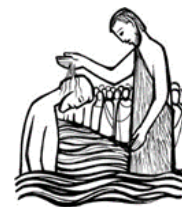




**3rd DECEMBER 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

23 Shore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5HD, Tel: 01475 741139  
 Email: [stjohnthebaptist@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stjohnthebaptist@rcdop.org.uk) [www.stjohnthebaptist.rcpaisley.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.rcpaisley.org.uk)  
 Scottish Charity No. SCO13514



**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**

2 Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BT, Tel: 01475 705585  
 Email: [holyfamily@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:holyfamily@rcdop.org.uk) Facebook: @holyfamilyportglasgow Twitter: @holy\_pg  
 Scottish Charity No. SCO13514

**ST COLM'S PARISH**

Smithy Brae, Kilmacollm, Inverclyde PA13 4EN, Tel: 01475 705585  
 Email: [stcolm@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:stcolm@rcdop.org.uk) (Fr Dan resident at St John the Baptist –see above)  
 Scottish Charity No. SCO13514

**CLERGY**

Father Daniel Fitzpatrick; Father Laurent Bahati; Deacon Don Keane

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**

**MASS TIMES**

Sunday: Vigil 4.00pm, 9.30am, 11.00am  
 Weekday: Mon-Sat 9.30am  
**(except Wednesday 11.00am)**

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturday: 10.00am - 10.30am  
 Thursday: 6.30pm - 7.00pm

**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION  
 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Thursday: 6.30pm - 7.00pm  
 Saturday: 10.00am -10.30am

**WEEKLY COLLECTION - £907.00**

**HOLY FAMILY PARISH**

**MASS TIMES**

Sunday: Vigil 5.30pm, 11.00am  
 Weekday: Mon-Sat 10.00am  
**(no Mass on Thursdays)**

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturday: 4.45pm - 5.15pm

**EXPOSITION AND ADORATION  
 OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Tuesday: 9.30am - 9.55am

**WEEKLY COLLECTION - £700.00**

**ST COLM'S PARISH**

**MASS TIMES**

Sunday: 9.30am

Thursday: 11.00am

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK** - James Brannigan, Korbin Gabb, Isabel Gibson, Derek Voysey, Megan Edwards, Adam Parker, Nichola Collins, Winnie Bleasdale, Alice McIntyre, Holly Rose Higgins, Yvonne Bachoo, Morag Hicks, Thomas Compston, Ettie McGhee, John Gilmartin, Kathleen McLikenny, Nancy Touzeau, Leah Weston, Mary Patrick, Teresa Byrne, Kelly Devenney, Sandra Harrison, Joe Nugent, Margaret McKay, Joe Sweeney, James Drummond, Catherine Devenney, Ann Dorans, Gill O'Brien, Isobel Cullen, Agnes Mills, Susan Graham, Kathleen Boyle, Lauren Jenkins, Denis Morgan, Sandra Stuart, Elizabeth McGurk, Theresa Buckley, Agnes Mills, Robert McWhinnie, Andy & Betty Quinn,

**ANNIVERSARIES** - Patrick & Mary Hanley, Pat McGill, James Wylie, Agnes & John Lappin, Thomas Kearney, John Stevenson, Kathleen Jamieson, Jack Robert Burns, Martin Stanton, Stephen Mearns Jnr, Patrick Gilshan, Alex Carr, Susan McLaughlin

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Joe O'Donoghue, Tilly Beaton, Mrs Sneddon, Helen McGarry, Freddie Patton

**THURSDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT - ST JOHN'S**

During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on these evenings (7th, 14th, 21st of December), we shall pray the 'Stations of the Nativity and the Infancy of Jesus Christ. Please come and prepare spiritually for Christmas.

**SCIAF EMERGENCY APPEAL**

Ongoing conflict in the Holy Land, particularly Gaza, is causing unimaginable fear and suffering. Through the global Caritas network, SCIAF is working with local organisations to act as soon as possible. Your donation will provide emergency support to those most in need. You can donate for essential support to the families in urgent need: <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/579-israeli-palestinian-emergency-appeal>

## ADVENT REFLECTION

As we begin another liturgical year, the readings pick up right where we left off last week: focusing on the second coming of Christ. Whereas in the gospel, Mark presents Jesus issuing a stern warning ("What I say to you I say to all: Watch!"), the prophet Isaiah sets a different tone: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down." It seems as though Isaiah is reminding God of God's attributes, as though he were telling God something new: You are mighty, you are our father, you are the potter, you are our redeemer.

