



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 Priest

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Parish Notices

Week beginning 14th January, 2024

Mass timetable in the week ahead:

Please note that Mass in St Columba's on Thursday morning is at 10am in the coming week.

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

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

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 Teresa's on Saturday, 20th January at 10am.

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday 18th January sees the beginning of a week of prayer for Christian unity.

United Service

There will be a service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Annan Old Church on Sunday 21st January at 6.30pm. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Sunday of the Word of God

Next Sunday, 21st January is Sunday of the Word of God.

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 if you currently use envelopes but no longer require them for 2024.

Meeting in the week ahead

The **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet in the Church house on Tuesday 16th January at 7pm.

St Columba's "100" Club December Winner

No.26 Natalie Kennedy. Church funds £54, making a grand, total benefit to Church funds of £616 through 2023.

Collections

St Andrew's collection was £818.06; £556.39 was given for Justice and Peace and £80.50 was collected at Coffee. **SSVP** collected £100.11 at Christmas and £137.12 last weekend. **St Columba's** collection on 31st December was £207.45 with £27.50 for SCIAF and £10 for SSVP. Last weekend's collection was £190.07 with £246.02 for Justice and Peace and £24.33 for SCIAF. 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.

14th January , 2024

2nd Sunday of the year (Year B)

1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19

1 Corinthians 6: 13-15. 17-20

John 1: 35-42

Psalm Response

Here I am Lord!

I come to do your will.

Today's Liturgy: Eucharistic Prayer III

Next Sunday :

3rd Sunday of the year (Year B)

2nd Sunday of the year (Year B)

If we want to know Jesus, we must spend time with him, talking to him and listening to what he has to say.

Fr Gerald's Mass Intentions for this week:

Tuesday:	Angela Branney
Wednesday:	Tot Donnelly
Thursday:	Peter McLennan
Friday:	Philip McKay
Saturday:	Adrian Renouf
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
Anne Richardson	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.



Friends of the Holy Land thanks

The "Friends of the Holy Land" Chief Executive Officer has been in touch with the following note of thanks:

"Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners who raised £1 330 through the Church fundraising and Christmas Fayre for Christians in the Holy Land. Conditions continue to be extremely challenging. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers." The full letter is on the Church noticeboard.

Safeguarding Issues

There is an online "Safeguarding Bulletin" on the Diocesan website. This is a monthly publication keeping everyone up-to-date with safeguarding issues.

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:
"We pray for the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would shower them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond. Lord hear us".

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.



Children's Liturgy of the Word to resume

Children's Liturgy at St Andrew's is due to resume after a break of several years. Two dedicated parishioners now have all of their PVG clearances and will run a first Children's Liturgy of the Word in the Church hall during a Mass in February (date to be confirmed). Any children are welcome to go to the hall with the two leaders when Fr Gerald gives the signal after the start of Mass and they will be accompanied back into the Church before Communion. Parents are welcome to attend if they would like to meet the leaders and accompany their children at first. The children will have an opportunity to learn about the weekly Word in language which is more accessible for them. Please catch Fr Gerald or phone into the Parish Office on Fridays if you have any queries.

Please also speak with Fr Gerald or call into the office if you would be willing to have the PVG checks with a view to helping out with the Children's Liturgy so that it can run weekly again rather than roughly monthly to fit with the commitments of the two new leaders. The dates of Children's Liturgy sessions will be intimated in the bulletin. Please support this opportunity for children in the Parish in any way you can. Thank you.



St Andrew's Coffees/Teas on Sunday

All are welcome for Sunday teas/coffees in the hall after Mass on Sunday. There are tasty treats and an opportunity to meet up with family and friends for a catch-up. 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!

Fr Kyuka Education Fund

From Jo Kemp: "We have sent £1200 to Fr Frederick in Uganda. Last year it helped two students at university, one studying Food Processing and the other Economics

For those who are new to the parish, Fr Frederick used to come every summer to provide holiday cover for our priest. Thus began our involvement with educating Fr Frederick's young relatives as his siblings had died in the AIDS epidemic. We began a fund to help Fr Frederick's family continue their studies. We paid for 6 youngsters to complete their education. Since then the Christians in Uganda have felt their values were being undermined and a university was founded. I am not sure of the details but we are now helping underfunded students on an ad hoc basis.

Many thanks to those who have contributed over the past 15 plus years to make a huge difference to the young people. Supporters pay £5 to £20 per month into the Kyuka Fund account and I usually transfer whatever we have into Fr Frederick's account in January. No money disappears in costs except for the bank transfer charge. If you feel able to join us please contact me on: 01387 850554 or e-mail jf.kemp@talktalk.net. Thank you, Jo Kemp"

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.

