

R.C.I.A. Meeting for those interested in becoming Catholic and in deepening their understanding of the Faith

Adult catechesis will resume in Our Lady's church hall on **Thursday 23rd February at 7.00p.m.** (until 8.00p.m.) all are welcome to these relaxed meetings to join us for discussion and fellowship and an deeper examination of the Catholic Faith. Tea/Coffee and biscuits are provided. I look forward to seeing you there, Fr. Martin

Women of the Torah - Lectio Divina Meetings

The Women of the Torah *Lectio Divina* meetings will resume on **Tuesday 28th February** after the 7.00p.m. Mass in St. James', and will be held in St. James' church hall (so beginning **just after 7.30p.m.**). The meetings will last approximately one hour. **My apologies, but in last week's newsletter I got this date wrong - one of many mistakes!**

General Parish Meeting to look at maintenance and fundraising matters - Our Lady's

A meeting will be held in the church hall at Our Lady's on **Friday 3rd March at 6.30p.m.** to look at maintenance that is needing to be carried out on the property, to look at prioritising works, and to see how we can move forward with fundraising. All parishioners who are interested are welcomed to join us to discuss the issues that will be presented for our reflection. I look forward to seeing you there, Fr. Martin

An update on recent parish collections:

Our Lady of Lourdes (04 & 05/02/23) Plate Collection: £ 577.00 Direct Bank Payments: £ 91.15
Overall Total: £ 668.15 (+ Building Fund Jar of £225.06)

St. James (04 & 05/02/23) Plate Collection: £(see next newsletter) Direct Bank Payments: £600.00
Overall Total: £ (see next newsletter)

In light of the maintenance works needing to be completed in St. James' I received yet another very generous donation from a parishioner in this past week: £500.00. On your behalf I want to extend sincere thanks to this individual for their support of the parish.

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.

A brief guide to the Catholic practices of Fasting & Abstinence (Ash Wednesday & Good Friday)

Traditionally, on days of Fasting and Abstinence Catholics are required to:

- **Eat only one full meal that day**
- **Take one or two light collations (snacks) which don't amount to another full meal**
- **Abstain from the eating of flesh meat (i.e. eat only fish, seafood and the like).**

The rules have traditionally applied to those over 14 years for abstinence from meat, and those between the ages of 18 and 60 for fasting. It is quite unreasonable to expect anyone with a serious medical condition to fast, particularly if doing so will make them ill. And what of vegetarians and vegans, who do not eat meat anyway? They are encouraged to abstain from something else on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – something that they enjoy eating, for example.



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



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

For the weekends of February 11th/12th, 2023

&

February 18th/19th, 2023

6th & 7th Sundays in Ordinary Time, respectively - Year A



What are you doing for Lent?

Lent is fast approaching (no pun intended), so it would do well for us to consider, if we haven't already, what kind of Lenten penance we are going to undertake? And saying this, it is important to understand that *penance* is what is required, something sacrificial. In modern times a lot of people have adopted the attitude of doing something extra. I'm not saying that this is a bad thing - it depends what that "extra" is - but essentially Lent is about denying ourselves for a greater good and embracing something that makes demands of us, something where we feel that we are going that extra mile to deepen our relationship with God. We can indeed do something "extra" like pray more, come to weekday Mass more, say an extra Rosary, read more Scripture, come to Eucharistic Adoration, make a point of going to the Stations of the Cross - these are good "extras", but what we also need to be doing, where appropriate, is eating less, drinking less, watching T.V. less, denying ourselves luxuries and treats, keeping things basic and simple, so that our hearts and minds can be less focussed on ourselves and more focussed on God. When we strip stuff away there is more space and more time for God in our lives, and this is the point of Lent - to not just do something for forty days and then cast it aside, but to use the forty days to make changes that will have long lasting positive effects in our relationship with God, and, because of that, in our Christian relationship with our neighbour, our fellow women and men. One thing that we should all, at least, be trying to do during this time, as this is the time *par excellence* for doing it, is going to Confession, taking time to be reconciled with the Good Lord through the Sacrament He has given to His Church, and to unburden ourselves of the spiritual dross we accumulate in our lives through sin. It may be hard to do, it will demand the sacrifices of honesty and humility, but it brings such relief from burdens of guilt and such tremendous healing from the Lord... and what they say for far more mundane matters applies just as much in the spiritual life... there's no gain without pain... the pain often of changing, of letting go, or starting again - this all guarantees renewal in Christ. Have a fruitful Lent, dear sisters and brothers, and pray to the Lord that you will embrace for your Lenten penance the thing that is really going to help you grow closer to Him, the thing that is going to bring about in you a deeper conversion to Jesus Christ. God bless you, Fr. Martin

