

# St. Mary's, Inverness

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We invite you to  
**WATCH ONLINE**  
**Mass from St Mary's**  
**FACEBOOK**  
**Sunday at 11:00**

## The Parish Bulletin

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

#### Mass Readings.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Psalm: 24: 4-9

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Sunday <b>27 September</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b>	Mass Mass Mass Mass	09.00 11.00 12.30 18.30
Monday <b>28 September</b>	Memorial of St Lawrence Ruiz and Companions	Mass Mass	10.00 18.00
Tuesday <b>29 September</b>	SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	Mass	10.00
Wednesday <b>30 September</b>	Memorial of Saint Jerome	Mass Mass	10.00 12.30
Thursday <b>1 October</b>	Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus <b>Stratherick Mass at 12.00 noon</b>	Mass Stratherick Mass	10.00 12.00
Friday <b>2 October</b>	Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels	Mass	12.30
Saturday <b>3 October</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> Week of Year	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass	10.00 10.30 18.00
Sunday <b>4 October</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Second Collection - Peter's Pence</b>	Mass Mass Mass Polish Mas Mass	09.00 11.00 12.30 17.00 18.30

**From October the 10.00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday is cancelled.  
The Wednesday Mass will be at 12.30**

#### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

## Dear Friends,

So good so far, we were just getting into new routines when once again the Covid 19 Pandemic has taken a predictable turn and has managed to make us less certain and more anxious.

The importance of each of us taking personal responsibility for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbours cannot be overlooked.

I hope that you have become adjusted to mask wearing, hand washing frequently and trying and succeeding in keeping safe distances. These are all Christian duties of care for the Common Good. We can all do better- I am aware of how easy it is to slip-up in getting too close, in forgetting to wash hands, in failing to provide for the safety of others. The attraction of visiting friends and relatives is natural and welcome, yet in our circumstances each of us has to be that much more vigilant. The Pandemic may be teaching us some very basic lessons about the fragility of human life, the ease with which we assume all will be well without taking active steps to ensure well-being.

Remember the adage : “If your journey is not necessary, it is necessary not to go!” This is stiff and austere advice, but it is something to think about and inform our decision-making.

As a 'grey-headed auld git', as I was once charmingly described, I am aware that others in the 'getting-on brigade' are often dependent on the cherishing care of others, and also many of us actually like to see and meet the younger generation. Often the restraints so necessary for the safety of oneself and others are burdens at which we chafe. It is not easy being isolated, or cut off from the laughter and joy of the young. Yet, we might see it as a short term affliction to enable a better future. We might manage it with *patience*. Yet, we hope others will be sensitive and alert to our patient endurance.

The *virtue of patience*, so difficult to acquire and to practise, is a grace available to us. Yes, we can actively seek to become more patient- the ability to tolerate waiting, or to accept frustration without becoming agitated.

Personally I find it most challenging being someone who likes things to be completed expeditiously, 'an old man in a hurry'.

But the old man has to learn with everyone else that the *virtue of patience* will help us through the 'snakes and ladders' of our peculiar circumstances.

The English word *patience* is derived from the Latin word *pati* which means to suffer. We know the word 'passion', describes the soulful desire of the lover, and when we speak of 'The Passion of Christ' we are referring to his suffering and death.

So *patience* is a virtue that draws on our deepest personal resources to endure, and to accept suffering and the limitations on our ability to act as we might want.

At the heart of acquiring this virtue lies the importance of what St Ignatius of Loyola called the Examen- a daily examination of our thoughts and feelings, seeking insight from our conscience, and from our experience of what makes us feel good, and what gives us that miserable feeling.

The best time for such an Examen is not when we are dead beat, and only want to sleep, but probably in the later afternoon- sitting alone, opening up heart and mind to God, and asking the Holy Spirit to sift our thoughts.

We will often see that we are developing a resilience, a means of coping with the tears and the smiles.

Developing this state of mind, becoming more patient requires persistence. We can see it as sharing with others the Way of Christ as we seek greater holiness, maturity in the Spirit.

