



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 7th January, 2024

Mass timetable in the week ahead:

Please note that Mass on Thursday morning is the Requiem Mass for Alfred McGowan. Please also note that There is no Mass on the morning of 13th January.

St Andrew's: Wednesday at 10am; Thursday 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 no Mass with exposition in St Andrew's nor in St Teresa's on Saturday, 13th January at 10am.

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

End of Christmastide

Monday sees the end of Christmastide with "Ordinary Time" resuming on Tuesday 9th January.

Justice and Peace

There is a second collection at all Masses this weekend for the work of the Justice and Peace Commission which "...advises the Scottish Bishops' Conference in matters of social justice, peacebuilding, promoting care for creation and human rights and supporting the Catholic community to live the values of the Gospel in service to the poor and marginalised."

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.

Church Collection Envelopes

The 2024 sets of Church collection envelopes will be prepared soon for usual distribution in March. Can you please indicate in the next week or so if you currently use envelopes but no longer require them for 2024. Those who have already intimated to the Parish office a switch to Standing Order in 2023 are noted and don't need to be in touch again. Many thanks.

Meeting in the week ahead

The St Andrew's Conference of the SSVP will meet in the Church house Tuesday 7th January at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Collections

St Andrew's collection was £522.31 and **SSVP** collected £182.85. Thank you very much.

Firstbase continues to be grateful for all donations.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for January:

For the gift of diversity in the Church

We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Parish Priest

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stcolumbasannan.org.uk

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7th January , 2024

Solemnity of the Epiphany (Year B)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3: 2-3. 5-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

Psalm Response

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Today's Liturgy: Eucharistic Prayer II

Next Sunday :

2nd Sunday of the year (Year B)

Solemnity of the Epiphany (Year B)

The Magi have been following the star, the mysterious sign in the skies, and now bow down humbly before the Christ Child offering prayer and gifts. We thank God for his graciousness and giftedness to each one of us.

Fr Gerald's Mass Intentions for this week:

Tuesday: Andrew Carr anniversary

Wednesday: Ronald Mitchell

Thursday: John Rumney

Friday: Alf McGowan

Saturday: Eddie Sheerin

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

Anne Murdy

Eric Sherman

James Behan

Anne Richardson

Astrida Kruste

Ted & Jean Machin

Cathy O'Neill

Michael O'Regan

Peter Richardson

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.

Message from Jo Kemp

"Thanks to all who braved the weather to take part in our annual Carol Service at St Mary's, New Abbey, and to those who contributed to the refreshments afterwards. Together with subsequent donations, we raised £400 for 'Friends of the Holy Land' Many thanks to you all.

On Sunday 14th January, Fr David Tobin (Jennefer's brother) will say Mass at St Mary's at 10.30am. All very welcome. "

Giftaid Forms

Giftaid declarations can significantly enhance any donations to the Church or special collections. Please find Giftaid forms on the stand in the porch. They can be completed and returned via the collection bags or through the house door. Please also speak with Fr Gerald if you would like a form and slip to Giftaid one-off donations.

Message from "Right to Life UK"



"Please help to stop two extreme abortion amendments:

Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion amendments in an attempt to hijack the Criminal Justice Bill.

Right To Life UK has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion up to birth amendments and sign Early Day Motion 131 to stop abortion pills being sent out without an in-person medical appointment. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments> to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds."

They also ask our Church community to pray as follows:

"As we begin this new year, we pray for all who may be considering an abortion. We pray that we will see a decrease in cases of abortion, and instead a year of increased support, both practical and emotional, from all of us in society, bettering the care for all expectant mothers. Lord hear us".

Happy Birthday, Fr Ralph!

Wishing Fr Ralph Mancini a very happy 94th birthday next Wednesday, 10th January. Prayers for many blessings from all of the parish, Fr Ralph!

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.

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.



The donations collected in the basket at our Crib/ Nativity will be donated, as is usual, to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society, which is based in Glasgow and is the only Catholic Adoption Agency in the UK. This is a vital source of income for the charity which provides a number of services for adoptive families as well as recruiting, training and supporting new adopters. Kinship care is currently being prioritised by the government and St Margaret's is in the process of further developing their service so that they can adapt to best serve children and families. Please donate whatever you can via the basket at the Crib on the altar.



St Andrew's Coffees/Teas on Sunday

All are welcome for Sunday teas/coffees in the hall which resume this Sunday with some reviving bacon rolls after the festive break. There will also be the usual sweet options! Meet family and friends for a catch-up and 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.

If you would like to help with providing the refreshments in the coming year, please speak with Fr Gerald or with members of any of the Coffee teams. The more of us there are, the easier the job!

100th Birthday!

Many congratulations to Eric Connell upon the occasion of his 100th birthday!



Best wishes from all fellow parishioners!



SCIAF Thanks

SCIAF send regular messages of thanks for donations received from both parishes. Their letters are posted on the parish noticeboards. They have also e-mailed to thank again all who gave generously to support their projects through 2023. They highlighted their current, "Loss and Damage" programmes which help poor communities to rebuild their infrastructure and lives following the devastation caused by climate change and their encouragement of governments to commit funds for this purpose. Their work is informed by Catholic Social Teaching and corresponding mission.

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 pass keepers 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!

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.

