



# St. Mary's Duntocher

# St. Joseph's Faifley



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent B**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**FOR THE TIME BEING**

## Christmas Masses

See the Web Page

1<sup>st</sup> Reading **2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16**

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading **Romans 16:25-27**

Gospel Reading **Luke 1:26-38**



### This week the Church celebrates

Friday Birth of Jesus Christ  
Saturday Saint Stephen, Martyr



### Attendance last Sunday

St. Mary's 98 (Max 100)  
St. Joseph 76 (Max 90)

### Thank you for your generosity:



	Gift Aid	Collection	Donate	Total
<b>St Mary</b>				
1st	£135	£250	£100	£385
<b>November</b>	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0
2nd*	£40	£300		£340
<b>November</b>	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0
<b>St Joseph</b>		£579		£579
<b>October</b>	Banked♦	only shows monthly		£0

## Please pray for...

**those who have died recently:** Bobby Marshall; Sarah Wylie; Lesley Joyce; Catherine Taylor; Cathie McPeake;

**and on the anniversaries of:** Frankie Kelly; Catherine Meechan; Annie Sweeney; Thomas Green; Charlie & Kevin Kelly; Margaret Cassidy; Shelia Ward; Margaret Smith; James, Jimmy and Isa McFadyen; Janet Harkins Smith; Anne Harkins Collins; Teresa McNeill; Norah Dooley; Laura & Vic Scott; Stephen & Annie Gallacher; James & Margaret Gallacher

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



### Funerals

St Mary's Sarah Wylie RIP Wednesday  
St Mary's Leslie Joyce RIP Thursday  
St Mary's Catherine Taylor RIP Tue 29<sup>th</sup>  
St Joseph's Cathie McPeake RIP Wed 30<sup>th</sup>  
St Joseph's Bobby Marshall RIP Thu 31<sup>st</sup>

### Advent Reflection

Father Paul will stream an evening of Advent Reflection on Monday evening at 6.30pm. Search: 'St Mary's, Duntocher - You Tube' or: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuK-9mvdWnQ2-Hs0f3CI3bA>



### All the time stuff

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

**Parish Priest** Rev. Paul Milarvie  
**Permanent Deacon** Rev. John Fletcher

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

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*We prepare a place for you, O Lord.*

## St Vincent de Paul SSVP Appeal

St Mary's and St Joseph's SSVP would like to thank all those who responded so generously to our funding appeal. Your kind donations enabled us to continue our work helping families in the run up to Christmas. God Bless you and have a Merry Christmas.

## Christmas Appeal

For the last few years Made with Love have distributed Christmas Dinner Hampers to families through all schools in Clydesdale. 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. Margaret's Children & Family Care Society

We have relied on the kindness and generosity of the Catholic community for the past 65 years, but this year we're asking those who might normally have donated to our Crib Appeal collection boxes to consider visiting our Virtual Crib to donate online this year." St Margaret's Virtual Crib will be live from Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. To view the crib and make donations online visit [stmargaretsadoption.org.uk](http://stmargaretsadoption.org.uk)

## 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

I encourage you to dedicate time to prayer, mediating in the light of the Word of God, so that the Holy Spirit who inhabits it might illuminate the path to follow, and transform our hearts, as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Scottish Charity SC0 18140



No Bulletin next Sunday. Back on 3rd January

**Merry Christmas**  
**Happy New Year**

## Reflection for this Sunday

Colleges and Universities have closed for the Christmas break as many students head home to try and be with family over the festive period. Schools throughout the country will stop for the Christmas holidays over the next few days but sadly, this year, there is not the same buzz and excitement that we would have associated with these last days of the school terms or a break from college or university. This year, we need to apply the pause button and hope that at some stage in the future we will be able to reset it. Monday is also 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Lockerbie air disaster which many of us can still remember. For a younger generation, it forms part of the history books.

Each year, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent focuses on Our Lady and this year we reflect on the Annunciation. The dramatic encounter of faith between the angel Gabriel and Mary makes us reflect on our own encounter with God through prayer and how we might gaze in wonder and awe at the events of Bethlehem soon to take place. The pathway to the stable is a challenge for us. There is so much that we would have just taken for granted in the past that will simply not happen this year. There is a strange emptiness in many peoples' lives as we reach the last days of Advent. The landscape and the tapestry of Advent, however, does not change. What we will celebrate at Christmas will not change but how we might celebrate it as a community of faith and within our own families will be different. The angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary of "Do not be afraid" could be equally addressed to us as we find ourselves walking into new and unprecedented situations. Advent and, in time, Christmas have been like that for many people. We hope to find a pathway to God this Christmas that might help us celebrate the Christ-child event of Bethlehem. It might be a different path this year, but it is important that we hear those same words addressed to Mary and let them take root in our lives of faith. We might feel that God is absent when we are really looking for and trying to discover a God who is present to us. That God will be the child in the manger whom Mary brought into the world through her courageous acceptance of the angel's message. The following words by Pope Benedict XVI addressed to young people at World Youth Day at Cologne in 2005 may help us stay focused on the event of Bethlehem:

"The Magi heard the answer: "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet" (Mt.2:5) and, enlightened by these words, they chose to press forward to the very end. From Jerusalem they went on to Bethlehem. In other words, they went from the word which showed them where to find the King of the Jews whom they were seeking, all the way to the end, to an encounter with the King who was at the same time the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Those words are also spoken for us. We too have a choice to make. If we think about it, this is precisely our experience when we share in the Eucharist. For in every Mass the encounter with the Word of God introduces us to our participation in the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ and, hence, introduces us to the Eucharistic Meal, to union with Christ. Present on the altar is the One whom the Magi saw lying in the manger: Christ, the living Bread who came down from heaven to give life to the world, the true Lamb who gives his own life for the salvation of mankind.

Enlightened by the Word, it is in Bethlehem – the "House of Bread" – that we can always encounter the inconceivable greatness of a God who humbled himself even to appearing in a manger, to giving himself as food on the altar.

We can imagine the awe which the Magi experienced before the Child in swaddling clothes. Only faith enabled them to recognise in the face of that Child the King whom they were seeking, the God to whom the star had guided them. In him, crossing the abyss between the finite and the infinite, the visible and the invisible, the Eternal entered time, the Mystery became known by entrusting himself to us in the frail body of a small child."

Pope Benedict XVI, "**God's Revolution: World Youth Day Talks,**" page 38