I would not presume to categorise the attitudes to acquiring patience in different age groups. Presumably the virtue of patience can be developed and practised from a young age.

Whatever age it is surely a Catholic gift, to be able to draw on the graces of prayer, the Sacraments, and the communal support that we give to each other because we know that we share at the deepest level in Our Common Life in the Body of Christ. It is this deep sharing in deep down things, this acquaintance with

the prayerful inheritance of the saints, this embodiment in a living and dynamic Body that gives us the strength to endure, to carry the people's burdens, and so fulfil the Law of Christ.

Our circumstances are our given, the opportunities we have to become closer to God, by knowing ourselves, and seeking always the good of others.

Praise God always, and see Him in all things, even in our frustrations and our journeys into patience.



## **Finance :**

Please have a look at the daunting figures in Carol's Finance report.

Our General Account is parlous - we are in danger of not being able to meet our bills and the costs of maintenance. We have a heavy burden of support to the Diocese, the Levies. These are necessary and we gain from the corporate benefits from being in the Diocese. The Finance Officer in the Diocesan Office has achieved substantial reductions in this year's levies by prudent fiscal management. The burden on a Parish like St Mary's is all the heavier as we have been 'taxed' on income much of which has not been from strictly parish resources, but from the generous but unpredictable giving of strangers. We hope that this will change when the new reduced income becomes the basis for 'taxation'. Clearly other parishes will be in a similar position, and the effects on the Diocese will be considerable.

St Mary's depends on the generosity of our regular parishioners, some by envelopes, some by Standing Orders and some by Direct Debit. We hope that all who can do so are using Gift Aid - it gives us a real benefit.

Some parishioners may be saving up their 'collections' for when they return to regular Mass attendance. If that is you, please would you send or bring into the Parish Office what you are putting aside. Carol is managing our finances scrupulously but even she cannot perform miracles of money supply.

St Mary's as a city centre Church, has always been open in the past, and had a steady stream of visitors coming through our welcoming doors. This has stopped, and with it the flow of donations that went into our Donations Box. Once so regularly used it stands empty and forlorn.

The Mass attendances at St Mary's have always been augmented by many visitors. This has almost completely finished, as we no longer see groups of people coming from all over the world. I realise that the consequences of the Pandemic are hitting local industries, tourism and the hospitality trade in particular. We are not alone in feeling the pinch.

This is not a sustained Appeal, which surely we may need to make in the future, but it is frankly a 'begging note' to see what more might be forthcoming from whatever sources.

Those who are suffering from loss of income, or whose family circumstances are straitened please do not feel that there is pressure on you to give more. Your witness, your prayers and your thoughtful concern are valuable also.

I am appreciative of everyone reading this, and hoping and praying that God may give us an increase in funding.

Yours aye  
Fr James

## ~PARISH FINANCES~

Following on from Fr. James's letter, we now provide an update of our present financial situation. This is the No.1 working account, the No.2 account is money held for specific purposes and cannot be used for any other purpose.

**Balance as of 28/08/20            £3,729.68**

### Income

Offertory	1,656
Direct Debit and Standing orders	1,745
Cash Donations	342.43
Donation Box	213
Bible Alive	6
Newspapers	7
Piety Stall	5
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£3,974.43</b>

### Expenditure

Diocesan Expenses	3,494
Power Costs	459.76
Council Tax	355
Office & Post	546.71
Insurance	240.03
Provisions	530.41
Hospitality	17.99
House expense	38.45
T V Licence	13.20
Church expense	16.89
Salaries	1,455.09
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£7167.53</b>

**Balance as of 25/09/20            £536.58**

We have received all our gift aid tax rebates on our 2019/20 claim, this is vital income to the Parish, every year but especially in these difficult times for the Parish, financially. We are extremely grateful to all who participate in the Gift Aid scheme.

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet considered helping the Parish in this way, we ask that you think about signing up to this scheme. It costs you nothing, but the Parish receives 25p for every £1 you contribute, no matter how small your contribution. If you wish details of the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Parish Office.

