Parish News & Events

Christmas Cards & Mass Times

Our **parish Christmas cards are available** for you to take home, please take as many as you like for family, friends and neighbours.

Our Christmas Masses are:

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December:

Vigil Mass of Christmas (especially for families with young children) at **4.00pm**

First Mass of Christmas at **8.00pm**

This is the Solemn Mass for Christmas Night by candlelight during which the Crib will be blessed (with carols and readings at 7.30pm).

Christmas Day - Wednesday 25th December:

Mass of Christmas Day at 10.30am

(no Mass at 9.00am)

Christmas Mass Remembrances

Thank you to those who have already handed in the names of their loved ones - living and dead - to have Mass offered during the Octave of Christmas (24th Dec - 1st Jan). These names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Please submit all names by Sunday (22nd).

Parish Pilgrimage to Italy - Form Deadline

Following the information evening last week, all those travelling on our parish pilgrimage to Italy should send their forms, and deposit to Alba Tours by **Friday 10th January.**

Hall Bookings

For those wishing to book the Hall, please contact **Val Reid** on **07938 873113.**

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message 2024

On the First Sunday of Advent, a phrase from the Reading from St Paul's Letter to The Thessalonians caught my attention – it was "more and more". In some ways "more and more" may sum up Christmas for many of us - more lights and decorations, more shopping and presents, more parties and festive treats, more songs and entertainment, more gatherings of family and friends. The list can continue and we are very lucky when we can enjoy many of these good things.

Why did St Paul use these words then? Here is what he wrote:

Brothers and Sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus,
That, as you received from us, how you ought to walk and please God,
just as you are doing,
that you do so more and more.

It sounds that he recommends making more and more room for Jesus in our lives, so that we can walk and please God in the way Jesus himself and the Apostles taught. We should certainly try to make more room for Jesus at Christmas as we listen again to the great story of his birth at Bethlehem and celebrate it in prayer and in song in our churches, homes, and schools. The true and full celebration of Christmas is a mark of our identity as Christians, and our joy that God became one of us to bring us salvation. In the spirit of St Paul's instruction let us be united in the Lord Jesus this Christmas and, through his grace, draw more and more closer to him, through our prayer and our charity to those more needy than ourselves. By doing this we strive to fully please God as true and faithful followers of Jesus, his Son and Our Lord.

On Christmas Night Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of 2025 by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's in Rome. Along with dioceses throughout the world we will begin the Jubilee here in Motherwell on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. I invite you me to join me that afternoon for the Opening Service, followed by Mass in the Cathedral. Like Christmas, our Jubilee Year will be a period of more and more as we make extra efforts to celebrate and live our faith both at home and on pilgrimage. The theme for the year is Pilgrims of Hope, and as we continue our earthly pilgrimage in our difficult world we do indeed need more and more hope, flowing from our faith in God, and witnessed by our charity as members of Christ's Body.

May the Lord bless you and your families with love and peace this Christmas and may our celebration of his birth bring renewed hope to all in hardship and distress.

+ Joseph Toal

Saint James the Greater Parish

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St James' Coatbridge
Parish Priest: Father Paul H. Denney
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Sunday 22nd December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Monday 23rd December	**Mass at 9.45am** *Holy Rosary 9.20am*	**Confessions at St Patrick's 6.30-8.00pm**
Tuesday 24th December	**Mass at 9.45am**	

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4.00pm

FIRST SOLEMN MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 8.00pm
Mass is by candlelight, and preceded with carols and readings from 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th December	**Solemn Mass of Christmas Day at 10.30am**
Thursday 26th December	**Mass at 11.00am** ***Feast of St Stephen - Octave of Christmas***
Friday 27th December	**Mass at 9.45am** ***Feast of St John - Octave of Christmas***

Sunday 29th December - Feast of The Holy Family

Vigil Mass 28th December at 4.15pm *Confessions 3.30-4.00pm*.

Sunday Mass at 9.00am & 10.30am

Prayers for the sick and housebound

May Rooney, Jim Kelly, Anne Thérèse Judge, Betty Cannon, Nora McCann, Rose McGhee, John Foley, Brian Judge, Tony Gallagher, Michael Nilsson, Barbara Lucock, Mary Slevin, Cathie Dunnachie, Thomas Martin, Peter Fleming, Eileen Wilkie, Caroline Boland, Jean Graham, Heather Flanigan, Geraldine Boyce, Janey Tominey, Rachel Dillon, John & Mary McDade, William Gilmour, Andrew Cane, Patricia Grace, Felix Dillon, Rosaleen Grogan, and Brian McInnes.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed

Anniversary: Lawrence Murphy, and Michael McDonald.
Month's Mind: Margaret Ferguson, Dorothy Chatfield, Eric Chatfield, Mamie Chatfield, and Betty Hill.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.