

### Warm spaces - a follow-on from our meetings last week...

A sincere thanks to all who managed to attend the meetings we had in Our Lady's and St. James' last week regarding the establishment of "warm spaces", the enthusiasm and willingness of parishioners to be involved in the initiative has been very inspiring. Our two meetings were very fruitful and came up with concrete ideas of when we will start, and already we have a good number of volunteers to help but are always looking for more to be involved.

**In Our Lady of Lourdes'** we decided that we would begin in the New Year on the afternoon of the **first Friday in January, 06/01/23**. As with both meetings we thought it better to begin in the New Year so as to avoid starting and then stopping for the Christmas Season, it seemed better to have continuity. The church hall will be open to anyone who wants to come along, every week, on Friday, **between the hours of 1.00 - 3.00p.m.** A warm space will be provided where people can socialise, rest, and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits free of charge. We hope to provide board games, dominoes, etc. for those who might like to use them, and maybe even reading material for those who would just like to sit quietly and enjoy a good book. (Donations of good books, games, etc. for these purposes would be gratefully received, as would donations of tea, coffee, and biscuits closer to the time). We're also hoping to make a comfortable area in part of the hall with soft chairs, sofas and the like, and are looking to source them for a reasonable price). If anyone wants to be involved, or would like to know more, Maureen Hally has kindly agreed to be the 'contact person' for Our Lady's group, you can either catch her after Mass or be in touch with her on 07710246339.

**In St. James'** we had an equally fruitful meeting, and again thanks to all who were able to attend. Our ideas were very much the same as in Our Lady's, with our thinking that we would begin to open up our "warm space" on **Monday 16th January 2023, 1.00 - 3.00p.m.** in the church hall. Similarly, this would be a weekly occurrence where tea, coffee and biscuits, etc. would be available. Very kindly John Wheatley has agreed to the 'contact person' for anyone in St. James' parish who would like to know more or become involved in any way, and his number is 07814493579. Likewise, donations of games, tea and coffee and biscuits would always be appreciated closer to the time of this starting up.

Do let people know that they are very welcome to come along and that there is no charge for any of these services. Please pass on the message to those you think may benefit.

A number of people also gave their apologies, unable as they were to come along to the meetings on those evenings, if you still would like to be involved and be part on a rota for helping out please speak to the respective 'contact persons'. God bless you, Fr. Martin

### Christmas parties for children in the parishes and their families

**On Sunday 18th December after the 9.00a.m. Mass in St. James', and after the 11.00a.m. Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes' on the same day,** I would like to invite children and families to celebrate with a pre-Christmas party - a time to come together to celebrate as we look forward to the birth of Our Saviour at Christmas. I thought we might decorate the respective church halls appropriately and provide juice, crisps, cake, and goodies for the wee ones so that they can celebrate with their friends in the parish family, and also so that parents can come together to enjoy each other's company - all parishioners would be welcome, of course. If you can help to organise this, or contribute in any way I would be very grateful. I hope that this will be a simple way of showing our love and appreciation for the youngest members of our family of faith and thanking parents for the good work they do in bringing their young ones to Holy Mass and passing on to them the beautiful gift of the Faith. God bless, Fr. Martin

### Parish Weekly Collections:

<b><u>Our Lady of Lourdes (19 &amp; 20/11/22)</u></b>	Total Plate Collection: £662.30	Direct Bank Payments: £68.08
	<b><u>Overall Total: £730.38</u></b>	
<b><u>St. James (19 &amp; 20/11/22)</u></b>	Total Plate Collection: £356.23	Direct Bank Payments: £600.00
	<b><u>Overall Total: £956.23</u></b>	

*The 'Direct Bank Payments' represent the weekly average of the overall amount paid directly into the respective parish accounts on a monthly basis.*

**Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support. Remember that the parish relies entirely upon your weekly contributions alone to keep going.**



# Parish Newsletter for Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth & St. James', Kinross



Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld - Scottish Charity Number: SC001810



**Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Pletts**

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**Postal Address (Perth): Our Lady of Lourdes' Catholic Church, 42 Struan Rd., Perth PH1 2JP**

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**Parish Websites: [www.ourladyoflourdesperth.church](http://www.ourladyoflourdesperth.church) & [www.catholickinross.com](http://www.catholickinross.com)**

**For the weekend of December 3rd/4th, 2022**

**2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A**

### Advent Appeal

Thank you to those who have already, very kindly, brought in donations of toys and games to be distributed to children and families who might find themselves struggling over the Christmas period. To be able to share the blessings that God has given us is a wonderful thing, especially when we know that in doing so it might take the worry and the pressure off others' shoulders.

