

# Parish Newsletter

Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth &  
St. James', Kinross

In the Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld - Scottish Charity Number: SC001810

Advent 2024

**Safeguarding - What are we doing about it?** All of our clergy and volunteers work very hard in their ministries. The training they receive gives them the tools to protect children and vulnerable adults. They must adhere to a number of standards of conduct which confirm what they must and must not do. Those standards of conduct are detailed in our national instruction 'In God's Image'. Working within these standards means that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe as well as protecting church employees and volunteers. *Maureen Foster, PSC at St. James'*

## Preparation for Baptism - Parish Lessons

Deacon Des has very kindly agreed to run the baptismal preparation meetings for both parishes. Therefore, anyone wishing to have a child baptised must now contact him on his e-mail address - [desconnors@brcdt.org](mailto:desconnors@brcdt.org) - in order to make the necessary arrangements. There will be set times for the baptismal lessons, they will be held once monthly, and will be a requirement for baptism in the parish. The next meetings will be Wednesday 4th December in St. James', Kinross, and Thursday 5th December in Our Lady's, Perth. Even if parents have already approached me about Baptism for their children they must also now contact Deacon Des and make arrangements for the lessons. The lessons will take part on these dates at 7.00p.m. in the respective church halls. For January 2025 the dates are Wednesday 8th for St. James' and Thursday 9th for Our Lady's.

God bless, Fr. Martin

## Contact details:

**Parish Priest** - Fr. Martin Pletts

**Permanent Deacon** - Rev. Des Connors (e-mail: [desconnors@brcdt.org](mailto:desconnors@brcdt.org))

Our Lady of Lourdes', 42 Struan Road, Perth PH1 2JP, Telephone: 01738 626979,

**E-Mail:** [ourladyoflourdes@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:ourladyoflourdes@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)

St. James', 5 High Street, Kinross KY13 8AW, Telephone: 01577 863329,

**E-Mail:** [stjames@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:stjames@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)

**Parish Mobile Number:** 07540534480

**Our Lady of Lourdes' Website:** [ourladyoflourdes@perth.church](mailto:ourladyoflourdes@perth.church)

**St. James' Website:** [www.catholickinross.com](http://www.catholickinross.com)

Office Hours for the Parish Secretary (Dianne Mitchell): Thursday 10.00a.m. to 12.00 noon

(Phone 01738 626979 only in order to speak to the Parish Secretary)

**Parish Secretary's E-Mail addresses:** [ololadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:ololadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk) or [stjamesadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:stjamesadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators' E-Mail for Our Lady's** (Marie Stuart & Dianne Mitchell):  
[ololpsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:ololpsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator E-Mail for St. James'** (Maureen Foster): [stjamespsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:stjamespsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)  
& **Mobile Number** (St. James'): 07720811055

**Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor** (John Smith): [safeguardingadvisor@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadvisor@dunkelldioocese.org.uk) or tel. 01382 225453

Or [www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk/safeguarding](http://www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk/safeguarding)

**Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency:** [www.scssa.org.uk](http://www.scssa.org.uk)

**Telephone Number for the Diocesan Curial Offices:** 01382 225453

**Dunkeld Diocesan Website:** [www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk)

That sense of joyful preparation combined with anticipation is the attitude we bring to Advent as we await the arrival of Christ the Lord. Christmas is the high point, but using the days leading up to December 25th to prepare both spiritually and materially is what Advent is all about!

What sets Advent apart from the usual secular preparations for Christmas is the spiritual dimension: Advent is a time of both prayer and penance. As Catholics, we are called to exercise a more disciplined approach to our spiritual lives during the four weeks of Advent and to pay special attention to our words and deeds as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ.

Waiting is a challenge, but instead of just counting down the days, we are called to use Advent as a time to deepen our relationship with God. Keep things simple: Read a Psalm as a bedtime prayer, go to Confession, pray the rosary (especially on the special Marian feasts of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12)), spend some time in Eucharistic Adoration, and make an effort to go to daily Mass (even if you have to travel).

Advent is a time of hope and light. It is a time when we reaffirm that "nothing is impossible with God," not even a virgin bringing forth a child. This Advent, find hope as you recommit yourself to spiritual renewal. This Advent, look for the Light in everything you do, from shopping for presents, to mailing cards, to making special food, to decorating the house.

