

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A



As we draw near to the great day of the Lord's nativity, the signs are becoming clearer and definitive. How swift the season of Advent has gone? Are we really prepared to welcome Christ? Nevertheless, whether we are ready or not, we have the significant signs and the prophet Isaiah in the first reading gives a sign from God "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means God is with us*" (Isaiah 7:14). This prophecy is considered as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, to be born as a descendant of David. This is reaffirmed in the second reading by St Paul as he asserts that Jesus was a descendant of David and thus the Messiah: "*from David according to the flesh*" (Rom 1:3). Paul explains that the only begotten Son of God, becomes Incarnate as Jesus, was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead. Then Paul provides a sweeping summary of God's mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ.

However, the definitive aspect of this sign is seen in the gospel reading which gave an explicit account of how Christ came to be born. The evangelist Mathew reminds us that the signs that God gave to us through the prophets, (that is, the signs which are the foundation of our hope this season), are not *flatus vocis (empty words)*; but they are true and fulfilled in Christ. This could not have been without the humble cooperation of Joseph "The foster father of Jesus". for in order that Jesus could fulfil the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. What a wonderful man Joseph was. He is a perfect example for all humanity.

Like Joseph we are called to trust God, listen to Him and be faithful to Him. No matter what we face in life, we should never forget that God has a plan for every situation. If we need to experience the joy of the presence of Emmanuel, we must be ready to make sacrifices - be a gift to others. As in the words of Fr Anthony Kadavil "The greatest gift we can give to those we love, is to have faith in them, believe in their dreams, and try to help them realize them. We need to believe in the dreams of our husband, wife, children, parents, heroes, leaders and friends, then try our best to help them realize those dreams". May Christ bless us with His presence and grace every home with his Love...Amen.

Merry Christmas in advance!!!

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%

"Annual Safeguarding Report - Sunday 12 January 2020 The annual diocesan safeguarding report will be read out by parish safeguarding co-ordinators in all parishes at Masses on Sunday 12 January 2020. Paisley diocese and our parish welcome the special responsibility we have for all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

Dinner/Dance to raise funds for the Diocese of Paisley Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Saturday 22nd February 2020, Greenock Town Hall, 7pm (for 7.30pm). Tickets cost £35

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR

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

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



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

22nd December 2019

4th 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 7:10-14

Psalm Response: "Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory"

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1: 18-24

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 33

PARISH NOTICE

Collections for Poinsettias: Thanks for your wonderful donations and if you wish to bring Poinsettias or donate towards the purchase of plants and flowers, please speak to **Kay Steel**.

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.

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. Please contact Angela.

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 this weekend.

Parish Christmas Confessions: will hold on Monday and Tuesday morning after morning mass.

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Children Christmas Carol 24th December 2019
26th December Mass at 9:30am

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Last Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £353.60 Non Gift Aid £271.74= £625.34
Building fund: Gift Aid: £ 66.00 Non Gift Aid: £139.57= £205.57 **Grand Total £830.91**

200 Club December Draw winners: congratulations to

Joan McCourt £200 Hugh Keenan £100
Arianna McAleer £50 Ann Bradley £50
Pauline Jhugursing £50 Jean McDowall £50
Iain Tait £25 Moira Leonard £25
Kathy Mciver £25 Eileen Carroll £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.

Safeguarding Training, Induction Part 2: The new Safeguarding Part 2 Training session, is for volunteers who have previously attended Safeguarding Training Part One, or Safeguarding Training Level one, more than 18 months ago. If you attended Safeguarding Training Level One in 2016 or 2017, you should put your name forward for Safeguarding Training Part 2. The next session will be on: **Tuesday 21st January at 7pm St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Clarkston.** Please contact Sarah Jane at the Diocesan Safeguarding office safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk or **0141 847 6138** to register.

2020 September (2nd - 9th September) and October Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: This is a fully escorted pilgrimage and great places to visit. If you are interested in joining the group from St Mary's Parish Paisley to Medjugorje in September or October 2020 please fill the form attached and send your deposit to Fr Jude.

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 TODAY!

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

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

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.

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.

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

Christmas Message from Fr Jude

My dear Friends, at Christmas, we celebrate the coming of God in our nature - the mystery of the incarnation. God who is all good and who created us, took our nature in order to save us. This is an unprecedented and incomparable love. The Word through whom all things were made (Jn. 1:3) incarnates in us and make himself a subject to his subjects. Before this revelation, as Pope Benedict affirmed "*we once more wonder: how can this be? The Word and the flesh are mutually opposed realities; how can the eternal and almighty Word become a frail and mortal man?*" There is only one answer: Love. Those who love desire to share with the beloved, they want to be one with the beloved, and Sacred Scripture shows us the great love story of God for his people which culminated in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:15).

Truly, LOVE is the reason for this Holy Season. "the Word became flesh"; he came to dwell among us; he is Emmanuel, the God who became close to us. Together let us contemplate this great mystery of love; let our hearts be filled with the light which shines in the stable of Bethlehem!

On this note, I wish to thank you all for your love, care and kindness. I thank in a special all those who have in one way or another helped in the decoration of the Church. May this Christmas bring joy and gladness to your homes. I wish you all a wonderful, grace-filled Christmas and New Year.

Never, forget...Christ is the reason for this season. All the gifts for Christmas mean nothing without Christ.

Merry Christmas!!!



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

Lachean McAllister

Those whose anniversaries occur

Laura Anne Donnelly Peter Deighan Michael Deighan
Jack Main Cesidio & Carmina Serapiglia
Govanni Puddinu Govina Cossa Sylvia Marletta
Ricardo Puddinu Walter Puddinu Michael & Elle Barrett
Ugo Galimberti