



St. James' 100 Club Draw - December 2022

£50	No 5	Pamela Bald
£10	No 53	James McAvoy
£10	No 36	Bill Noullan
£10	No 60	Betty Chilvers
£10	No 78	Miranda Maxwell

And the winner of the December £500 special is Anne-Marie Lawrence. Congratulations to everyone.

All winnings can be collected from the sacristy unless I have personally posted them through your letterbox. Subscription notes for 2023 are now available at the back of the church and they are in alphabetical order in 3 batches to make it easier for you to find. I still have lots of available numbers should anyone else like to join or take an additional number. Please leave your contact details with Fr Martin or myself (Aileen Sorbie) and I will be in touch with you. My telephone number is 07887362034 should you want to text me your details. I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting the 100 club as it really boosts the parish funds. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Aileen Sorbie



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



Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld - Scottish Charity Number: SC001810



Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Pletts

Mobile Number: 07540534480



Landline (Perth): 01738 626979 & E-Mail (Perth): ourladyoflourdes@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Landline (Kinross): 01577 863329 & E-Mail (Kinross): stjames@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

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

Postal Address (Kinross): St. James' Catholic Church, 5 High Street, Kinross KY13 8AW

Parish Websites: www.ourladyoflourdesperth.church & www.catholickinross.com



For the weekends of December 17th/18th, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent - Year A

&

December 24th/25th, 2022

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - Year A

&

December 31st 2022/January 1st 2023

The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Year A



Please hold on to this newsletter as there will be no new newsletter until Saturday 31st December/
Sunday 1st January



A Christmas Message from Fr. Martin



Dear Parishioners,

Let me take the opportunity to wish you every blessing for the forthcoming Christmas Season, a season which we celebrate liturgically up until Tuesday 10th January (when Ordinary Time resumes in the Church Calendar) and which traditionally we keep until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, on Thursday 2nd February, after which we take down our nativity scenes/cribs.

This Season is one of hope, as our Saviour comes into the world as one of us. It is a time of memories: happy and sad. It is a time to reflect and give thanks. Yet the Season, as we experience it in our time, is one often fraught with worry and pressures and strain, all of which seems so far removed from the quietness, peace, and calm of the scene depicted on our Christmas cards: the scene of the manger and the Christ-Child under the still, starry sky... If only we could grasp a few moments of that stillness now, and remove ourselves from the frenzy to be with the Lord, gazing at Him in wonder, drinking in His presence,

cradling Him in our arms, and enjoying the simple pleasure of being with Him...

The Good News is that we can... We can know His peace... We can stop, be still, and enjoy His presence...

Making that space to just be with Jesus at this time, as individuals, as families, is precious if not always easy... a chance to ground ourselves in what this is all about and not be distracted by the whirlwind of things going on around us. Whether it is when the children have been put to bed, or before we tuck in to our Christmas dinner, or even in those minutes before the household fully comes to life in the morning, perhaps we can try just to take some moments with the Lord to be aware of His presence among us, asking that His peace, His perfect peace, come into our heart and settle there. Let's just stop – even for a minute or two – let's just stop, and be with Jesus.

Our parish itself is a family, a family of faith, and we are all sisters and brothers in Christ. Together, as a family, we support each other, look out for each other, and, as with any family, sometimes even knock the edges off each other as we grow together... When I look at our family of Faith I am encouraged by the love and dedication and commitment that is here, and I am thankful for the generosity of so many who give of what they have to benefit and serve the needs of their brothers and sisters... but am aware, too, that with a little more encouragement others can come forward to share the blessings of their gifts and enrich our family still further – whether it be our young people still finding their place among us or those in our family who are naturally a little bit more shy and retiring.

As ever, I want to express my thanks sincerely, to all of you who contribute to parish life in seen and unseen ways and who rise to the challenge especially during the more demanding seasons of the Church's year!... When we work together, and work for the Lord, sharing His vision, following His Gospel, and enlivened by His grace, we can achieve great things.

And it is all about Him, at the end of the day... We come to worship and serve the One who has redeemed us by His Precious Blood... We come to worship our God – the One True God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and, seeing His image in the face of our sisters and brothers, we also serve Him and honour Him by loving others in true Christian charity, by putting ourselves out through spiritual and corporal works of mercy to bring the love of Christ to all around us.

