

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Dear Friends, we begin the church's new liturgical year "Year A" with the season of Advent which is a season filled with preparations and expectations. The word Advent is from the Latin root "*ad venio*" meaning "to come". Thus, advent in its ecclesiastical use is the liturgical season anticipating the *Adventus Domini*, the "coming of the Lord." While the days grow shorter and colder here in Scotland, we prepare to welcome the "Sun of Justice" who comes to kindle our hearts with his light, warmth and love. The Eternal Word, who is outside of time, became Incarnate in time, thereby making all time sacred. In this holy season, as everyone is getting ready for Christmas – shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the main reason for our activity: "*the Word made flesh coming to dwell among us*" (John 1:14). We are urged to preserve the spiritual focus of Christmas amidst the prevailingly secular and consumer-driven society.

The readings this first Sunday of advent invite us to stay awake as we prepare for the coming of Christ. The prophet Isaiah in the first reading, describes his prophetic vision of all nations making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, affirming their Faith in the one true God (Isaiah 2:1-5). St Paul in the second reading exhorts the Roman Christian community to get ready to meet Jesus in his *Second Coming* by freeing themselves from their former pagan tendencies toward excessive drinking, sexual promiscuity, jealousy and rivalry, thus discharging their duties properly (Romans 13:11-14). We, too, are challenged to make spiritual preparations for Christ's birth in our lives. Jesus Christ in the gospel reading warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him as our Judge both at the end of our lives on earth and on the day of the Last Judgment when he comes in his glory (Matt.24:37-44). Jesus reminds us of how the unrepentant and ill-prepared evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah and of how a thief would break in and plunder the precious belongings of an ill-prepared house owner. Using the additional examples later, Jesus repeats his warning for us to be vigilant and well-prepared at all the time, doing the will of God by loving others.

Friends, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of this season when the city is aglow with its commercial lights, let us make this season of Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, meditating often on the incredible love and humility of our God who comes to be with us. In our shopping, cooking and baking, let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor in our city and all over the world. Two important acts are necessary this season: reconciling with God and humanity and helping those in need. let us make our hearts a worthy place for the king who is to come. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus



### 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%

**Quiet Morning for Advent:** Will be held on **30 November 2019** at **St Columba's Parish, Renfrew.** **Coffee at 10.00am**, commencing at 10.30am. The morning will end at 1.00pm with **Mass and a light lunch.** All welcome.

**Fertility Care Clinic** at the diocesan offices - **Change of dates for November/December** - The clinic will take place on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December.** Dates for 2020 will be announced before the end of the year

**Advent Service:** There will be an Advent Service on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** at **7pm** in St Aidan's Johnstone, with St Mirin's Cathedral Choir: hymns and readings for Advent. All welcome. Tea afterwards in the hall

**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 please email in confidence our chaplain at [Courage@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:Courage@rcdop.org.uk)

**Evening Prayer and Benediction:** St Margaret', Johnstone, will celebrate Evening prayer of the Church and Benediction on **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December** at **6.00pm.** The music will be led by the *Schola Benedicti.* All welcome to attend this celebration of the start of Advent.

**St. Mirin's Chaplaincy Center:** Please note there will be **no 5pm Sunday Mass** on **1<sup>st</sup> December.** Apologies for any inconvenience



## ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN  
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Church Hall: 01505810370 (Answer Machine)  
Email: [StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk)  
Website: [stmaryrcpaisley.com](http://stmaryrcpaisley.com)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

1st December 2019

1st 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

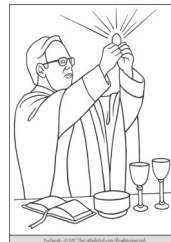
Divine Mercy Devotion: Friday after Mass

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 2:1-5

Psalm Response: "I rejoice when I heard them say, let us go to God's house"

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:37-44

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 26

## PARISH NOTICE

**Legion of Mary:** As Evangelization is our main focus this year, we hope to begin this society in our parish. **Mary & Jim** will be making an appeal this weekend.

**Parish Special Christmas Card:** This year we have our Parish special Christmas Card. Contact Gerry if you are interested in placing an order.

**Rite of Acceptance into the order of Catechumens:** Will hold this Sunday. All who have completed their pre-catechumenate period will declare their intention to the church and will be welcomed to the order of Catechumens.

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

**Pat Whitelaw's Funeral:** her body will be received on Tuesday at 4pm and Funeral Mass on Wednesday 10am. May she rests in peace...Amen.

