



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 21st December, 2025

Mass timetable in the week ahead:

NB. There will be weekday, morning Masses as normal on Tuesday and Wednesday with the Christmas timetable on Christmas Eve and Day. There will be no Mass on Friday at 10am.

Weekday Masses:

St Andrew's: Wednesday at 10am; 9.30pm carols for 10pm Vigil Mass of Christmas; Thursday at 10am.

St Columba's: Tuesday at 10am; Wednesday at 6pm; Thursday at 12 noon.

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, 27th December.

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 Andrews** (with carols from **9.30pm**). Masses on Christmas Day will be at **10am at St Andrew's** and **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.

Congratulations!

Many congratulations to Erin Walseth who will be confirmed and receive first Holy Communion this weekend !

Meeting Dates

St Andrew's PPC– Tuesday 3rd February at 7pm in the house.

St Columba's PPC-Tuesday 20th January at 10.30am.

Collections

St Andrew's collection was £577.15. **SSVP** collected £133.90. **St Andrew's Jars of Hope** have increased by £158 to a current total of £445. Many thanks.

First Base food bank: Please keep up your donations of non-perishable foodstuffs for the Food Bank, suggestions include coffee, long-life milk, pasta, cooking sauces and tins. They are grateful for all donations.

Rest in Peace

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Pat O'Neill** who has died. We pray for the comforting of Pat's family at this time. The Requiem Mass for Pat is on Wednesday 31st December at 10am.

The Pope's prayer intention for December:

For Christians in Areas of Conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

21st December, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Advent (Missal pg 17) (A)

Isaiah 7: 10-14

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-24

Psalm Response

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Today's Liturgy: Eucharistic Prayer III

Next Sunday :

The Nativity of the Lord (Year A)

Fourth Sunday in Advent (Year A)

As we continue our Advent preparations, we gather today to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ at Christmas, giving thanks for all that we have received, and committing ourselves to pass on the Gospel message to all we meet.

Fr Gerald's Mass Intentions for this week:

Sunday:	Kevin Beecroft
Tuesday:	Michael McGovern
Wednesday:	Jim Murray anniversary
Thursday:	Intention
Saturday:	Norah Scott
Sunday:	For the Parish

Please remember in your prayers

those who are sick; those who are housebound; those who are named on the family prayer ministry requests and all of those whose needs are not known to us.

Please pray at this time for...

Dan and Willa McCarron	Ted & Jean Machin
May Fuller	Catherine O'Neill
Anne Murdy	Eric Sherman
Thomas Gray	Catherine Smith
Anne & Peter Richardson	Helen McMillan
All others who are ill	

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 to anyone you know who is sick or housebound.

Surge in 'flu cases'

You may have seen recently on the news that there has been a huge surge in 'flu' cases recently.

There have been no direct protocols issued from the Bishops' Conference as there were with Covid, however please exercise health and hygiene good practice. If you have any symptoms or feel ill please do not come to Mass.

Please use the full capacity of the church since there's plenty of space. If you feel uncomfortable with the sign of peace feel free to omit it. Please do not be offended if others do not want to shake hands with you. Feel free to wear a face mask in church. No one wants to miss or feel miserable at Christmas so let's help and respect each other.

Sacramental Preparation

Bishop Dougan has announced that the normal practice for the the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will no longer be for reception of First Holy Communion in (P4). It will be celebrated at a later age. He has yet to decide what age that will be and there will enter a process of consultation and discernment over the coming months. The Bishop will publish a fuller explanation of his decision in the coming weeks.



*"Truly peace will
come down....!"*

*Wishing every
parishioner a warm, holy and
blessed Christmas!*

Youth (P6-S4) Evenings

Adult leaders are needed for these events in St Teresa's, Dumfries, to supervise, ensure safeguarding at them and to cook pizza. All that's required is 2 hours per month. You will not be expected to lead the evenings, or to prepare activities for the evening – all of the preparation, planning, and promotion is done by our Diocesan Youth Office in collaboration with their S3 Junior Leaders. Could you help? Email youth@rcdg.org.uk for more details or to volunteer.

On Sunday 21st December, 5-7pm at St Teresa's, the next cluster meeting will focus on 'Advent & Christmas: Preparing to welcome Christ'.

RC Diocese of Galloway Youth and Young Adults

Please see the noticeboard and the Diocesan social media for information about Youth and Young Adults' events in the Diocese in the course of 2026.

St Andrew's Choir Practices

The final practice will be on Sunday 21st December at 1pm in the Church. Come along if you enjoy singing, no special skill needed! All are very welcome.

St Columba's "100" Club

"100" Club: Many thanks to the "100" Club team for their years of service. They are needing to hand it over to someone new. Please do volunteer if you can.

NB There is a First Aid box and a Defibrillator in the Church Sacristy should either be needed at any time.



St Columba's Christmas Concert

If you're reading this on Friday, it's not too late to decide to go to the evening of classical Christmas music at 7pm on Saturday 20th December in St Columba's with a programme presented by local artistes including the cellist, Alex McQuistan. Tickets cost £10 and include refreshments.

Bishop's Christmas Message 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we celebrate the great Feast of Christmas and also to the end of our Jubilee Year, the word that unites both things is **Hope**, a hope that is not an aspiration, but a sure and certain thing rooted in the presence and love of God. Pope Leo spoke of this in an Advent angelus address:

"Sisters and brothers, how much the world needs this hope! Nothing is impossible to God. Let us prepare ourselves for his Kingdom, let us welcome it. The little child, Jesus of Nazareth, will lead us! He who placed himself in our hands, from the night of his birth to the dark hour of his death on the cross, shines upon our history as the rising Sun. A new day has begun: let us arise and walk in his light!"

The message the angels give the shepherds is the same message they bring to us: Today a Saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord. As I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, let our prayer be that the Light of Christ will dispel the darkness of hurt and despair in those who are struggling, and that the hope that only Christ can bring will be felt in the hearts of all people.

Bishop of Galloway

SCIAF Real Gifts



Thankfully, there's still time to live out the REAL meaning of Christmas – to think about our neighbours in need, and give a REAL GIFT...

- After the war in Ethiopia, [chickens](#) helped Kahsa and her daughter rebuild their lives, start a thriving business, and bring healthy meals to the family [£15].
- In Rwanda, [school essentials](#) provided Jonathan with the opportunity to learn with his classmates and strive towards his dream of being an entrepreneur [£20].
- And, in conflict zones like Gaza and Ukraine, [mobile medical centres](#) are helping communities meet their most critical needs [£40].
- Contact SCIAF via their website, by phone on 0141 354 5555 or by post at SCIAF, 196 Clyde St, Glasgow G1 4JY.



St Andrew's Coffees/Teas on Sunday

All are welcome for Sunday teas/coffees/juice in the hall after Mass on Sunday. There are tasty treats on offer. 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.

