

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year A**

Dear friends, the third Sunday of advent is traditionally called *Gaudete* Sunday. '*Gaudete*' which is a Latin word meaning "rejoice", is taken from the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper,*" i.e., "Rejoice in the Lord always." Why should we rejoice? We should rejoice because the savior's coming is near and we have gone half way in our preparation for his coming. This joyful spirit is made manifest by the lighting of the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is 'rose colored,' and the priest wears the 'rose colored' vestments, is what should accompany our prayerful preparing for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Rose colour use this Sunday represents a lightening of the dark violet of the rest of the penitential season of Advent. They remind us of the color of the sky at the very brink of morning, when the sun is just beginning to come up. The horizon takes on a pale rose color that gradually gets redder and brighter as the sun rises. For faithful Christians, life is like a "long sunrise," and death is the entrance into the bright, "everlasting day" of eternal life. This is the reason why this Sunday is also called "*Rose Sunday.*"



The first reading brings out clearly the theme of today's celebration. The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice (Isaiah 35:1). When there is no joy, life is like desert; life is like parched land; life is like steppe (barren land). Life without joy is like eyes that are blind, ears that are deaf and legs that are lame. It is the same joy the savior has come to bring and truly flows wherever Jesus goes. To those John the Baptist sent to ask him if he is the Christ, Jesus says "*Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.*" (Matthew 11:2) this fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah - the passage we heard in the first reading.

This Sunday dear friends, we are called to show to others the impact of our experience with the Lord. The ways that our lives reflect the Gospel message speaks volumes to the world about the ways the Lord is here now in our lives. Even on a deeper level we can demonstrate who we are waiting for during this Holy Season of Advent by the actions we do in Jesus' name, most particularly in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. As St. Teresa of Avila would say, "Christ has no body on earth now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Yours are the feet by which He is to go about doing good and yours are the hands by which He is to bless us now." Let's share the joy with others, "*Rejoice in the Lord always again I say rejoice, the Lord is near!*"

**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
24/12/19	Christmas Eve	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 Mass	9:00am 9:10am 9:30am

**Mass at UWS:** Please note that weekday and Sunday Mass are now suspended until **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**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.



**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

15th December 2019

3rd 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 35:1-6,10

Psalm Response: "Come Lord and save us"

SECOND READING: James 5: 7-10

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 30

## PARISH NOTICE

**200 Club December Draw:** will hold this Sunday after mass. 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.

**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

**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.

### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Parcel Appeal & Special Christmas collections

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.

All our collections over the Christmas and new year period will be donated to the SSVP special work conference at St Vincent Hospices. Jim Kerr will make an appeal next weekend.

**Parish Piety Store:** we have in stock Christmas Cards, St Mary's Special Christmas cards, Copies of The Western Catholic Calendar 2020, Mass Card and other seasonal gifts.

### PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Children Christmas Carol 24th December 2019

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Last Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £476.00, Non Gift Aid £299.59= £775.59  
**Building fund:** Gift Aid: £ 48.00 Non Gift Aid: £157.62= £205.62 **Grand Total £981.21**

**Appreciation:** Our **Christmas Fayre** was a huge success as over £1600 was raised. Special thanks to all who participated and those who organized it. We thank the following businesses that supported our Christmas Fayre: **Billy's Store, McDowalls Butchers, Totally Gorgeous, Copper Coin, Mirage, Senga's Café, Keegans Funeral Care, Jay Bees, Hugh Smilie Nursery, Abercorn Builders, PS Pianos, Keystore Canal St. Mc Leans Trophy Centre, Mc Conechys Tyre & Auto centre, Graeme's Butchers Well St., AABakers/ Steven Ferrier, Elderslie Butchers/Gavin, Butchers Steak & Grill Elderslie, Hannah's Sweets Johnstone, Jam Jar, Castelvecchi Fish Restaurant, Allans Fish & Chip Restaurant, Kennedy's Lounge/Bar, Royal Taj, Londis, Regency Record Market, Class AA Hair, 10 O'Clock Shop, Set School Wear, Just Rite Barber, Corky's, Scotmed Aquarius**

**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 Crib and other decorations in the church. Please speak to Henry or Alan.

**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@spucs.cotland.org](mailto:info@spucs.cotland.org) TODAY!

**Christmas Confession:** there will be All confession in the Cathedral on Friday 20th December from 9:00am - 9:00pm.

**Diocesan Priesthood:** Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2020? The Catholic Church in Scotland is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr. John Morrison email: [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk)

Are you aged between 18-35? **St. Francis and St. Clare** warmly invites you to an **evening of prayer**, intercessions and formation and a wee something to eat and drink afterwards. Come and see! Everybody welcome. **Thursday 19th December 7-9pm** in the **Diocesan offices**, Ingle Street Paisley Thanks you!

**SPRED Advent Boxes:** Please take away your SPRED Advent Boxes and bring them back as full as you can early in the New Year. SPRED is our Special Religious Education Group for our parishioners with special needs and meets in twenty-one groups around our diocese, as well as in our local special needs schools, through 200 volunteer parishioners.

**Lourdes Discipleship Group:** The Pilgrimage takes place from 26 June -2 July 2020. For more information please contact Fr Gerry McNelis [stnininian@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stnininian@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](mailto:john.odonnell1@hotmail.co.uk)

**Carols in the Cathedral:** A diocesan annual event. It is a lovely way for all of the families to come together as a diocesan community and worship in song the birth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. **St Mirin's Cathedral, Friday 27th December at 3:00pm.** Refreshments in the hall afterwards, all Welcome

**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

**This month's Pro-Life Mass:** is on Wednesday, **18th December** in Blessed John Duns Scotus, 270 Ballater St, Gorbals G5 0YT. There will be **Adoration at 6pm**, followed by Rosary at 7pm and **Mass at 7.30pm**. All welcome. The celebrant will be Fr Eddie Highton OFM.

### 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

Agnes McDonald Russell Smith  
 Adrienne Airley Jack Burns

#### Those whose anniversaries occur

William Dorman Annie Dorman Eileen Hutchison  
 Betty McCaig Garry Willock  
 Carmina Serapiglia