Giving to others reinforces the message of Christmas, the essential message, that God has given Himself to us in Jesus Christ, His Son. Our gifts are tokens of love, expressions of care and concern, signs of our willingness to share... and any gift, no matter how small it may be, given in love, is something truly precious... I am sure that all you have been able to give so far, and all that you intend to give for our Advent Appeal will be greatly appreciated by those who receive as a result of your generosity.

As a reminder we are kindly asking for donations of new and unused toys and board games in particular, a (all to remain unwrapped, please). The toys will go to children at school and the board games will form part of a "pack" which will be offered to families in need and hopefully will help families to have some enjoyment and fun together over the Christmas Season. Food for the "packs" will also be provided through other sources. (Help putting together and distributing these "packs" would also be appreciated closer to the time). Please then, if you can, bring in new and unused board games and toys which can be passed on to families in need who would otherwise struggle or perhaps put themselves in financial difficulties in order to bring some of the joy of Christmas to their children. From this point onward and just up until Christmas these items can be handed in at either St. James' or Our Lady of Lourdes'. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity, God bless, Fr. Martin

There are numbers available in both St. James' and Our Lady's 100 Clubs should anyone like to take them. Please speak to Aileen Sorbie in St. James', or Gordon McGregor in Our Lady's for further information. If you are wishing to take part in the large Christmas Draws please make sure your 'subs' are up-to-date as soon as possible.

### A Daily Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Heartfelt thanks to all involved in Our Lady's in "The Meaning of Christmas"** - our parish Christmas Show. We had a really wonderful and uplifting evening and it was great to see so many in attendance, supporting those who have put in so much hard work to help us enter into the spirit of this season of Advent and Christmas. A special thanks to Iona Lewis who masterminded the whole proceedings. Thanks to your generosity in the bucket collection afterwards we managed to raise the wonderful amount of over £140.00 which will all go towards SVDP funds.

### Our Lady of Lourdes' 100 Club

The November winners of Our Lady's 100 Club are as follows:

£50.00	62	Anne Oliver
£10.00	33	Mary Smith
£10.00	32	Cathie Gunn
£10.00	106	Florence Reid
£10.00	12	Kate Denny

Thank you to Gordon McGregor in Our Lady's for looking after the 100 Club for us, if you would like to take one of the spare numbers please just have a word with him.

### St James' 100 Club

The St James' 100 Club is set up to help raise funds for the Parish. There are currently nearly 20 vacant slots in the Club at the moment, so we are looking for new members. When fully subscribed, it can raise in the vicinity of £3,000, so it is a great way of raising funds for the Parish. There are 5 winners each month – 1 x £50 and 4 x 10 with 2 special draws during the year for £500.

If you would like to join our club, could you please put your name and contact details on the sheet at the back of the church and I will be in touch with you in the near future with your number. I would like to thank everyone who is currently a member for their prompt payment as it really helps me. If you would like to just text me/phone me if easier, then my mobile number is 07887362034.

The November winners are as follows:

£50	59	Avril McCaffrey
£10	72	Cath Ferrier
£10	10	Natalie Young
£10	60	Betty Chilvers
£10	61	Joanne McAtear

As always winnings can be collected from the sacristy if they have not been hand delivered. Remember that in December there will also be our big £500 special draw. Subs note will be issued to parishioners shortly to renew their membership.

Thank you all for your support.

Aileen Sorbie

### Parish Christmas Trip to the Theatre at Pitlochry (11/12/22) - important update

Remaining monies for the Theatre Trip to Pitlochry should be paid as soon as possible, please. After payment of the ticket there remains **£34.50** to be paid per person. This includes a three course meal (£25.00) and transport to and from the theatre (£9.50). Please hand this in in an envelope marked 'Pitlochry Theatre Trip' and with the names of those attending marked on the same envelope (for ease of keeping track of those who have paid). Thank you. The bus will pick up parishioners on the day from St. James' at 12.15p.m. and from Our Lady's at 12.30p.m. (approximately).

