

Parish Bulletin, St Mary's Inverness

30 Huntly St, Inverness, IV3 5PR

Tel: 01463 233519 (*All Parish Matters*)

01463 231837 (*St Joseph's School*); 07738291961 (*Hospital Emergencies*)

07988 670 997 (*St. Vincent de Paul Society*)

Email: stmarysinverness@btinternet.com

Website: www.stmarysinverness.co.uk

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

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

Sunday 21 April	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER 1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12 Psalm: 117 2 nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2 Gospel: John 10:11-18 Second Collection: Vocations	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30
Monday 22 April	Monday of the 4 th Week in Eastertide	Rosary & Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00 Adoration 12.30
Tuesday 23 April	Memorial of St George	
Wednesday 24 April	Memorial of St Fidelis	
Thursday 25 April	Feast of St Mark	
Friday 26 April	Friday of the 4 th Week in Eastertide	
Saturday 27 April	Saturday of the 4 th Week in Eastertide	Confessions & Adoration 10.00 Mass 10.30 Stratherrick 1700 Vigil Mass 18.00
Sunday 28 April	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

+ 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 +

+ Jean Cumming + Sheila Shewan + Maja Kalinowska + Marian Morrison +
+ Zygmund Krause + Margaret MacKenzie + Catherine Jackson + Patricia Scott +
+ Theresa Munro + William McAllister + Margaret Kane + Elizabeth Junor +
+ Donald Grant + Ian Kennedy + Donald Ward + Margaret Ann Reid + Joanna Miller +
+ Maria Rossi + Winifred MacDonald +

We continue to pray for our Seminarians

Aidan Matheson, Anh Tuan Nguyen, Rene De Los Reyes & Richard Webster.

Vocation Sunday: If anyone is considering a vocation to the Priesthood or the Permanent Diaconate please contact:

Fr. Mark Impson (Priesthood):- 01569 762433 / mark.impson@rcda.scot

Fr Domenico Zanre (Diaconate):- 01463 794993 / vicar.general@rca-abdn.org

Parish Meeting: We invite all parishioners to come along to a finance and planning meeting on Wednesday 24th April at 7pm in the Marian Room. Carol will give an update on the parish financial situation, and Fr. Laurence will give an outline of some proposals of new ventures. Thereafter there will be a discussion about necessary repairs and upgrades which are required throughout all our church property. We would appreciate your attendance and input at this meeting.

RCIA: Due to this week's Assembly of Priests, this week's meeting will take place on Thursday evening at 6.30pm in the Marian Room. Please also note a Genesis to Jesus course organised by the Ogilvie centre, will begin on 21st May at 6.30pm.

SCIAF Wee Boxes: If there is anyone still to return their SCIAF Wee Box, please return it as soon as possible, to any of the passkeepers or to Marvia in the sacristy.

House blessings during Eastertide: This is the traditional time for house blessings by the clergy. If anyone would like a house blessing, please contact Carol.

Pilgrimage to England: Thank you to all who have paid their deposits. Fr. Laurence will be in touch with you shortly with an update.

Reader's Day at Stratherrick: We have had to change the date of this to Saturday 11th May. This is due the Priestly Ordination of Brother Simon on the 27th of April.

Consecration to St Joseph: A number of free copies of “The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father” by Fr. Donald Calloway are available for anyone interested in making a Consecration to St Joseph. The book was produced during the Year of St Joseph and the Holy Father encourages us to consecrate ourselves to St Joseph, who in turn will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection and guidance. If anyone is interested, please contact the office for further information.

Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures: These will take place in St. Scholastica’s Guesthouse, at Pluscarden Abbey. This year’s lecturer will be Dr Linden Bicket from the Edinburgh University School of Divinity. She will give four lectures on the theme of Scottish Catholic Literature and the ‘transfiguration of the commonplace’. The talks are as follows:

Tuesday 21st May at 3.00pm: Faithful Fictions: what is Catholic Literature?

Wednesday 22nd May at 10.30am: George and Ann Scott-Moncrieff.

Wednesday 22nd May at 3.00pm: George Friel and Muriel Spark.

Thursday 23rd May at 10.30am: George Mackay Brown.

