



St. Mary's Duntocher

St. Joseph's Faifley



3rd Sunday of Advent B
13th December 2020

FOR THE TIME BEING

Sunday Masses

Saint Mary's 5pm Vigil 10am
Saint Joseph's 4pm Vigil Noon

1st Reading **Isaiah 61.1-2.10-11**
2nd Reading **1 Thessalonians 5.16-24**
Gospel Reading **John 1.6-8.19-28**



Look

All the time stuff

♦ Gift Aid paid into bank
St Vincent de Paul Contact ☎ 07432 879831
Bulletin notices & names to arrive by Thursday
2nd Collection: St. Mary's for the Building Fund

Parish Priest Rev. Paul Milarvie
Permanent Deacon Rev. John Fletcher
☎ 01389 873280
✉ Chapel Road, Duntocher, G81 6DL
✉ stmary.duntocher@rcag.org.uk
✉ stjoseph.faifley@rcag.org.uk
f St Mary's Duntocher/St Joseph's Faifley
🌐 <https://www.stmarysandstjosephs.org.uk/>



This week the Church celebrates

Monday Saint John of the Cross

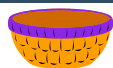


Attendance last Sunday

St. Mary's 40/40 (Max now 100)
St. Joseph 38/40 (Max now 90)



Thank you for your generosity:



St Mary	Gift Aid	Collection	Donate	Total
1st	£146	£209	£100	£355
November	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0
2nd*	£56	£144		£200
November	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0
St Joseph		£288		£288
October	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0

Please pray for...

those who have died recently: Dorrie Collins;
Bobby Marshall; Nallusamy Dharmaleguain;
Frank Vance (9 months)

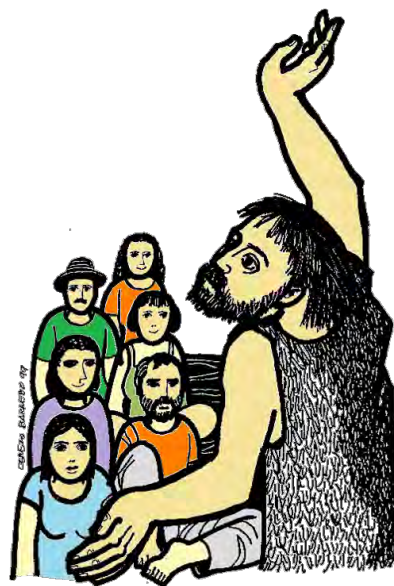
and on the anniversaries of: Molly Boyce;
William James Baxter; Joseph & Jean Ballantyne;
Jean McLaughlin; Roseanne McGlinchey;
Eric Sweeney; George T. Dodds

Please email any names
that you wish to be added to the bulletin



Funeral

Bobby Marshall RIP Pending



A 'streamed Holy Hour'

only on YouTube from St Mary's, 'The Dawn of Grace': Advent Reflections this Monday at 6.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration, hymns, readings and reflections to help us prepare for Christmas with Deacon John and cantor Jim McGinlay.

Search: 'St Mary's, Duntocher - You Tube' or:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuK-9mvdWnQ2-Hs0f3CI3bA>

Father Paul will stream an evening of Advent Reflection on Monday 21st December at 6.30pm

Clip Art Copyright Acknowledgements

Churches: Photographs © Dermot Healy
Advent Candle © Bergmoser + Höller Verlag AG
Funeral © Liturgical Press Collegeville MN
Saint © Liturgical Press Collegeville MN
Mass Attend © Bergmoser + Höller Verlag AG
Hands © Unknown
Look © Dermot Healy
Church © Bergmoser + Höller Verlag AG
Gospel © servicioskoinonia.org/cerezo/indexAgraf.php
Advent/Christmas © Bergmoser + Höller Verlag AG

Scottish Charity SC0 18140

St Vincent de Paul SSVP Appeal

Please help the SSVP Society :

- ◆ In the SSVP collection box at Masses.
- ◆ By Cheque made payable to ST MARY'S SSVP DUNTOCHER and sent to our treasurer Pat Byrne at 26 Braehead Road, Duntocher, G81 6PH.
- ◆ By Standing Order/Bank Transfer through your bank to Account name ST MARY'S SSVP DUNTOCHER, Sort Code 83-17-10, Account number 00606826. If you do not use online banking, ☎ 07432879831 and we will provide a form you can complete and send to your bank.
- ◆ Cash Donation. Please phone our contact number as above for arrangements.

Thank you for your continuing support.
St Mary's and St Joseph's SSVP Conference.

Christmas Appeal

For the last few years Made with Love have distributed Christmas Dinner Hampers to families through all schools in Clydebank. Last year we helped 266 families. This year we can't make Hampers, so we will supply £25 Co-op Vouchers to families so that they can shop and top up their electricity. We have also supported some schools with Emergency Shop Vouchers and snacks. We hope to do this until Christmas. If you would like to help, please donate to: Made with Love JMJ Clydesdale Bank Sort 826125 Acct N° 30111668 or ☎ Morag Kerr 07960 022861, Christine Totten 07837 839257.

