

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Dear friends, as Virginia Woolf rightly said "Every secret of a writer's soul, every experience of his life, every quality of his mind, is written large in his works". We see this in John the Baptist who features prominently in today's gospel. Each year on the second Sunday of advent we meet John the Baptist preaching in Judea calling all to repentance (Matt 3:1-12). St John the Baptist has a prominent role in the *Adventus Domini*. He is the voice that cries in the wilderness "Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mk 1: 3, Matt 3: 3, Isaiah 40:3). In this, we see the soul of the prophet and the mind of God for his people whom He calls through His prophets and now from the precursor John the Baptist who calls us all to repentance. "Repentance" is an unattractive idea. It conjures up morose brooding over past sins and failures". But this is not what John the Baptist proclaimed. His message was wholly positive. John calls us all to repentance, conversion and renewal (to change our ways, our scale of values, our whole direction of life). This will enable all to act with justice and charity, letting our lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah comes.



The first reading describes how God will reform the lives of His Chosen People by sending the Messiah. Because of the bad example of the unfaithful successors of King David, the Chosen People were wavering in their loyalty to Yahweh. Hence, in the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet,

Isaiah, tries to dispel their fears and to stir up hope among His people with His promise of a new Davidic King (a son of Jesse), who will establish peace and a glorious Kingdom of justice on earth (Isaiah 11:1-10). St Paul in the second reading, prays for the total reformation of the lives of the divided Christians in Rome; calling them to hope, love and unity as they wait for the coming of Christ.

This advent brothers and sister, let us harken to these calls to repentance and turn over a new leaf. May we never forget that salvation is God's doing, and at the same time our free choice. we cannot earn it as it is God's blessings, so we are saved by His grace. To be saved, we must cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force His bounty upon us. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We begin this process by spiritually preparing ourselves, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity. Advent is the season of spiritual deepening and preparation through total renunciation of our sins, our watchful awareness through hope made manifest in charity and love for God and our neighbours. May the coming of Christ bring love, hope and peace to our troubled world.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

Please let us know if you know anyone in need of food or families in need. Food parcels are given out only on Sundays after Mass. Please be there if you need one.

Legacies: when making your Will have you thought of leaving a legacy to the Parish or diocese?

Gift Aid: If you pay tax as for a Gift Aid form and your one-off signature we get an extra 25%

Diocesan Courage Apostolate for Catholics with Same Sex Attraction: Paisley Diocese has a *Courage* Chapter of pastoral ministry for those with same sex attraction, who are looking to live faithfully their Catholic faith. Courage is an international apostolate with over 100 Chapters worldwide and is endorsed by the Holy See. It aims to help members find peace through fellowship, prayer, the Sacraments and an desire Church's vision of chastity. It helps you find the Church's life of peace, and grace to grow in Christian maturity. For information or advice

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

Date	Day	Event	Time
24/12/19	Christmas Eve	Children Carol Vigil Mass	4:00pm 4:30pm
		Parish Carol Vigil Mass	8:30pm 9:00pm
25/12/19	Christmas Day	Mass	10:30am
1/01/20	Feast of Mary Mother of God	Exposition Morning Prayer	9:00am 9:10am
		Mass	9:30am

St. Mirin's Chaplaincy Center: Sunday Mass is available at 5pm on Sundays 12.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN
Tel: 0141-889-2602 Fax 0141-889-6756
Church Hall: 01505810370 (Answer Machine)
Email: StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk
Website: stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

8th December 2019

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

Parish Mass & Prayer Times

Rosary & Morning Prayer: 9:10 before 9:30am Mass

Weekday Mass: 9:30am daily (except Wednesday)

Wednesday Evening Mass: 7pm

Exposition: Tuesday & Thursday 9am

Saturday 9:00am after 9:30am Mass

Divine Mercy Devotion: Friday after Mass

Sunday Masses: 4:30pm (Saturday Vigil)
10:30am Mass & Children's Liturgy

Confessions: Saturday 10:00am - 10:30am & 4 - 4:30pm

Baptism: Arrange with the priest

Marriage: Give at least six months notice (see Fr Jude)



SUNDAY HOLY MASS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm Response: "In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails"

SECOND READING: Romans 15: 4-9

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 28

PARISH NOTICE

Legion of Mary: You are welcome to join the New presidium "Our Lady Help of Christians" which will soon start. It's a way of participating in the mission of Christ we came so that all will be saved. Be a soldier of our Lady.

September Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: There will be a meeting on Friday at 7pm in the sacristy for those who have registered. Please send in a copy of the data page of your passport asap.

200 Club Draw Winners: Congratulations to

1st Cathy Nicholson £50
2nd Kevin Browne £25
3rd Catherine M. McLean £25

Payment for the coming period can be made from now. Membership costs £12 for 6 months or £24 for a year. Please put payment in an envelope with 200 Club with your name on the outside and give to Gerry or Kay. New members are welcome for 2020.

Mass of Commitment: Congratulations to P4 and P7 Pupils of St Mary Primary School who make their commitments to the sacraments they will receive next year.

Collections for Poinsettias: Starting this weekend cash donations are welcome for the purchase of Poinsettias and other flowers for our Church decorations. Kay Steel and Angela Dunn will stand at the church porch at the end of the Mass

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass of Commitment for P4 & P7 9th December 2019
Children Christmas Carol 24th December 2019

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Last Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £367.50, Non Gift Aid £467.40= £834.90
Building fund: Gift Aid: £ 59.00 Non Gift Aid: £168.12= £227.12 **Grand Total £1,062.02**

Appreciation: Our **Christmas Fayre** was a huge success as over £1600 was raised. Special thanks to all who participated and those who organized it.

ROAR St Mary's club: the ROAR club has been going very successfully now for a few weeks. It will continue till 18th December and then start again early in January. Still spaces for more people who will be very welcome. If you're still interested let Eileen McCartin know on 01505 814676.

Parish Choir: Christmas rehearsal has started and will continue every Wednesday after 7pm evening mass. New members are welcome!!

Volunteers for Christmas Decoration: More Volunteers are needed to help set up the Christmas Tree and the Crib. Please speak to Lorna or Alan.

Parish Piety Store: we have in stock Christmas Cards, anniversary cards and other gift items. Please contact Angela.

Advent Boxes for SPRED: are available in the Porch. Please take some home, fill them and return them asap.

SPUC - Volunteer Speakers Required: SPUC (Scotland) has a network of local volunteers who work hard pro-actively raising awareness of the pro-life movement across parish communities in Scotland. Our local speakers motivate and inspire other parishioners to support SPUC's work, playing an active part in building a culture of life in Scotland. Would you like to be a part of our volunteer team, helping to spread the Gospel of Life? If so, email info@spucsotland.org TODAY!

All-night vigil of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Reparation and in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary: Opening Mass 8pm Friday 13th December 2019 -Closing Mass 6am Saturday 14th December 2019. **St Andrew's Cathedral, Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY.** For information contact: email.liam.coyle1@ntlworld.com Phone 07806517383 or Facebook - Glasgow Vigils Events. All welcome

Marriage Maters: (www.twoinonefl.esh.org.uk) **Second Sunday of Advent** (Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12) Advent - a new beginning for us? Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

Lourdes Discipleship Group: The Pilgrimage takes place from 26 June -2 July 2020. For more information please contact Fr Gerry McNelis stninan@rcdop.org. uk

Migrant Help: A very big thank you for the overwhelming response to our appeal for 'Migrant Help'. 2 van loads of items have been collected from the Diocesan offices and taken away to help those families who are victims of modern-day trafficking. The generosity from all those who donated is very much appreciated

Centenary Recruitment Drive -Knights of St. Columba: 'Serving God by serving others'. If you are over 16 and a practicing Catholic and wish to join an organisation to promote the Catholic Faith and help others in need, please contact: John O'Donnell on 07854886425 or john.odonnell1@hotmail.co.uk

FEASTS THIS WEEK:

Monday: Immaculate Conception (Solemnity)

Friday: St Lucy

Saturday: St John of the Cross

Maranatha Prayer Group: Please, join us for an evening of prayer and praise in St Mirin's hall at 7:30pm. We meet weekly to pray. Sing and reflect on the scriptures. There will be tea and coffee afterwards. All are welcome

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Parcel Appeal

We need these items for our Christmas parcels. Chocolates, mince pies, cake, fancy biscuits, sweets, cans of meat and pasta, UHT milk, tea and coffee.

As a parish Community we pray especially for

Those who are sick

Agnes Cattigan Ben Chamness Christine McAllister
John Allison Russell Smith Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann
Martin Rogers John Kerr Margaret Moses Shambira
Noel & Winifred Kidd Sam Hannah Declan Healy Kay Brassington

Those who are recently deceased

Pat Whitelaw Elle Oshea

Those whose anniversaries occur

Michael & Catherine Byrne
Jeanie Graham