**Friday 9th December**

**Memorial of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (W)**

*No Public Mass*

**Saturday 10th December**

**(Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday, Year - A) (Rose)**

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m.

Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Vigil Mass 7.00p.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

**Sunday 11th December**

**The Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday, Year - A (Rose)**

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 9.00a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 11.00a.m.

**Beginning 6th/7th December I hope to have candlelight "Rorate" Masses in the parish during Advent: Tuesday evenings in St. James' and Wednesday evenings in Our Lady of Lourdes'. These will be followed by hot chocolate and fellowship in the respective church halls. See following newsletters for further details - assistance in setting up for this (in the halls) would be greatly appreciated. During this period the *Lectio Divina* will be put on hold, to resume in the New Year.**

**This Sunday's readings from the Sacred Scriptures: 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year - A.**

**A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-10**

*A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse.*

Psalm 71(72)

*Response: In His days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.*

**A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 15:4-9**

*Christ is the Saviour of all men.*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**

**Alleluia!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12**

*The one who follows me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

### **Prayers for our beloved dead and those who are unwell at this time**

We remember in our prayers all who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur around this time, commending them to the merciful love of God, especially: Thomas Reilly, Fr. Colin Golden, Janet Probert, Billy O'Donnell, Veronica Trenchard, Clare Frulloni, Mary Ritchie, Joan Cruickshank, Maggie O'Donnell, Tubby Wardlaw, Barry McDermott, and Frank Corrieri... Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Please also remember in your prayers those who are unwell at the moment, that the Good Lord will place His healing hand upon them and give strength to those who care for them.

## Times of Holy Mass & Confessions etc.



**Monday 5th December**

**2nd Week of Advent (V)**

*No public Mass*

St. James' Parish:

*Catechism Class after school for children of the parish - class ends at 4.30p.m.*

*Prayer Group in the church from 7.30 - 9.00p.m. - All are welcome to attend (includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & the Rosary)*

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

*Music Group practice in the church at 6.00p.m.*

*Meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 7.00p.m.*

**Tuesday 6th December**

**Memorial of St. Nicholas (W)**

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

*Holy Mass in St. John's High School at 1.05p.m.*

St. James' Parish:

Confessions 6.15-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

*Hot chocolate, etc. in the church hall after Holy Mass*

**Wednesday 7th December**

**Memorial of St. Ambrose (W)**

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

*Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass - all are welcome, & church cleaning (volunteers most welcome)*

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 6.15-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

*Hot chocolate, etc. in the church hall after Holy Mass*

**Thursday 8th December**

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (not a holyday of obligation)**

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Kilgraston School:

Holy Mass 4.10p.m.

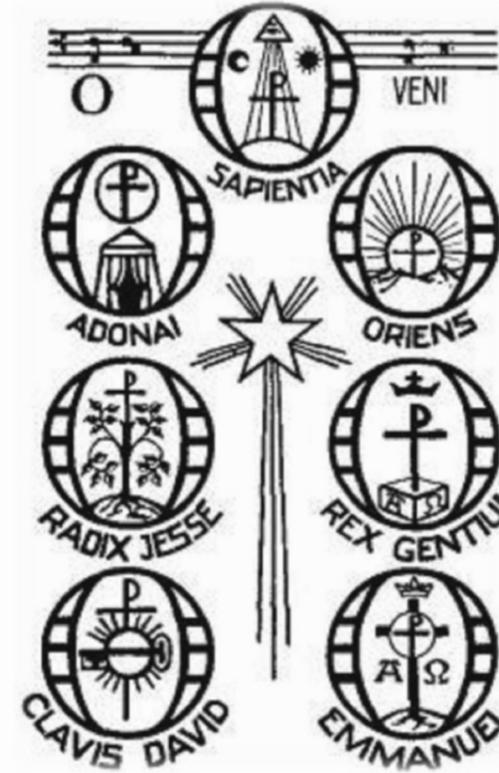
St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary 6.30p.m.

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.



## Delving into Advent



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical colour for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

As we prepare for Christmas, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* notes some differences to the Mass that should be observed during the season. For instance, the priest wears violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn (GIRM, no.

346). Aside from what the priest wears, other aesthetic changes in the Church can include a more modestly decorated altar.

The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas. In particular, the "O" Antiphons are sung during this period and have been by the Church since at least the eighth century. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming of Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but of present ones as well.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season.