Yet throughout the reading the prophet also asks for mercy, forgiveness, and for a swift coming in glory. It sounds like he is saying: "You will always forgive us, ... right?" Or: "You are a father who wouldn't forget his children. ... aren't you?" It's a curious blend of praise and petition, assurance and supplication.

This describes our life with God quite well. We come together as a church to sing God's praises and to adore God with all kinds of titles: Father, Redeemer, Lord, Saviour, Shepherd, and so forth. And in almost the same breath we are so bold as to ask God to act in those ways: Be a Redeemer. Be a loving shepherd. Be patient with us.

Advent is a time of waiting, and a time of prayer. Isaiah teaches us how to do both at the same time. We and all of God's creation cry out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" And God says to us, in effect, "I am coming. Are you ready?" Isaiah puts it best: "Would that you might meet us doing right."

Yes, we watch and we wait. But we must do more. In prayer, song, worship, and service, we call upon our good God, and thus we get ourselves ready to meet the Lord at the same time.

## STALL - HOLY FAMILY

The stall now has a stock of Christmas cards and other items for sale. Keep Christ in Christmas and send some religious cards this year.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE - HOLY FAMILY

Thank you for all the generous donations, they have resulted in several Festive Hampers and other prizes for our Christmas raffle for Parish funds. Tickets will be on sale at £1 before and after masses from this weekend until 9/10 December. Draw will take place in the hall after mass on Sunday 10 December.

## CHRISTMAS FAMILY PARTY - HOLY FAMILY

The Parish Pastoral Council are organising a Christmas party on Saturday 30 December 2023 7 -12pm in the Parish Hall. BYOB and nibbles. Tickets available in the hall or contact Catherine McDade 07504994886, £5 per adult, £3 per child.

## CHRISTMAS EVENT - KILMACOLM

The different Churches in Kilmacolm are organising a Christmas Outreach Event in the village on Saturday 10 December at 1.00pm. There will be carols and readings to help encourage families to understand and embrace the meaning of Christmas. Please come along and offer your support.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Advent invites us to enter into the mystery of the Lord's coming among us at Christmas and his return at the End of Time. To help us prepare well for this celebration there will be confessions available all day on Wed 20 in St Mary's and in St John's on Friday 22. More details later.

## INVERCLYDE ROYAL HOSPITAL

In addition to our 24/7 emergency chaplain cover at IRH, we also have a catholic chaplaincy team who are happy to visit patients in the hospital for non-emergency visits. Please just let Fr Dan or Fr Laurent know that you or your relative would like a visit from a Catholic chaplain and he will organise that with the IRH Catholic chaplaincy team. This change in how visits are arranged is due to the data protection and privacy laws now in operation.

## AOH

A summons meeting for all AOH Division 210 members to attend will be held on Sunday 28 January 2024 at 2pm.

## STOP THE ASSISTED DYING BILL

Legalising assisted suicide is dangerous because it attacks human dignity. Implicit in assisted suicide is that an individual, in certain circumstances, can lose their value and worth. Make your voice heard by contacting your MSP on your own or as part of a group with family, friends, or in your local parish. All the information you need can be found here: [Assisted Suicide – Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](http://rcpolitics.org)

## "TO EVERY THING THERE IS A SEASON" QUOHELETH 3:1

A series of three talks for the Season of Advent will be given by Fr Maurice Callaghan in St Joseph's Church, Bow Rd., Greenock at 7pm on each of the three Tuesdays (5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>) of December. The talks will each be 30-40 minutes duration with opportunity for questions followed by tea and biscuits.

**Talk 1:** "To everything there is a season a time for every purpose under the heaven" Qo 3:1 Adventus: The coming of the King

**Talk 2:** "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart" Qo 3:11. How to wait. Time and Eternity.

**Talk 3:** "Deck the halls with boughs of holly Tis the Season to be almost jolly" Thomas Oliphant Advent 2. The Christmas season is coming.

## THE INVERCLYDE ACROSS TO LOURDES GROUP

The Inverclyde Across to Lourdes Group will be travelling to Lourdes next year on Pilgrimage by Jumbulance. They will leave from St John's Hall Port Glasgow, from 29th August till 7th September 2024. Fares are still to be set by Across. Anyone wishing to travel as a nurse, helper or VIP (sick person) please phone either Jean on 07483 242914 or Cathie on 07837 210261 for more information.