This Advent, prepare your home and your heart for the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-Us,

Join us for our candlelight 'Rorate' Masses followed by  
hot chocolate and cakes:

Our Lady of Lourdes' - Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00p.m.

St. James' - Thursday 5th December at 7.00p.m.

Also check the times for Advent Confessions...

## Times of Holy Mass, Confessions, etc.

Please pay particular attention to the [changes this week... double-check the timetable...](#)

**Monday 2nd December - 1st Week of Advent** - No Public Mass - Children's Catechism Class in St. James', Kinross, from after school until 4.30p.m. Prayer Group in St. James', Kinross, from 7.15p.m.

**Tuesday 3rd December**—(Please note that there is **no** morning Mass today) \***'Rorate' Candlelight Mass for Advent** - in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth at 7.00p.m. followed by hot chocolate and cakes in the church hall. (Confessions available before Mass from 6.00-6.45p.m.)

**Wednesday 4th December - 1st Week of Advent** - Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass (all are welcome). [Visiting Confessors: Fr. Ninian Doohan and Fr. Gerard Hatton to hear Confessions in St. James' from 6.00-7.00p.m., during this time the Blessed Sacrament will also be exposed for Adoration. Please make the most of this opportunity.](#)

**Thursday 5th December - 1st Week of Advent** - Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m. in Our Lady's, Perth, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. \***'Rorate' Candlelight Mass for Advent** - in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. followed by hot chocolate and cakes in the church hall.

**Friday 6th December - Optional Memorial of St. Nicholas** - Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

*Confessions are always available after every weekday Mass and upon request, please also see weekend times for Confession.*

**Saturday 7th December - Vigil Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C (V)** - Confessions in Our Lady's from 4.00-4.45p.m., followed by the Vigil Mass at 5.00p.m. Vigil Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession after Mass.

**Sunday 8th December - Mass of the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C (V)** - Holy Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 9.00a.m. Holy Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, at 11.00a.m.

*\*On Tuesday and Thursday help would be greatly appreciated in setting up (before Mass) in the respective church halls for the hot chocolate and cakes that will be served after Mass. Please let Fr. Martin know if you can assist with this - thank you!*

*The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated, this year, on Monday 9th December.*

## Readings for the 1st Sunday of Advent - Year C - 2024

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16

*'I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David.'*

Psalm 25(24)

*Response: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*

A reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

*'May the Lord establish your hearts for the coming of Christ.'*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Show us, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 21:25-28,34-36

*'Your redemption is drawing near.'*

Please note:

Saturday 30th Nov. & Sunday 1st Dec. there is a Second Collection for the diocesan Poor Mission Fund (to assist struggling parishes).

Christmas Hamper Raffle in Our Lady's... Tickets are available priced £1.00 each. The prizes are hampers and festive goodies. Donations would be gratefully received of cakes, mince pies, chocolates, etc.

Many thanks,

Liz Judge, on behalf of the fundraising team

### Audio Enhancements in Our Lady's

As I mentioned recently, there has been a need sometime now to upgrade the sound system in Our Lady's Church in order to help parishioners to better hear readings and music. Thanks to the help of members of the music group and the sound technician (Killian) we will soon be going ahead with these improvements, hopefully in time for Christmas. The total cost will be in the region of £2,000.00, and while this may seem to be a lot of money, Killian is providing much of the hardware free-of-charge, so it is actually an excellent deal for the parish. Very kindly, the music group has also agreed to contribute £250.00 towards this from their own funds – for which I am very grateful. If any parishioner would also like to give a donation towards this work it would be very much appreciated. Overall I am sure this will make a big difference to our participation in our worship, enabling us to enjoy much better the music and singing and helping us to better hear and appreciate the Sacred Scriptures proclaimed to us. Donations for this work can be put in an envelope, marked 'audio improvements' and put along with one's collection in the Sunday Collection basket. God bless, and thank you in advance, Fr. Martin

### Mariola's Handmade Cards

Beautiful handmade cards will be on sale after Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes on 30th Nov./1st Dec., and 7th/8th Dec.

If anyone in Our Lady's would like to help with teas/coffees for the Reception of Remains in Our Lady's when we have a funeral could they please speak to Florence Reid, the Sacristan. Usually, the Reception of Remains takes place the night before the funeral (it tends to be at 5.00p.m.) and providing a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to chat can be a great means of bringing comfort and showing hospitality to a grieving family. Recently some people travelled over 250 miles to attend, and in such instances this kind of welcome is much appreciated.