At the heart of our Christian family life is the weekly celebration of the Holy Mass where Christ comes down from Heaven to Earth once more, this time on our altar, His glory once again hidden, but not now under the appearance of a baby but under the forms of the Sacred Host, the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our family centres around this Mystery: the Great Sacrament, in which the love of God is expressed in its fullness as He, our God and Saviour, gives Himself to us, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, to feed our souls, to share His life with us. I pray that our joy and love for welcoming our Saviour will not only be something we experience this Christmas but something which enters our hearts at every Holy Mass, at every opportunity we have to gather and adore, and be in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Christ-Child bring light, warmth, and hope into every heart and home during this Season, and may you know the joy and power of His blessing in your lives now and always, and may He grant you every good gift; good health and prosperity for 2023.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Martin

Readings for the Vigil Mass of Christmas, Year - A.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 62:1-5

The bridegroom rejoices in his bride.

Psalm 88(89)

Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17,22-25

Paul's witness to Christ, the Son of David.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the Saviour of the world will be out king.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:1-25

The ancestry and birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of David.

Readings for the Day Mass of Christmas, Year - A.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 52:7-10

Rejoice, for the Lord is consoling His people.

Psalm 97(98)

Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Hebrews 1:1-6

God has spoken to us through His Son.

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:1-18

The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Readings for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Year - A.

A reading from the Book of Numbers 6:22-27

They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

Psalm 66(67)

Response: O God, be gracious and bless us.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7

God sent His Son, born of a woman.

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our time, the last days, He has spoken to us through His Son.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby lying in the manger.

Monday 2nd January	Memorial of Ss. Basil & Gregory Nazianzen (W) <i>No Public Mass</i>
Tuesday 3rd January	Weekday of Christmas Time (W) <i>No Public Mass</i>
Wednesday 4th January	Weekday of Christmas Time (W) <u>St. James' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 10.00a.m. <u>Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 7.00p.m.
Thursday 5th January	Weekday of Christmas Time (W) <u>Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 10.00a.m.
Friday 6th January	Weekday of Christmas Time (W) <u>St. James' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 10.00a.m.
Saturday 7th January	(Vigil of the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year - A) (W/Gold) <u>Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:</u> Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m. Vigil Mass 5.00p.m. <u>St. James' Parish:</u> Vigil Mass 7.00p.m.
Sunday 8th January	Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, Year - A (W/Gold) <u>St. James' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 9.00a.m. <u>Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:</u> Holy Mass 11.00a.m.

This Sunday's readings from the Sacred Scriptures: 4th Sunday of Advent, Year - A.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

The Maiden is with child.

Psalm 23(24)

Response: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 1:1-7

Our apostolic mission is to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

How Jesus Christ came to be born.

Parish Weekly Collections:

Our Lady of Lourdes (10 & 11/12/22) Total Plate Collection: £748.76 Direct Bank Payments: £91.15

Overall Total: £839.91

St. James (03 & 04, 10 & 11) Total Plate Collections: £296.53 & £306.94 Direct Bank Payments: £600.00

Overall Totals: £896.53 & £906.94

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.

Warm spaces - a follow-on from our meetings recently...

A sincere thanks to all who managed to attend the meetings we had in Our Lady's and St. James' recently 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 be 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

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: Sarah Reilly, Patrick Hampsey, Noreen Reilly, Thomas Reilly, Fr. Colin Golden, Janet Probert, Billy O'Donnell, Veronica Trenchard, Clare Frulloni, Mary Ritchie, Cara Boyce, Jean Boyce, Joan Cruickshank, Maggie O'Donnell, Tubby Wardlaw, Barry McDermott, Rhoda Reilly, Ernest & Vera Gowland 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.

Given that this timetable is prepared in advance there is always a chance that because of unseen circumstances, for example a funeral, there may be changes. Any changes to the timetable will be announced during weekday are weekend Masses to avoid, as best as possible, any inconvenience to parishioners.



Monday 19th December

Advent Feria by date (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.

Tuesday 20th December

Advent Feria by date (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

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

St. James' Parish:

Confessions 6.00-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

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

Wednesday 21st December

Advent Feria by date (V)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

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

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 6.00-6.45p.m.

'Rorate Caeli' Mass 7.00p.m.

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

Thursday 22nd December

Advent Feria by date (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Friday 23rd December

Advent Feria by date (V)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Saturday 24th December

(Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord , Year - A) (W/Gold))

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Carols 4.30p.m.

Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.



Saturday 24th December

St. James' Parish:

Carols 6.30p.m.

Vigil Mass 7.00p.m.



Sunday 25th December

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - A (W/Gold)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 9.00a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 11.00a.m.

Monday 26th December

Feast of St. Stephen (R)

No Public Mass

Tuesday 27th December

Feast of St. John (W)

No Public Mass

Wednesday 28th December

Feast of the Holy Innocents (R)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.

Thursday 29th December

Christmas Octave by date (W)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Friday 30th December

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (W)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Saturday 31st December

(Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Year - A) (W/Gold))

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m.

Vigil Mass 5.00p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Vigil Mass 7.00p.m.

Sunday 1st January

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Year - A (W/Gold)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 9.00a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 11.00a.m.
