

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

Sunday 26 May	TRINITY SUNDAY 1st Reading: Deut.4:32-34,39-40 Psalm: 32 2 nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17 Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30
Monday 27 May	Memorial of St Augustine + Funeral Mass Norah Hardie +	Funeral Mass 12.00
Tuesday 28 May	Tuesday of the 8th Week of the Year	
Wednesday 29 May	Memorial of St Paul VI	Rosary & Confessions 11.30 Mass 12.00
Thursday 30 May	Memorial of St Joan of Arc	Adoration 12.30
Friday 31 May	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Saturday 1 June	Memorial of St Justin First Communions St Joseph's School	First Communion Mass 10.30 Vigil Mass 18.00
Sunday 2 June	SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST Second collection: Church Maintenance	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 + Roddy Corbett + Tommy Robertson +
+ Marjory Trace + Eilidh Gillespie + Brian Lamond + John and Mary Bell +
+ Lennie Stirling + Heather Taylor + Danuta Faferek + Justyna Tymecka +
+ Teresa Graczykowska + David Reid + Alistair Murray + Danuta Jaskolka +
+ Jakub Akacki+

+ ANNIVERSARIES +

+ George MacLaren + Louis Morrison + Bronius Drevinskas + Margaret Gaston +
+ Christina MacDonald + Catherine Dodd + Henry Fraser + Paul Grant + Walker Hayes +
+ John Paul Findlay + James Sheilds + Anastasia Kenna + Alice Innes + Robert Hepburn +
+ George Boyle + Canon Duncan Stone + Noel Hadnett + Alexandrina Mackay +
+ Leontina Salvadori + Patricia MacDonald + Edward Paradowski + Margaret Lamond +
+ Mary Masson + John Dow + Thomas Smith + Anna Jachacy + Harold Hepburn +
+ Danuta Syske + Neil Munro + Catherine MacLennan +

+ R.I.P. +

+ **Joan Murray + Norah Hardie + Winifred Kelly** +

We continue to pray for our Seminarians

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Norah Hardie and Winifred Kelly, who were both former pupils, and teachers of St Joseph's School. They were both involved in the work of the parish over a good, many years. Norah organised the lay Ministry of The Word until her health began to fail, and Winifred as well as being Parish Secretary, Treasurer and finance assistant, was a Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister taking Communion to many housebound parishioners. Winifred's Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday 5th June at 12.00.

Fr. Justin returns from his visit to India this week Please pray for his safe return.

First Communion and Confirmation: First communion for the P4 pupils of St Joseph's school take place on Saturday 1st June, during the 10.30 Mass and for the Children who have been prepared for the Sacrament, by the St Andrew's Community on Sunday 9th June during the 11.00 Mass. Bishop Hugh Gilbert will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the Children from P7, along with those prepared by St Andrew's community on Saturday 8th June at 10.30 Mass. Please remember the Children in your prayers.

Genesis to Jesus: "Discover the Riches of Scripture" continues on Tuesdays in the Marian Room.

Baptism Preparation Course: Anyone wishing the Sacrament of Baptism for their child, is invited to attend this course on Saturday 1st June at 1pm. Please speak to Deacon Patrick or contact the parish office.

The Annual Scalan Mass will take place on Sunday 9th June at 4pm.
Principal Celebrant and homilist Fr. Domenico Zanre.

Pray for Life Novena: We invite you to join Catholics across Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland in a **Novena For Life** from 23rd May to the Feast of the Visitation, praying for the protection of human life. Sign up to the Novena at prayforlife.ie for your daily intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. The Feast of the Visitation is a celebration of joy in new life, even in challenging circumstances, and we pray for a return to a society that values and protects all human life from the moment of conception to its natural end. The Novena will lead up to our annual **Day for Life** on Sunday 16th June 2024 of the Bishops Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage and Family Day at Pluscarden Abbey takes place on Sunday 30th June the Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul. This year's theme is "Unrolling the Scroll: The Ministry of Proclaiming God's Word," with a special invitation to Parish readers. For details please see the poster on the notice board.

Pilgrimage to England: There is still one place remaining on this pilgrimage if anyone wishes to go. Please let Fr. Laurence or the office know as soon as possible if you wish to go.

Confessions: There has been a concern raised regarding the use of the piety stall for confessions due to the dampness and possible mould, which could be harmful to the clergy and parishioners. Until we can have this investigated, confessions will be heard in the sacristy.

