

Warm spaces in difficult financial times

You may already be aware that there are initiatives to open church property to provide warm and welcoming spaces for those who are in need who are perhaps struggling to heat their homes or have hot food. A number of churches in our area have already begun to offer these kind of services, perhaps one afternoon a week, opening the church hall, providing a warm and welcoming environment with tea and coffee and perhaps a bowl of hot soup, and the chance just to be with other people. This is something that we could do in both Our Lady's and St. James' but it depends upon having willing and committed volunteers who can give of their time and energy. Many churches already have this kind of facility (e.g. a community café) but we have not had such provision. In Our Lady's one of our parishioners has already suggested having something once a week for the senior parishioners to come together, and we are looking into this at the moment, but I wondered if in both St. James' and Our Lady's we could think of providing the kind of service I have mentioned above, perhaps co-ordinating with other local churches so that we aren't open on the same day or time and so that people will have another opportunity to benefit.

So my appeal to you is, can you help, would you like to be involved, do you think you could be part of a parish team supporting this kind of initiative?

We have facilities in both parish halls to at least provide tea and coffee and to warm soup, but what we need are willing volunteers. It might take time for people to get to know that we are here to provide this service, but I'm sure as time goes on, and things get tougher for many people, it could be something that will be of great benefit to our local community.

Anyway, I am asking you now to think seriously about what we can do, and specifically about how you can help establish something like this in St. James' and Our Lady's.

An update...

Thank you to those who have already spoken to me about this or sent me e-mails, I really appreciate your willingness to be involved. For the sake of practicality and to be able to begin to move things forward I thought it would be good to have a meeting in each of the parishes to discuss how we can organise things best. So I propose that for all interested there will be meetings in Our Lady of Lourdes on Monday 28th November at 7.30p.m., and in St. James' on Tuesday 29th November at 7.30p.m. Please come along if you would like to help in any way or think you can support these initiatives as we go forward. We will meet in the church halls. God bless, Fr. Martin

Parties for children in the parish 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:

<u>Our Lady of Lourdes (19 & 20/11/22)</u>	Total Plate Collection: £632.63	Direct Bank Payments: £68.08
	Overall Total: £700.71	
<u>St. James (19 & 20/11/22)</u>	Total Plate Collection: £377.43	Direct Bank Payments: £600.00
	Overall Total: £977.43	

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



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For the weekend of November 26th/27th, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent - Year A



The First Sunday of Advent inaugurates a new liturgical year. Because Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year, it means that we have four full weeks of Advent – the longest the season can be. This Advent begins even before the start of December, but there are people already tired of Christmas! Decorations in shops and sales on-line have had a Christmas theme for more than a month and *Black Friday* has come and gone. Our scriptural readings for the start of this season remind us that Advent is about preparing us for more than Christmas. The liturgical season of Advent is to remind us that as Christmas

approaches, we should live always in joyful anticipation of the coming of the Lord and the establishment of God's reign... the Word of God speaks about a major transformation that has already begun.

For Catholic Education week we hope to welcome Mrs. Futamata, Head of St. John's R.C. Academy, Perth, to speak at the 5.00p.m. Vigil Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes.

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.

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.

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: (also to be put in newsletter!)

£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).

Advent Appeal - your help would be greatly appreciated.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent (and also happens to be the first anniversary of the death of Fr. Colin Golden—may he rest in peace). Advent is a time of preparation and of penance, always considered by the Church as a "mini-Lent". As we consider how we can prepare for Christ's return and what we might do, in terms of sacrifices, to prepare to celebrate spiritually for Christmas, we would do well to think, perhaps, more even than we already do, about the needs of others and how we can help and support them. In the past we have collected toys in both parishes for the children at school and in our locality and this is something that I would like to encourage you to do again, please. We are asking for donations of new and unused board games in particular, and toys for children (all to remain unwrapped, please). 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

Raffle Tickets for the three Christmas Hampers are now on sale in Our Lady's. Donations of items for the Hampers would be gratefully received (please see the list in the church porch).

Thursday 1st December

1st Week of Advent (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

The Meaning of Christmas - Parish Christmas Show - starts at 7.00p.m., refreshments afterwards in Our Lady's church hall - all are welcome!

Friday 2nd December

1st Week of Advent (V)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

A Christmas Celebration - Kilgraston School's Christmas Concert in the Perth Concert Hall at 7.00p.m.

Saturday 3rd December

(Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent, Year - A) (V)

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 4th December

The Second Sunday of Advent, Year - A (V)

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: 1st Sunday of Advent, Year - A.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's Kingdom.

