



Parish Bulletin of
St Andrew's, Dumfries
and
St Columba's, Annan

*Parishes of the R C Diocese of Galloway -
Registered Charity No. SCO10576*

Parish Notices

Week beginning 17th December, 2023

Mass timetable in the week ahead:

There is a normal weekday timetable in the week ahead, along with an Advent Penitential service on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm.

St Andrew's: Wednesday at 10am; Friday at 10am

St Columba's: Tuesday at 10am; Thursday at 7pm.

Weekend Masses:

St Andrew's: Saturday Vigil at 6pm ; Sunday at 10am

St Columba's : Sunday at 12noon

NB There is Mass with exposition in St Andrew's on Saturday, 23rd December at 10am.

NB All Sunday 10am and Wednesday 10am Masses from St Andrew's are live-streamed.

Christmas Mass timetable

Please note that Christmas Day is a Holyday of obligation. The Christmas Masses will be on Christmas Eve at **6pm at St Columba's** and at **10pm at St Andrew's** (with carols from **9.30pm**). Masses on Christmas Day will be at **10am at St Andrew's** and at **12 noon at St Columba's**.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

There is an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the period of Exposition on alternate Saturdays and also before the Vigil Mass on each weekend.

Advent Penitential Services

The date of the St Andrew's Penitential service has been moved from its original date to **Wednesday 20th December at 7pm.**

Diocesan Mass timetable

Please find a blue poster on the noticeboard and at the outside window which lists all 2023 Christmas Masses in the Diocese of Galloway. There will also be a service of readings and carols for Christmas at St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, on **Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm.** All are welcome.

"Standard" Toy Appeal

Thank you very much to everyone who brought toys for the "Standard" appeal last weekend. They will be very much appreciated by local children in need.

Collections

St Andrew's collection was £901.31 and £20 was donated for the Fabric fund. **SSVP** collected £108.92. **St Columba's** collection was £184.50 on 3rd December and £160.65 last week. £60.55 was donated for SCIAF over the last 2 weeks and £10 was given for SSVP. Thank you very much.

Firstbase continues to be grateful for all donations.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for December:

For persons with disabilities:

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusivity which values their active participation.

Parish Priest

Father Gerald Donnelly
27 Brooke Street, Dumfries, DG1 2JL

Telephone 01387 254281

E-mails: rcdumfriesannan@sky.com(office)

dumfries.standrew@gallowaydiocese.org.uk (Priest)



standrewsdumfries.org.uk

stcolumbasannan.org.uk

facebook.com/standrewsdumfries

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17th December , 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8. 19-28

Psalm Response

My soul rejoices in my God.

Today's Liturgy: Eucharistic Prayer II

Next Sunday :

4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)

3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Today's readings tell us that God's power reveals itself as naturally and as inevitably as the changing of the seasons. It unfolds through the faith of human beings who put their whole trust in God's will to redeem us.

Fr Gerald's Mass Intentions for this week:

Tuesday:	Agnes Halfpenny
Wednesday:	Joan Campbell
Thursday:	Catherine Donnelly
Friday:	Catherine Donnelly
Saturday:	Raymond Kerr
Sunday:	For the Parish

Please remember in your prayers

those who are sick, everyone on the family prayer ministry requests and all those whose needs are not known to us.

Libby McLaughlin	Astrida Kruste
Anne Murdy	Ted & Jean Machin
Eric Sherman	Cathy O'Neill
James Behan	Michael O'Regan

Sick and Housebound

I am available for the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. If any parishioner requires assistance or needs to talk, please call me on the Parish number.

www.virc.at This website provides the readings for the Mass in many languages, eg English. Please convey information and updates safely to anyone you know who is sick or housebound.



Choir practices for Christmas

We are forming a St Andrew's choir for the 10pm Mass on Christmas Eve. To help prepare us, Barbara Lewis, our organist at the Saturday Vigil Mass, has offered to conduct a second practice in the Church on **Sunday 17th December at 1pm**. Barbara will play at the 10pm mass on Christmas Eve. We are grateful for Barbara's input, and would like to invite anyone who wants to be involved to attend the practice. Christmas is a time for singing, please come along and add to the chorus.



Seniors' Christmas Dinner

Thank you very much to Fiona Douglas and the team and to everyone who contributed in any way to such a successful and enjoyable evening. The company, food and warmly decorated environment were all much appreciated and we were well looked after!



Church Shop Christmas Stock

You can browse the Church shop's stock of diaries, advent calendars, cards and candles either around Mass time or in the hall at Coffee on Sundays.



"The Kids" Annual Christmas Appeal



A message from Maire:
"The children in Kenya will be away from school for six weeks over the festive period and unable to have their daily porridge and lunch. The "Educate the Kids" food appeal will again help to provide a food parcel for every impoverished family over the holidays. You can help, as always, by donating a small amount after Mass over this weekend, 17th December, when there will be designated containers at the back of St Andrew's. Even £1 can make a difference. You can also donate online at www.educatethekids.com. Thank you once more on behalf of the children and their grateful families."

St Jo's annual Carol Service

St Jo's College PFA members cordially invite all parishioners to join them for their annual Carol Service in the College Chapel at 6.30pm and for refreshments in the school thereafter.

MOOL

The MOOL charity which is based in the hall basement at St Andrew's does a tremendous amount of good work with refugees in the region. They have asked for specific donations of training shoes for young men, walking boots and toiletries as well as all other general items of clothing. Please help if you can.



Cost of living crisis:

In response to the cost of living crisis and especially in response to the rise in energy bills, some limited funds are available to parishioners who are particularly struggling. If this applies to you, please speak in confidence with Fr Gerald.

NB There is a First Aid box in the Church Sacristy should anyone need it at any time.



St Columba's Children's Group...

will meet each Sunday during Advent. All Children from their preschool year and Primary years are very welcome to join the group during Mass each Sunday.

Advent and Christmas Dates for your calendar

Tues 19th Dec– Annual Carol Service at St Jo's Memorial College Chapel at 6.30pm and refreshments in the hall. All parishioners very welcome.

Wed 20th December– Advent Penitential Service at 7pm at St Andrew's.

Wed 20th Dec– A service of readings and carols for Christmas at St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, at 7.30pm.

Frid 22nd Dec– Carol Service at St Mary's, New Abbey at 7pm. All welcome.

Christmas Eve- Mass at 6pm at St Columba's Mass at 10pm at St Andrew's (Carols from 9.30pm)

Christmas Day -Mass at 10am at St Andrew's Mass at 12noon at St Columba's

Church Cleaning Appeal

Please consider volunteering to help for one hour per month with Church or hall cleaning in small, friendly teams. Let Fr Gerald or one of the passkeepers know if you can sign up. Cleaning times can be flexible to fit with individual schedules and no technical skills are needed! More details are also available from Ana in the Parish Office on Fridays. Tel 01387 254281. Thank you!

Real Gifts

Please remember SCIAF's "real gift" campaign at this time of year. See the SCIAF website or the brochure in the Church porch.



RCIA Inquirers

Please speak with Fr Gerald if you are interested at all in finding out more about Roman Catholicism with a view to making an informed and carefully considered decision about whether or not you want to join in full communion with the Church. Your enquiry will be very welcomed.



St Andrew's Coffees/Teas on Sunday

All are welcome for Sunday teas/coffees in the hall. Please donate at least £1.50 for a hot drink and £2 for a drink and cake/biscuit if you can. All proceeds are for the Church apart from those from one team which are donated to St Andrew's Primary School.

Please take a copy of the bulletin home to remind you of the times of services and events during the coming week and please take a copy to anyone you know who is sick or housebound.