Please consider creating a Regular Standing Order or Direct Debit. This is the easiest way of maintaining your regular contributions. Information can be obtained from Carol MacLean. Please leave a message with your contact details by contacting the Office on the telephone number 01463 233519.

Please consider making donations to the General Account, (St Mary's No. 1 account) or the Fabric Maintenance Account (St Mary's Inverness No 2 account). Details can be obtained from the Parish Office.

If any of you are in a position to make an increase in your giving, this will be welcomed.

Please ensure that all your regular weekly plate offerings are continued. This can be done by sending in a cheque to the Parish office or posting an envelope through the letterbox. Please use the internal letterbox if the outer porch door is open.

## Confirmation:



Yesterday, Sat 26 September, fourteen young former pupils of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School were reunited with their classmates and teachers at St Mary's. The former pupils were gathered from their different secondary schools so that they could be Confirmed. The Sacrament was due to have been conferred in June but had to be postponed due to the Coronavirus. The School staff gathered the young people and continued their preparation for this memorable day in the journey of faith. Thanks be to God for all the staff at St Joseph's who have been meticulous in their careful preparation.

In the event, due to restrictions on space and numbers, two Masses were celebrated at 1200 noon and at 1400.

Fr James was delegated by the Bishop to confer the Sacrament. At the two Masses the young people with parents and sponsors, were welcomed by Fr James as they begin their active and adult membership of the Church. At Confirmation we are all strengthened and equipped by the Gifts of the Spirit.

Each of us can renew our prayers for continuing graces for ourselves and the newly confirmed that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to persevere in Faith, with unwavering Hope, and the generous Love of God in our hearts.

## PETER'S PENCE

This collection is due to be taken on the Vigil and Sunday of 4 Oct. This is one of our 'mandatory collections'.

From the Vatican Press Office "In view of the current health crisis, the Holy Father has decided that, for this year 2020, the Peter's Pence Collection, which traditionally takes place around the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, on 29 June, will be transferred throughout the world to the XXVII Sunday of Ordinary Time, October 4, the day dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi."

"Peter's Pence" proceeds are used by the Pope for philanthropic works throughout the world and for administrative costs of the Vatican state.

This is a traditional way for Catholics to make a personal payment towards the work of the Holy Father. This will be taken as a Second Collection : please place in the appropriate box, or as above cheques or cash can be handed into the Office.

## SCHOOL CLASS ASSEMBLIES

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 0920 beside the Shrine of Our Lady in the Presbytery Garden a class from the School gathers for a short assembly: prayers, some teaching in dialogue with the children, and then learning and singing a hymn. It is a unique opportunity to see the children, and share with them some of the treasures of our Catholic Faith, and to sing a new hymn. The education at St Joseph's is first-class, and it is rooted in Catholic values and practice. The teaching staff have made huge efforts to maintain contact and contribute to on-going learning during the Lockdown. Since the new term has begun there has had to be flexibility, and the Parish clergy and sisters [DDL] are privileged to be able to contribute in our own way. Please continue to pray for the School and all involved in the journey of Faith for our young Catholics.

## ST MOLUAG'S CORACLE

Details of this enterprise initiated by Eric Hanna, now happily at St Mary's Nairn, is available to follow on the internet. Details are in the Bulletin. I commend it you most warmly, as an interesting development which is encouraging more missionary outreach within the Highlands, and is aimed at deepening our knowledge and experience of Catholicism as a living Faith.

## **MYSORE SANDAL SOAP**

Hand-washing and hand-washing and hand-washing— one can get to enjoy it. I use a particularly pleasant soap, exported from India “Mysore Sandal Soap. You may be persuaded to buy this fragrant, soothing and very traditional soap. Sometimes, something different makes the effort of frequent hand-washing something sought and celebrated. Bars of this fragrant and soothing soap are available from the Presbytery Office at £1.60 per bar. Happy washing, stay safe and keep well,



## **Preparation for First Holy Communion: following Lockdown we have resumed.**

A further Seven Sessions will be required leading to First Holy Communion at the 1230 Mass on Sunday 22 Nov 20 {Solemnity of Christ the King}.

