

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The sick and housebound:

Kara Louise Jordan; Mary Graham; Nina Brown; Pauline & Michael Wilson;
Alice Ann Bjorn; Ann Paterson; John Dobbin Jnr; Baby Alfie James Milligan;
Rosanna Bulmer; Joseph Bulmer; Catherine Donnelly; Evelyn Ringer;
Elaine McCarren; George O'Hara; Angela McLaughlin; Laura McIntosh;
Thomas Lally Snr; Peter Convery; Bill Wood; Ciara Loughery;
Nicholas McAnaw; Hugh Windsor; Helen Woods; Mary Goodwin;
David & Elizabeth Cooper; Margaret Higgins; Jean Welsh;
Moira McDonald; Patrick Cook; John Miller; Anne McCrossan;
Patrick McEwan; Kathleen McElhinney.

Deaths: Evelyn Ringer – Greenhead Road; Joe Mitchell; Anna Baird;
Marie Cannon.

Months Minds:

Anniversaries & Remembrances: Harry Higgins; Peter Murphy (Jnr);
Francis Callaghan; Isobel McCamley; Eddie Boyle; Catherine Callaghan;
Alice McAllister; Frances Graham; John Wilson; Ellen Jane Casey;
Agnes Jamieson; Derek Mullen; Thomas Meechan (Junior); John McTear.
Christmas Remembrances: Peter Murphy; Milda Murphy; Rob Payne;
Peter Murphy (Jnr); Sloey Family; Anna and Jim McStay;
Deceased Members of Coulter Family; William Nolan; Catherine Nolan;
Andrew Ainslie; Elizabeth Ainsley; Ainslie Family; Margaret, Joe, Colin Scott;
Power Family; Caldwell Family; Anne McKidd; Elizabeth Johnston;
Mary McGroarty; Bernard & Mary Morgan; William (Jr) Bill, Bridget Blaif;
Robert, Marion, Eliz Gallagher; Mary Ann Dorricot; Jim King; Michael Thora;
Michelle O'Donnell; Vincent Reilly; Ciaran Reilly; Nancy, Pat McMahon;
Joe, Catherine Reilly; Patrick, Elizabeth, Michael, Maragret & Tony Larkin;
Jimmy, Maureen & Jane McKay; Kathleen, Harry & Paul McCabe;
The Cullen Family; Matthew & Teresa Lynch; Devine Family; Tony Conway;
Cathy Gallacher; Thomas Christopher Young.



**Takes place this Sunday
at the 10.00am Mass**

St Ignatius Primary School

Thank you to Mrs Pearson, the teachers, staff and pupils of St Ignatius Primary School for the invite to the school last Thursday 19th December to hear the children sing some of their concert songs and share in the Christmas spirit. It was a lovely event and the children did so well. The school also attended Mass on Friday and again participated so well in the Mass including the singing of the hymns and Christmas carols. The school have left copies of the school Christmas Card at the entrance of the Church, please feel free to take one.

St Ignatius of Loyola

Address: 74 Young Street, WISHAW ML2 8HS

Telephone: 01698 682679

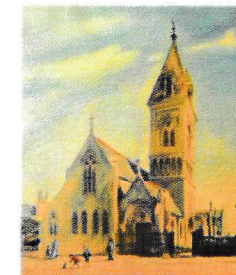
Email: stignatius@rcdom.org.uk

Parish website: www.saintignatiuswishaw.org.uk

Facebook: St Ignatius' RC Church, Wishaw

Parish Priest: Rev. Kevin Lawrie

A Scottish Registered Charity No. 011041

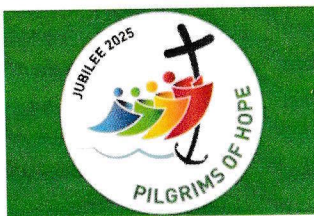


THE 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 22nd December 2024

Sunday 22nd December <i>The 4th Sunday of Advent</i>	10:00am Mass 6:00pm Mass
Monday 23rd December	9:00am Rosary 9:30am Mass 12:00noon Angelus
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	9:00am Rosary 9:15am Mass 12:00noon Angelus 4:00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas 8:30pm Carols 9:00pm First Mass of Christmas
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day	10:00am Mass of Christmas
Thursday 26th December St Stephen (Boxing Day)	11:00am Mass
Friday 27th December St John	9:00am Rosary 9:15am Mass 12:00noon Angelus
Saturday 28th December The Holy Innocents	9:30am Mass 3:15pm-3:45pm Confessions 4.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday 29th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	10:00am Mass 3:00pm – Mass: The Opening of the Jubilee Year at Motherwell Cathedral 6:00pm Mass



Thank you to those who attended the meeting on Tuesday 3rd December. Items discussed including how to implement our Mission Statement. Specifically, attendance at the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses and encouraging participation by those currently attending Masses in the ministries and roles within the Parish were seen as priorities. Subsequently, it was agreed that a suggestion should be made to parishioners currently attending Masses to pass a Bulletin to parishioners who are not currently attending Masses. Also, it was agreed that a "The Parish Needs You!" form would be printed on colour paper, to differentiate between the similar form for the Loyola Centre, looking for parishioners to use to facilitate involvement by themselves in ministries and roles within the Parish. The development of a questionnaire being used in other Parishes was proposed to reach-out to those parishioners not attending Masses, perhaps asking our associated schools to help with the distribution of the questionnaires. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7:30pm in the Chapel House.



