. And yet his deep devotion to the Eucharistic is revealed in the hymns that he wrote, including for the feast of Corpus Christi - and, despite being a member of the Order of Preachers, the Dominicans, and teaching for years at University, described all that he had written as straw compared to the things that had been revealed to him in a mystical experience a few months before death. He never wrote again.

Aside from this great teacher of theology, this week we also celebrate two other renowned educators- Sts Angela Merici and John Bosco - the former of whom founded the first religious order of women teachers, so in a sense everyone around the world who has been educated by nuns, including at Saint Joseph's, owe a special debt to St Angela. The other saint, John Bosco, founded the Salesians taking the name from the figure he saw as the paradigm of Christian gentlemanliness, St Francis de Sales. The Salesian order concentrates on teaching with authority, like Jesus in today's Gospel, but also with His meekness and humbleness of heart.

This weekend we will hear an appeal from St Joseph school about their current predicament. Whether we have children or not, it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that Catholic education remains possible, especially since Jesus has come to teach and in a way that is different from what is on offer elsewhere. Let us ask the intercession of the great saints of this week as well as Saint Joseph and Our Blessed Lady, Jesus' own teachers in the Faith, that our school may not only survive but grow and flourish.

God bless you all, Fr Laurence.