These classes will be at the Presbytery at 1700 hrs on Wednesday 30 Sep, and at this time on Wednesdays thereafter during School-term time.

The Sessions will be in The Presbytery, and there will always be two or three adults present, including one of the Sisters / Daughters of Divine Love.

The Course begun by Fr Andrew Niski will be developed and modified for our new circumstances

Session 1. Wed 23 Sep : Meeting Jesus in Confession

Session 2. Wed 30 Sep : The Mass - Liturgy of the Word & Liturgy of the Eucharist

Session 3. Wed 7 Oct : The Mass - The Bread of Life/ Cup of Salvation

Session 4. Wed 28 Oct : The Mass- Table Fellowship / Sacrifice/Communion

Session 5. Wed 4 Nov : The Mass - Review of Attitudes to Mass and personal readiness

Session 6. Wed 11 Nov : The Mass and Catholic Life : Jesus ever with us ; Emmanuel, God with us.

Session 7. Wed 18 Nov : Preparation for The Sacrament - Rehearsal : Personal Preparation-Confession

Sun 22 Nov : FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Session 8. Wed 2 Dec : Living out our Common Life in the Body of Christ

Session 9. Wed 9 Dec : Review of Common Life and Rule of Life

Please get in touch with me as soon as possible if there are any difficulties.

Fr James Bell

## **DATES FOR DIARIES**

**Mission Sunday: 18 October 20**

**The Annual Collection for MISSIO, the Holy Father's Pontifical Mission, will be taken at the Saturday Vigil [17 Oct] and all Masses on Sunday 18 October.**

**Parish Confirmation - deferred from June: Sunday 6 Dec 20**

**The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at the 1230 Mass on Sunday 6 December 20.**

**The candidates are: Eilidh Peteranna and Amber Tait**

**The Rehearsal will be at 1615 hrs Sat 5 Dec - Confessions at 1700 hrs**

## **MASS**

**After problems with the booking procedure, we have decided that entry for Mass will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure a seat please ensure that you arrive in good time, as once the capacity of the Church is reached, no further admission is possible, due to Government limits.**

**The times of Masses are advertised in this Bulletin,**

**on the Parish web-site and on external notices on the Church doors.**

**Collections and Donations:** The Collection Box is displayed: Sunday General Collection {Main Collection}, and Fabric/Special Collections. The Donations Box will also be available. **Confessions will be available on Saturdays from 10-10.30 and after Mass on request, also 5.15- 5.45 pm before the Vigil Mass. Additional Volunteers** are needed now as Stewards/Pass-keepers, Welcome Ministry, Sanitising. Please contact PJ or Carol in the Parish Office

### **LIVE STREAMING OF MASS**

The 1100 hrs Mass on Sundays will be recorded/streamed so that the housebound will be able to participate to some extent. Thank you for your continuing vigilance and understanding.

### **~GENERAL NEWS~**

#### **#WeAreStillHere - SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR MISSIONARIES AND WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

Missio Scotland in conjunction with the various National Offices of the Pontifical Mission Societies throughout the world have recently launched the, **We Are Still Here** initiative, which aims to not only shine a light on our missionaries who have continued to serve in the mission countries and territories in which they work in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to encourage both prayers and generosity for their work, especially as we head towards World Mission Sunday on October 18. The press release regarding the initiative can be found here:

<https://www.missioscotland.com/single-post/2020/09/09/Remember-We-Are-Still-Here>

The video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FBCKwHsCbU>

**Magdalena Bargiel MPsych.**

**Person - Centred Counsellor**

**MBACP. MCOSCA. MBPsS. MPPA**

I offer you a safe space to talk, to be heard and support you to build healthier relationships with self and others. I provide counselling in Polish and English I offer. Contact:

[magdalenabargiel.counselling@gmail.com](mailto:magdalenabargiel.counselling@gmail.com) or 07858129725.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP).**

Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting Mark Jones in confidence or any SVDP member.