### 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.

**200 Club Draw:** will hold next Sunday after mass

**Baptism Congratulations:** to Stanley and Alessia whose daughter **Chikaima Maitea ChukwurahBruni** will be christened after Sunday Mass.

### PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

RCIA Acceptance into the order of Catechumens  
1st Dec. 2019

Parish Disco Dance 7th December 2019

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Last Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £354.10, Non Gift Aid £242.80= £596.90  
**Education fund:** Gift Aid: £ 2250.10 Non Gift Aid: £153.01= £378.11 **Grand Total £975.01**

**Parish Disco Dance: Our Parish Tartan & Tinsel Disco will hold on Saturday 7th December.** Tickets are still available for this event. Speak to Kay Steel or Henry Bradley

**ROAR St Mary's club:** will hold this week at 11am. 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.

**Choir Practice:** As we prepare for Christmas, choir practice will hold every Wednesday after 7pm evening mass. New members 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. Last year your Advent Boxes brought in an amazing £12,000. We will be holding our annual SPRED parish collection in February which, last year, raised £23,000. Thanks again for your generosity which is helping this wonderful organisation in our diocese to spread and grow from strength to strength. Along with our *Friends Fundraising campaign* and our annual collection our Advent Boxes pay for just over 50% of this ministry.

**Migrant Help for Local Victims of Modern Day Slavery. Can you help?:** Paisley Diocese has teamed up with our local Migrant Help UK to help find basic provisions for local victims of modern day slavery - men, women and children - being kept safe around our diocese. We are urgently appealing for the following items: clothes for a 7yr old boy and 4yr old girl, back packs, 2 pairs of ladies winter boots (size 8 and 6), ladies waterproof winter jacket (size 18/20), ladies trousers (size 6), ladies tops/jumper (size 6), male hooded winter jackets (any size), gloves, socks (any sizes), umbrellas, nail clippers, toiletries and toilet paper. If you can help them please drop in your donations to our Diocesan Offices between Monday and Friday by the end of November. Many thanks.

**Charis Conference 2019:** Charis, the new service for Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide, is holding its national conference in St Mirin's hall on **Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December.** Speakers are Jean Luc Moens, moderator for Charis (appointed by Pope Francis), Kenny Borthwick, Presbyterian minister in Wester Hailes and Bishop John Keenan. Cost for full weekend is £20 (pay at the door) Each day begins at 10am. Further information from tresanded1214@gmail.com

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

**Advent Service:** There will be an Advent Service on **Tuesday 3rd December** at 7pm in St Aidan's Johnstone, with St Mirin's Cathedral Choir: hymns and readings for Advent. All welcome. Tea afterwards in the hall

**Retreat Day for Primary School Pupils:** The Diocese of Paisley will be hosting a retreat day for primary school pupils in p4-7 at **St. Cadoc's, Newton Mearns on Sunday 1st December 2-6pm.** The retreat day will include activities, Mass and the chance to meet new friends. All participants must bring a signed consent form. Consent forms can be obtained from your parish, primary school or by contacting Fr. John Morrison e-mail: [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk) or tel 0141 8895056.

**Lourdes Discipleship Group:** A meeting will be held in St. Ninian's Church Hall, Gourock on **Sunday 1 December at 2.30 pm.** Those eligible for the Pilgrimage Group should be between 18-21. The Pilgrimage takes place from 26 June -2 July 2020. For more information please contact Fr Gerry McNelis [stinian@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stinian@rcdop.org.uk)

**Christmas Charity Quiz Night:** There will be a Christmas Charity Quiz Night in aid of the Paisley Pre-5 Children's Centre at 7.30pm on Monday, 2nd December in **St Mary's Church Hall, Newton Street, Paisley.** Entrance is £3.00 each and there will be a raffle. BYOB and nibbles and dress in your festive gear if you feel like it! All welcome to join us for a bit of fun in the Christmas spirit.

**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

**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

### 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

#### Those who are recently deceased

Jean McAllister Annie McGill Margaret Neil  
Dina McDonald Gerard Graham  
Pat Whitelaw (Funeral Mass on Wednesday)

#### Those whose anniversaries occur

James Corrigan Chris Morgan George Tait  
Bridie Banaghan Margaret Gallagher Ricky Strong  
Kathleen Tunstead Patricia Macpherson  
Alison O'Kane (3 Months mind)