Advent has often been called a "little Lent," because it traditionally has included a period of increased prayer, fasting, and good works. Although the Western Church no longer has a set requirement for fasting during Advent, the Eastern Church (both Catholic and Orthodox) continues to observe what is known as Philip's Fast, from November 15 until Christmas.

Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Unfortunately, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by the time Christmas Day comes, many people no longer enjoy the feast or even specially mark the next 12 days of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany (or, technically, the Sunday after Epiphany, being that the next season, called ordinary time, starts on the following Monday).

**Please remember to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.**

### Christmas Masses

Because Christmas falls this year on a Sunday I feel it only sensible to have the Christmas Masses at our normal Saturday Vigil/Sunday Mass times. This would mean that the Vigil Masses for Christmas would be at 5.00p.m. in Our Lady's and at 7.00p.m. in St. James', and the Christmas Day Masses at 9.00a.m. in St. James' and 11.00a.m. in Our Lady's.

As I understand it, it has been a tradition in both parishes to have a brief Carol Service before the Christmas Vigil Mass and so this will take place at 4.30p.m. in Our Lady's and at 6.30p.m. in St. James'.

## Activity for the Children...

All children who hand in a completed wordsearch by 18/12/22 will receive a small Christmas gift (bring your wordsearch with you on that Sunday).

# Advent Word Search

W	E	G	T	H	M	K	I	C	X	J	Q
R	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	A	Z	O	C
M	P	E	K	D	J	E	S	N	B	Y	A
A	Y	A	D	V	I	M	P	D	H	O	P
R	J	O	S	E	P	H	E	L	O	V	E
Y	E	B	A	N	C	O	A	E	O	G	A
P	S	X	G	T	H	P	C	S	P	K	C
Z	U	G	M	L	O	E	Z	E	A	Y	E
Y	S	Q	P	U	R	P	L	E	X	R	A

### Words to Find

Words can be found left to right and up and down.

- Advent
- Wreath
- Candles
- Purple
- Hope
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Mary
- Joseph
- Jesus



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### Christmas Hampers - Thank You!

Thank you to all who have so kindly donated items for the Christmas Hampers that are going to be raffled - we have received lots of wonderful contributions... and thank you to the ladies who have so beautifully made up the hampers... the hampers are stunning! All the best for those who have already bought tickets, and if you haven't had a chance yet, ask as you're leaving Mass - tickets are available in the church porch at Our Lady's.

How about doing something extra for the 'mini-Lent' of the Advent Season and making a commitment to come to weekday Mass, or maybe even come to weekday Mass more often than you already do? There is no better thing we can do each day than come and worship the Lord in Holy Mass and receive Him in Holy Communion - a true foretaste of the union we hope to have with God in Heaven!



### 'Rorate Caeli' Masses for Advent

The season of Advent falls each year in the dark month of December and it is a month when we see the general theme of the liturgical season being echoed in nature. Darkness has crept over the world, and is increasing each day. Yet, there is hope for soon the days will begin to lengthen and the sun will conquer the night. The earth reveals that there is a light in this dark place and that Light reigns victorious. The Church makes this truth more visible with an ancient tradition (often forgotten) called the "Rorate" Mass. This votive Mass during Advent in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary receives its name from the first words of the opening chant in Latin, *Rorate Caeli*, or in English "Shower, O heavens." What is peculiar to this celebration of the Eucharist is that it is traditionally celebrated in the dark, only illuminated by candlelight. The symbolism of this Mass abounds and is a supreme expression of the Advent season.

Our 'Rorate' Masses will be celebrated in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. on 6th, 13th, and 20th December and in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, at 7.00p.m. on 7th, 14th, and 21st December. After the Masses in both parishes there will be hot chocolate and biscuits/cake in the respective church halls. (Volunteers to help with hot chocolate, etc. would be greatly appreciated).

Those who have attended these Masses in the past have always found them especially beautiful and uplifting and a wonderful way to immerse oneself in the spirit of the Advent Season in union with Our Blessed Lady.

### First Confessions

Congratulations to the girls and boys of Our Lady's Primary School who made their First Confession on the Solemnity of St. Andrew - well done! Please also remember in your prayers the boys and girls of St. James' Catechism Class who will make their First Confession on Monday 12th December - the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.