Singing Tutor: The Diocese of Aberdeen, in conjunction with the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP), seeks to appoint a Choral Director commencing in August 2024 or as soon if possible. This is a part-time post (1 day per week) suitable for an ambitious and creative musician with exceptional gifts in working with young voices and a desire to achieve the highest possible standards in choir development. With an interest in promoting traditional Catholic music, including plainchant, our third Choral Director will provide inspirational teaching in the development of school choirs. These choirs will have the capacity to sing in local churches. The post will be based at St Joseph's R.C. Primary School, Inverness.

Closing date: Tuesday 4 June. Interviews will be held on Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 June at St Joseph's Primary School, King Street, Inverness.

Parish Finances: If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider Gift Aid for any contributions to the parish. For further information about Gift Aid please speak to Carol. 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!

Collections: Offertory £1,202

Happy Feast of the Trinity! The first book that was ever recommended to me to help with vocational discernment was the hugely popular "God of Surprises" by the Scottish-born Jesuit Gerard Hughes. The book starts from the premise of "finding treasure", which Jesus compares to the Kingdom of God but, instead of being "hidden in a field", the true treasure lies within us. Last Sunday morning, waking up to discover that my eye was malfunctioning could certainly be described as a surprise (!) but the strength to deal with whatever befalls us is always there if we trust. We realise also that God, precisely because His yoke is light, has a wonderful sense of humour, so I hope you picked up that the final blessing last week was a prayer for "clear vision"! In the spiritual life, change is constant and necessary in order to have true stability and it will always be alright because God is with us, silently, stubbornly, selfishly, sweetly in the sacrament of the present moment, in the moment of His sacramental presence.

Today we celebrate our greatest Treasure of Faith, the internal life of God, the Most Holy Trinity. Knowing that God is a Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the high point of Christian Revelation, since we could not possibly deduce this reality through reason alone. God, in his infinite love and mercy, has freely chosen to invite us to share, through grace, in Being Itself, that has never known a beginning and will never come to an end. Above all today we surrender to the ineffability of God, lost in the Mystery of something - Someone - that is sublime beyond words, save the one Word spoken by the Father in the Spirit from all eternity. We are astonished by God's very simplicity - the Trinity is Oneness itself. And yet, the relations between the Divine Persons are not static. He is utterly dynamic and so, at every instant, by His very nature, God is a Father begetting a Son, a Son being begotten, and Love personified maintaining them in an ecstatic embrace. God simply is.

Today it seems opportune to mention the saint whom Pope John Paul II called "a prophet of the presence of God", Elizabeth of the Trinity. As a Carmelite, she understood that participating in the interior life of God was what she, and ultimately all of us are called to by baptism, recalling that the Trinity was first revealed at Jesus' own baptism: "Let us live with God as with a friend, let us make our faith a living faith in order to be in communion with Him through everything, for that is what makes us saints. We possess our Heaven within us... The day I understood that everything became clear to me. I would like to whisper this secret to those I love so they too might always cling to God through everything..." Letter 122.

I post, once again, her perfect prayer of praise to the Trinity for your contemplation and celebration:

"O my God, Trinity whom I adore, help me to forget myself entirely that I may be established in you as still and as peaceful as if my soul were already in eternity. May nothing trouble my peace or make me leave you, O my unchanging one, may each minute carry me further into the depths of your mystery. Give peace to my soul; make it Your Heaven, Your beloved dwelling place and Your resting place. May I never leave You there alone, but be wholly present, my faith wholly vigilant, wholly adoring and wholly surrendered to your creative action.

O my beloved Christ, crucified by love, I wish to be a bride [spouse] for Your Heart! I wish to cover You with glory; I wish to love You – even unto death! But I feel my weakness and ask You to clothe me with Yourself; to identify my soul with all the movements of Your soul, to overwhelm me, to possess me, to substitute Yourself for me that my life may be but a radiance of Your life. Come to me as Adorer, as Restorer, as Saviour. O Eternal Word, Word of my God, I want to spend all my life in listening to You, to become wholly teachable, that I may learn all from you. Then through all nights, all voids, all helplessness, I want to gaze on you always and remain in Your great light. O my Beloved Star, so fascinate me that I may not withdraw from Your radiance.

O Consuming Fire, Spirit of Love, come upon me and create in my soul a kind of incarnation of the Word; that I may be another humanity to Him in which He can renew His whole mystery. And You, O Father, bend lovingly over Your poor little creature; cover her [him] with Your shadow, seeing in her [him] only the Beloved in whom You are well pleased. O my Three, my All, my Beatitude, infinite Solitude, Immensity in which I lose myself, I surrender myself to You as your prey. Bury Yourself in me that I may bury myself in You until I depart to contemplate in Your light the abyss of Your greatness."

God bless you always, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Fr Laurence.