

Parish Bulletin, St Mary's Inverness

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Parish Clergy Laurence Gambella (*Administrator, Hospital Chaplain*);
Justin Edathil (*Assistant Priest*); Patrick Darbyshire (*Deacon*);
Andrzej Niski (*Polish Community*)

Administration Przemysław "PJ" Faferek (*Office & Site Maintenance*);
Carol MacLean (*Finance*); Marvia MacCulloch (*Sacristan*);
Eddie Docherty (*Music*); Christine Cameron (*Safeguarding*).

Sunday 17 March	5th SUNDAY OF LENT 1 st Reading: Jerimiah 31:31-34 Psalm: 50 2 nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9 Gospel: John 12:20-30	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30
Monday 18 March	Monday of the 5th Week of Lent	Rosary & Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30
Tuesday 19 March	St Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary	(Church) Mass 10.00
Wednesday 20 March	Wednesday of the 5th Week of Lent Stations of the Cross at 18.30	Rosary & Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30
Thursday 21 March	Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent	
Friday 22 March	Friday of the 5th Week of the Year Station Mass: St Ninian's, Inverness 19.00	
Saturday 23 March	Saturday of the 5th Week of Lent	Confessions 10.00 Mass 10.30 Stratherrick 17.00 Vigil Mass 18.00
Sunday 24 March	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD Second Collection: Holy Places	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 + Lennie Stirling + Heather Taylor + Danuta Faferek +
+ Justyna Tymecka + Teresa Graczykowska + David Reid + Joan Murray +
+ Alistair Murray + Danuta Jaskolka + Jakub Akacki +

+ ANNIVERSARIES +

+ Roderick MacRae + John Barry + Margaret Stewart + Patrick Gavin +
+ Archibald McDonald + Catherine Stewart + Jessie Coyle + John Curran +
+ Thomas Evans + James McLaughlin + Marian Miller + Catherine Simpson +
+ Annie MacDonald + James Gallacher + Glen Hardie + Malcolm Morrison +
+ Mary Corsar + Teresa Campbell +

RCIA: The 3rd Scrutiny for the Reception into the Church at Easter, for Dan and Emma Lynch will take place at the 6.30pm Mass this Sunday. Sessions continue on Tuesday at 6.30 pm. In the Marian Room.

Stations of the Cross: Stations of the Cross will take place every Wednesday evening at 6.30 pm during Lent. Please try to attend.

Lenten Station Masses 2024:

The final Station Mass will take place on Friday at 7pm in St Ninian's, Inverness

Chrism Mass: This will take place in the Cathedral, Aberdeen this year on 21st March at 6pm, all are welcome to attend.

“Behold the Lamb of God” – A day of reflection for Holy Week at St Mary's Nairn, Saturday 23rd March 11.00 – 16.00. Please see the poster for details.

Stratherrick: This year there will be a Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday on Saturday 23rd March at 5pm, and also Mass on Easter Sunday at 4pm.

Easter Food Blessings: The traditional food Blessings will not take place this year. Fr Andrzej encourages everyone to attend the Triduum liturgies and there will be the usual Polish Mass on Easter Sunday.

Divine Mercy Novena: We will celebrate the Divine Mercy Novena in full this year, beginning on Good Friday after the Passion of Our Lord at 4.30 pm, continuing daily thereafter daily at 3pm, and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday with Confessions, devotions, and Mass from 2pm.

Feast of the Annunciation: Due to the timing of Holy week, this year the feast has been transferred to 8th April. As it is our patronal feast, Mass that day will be in the evening at 7pm, followed by refreshments in the Marian Room.

Pilgrimage to England: Could all those going on this pilgrimage please pay their deposit of £150 by the end of March. Please contact Carol for the bank details.

Catholic Men's Group: The next meeting will take place after Easter.

Sunday Meal Service: This will continue on Sundays, finishing up on Palm Sunday. Thank you to all who have helped by volunteering, and those who have helped by donating food and financial help.

St Joseph's RC Primary School in Inverness needs your help!

The school could benefit from up to £1500 of funding towards a project. Please remember to drop a token into the St Joseph's box next time you're in Tesco we would really appreciate it

Presbytery Garden: Many thanks to J.J. Gladwin and her team for their help and hard work with the ongoing redesign of the garden at the rear of the presbytery.

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 £1,134 SCIAF £1,072

We will return to the Church for Daily Mass from the start of Holy week.

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday: 10.00 - Morning Prayer, followed by Stations of the Cross
20.00 - Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Adoration (Marian Room)
21.45 - Night Prayer – (Marian Room)

Good Friday: 10.00 - Morning Prayer followed by Stations of the Cross
15.00 - The Passion of the Lord
16.30 - Novena of the Divine Mercy
19.00 - The Passion of the Lord (Polish)

Holy Saturday: 10.00 - Morning Prayer
10.30 - 11.15 Confessions
15.00 - Novena of the Divine Mercy
21.00 - Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday: 09.00 - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord
11.00 - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord
13.30 - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord (Polish)
18.30 - Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the end, I needn't have worried. Real life triumphed over make-believe, with "Oppenheimer" scooping all the main prizes at last week's Oscars. Of course, the reality that "Oppenheimer" depicts is pretty grim, the possibility of large-scale atomic warfare and mass extermination of the human race, something that no-one wants to contemplate. So, of course, there is a place for Barbie-esque escapism and it is perhaps significant that the post war generation, which has held such a grip on our moral and cultural values since the Sixties, views escapism as necessary, natural and normal, whether through drugs, sex or rock'n'roll! As Newman famously stated in his Biglietto speech, there is much to be admired in liberalism, but the problem is that, in the end, it creates a society where there is no objective truth, only what I believe and you believe as equal partners and the power of persuasion or, more commonly, coercion.

This Sunday, the focus shifts from the Academy Awards to Saint Patrick's Day, particularly on the East coast, in cities such as New York, Boston and Chicago, where Irish populations have been historically greatest. In the past, Irish identity was closely bound up with the Faith, in fact in 1944 Bing Crosby won an Oscar for his portrayal of an Irish Catholic priest, Fr O'Malley in "Going My Way". These days, whether in Hollywood or Ireland, it is rare to see positive portrayals of the Church, one might think of (not Irish "stew", which we are serving for the meal service today but) "Father Stu", the compelling true story of a priest's conversion then premature death from a muscle wasting disease, with A-lister Mark Wahlberg the chief protagonist, as a rare exception, but even this week the news was full of Cate Blanchett's betrayal of an evil nun in "The New Boy". Interestingly, Cillian Murphy, who by winning the best actor Oscar last week became the first Irish-born artist to pick up the accolade, also gave a stellar performance in "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" (2007), which brought home to many the injustice of British oppression in Ireland, particularly with regard to the Gaelic language. Human dignity and justice are important and again this week we heard about "Stakeknife", the so-called secret agent of the British Army who infiltrated the IRA and was involved in the murder of numerous high-ranking officials on both sides of the conflict, actually saving fewer lives than were killed.

As we come closer to Holy Week, the question of our first loyalty looms large. Is it to the state (Caesar), to a tribal version of religion (Herod and the religious leaders), is it about trying to eradicate language and culture ("You are a Galilean....your accent gives you away....I am not") or about doing what everybody else suggests ("Crucify him!")? "Truth? What is that?" is the existential question of both the Passion and of our time. Jesus, in the non-"plastic" (or "Barbie") version of St Patrick, is a heroic, multilingual and multicultural figure (probably from Wales, originally), yet strong enough in the Faith to know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a Mystery of three in one in his time, at any time, beyond time.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day, Fr Laurence.