Psalm 121(122)

Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's House.'

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 13:11-14

Our salvation is near.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 24:37-44

The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Times of Holy Mass & Confessions etc.



Monday 28th November

1st 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 for those interested in the 'Warm Spaces' Project at 7.30p.m. in Our Lady's church hall.

Tuesday 29th November

1st Week of Advent (V)

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.

Practice for the Christmas Show at 7.00p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Holy Hour (Adoration) 5.45 - 6.45p.m.

Holy Rosary 5.45 - 6.15p.m.

Confessions 6.15 - 6.40p.m.

Benediction 6.40p.m.

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.

Meeting for those interested in the 'Warm Space' Project at 7.30p.m. in St. James' church hall.

Wednesday 30th November

SOLEMNITY OF ST. ANDREW (R)

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:

Holy Hour (Adoration) 5.45 - 6.45p.m.

Holy Rosary 5.45 - 6.15p.m.

Confessions 6.15 - 6.40p.m.

Benediction 6.40p.m.

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.



Praying for and remembering Fr. Colin Golden R.I.P.



With what fond memories we recall Fr. Colin Golden who went to God a year ago this weekend - hardly believable that the time has gone so quickly. Our gratitude for his service in both Our Lady's and St. James' over the years, and the friendship we shared with him, inspires us to keep this faithful shepherd of the Lord in our prayers. As Fr. Colin preached the beauty of the Catholic Faith and inspired us to know and love the Lord Jesus, Our Saviour, so we pray with hope that he also will know the everlasting peace and joy of the Good Lord's embrace in Heaven. As we remember this faithful servant of the Lord and treasure all that he brought to us in his ministry we also give thanks to God for these blessings, signs to us of the Lord's love.

The children of Our Lady's will remember Fr. Colin in a special way at the end of the 11.00a.m. Mass this Sunday by joining with us in singing one of Fr. Colin's favourite hymns, a hymn that brought him great joy.

For all of you who have, and are still mourning Fr. Colin's passing, we pray that the Lord of Life, Jesus, our Risen Saviour, will fill you with the hope of seeing Fr. Colin again and enjoying his friendship in that place prepared for us by the Lord, where tears and sadness are things of the past. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

God bless you, Fr. Martin

Prayers for anniversaries, for the sick, for the recently deceased...

I will soon begin again to include requests for the prayers for the sick, the recently deceased, and those whose anniversaries occur in the Parish Newsletter. If you wish someone to be remembered please hand in a note with their name and what the prayers are for (sickness, recent death, etc.) Dealing with so many names you will appreciate that sometimes mistakes are made or sometimes even omissions, please be patient, and please inform me gently if any mistakes have been made, I am always happy to correct them. Fr. Martin (all names should be submitted no later than Thursday to be included in the upcoming newsletter)



Net Ministries - for about the next month a Catholic youth evangelisation group called Net Ministries will be working in St. John's R.C. Academy in Perth. Our two parishes and our two SVDP Conferences are helping out with the cost of this 'mission' to the school (many thanks!). Fr. Martin will have two of the team staying in the presbytery at Our Lady's, two young American men: Josue and Callen. They will also be joined at times by their Supervisor, Danny. Please, if you come across them, show them your usual warm welcome. To find out more about their work visit:

<https://www.netscotland.org/>

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS - Christmas Show

Thursday 1st December at 7.00p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes' Church

FREE ENTRY & REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL AFTERWARDS - BRING A FRIEND

Parish Christmas Show featuring The Parish Music Group, Our Lady's Parishioners, The Polish Choir - *The Singing Angels*, and many more wonderful actors and singers!

Bucket collection for any donations



Updates on the sanctuary at Our Lady's

You are sure to have noticed over the past while a few changes to the sanctuary in Our Lady's: the fresh paintwork, the angels at the Tabernacle, the plinths on which they stand (made by Liam Anderson), and matching candlesticks and crucifix for the altar - all intended to add further dignity and beauty to our celebration of Holy Mass, as we give honour to God, and add to the beauty and patrimony of the parish itself.

One difference that you may notice this week is the lettering at the back of the sanctuary on the pale blue border, either side of the Tabernacle itself. The wording reads:

Immaculada Councepciou. This phrase is taken from the actual words of Our Blessed Lady to St. Bernadette, who had asked who this mysterious lady was who had appeared to her. In the local patois Our Blessed Mother said to the young saint: *Que soy era Immaculada Councepciou - I am the Immaculate Conception...* and as a result of this stunning description of who She was, St. Bernadette's vision was considered authentic by the local clergy, who knew that this poor and uneducated young girl would be incapable of describing this lady in such a profoundly theological way.