Please remember to pray for all couples who are planning to get married in the forthcoming year.

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.

Times of Holy Mass & Confessions etc.



I am taking time off this coming week, from Sunday afternoon (12th February) to the evening of Friday 17th February: a pre-Lenten break and an opportunity to catch up with friends and family. So my apologies in advance that there will be no Masses during the week of 13th to 17th. All will be as usual on the weekend of 18th & 19th with Vigil Masses in Our Lady's at 5.00p.m. and in St. James' at 7.00p.m. on Saturday 18th, and morning Masses at 9.00a.m. in St. James' and at 11.00a.m. in Our Lady's on Sunday 19th.

In St. James', Kinross, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary on Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th from 9.30a.m. to 10.30a.m.

Please hold on to this newsletter as there will be no newsletter produced next weekend and below you will find the times for the week beginning Monday 20th February:

Monday 20th February

No Public Mass

Tuesday 21st February

7th Week of the Year (G)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

Pancakes & Tea/Coffee in the hall after Mass

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

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.

Pancakes & Tea/Coffee in the hall after Mass

Wednesday 22nd February

ASH WEDNESDAY - DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes', Whole School Mass - 10.00a.m.

Kilgraston School, Whole School Mass - 3.10p.m.

St. James' Parish - 5.00p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish - 7.00p.m.

Thursday 23rd February

Thursday after Ash Wednesday (V)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 7.00p.m.

R.C.I.A. Meeting in Our Lady's church hall 7.00-8.00p.m.

Friday 24th February

Friday after Ash Wednesday

(Day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse)

St. James' Parish:

Stations of the Cross 9.30a.m. *(for the intentions of those who have suffered abuse)*

Holy Mass 10.00a.m.



Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

***FRIDAY WARM SPACE IN CHURCH HALL 1.00-3.00P.M.**

Saturday 25th February

(Vigil of the 1st Sunday of Lent, 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 26th February

1st Sunday of Lent, Year - A (V)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass 9.00a.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Mass 11.00a.m.



Readings from the Sacred Scriptures: 6th & 7th Sundays in Ordinary Time, Year - A.

6th - 12/02/23

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.

Psalm 118(119)

Response: They are happy who follow God's law!

A reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 2:6-10

God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:20-22,27-28,33-34,37 (short version)

You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you.

7th - 19/02/23

A reading from the Book of Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

Psalm 102(103)

Response: The Lord is compassion and love.

A reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-23

You belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies.

Please remember in your prayers...

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: Joan Boyle, John Kenny, Eileen Ward, Mary & Manus Boyle, Mr. & Mrs. Aitchison, Pauline Collins, Jim and Sadie Duffy, Garry Cargill, Neil Cargill, Neil Noble, Diana Corrieri, Lola Corrieri, Mary Hintze, Monsignor John Harty, Brenda Brannan, Susan Cassidy, Maurice Welsh, Martina Reilly, Melanie Reilly, Moira Scully, Tom Reilly, Fr. Colin Golden, Janet Probert, Billy O'Donnell, Veronica Trenchard, Clare Frulloni, Mary Ritchie, Joan Cruickshank, Maggie O'Donnell, Tubby Wardlaw, Cardinal George Pell, Bishop Vincent Logan, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Roberta Caine and Jean Quinn... 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. We pray especially for: Margaret Conway, Bishop Stephen Robson.