Mobile number: **07988 670 997**

Visit [www.ssvpscotland.com](http://www.ssvpscotland.com)

#### **Inverness Justice and Peace Group:**

**We would like to inform you of the following events that are happening with our group:**

1.) We are now on Facebook,  
2.) Coming soon (mid October) and all welcome to join in a 4 week reflection of Laudato Si' Care for Our Common Home. We will be following the study guide created by SCIAF via zoom. The course will be focusing on the following subjects:

Week 1- Creation is a caress of God

Week 2- The climate is a common good

Week 3- A universal Family

Week 4 - We were made for love

More information can be found on our facebook page or contact Jill Kent on

[Jillkent@me.com](mailto:Jillkent@me.com)

3.) Inverness Justice and Peace monthly meeting is October 1st at 7:30pm. We will be having a guest speaker Andy Kent, who will be giving a presentation about his recent experience in Beirut after the large explosion in August. The meeting will be via Zoom. Please contact Jill Kent at [jillkent@me.com](mailto:jillkent@me.com) or visit our facebook page Inverness Justice and Peace for further details.

**~~FOR YOUR PRAYERS~~**

**+ Sick +**

+ Christopher Brown + Mary Cumming + Kate Fraser + George Taylor + Maureen Rattray +  
 + Florian Alvaran + Ian Cameron + Leslie Allan + Evelyn Farry + Catherine Stewart +  
 + Louise Hendry + Hilary Smith + Mary Grant + Leslie Murray + Sabrina MacAllen +  
 + James Connelly + Ruth & John Huggett + Louise Bestau + Emmy MacNicol +  
 + Claude & Hilary Hayward + Patrick Daniel Finnerty + Joyce Connelly + Margaret Carr +  
 + Margaret Dow + Ann Cameron + Stewart MacLennan + Alexandra (Sandra ) MacDonald+  
 + Isobel Kelly + Winifred Kelly + Margaret Harrison + Roddy Corbett + Tommy Robertson + Brian Lamond +  
 + Hazel Collins + Lynne Williams + Tom Gillan + Marjory Trace + Ian Mackenzie + Rena Mackintosh +  
 + John Daniel Peteranna + Mary Macdonald + Marvia McCulloch + Dale Swanson + Mary Mackinnon +  
 + Eilidh Gillespie + Eileen Grant + John and Mary Bell +

**+ Anniversaries +**

+ Mary Grant + Alexander Fraser + Donald Smith + Katherine Shaw + Donald Macmillan + John Gilles +  
 + Bertram Fryer + Thorne + Angus MacMaster + Jones Catherine + Margaret Kennedy + Helen Royan +  
 + Vincent Serafin + Alexander MacKay + Katrina Skillin + Joseph Rizza + Robert Gibson +  
 + Patricia Coggane + Mary Baxter + Lucia Rizza + Julie Hepburn + James Smith + Alexandrina Maclean +  
 + Joseph Margery + George Nicol + William Campbell + John Stewart + Sheila Kay + Mark Kelly +

**Please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood; Deacons Christopher and Malachy and for our Seminarian Aidan Matheson and for the students from Vietnam Anh & Quynh.**

**The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended.**

Pope Francis / Pontifex/ twitter

**~~SICK OR HOSPITAL VISITS~~**

Please contact the Parish Office if you require a visit or know of anyone who is sick, housebound or in hospital and wishes a visit and or Holy Communion.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Weddings**

We are now able to participate in these Sacraments: please contact the Clergy for Details.

**~~CONTACT DETAILS~~**

<b>Fr. James Bell</b>	Parish Priest	01463 233519
<b>Fr. Andrew Niski</b>	Priest for Polish Community	01463 233519
<b>Fr. Dominic Nwaigwe</b>	Assistant Priest	01463 233519
<b>Dcn. Patrick Darbyshire</b>	Parish Deacon & Prison Chaplain	01463 233519
<b>PJ Faferek</b>	Parish Office	01463 233519
<b>Carol MacLean</b>	Finance & Gift Aid Organiser	01463 233519
<b>Stephen Dunphy</b>	Safeguarding Officer	01463 233519
<b>Daughters of Divine Love Convent (Sr. Grace)</b>		01463 718690
<b>St Joseph's Primary School</b>		231 837