These words then, in St. Bernadette's own dialect, emblazoned on the sanctuary wall of our church, are a powerful reminder of the Mother of God's singular role in God's plan of salvation, and a reminder to us all of her never-ending maternal solicitude for our needs. I hope that every time we see them we are reminded of the closeness of Our Lady to each one of us, and the trust we can have in the powerful intercession of St. Bernadette with Our Lady and Almighty God. You will also see a number of images of the fleur-de-lys, a stylized lily, which represents the purity and dignity of the Blessed Virgin Herself.

Some while ago a statue of St. Andrew was erected in memory of Fr. Colin Golden - the choice of St. Andrew because he is both patron saint of Scotland and Romania, both dear, of course, to Fr. Colin's heart. Since the erection of this statue a generous individual in the parish has also paid for a similar statue of St. Margaret of Scotland to be made, and St. Margaret's statue will complement that of St. Andrew (as co-patron of Scotland) on the shelf that is at the opposite side of the sanctuary, next to the font. On your behalf I thank the individual concerned for this donation. Plaques with prayers to these saints and in memory of Fr. Colin will soon be placed near to the statues themselves.

One or two people have enquired about the liturgical banners that previously were hanging on the outer sanctuary walls which were purchased many years ago in memory of a deceased parishioner. These banners have not been discarded, but have been passed on to St. John's R.C. Academy where they will have pride of place in the school's liturgical celebrations, and have been very much received as a welcome gift on behalf of Our Lady's to the wider school community. The parishioner, in whose memory they were originally purchased, and his family, will very much continue to be remembered in the prayers of us all.

I appreciate that change is never easy, I think not one of us really likes it, and that is understandable, but change does not mean a rejection of the past, or even a judgment of it, but rather an embracing of its goodness and a moving forward with the good things we have inherited and the discovery of new things, and fresh blessings... and as they also say: *de gustibus non est disputandum* - some changes we will like, others we may not. I sincerely pray, however, that together we will be open to the good in both the past and the present, and seize those good things and use them to move forward together and work together in building up our Family of Faith. We have much to thank previous generations of parishioners and priests for, but much also to contribute ourselves to the spiritual and material heritage of our parish for the benefit of future generations of believers. God bless you, Fr. Martin



Christmas Craft Sale (St. James', Kinross) - Thanks for your support!

Thanks to Maureen Grant for her brilliant idea in the first place, and thanks to you all who supported last Saturday's Christmas Craft Sale in St. James'. Thanks to your support £540.00 was raised. The monies are to be split between the SVDP Conference in Kinross and the parish.

Thank you to Our Lady's Music Group

Thank you to Our Lady's Music Group for their continuing uplifting and joyful contribution to our celebration of Holy Mass. We had a very fruitful meeting last Monday evening, and we are looking forward to introducing some new Mass parts in the near future thanks to the group. The members will very kindly lead us through our learning of these Mass parts very soon.

Recent Significant Expenditure in both Parishes

They say that you can't escape either death or taxes, but you also can't escape insurance. Recently we have paid for the insurance of the properties as follows:

Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth: £1,347.42

St. James', Kinross: £1,574.40

The Diocese has also undergone a mandatory quinquennial survey of all of its properties, the cost of the surveys being divided amongst the individual parishes. In consultation with the Finance Committee of the parishes I felt that the apportioning of the charges was somewhat confusing, and with the backing of the Committee I have raised our concerns with the diocesan finance team. Although the charges will not change, the matter is to be addressed at the next diocesan Fabric and Finance Committee, and we have requested that in future a clear explanation of how the bills for these kind of diocesan-wide projects are allocated.

Our Lady's Survey: £2,081.16

St. James' Survey: £2,428.02

Given the greater size of the property at Our Lady's we could not understand as a Parish Finance Committee why the larger figure was allocated to the smaller property (amongst other things).

Thank you!

There are lots of people who contribute in seen and unseen ways to the life of our parish family, and while people aren't looking for thanks, and do what they do for the love of God and for the love of the parish family, it's important to be grateful for what they give to our community. I want to say a heartfelt thanks to all those who week in, week out, day in, day out give of their time, talents, and energies to make our community a lively, welcoming and loving place to be. With much appreciation for all that you do, Fr. Martin

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'.

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!