Parish Christmas Card

Please take home a copy of our Parish Christmas Card with all of the Mass times for the Christmas and New Year period. **Feel free to take as many cards as you wish for family and neighbours.**

Final Confessions before Christmas

For those who would still like to receive the Sacrament of Confession before Christmas, there will be several priests available at St Monica's Parish on **Monday 22nd Dec from 6.30-8.00pm.**

Christmas Mass Remembrances

Many of you like to have Holy Mass offered for your loved ones, living or dead, at Christmas. These Christmas Masses will be offered from 24th December through the Christmas Octave (to 1st January 2026). Please have the names of these remembrances to the parish **no later than Monday 22nd December**, and **please write all names clearly** so they can be printed in the bulletin.

Venite Adoremus - Advent Adoration

It has been wonderful to see so many people coming to Adoration in these holy days of Advent, our final Hour Hour before Christmas will be on **Monday 22nd from 5.30-6.30pm**, followed by Holy Mass.

Rorate Masses - Thank you!

I would like to thank Fraser Pierce and all of the members of the Cantores Matris Dei Schola for singing so beautifully at our Rorate Masses - many people have commented on how the sacred chant moved them and lifted their hearts to God. Thank you also to those who arranged our mulled wine and festive treats in the Hall after our Mass on Thursday. The number of people coming to our Rorate Masses this Advent has been wonderful, especially seeing many children and young families coming to the peace and quiet of these Holy Masses and to honour Our Blessed Mother.

Hall Bookings

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

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message

At Christmas this year we will bring to a close the Jubilee Year of 2025, so let us give thanks for the blessings received and the Spirit of Hope renewed. Through Advent that same Hope has been stirred up as we look forward with expectancy to the Celebration of Our Saviour's Birth, and to the Lord coming again in glory and majesty. The Advent liturgies have called on us to be ready and watching so that we "may inherit the great promise in which now we dare hope". Yes, we are indeed "Pilgrims of Hope", and each Christmas is a mile-stone on our earthly pilgrimage and an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in our personal faith and its practice in the community of the Catholic Church.

It was the 1700th Anniversary recently of the Council of Nicea, whose great proclamation of the Christian faith we profess at Sunday Mass. We will do also with special fervour at the Christmas Masses, emphasising in particular the Lord's Incarnation, his birth at Bethlehem – "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man". We are a people of faith in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we are proud to profess it, particularly on Christmas Day. So let us be at Mass to do so!

Of course, we need to put our faith into action through our works of charity, our love for our neighbour, and Christmas is a time of generosity and sharing with those we love. Let us try also to extend our kindness to those who are more in need, both locally and further afield, recognising that the Lord asks us to do so in his name and with his compassion and self-giving. The Word did become flesh, and continues to dwell among us through those who show his love.

I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, praying especially that the Peace sung of by the Angels at Bethlehem may reign within and among us, and throughout the whole world.

May the Lord bless you, your families and friends, and keep you strong in faith, hope, and charity.

With my prayers and best wishes

Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Toal

Saint James the Greater Parish

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Parish Priest: Father Paul H. Denney
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Sunday 21st December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Mass Schedule

Monday 22nd December	**Holy Mass at 6.30pm** *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.30-6.30pm*
Tuesday 23rd December	**Holy Mass at 9.45am**
Wednesday 24th December	**Christmas Eve** **Vigil Mass at 4.00pm** (especially for families with young children) **FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS at 8.00pm by Candlelight** The Solemn Mass of Christmas Night in which the Baby Jesus will be laid in the manger, and the crib will be blessed. Preceded by carols and readings from 7.30pm for those who wish.
Thursday 25th December	**Christmas Day** **Mass of Christmas Morning at 10.30am**
Friday 26th December	**Holy Mass at 11.30am** ***Feast of St Stephen***

Sunday 28th December - Feast of The Holy Family

Vigil Mass Sat 27th December at 4.15pm, Confessions 3.30-4.00pm.

Sunday Mass at 9.00am & 10.30am

Prayers for the sick and housebound

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

Prayers for the Faithful Departed

Month's Mind: Richie Burns, and Susan Corrigan.

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