There is no charge for these lectures, and all are welcome to attend. To register for the talks, make further enquiries, or book accommodation, please write to: Pentecost Lectures, Pluscarden Abbey, Elgin, Moray IV30 8UA enclosing SAE; or email guestmaster@pluscardenabbey.org

St Ninian’s Cheese and Wine Evening: All are welcome to attend on Friday 26th April, 6.30.-9.30 pm in the Parish Hall - Tickets: £5 per adult. Soft drinks and nibbles will be available for children at no charge.

Altar Candles: We are trialling paraffin oil candles during the weekday Masses in order to save time, space and money caring for our Altar candles which is becoming more and more difficult. We hope this will make life easier for our sacristans!

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 £1,072 SCIAF Wee Boxes £36

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide, is an important day in the Church's calendar. At the halfway point of our season commemorating the Risen Christ, throughout the world we celebrate "Vocations Sunday", alternatively and previously known as "Good Shepherd Sunday", since Jn 10:11-18 is always the Gospel that is read. This day is an opportunity for us to reflect on the question of vocation, both generally and specifically, Jesus calling His flock to continue the proclamation of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, yet thinking concretely about what can be done in this Diocese and parish to invite new labourers to work for the harvest. Broadly speaking, anything inspired by God and done with His blessing can be understood as a "vocation", since it is God who is calling ("vocare" is the Latin for "to call"), but the vocations we are asked to think of principally today involve a permanent and exclusive consecration - within priesthood (including the diaconate) and/or the religious life. The most important thing on Vocations Sunday is to pray from the heart, to get down on our knees and ask - plead, even with - God to provide new shepherds willing to lay down their lives for their sheep. We also remember those among our flock who are already on a journey of discernment - Aidan, ordained deacon earlier this month in Rome, Anh and Rene at Oscott and Richard, who will be starting seminary in September. If we presume that vocations will just happen as a matter of course - they absolutely won't. Vocations are a supernatural gift that, ultimately, come from God, and need to be cherished as something precious. Our responsibility is to do everything within our power to create a suitable and welcoming environment in order that vocations may take root and grow. We have to tell God that we need new priests, deacons and religious - and mean it! Saint Mary's, of course, has a very proud reputation of producing quality fruit with a number of priestly vocations in recent times. However, the Lord's work is far from done and today the need for missionary disciples to evangelise and administer the sacraments is greater than ever. Let us pray for those who are open to dedicating their lives to God to have the courage of their convictions. "Do not be afraid" is often easier said than done!

Although it doesn't coincide exactly this year, in 1939 Good Shepherd Sunday was also the day when Blessed Gabriella Sagheddu, also known as Gabriella of Unity, died aged only twenty-five. The same day is also always the feast of St George, the patron saint of England and, of course, both the birthday on the death-day of Shakespeare, England's greatest playwright. Blessed Gabriella was a Trappist nun originally from Sardinia but based just outside Rome, whose life consisted of prayer, penance and silence. Although she was poorly educated, she understood that the cause of Christian unity was something precious and asked permission to be a victim soul for this purpose. The day after obtaining consent from her superior, who was in prayerful correspondence with the Anglican remnant of the Caldey community in England, she became ill and died less than a year later of tuberculosis. Blessed Gabriella's example and also that of saints of a similar vintage and type, such as, Therese, Faustina and Elizabeth of the Trinity, show that we don't necessarily have to live long lives to completely fulfil God's will. All that matters is that we choose to hear his call and say "yes" with all our hearts. Today of all days, then, we ask for the generosity and space to hear, to discern, to follow. The cause of Christian Unity is intrinsically bound up with the question of vocation and, as has happened with many pastors familiar to us, we ask that those who currently tend sheep that are not of this flock may find their home in the one true fold, remembering always that "the Church must be prepared for converts, as well as converts prepared for the Church".

Today we say goodbye to Fr Justin until the end of May as he returns home to see family and friends. While he is away, a few Masses will be inevitably be covered by supply priests.

Saint John Vianney said that the priesthood "is the love of the heart of Jesus" and so we ask to penetrate that heart today with the quality and intensity of our prayers. We remember in a special way also for Br Simon of Pluscarden Abbey who will receive that love as he is ordained priest next Saturday, 27th April.

God bless for now, Fr Laurence.