Jubilee Year 2025

A further update message from Fr. Parkes regarding the Jubilee Year 2025; 'The Holy Year opens in our diocese with a pilgrimage moving towards the Cathedral behind the cross prepared by Holy Cross High School for the jubilee – a pilgrim people behind the cross of Christ which remains the anchor of salvation.

People are invited to gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Carfin at 1pm on Sunday 29th December for a short gathering that introduces the pilgrimage and the opening of the Holy Year. Bishop Toal, with a small group of young people, will then make the first part of the pilgrimage towards the Cathedral.

At 2.30pm, all people from across the Diocese are invited to gather in St Bride's Hall (across from the Cathedral) for another gathering time on the journey behind the cross and for the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, the veneration of the Cross, a memorial of our baptism and the celebration of Mass at 3:00pm on the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Prayer cards have now been produced by the Diocese and are available from the entrance to the Church.

POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION – December:

For Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis requests this month's prayers "so that this Jubilee strengthens us in faith, helps us recognize Christ risen in our lives, and transforms us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

The Parish Hall – Loyola Centre

Thank you to all those who attended the meeting last Wednesday 18th December. Fr Kevin provided an update on the ongoing works, specifically, that every effort was being made for completion prior to 20th December. Subsequently, the Loyola Centre on completion of Phase 2 was handed back to the Parish on Friday 20th December. All works have been completed as planned and the Centre is now available for use. As noted previously in the Bulletin, it is planned that coffee, teas and all will take place on Sunday 16th January, in the 1st instance.

At the meeting last Tuesday further discussion took place regarding the operation of the Hall. Confirmation of adequate numbers of volunteers to assist with the operation of the Hall took place. Also, discussion took place regarding putting in place a programme of events for the coming year – more information will be provided in due course. Forms continue to be available at the entrance to the Church to enable other parishioners to volunteer for the running and operation of the Hall. Completed forms can be handed to Fr Kevin or placed in the Offertory Collection bags.

Western Catholic Calendar 2025

The Western Catholic Calendar is available from the Parish Stall priced £3.70.

Karin's Closet

A message from Margaret and Company, "Thank you to everyone who attended and donated to Karin's Closet for Cancer Research Christmas Fayre last Wednesday 18th December. It was a great day and we made just over £1200."

Coffee, tea, juices and all after 10:00am Sunday Mass

It is anticipated the next coffee, tea, juices and all will take place in the newly repaired Loyola Centre on Sunday 16th January 2025 after the 10:00am Mass and thereafter on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Thank you once again to all who volunteered to help plan and provide the Coffees, tea, juices and all.

Weekly collection –

14th/15th December – £1562.30

Thank you once again to everyone who contributes to the Offertory Collection and to all those who make payments direct to the Parish Bank Account.

Fontes

The latest edition of the Motherwell Diocesan Magazine – Fontes is available from the entrance to the Church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

COLLECT

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from the Prophet Micah.
Thus says the LORD:

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

**R: Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. **R.**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. **R.**
3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said,
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have
you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have
taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your
will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book."'

When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings'
(these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold,
I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order
to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Luke 1:38

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country,
to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and
greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary,
the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the
Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you
among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is
this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the
baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed
that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from
the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the Holy Spirit, O Lord,
sanctify these gifts laid upon your altar,
just as he filled with his power
the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

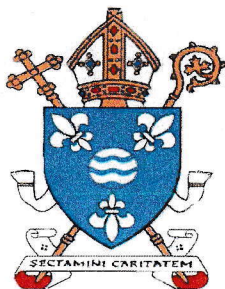
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received this pledge of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer,
so we may press forward all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.



Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road
Motherwell
ML1 1PP

Rt Rev. Joseph Toal STB KC*HS
Bishop of Motherwell

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message 2024

On the First Sunday of Advent, a phrase from the Reading from St Paul's Letter to The Thessalonians caught my attention – it was “more and more”. In some ways “more and more” may sum up Christmas for many of us - more lights and decorations, more shopping and presents, more parties and festive treats, more songs and entertainment, more gatherings of family and friends. The list can continue and we are very lucky when we can enjoy many of these good things.

Why did St Paul use these words then? Here is what he wrote:

**Brothers and Sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus,
That, as you received from us, how you ought to walk and please God,
just as you are doing,
that you do so more and more.**

It sounds that he recommends making more and more room for Jesus in our lives, so that we can walk and please God in the way Jesus himself and the Apostles taught. We should certainly try to make more room for Jesus at Christmas as we listen again to the great story of his birth at Bethlehem and celebrate it in prayer and in song in our churches, homes, and schools. The true and full celebration of Christmas is a mark of our identity as Christians, and our joy that God became one of us to bring us salvation. In the spirit of St Paul's instruction let us be united in the Lord Jesus this Christmas and, through his grace, draw more and more closer to him, through our prayer and our charity to those more needy than ourselves. By doing this we strive to fully please God as true and faithful followers of Jesus, his Son and Our Lord

On Christmas Night Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of 2025 by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's in Rome. Along with dioceses throughout the world we will begin the Jubilee here in Motherwell on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. I invite you me to join me that afternoon for the Opening Service, followed by Mass in the Cathedral. Like Christmas, our Jubilee Year will be a period of more and more as we make extra efforts to celebrate and live our faith both at home and on pilgrimage. The theme for the year is Pilgrims of Hope, and as we continue our earthly pilgrimage in our difficult world we do indeed need more and more hope, flowing from our faith in God, and witnessed by our charity as members of Christ's Body.

May the Lord bless you and your families with love and peace this Christmas and may our celebration of his birth bring renewed hope to all in hardship and distress.

+ Joseph Toal