St. Nicholas Care Fund - Appeal

The Fund offers small grants to parishes, schools and community groups who work to improve the lives of people who find themselves in need. Parishes and schools have organised foodbanks and provided hot meals to families who had none. Local communities have come together to support and offer companionship to the elderly, the lonely, the isolated and those with special needs. Voluntary organisations have gone out on the streets to support and offer practical help to people without a permanent home. The Covid-19 pandemic has made 2020 an extraordinarily difficult year for everyone, but especially for those whose lives were already disadvantaged. The St Nicholas Care Fund, like many other charities, has had to adapt to the new normal and now offers support on-line, providing a safe and swift response to anyone requesting a grant. Please donate to the fund directly:

St. Nicholas Care Fund:
Clydesdale Bank Sort-Code 82-48-08;
Account 00486256

Pope Francis said on twitter

Accompanied by the Mother of Jesus on the journey towards Christmas, in these times that are difficult for many, let us make an effort to rediscover the great hope and joy brought to us by the coming of the Son of God in the world.



Our New Parish website is

<https://www.stmarysandstjosephs.org.uk/>



Reflection for this Sunday

It was announced earlier this week that Pope Francis plans to visit Iraq from 5th-8th March 2021 as he continues to preach the Gospel in a land where the Catholic community is relatively small. In many respects, it echoes his call to go to the peripheries, to the less well-known areas of Christianity. His vision is that of a less Eurocentric Church as he continues to build on the themes that he developed in his recent encyclical letter "Fratelli Tutti". He further announced that there would also be a year dedicated to St. Joseph to celebrate 150th Anniversary since St. Joseph was declared patron of the Universal Church. In doing so, he has written an apostolic letter "Patris Corde" [with a Father's heart] to commemorate such an occasion. These appear to be an attempt by Pope Francis to encourage the Church to look beyond the current pandemic and to offer people throughout the world a renewed sense of hope. The timing of both these announcements is probably a reminder to us of the season of Advent, a time of hope as we wait patiently for the events of the Christ-child to unfold as we make our way, somewhat cautiously this year, to the stable at Bethlehem. The pathways to God are rich and varied, and at times unknown, but they encourage us to reflect on our faith in a new and perhaps creative way as we try and make sense of it in and through the pandemic. This year, Advent has in every sense of the word become a new Advent as we have had to find different ways of expressing this liturgical season as it grapples and gets to grip with the ongoing implications of the effect of the virus, throughout the world.

For many of us, there was a sigh of relief that we would be returning to Tier 3 and an easing of restrictions as we approach the Christmas season. We are being advised to be cautious, to think about whom we interact with so that we don't give the virus an opportunity to spread. That is going to be difficult and sometimes we can let our hearts rule our heads. The human struggles, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually make it hard for us to make sense of the virus which we cannot see but the damage we can see. Those who have lost their jobs; those suffering from a reduced income or an uncertain future all form part of a struggling Advent that many people are experiencing today. The human question, "Where is God?" is for many people a reality. Therefore, as we continue as pilgrims in Advent, perhaps the following words by Ronald Rolheiser, a contemporary spiritual writer may encourage us to keep going to Bethlehem so that we can celebrate the Saviour's day:

"But wrestling with God has another aspect. It invites us to a certain kind of prayer. Prayer isn't meant to be a simple acquiescence to God's will. It's meant to be an acquiescence, yes, but a mature acquiescence, one come to at the end of a long struggle.

We see this in the prayers of the great figures in the scriptures: Abraham, Moses, the apostles, Jesus. Abraham argues with God and initially talks him out of destroying Sodom; Moses at first resists the call, protesting that his brother is better suited for the job; the apostles excuse themselves for a long time before finally putting their lives on the line; and Jesus gives himself over in the garden of Gethsemane only after first begging his father for a reprieve. As Rabbi Abraham Heschel, one of the leading Jewish philosophers and theologian of the twentieth century, puts it, from Abraham through Jesus we see how the great figures of our faith are not in the habit of saying "Thy will be done!" but often, for a while at least, counter God's invitation with "Thy will be changed!"

Struggling with God's will and offering resistance to what it calls us to can be a bad thing, but it can also be a mature form of prayer. The Book of Genesis describes an incident where Jacob wrestled with a spirit for a whole night and in the morning that spirit turned out to be God. What a perfect icon of prayer! A human being and God, wrestling in the dust of this earth! Doesn't that accurately describe the human struggle?"

Ronald Rolheiser, OMI "Wrestling with God: Finding hope and meaning in our daily struggles to be human," pages 128/129