

Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St,

Tayport



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1st Sunday of Advent 27th November 2022

Year: A (1) Psalm Week: 1 Liturgical colour: violet

First reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*. Hammer swords into ploughshares and spears into sickles...

Responsorial Psalm: *P121 (122) 1-2, 4-5, 6-9* I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the Lord's house.'

Second reading: *Romans 13:11 - 14* You must wake up now!

Gospel: *Matthew 24: 37-44*. You too must stand ready. The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Holy Mass Times

<i>Our Lady Star of the Sea:</i> Saturday Vigil 5pm Monday 10am Friday 10am	<i>St Fillan's:</i> Wednesday 10am	Sunday Mass 10.15am Thursday 10am
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EARLY INVITATION: 8th December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To enable students and workers to come, there will be a 7pm Mass at St Fillan's, instead of the usual morning Mass.

Mgr. Pat's Corner

One of my abiding memories of growing up at home was the coal fire. Long before the advent of central heating, or tumble dryers, the coal fire was the centre and heart of the family home - especially in the winter!

Our coal fire also had a back boiler which provided all the hot water a family needed during the day. And in the wintertime, or a wet summer's day, the coal fire was used to dry the washing, which would be slung over the clothes horse and placed in front of the fire.

Last thing at night, before everyone went to bed, the fire would be covered with a layer of damp coal dust. This helped to avoid any accidents during the night and, in the morning, with the stir of a poker, the crust of coal dust would fall away leaving the glowing embers beneath, which were used to relight the fire for the new day that was beginning.

Advent is a bit like that.

The fire of God's Spirit was set alight in our hearts through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. But, over the years, our enthusiasm for the things of God can sometimes be damped down by the challenges and difficulties that we have to face from day to day. This Advent Season calls on us to break through that crust of indifference and lethargy, and to rekindle our initial enthusiasm for the things of God.

During Advent we also begin all over again the story of salvation, as told for us this year in the Gospel of Matthew. He tells us that Advent points beyond the birth, life and death of Jesus to the day when he will come again in glory at the end of time.

He warns us to 'Stay awake, praying at all times, to stand with confidence before the Son of Man when he comes'.

Monsignor Pat McNally

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Anagram: MANLEMEU

Special Prayers Please pray for all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries fall around this time, especially for Mary Elizabeth Murphy whose anniversary was last weekend. May we pray for the families of those who have died: particularly for those whose loved ones have died in tragic circumstances with no time to prepare for their loss; but also for those who have shared precious last times, knowing the earthly end has been in sight.

Feasts and Solemnities

Wednesday 30th St Andrew Apostle *White*

With bones buried in the place now named after him, Scotland's patron saint has his Solemnity on Wednesday. Having followed John - 'the one who came before' baptizing with water, Andrew was open to the Baptist's Cousin when his own brother, the fisherman Simon, introduced him to Jesus. His journey took him to the fiery 'baptism' of Pentecost and death by crucifixion, on the 'saltire' cross or 'crux decussate' (as heralds name it) that is recalled in Scotland's flag.

STARTING THE ADVENT JOURNEY>>>>>>>>>

Happy New Year! The violet month of preparation began on Thursday. The Advent wreath with its candles marks the passing of time and lights the space we have to prepare ourselves for 'God With Us'. Emmanuel (answer to anagram) has linguistic origins in the Greek Emmanouel - though its alternative spelling is Immanuel: from Hebrew *Immanu* (with us) and *El* (God).

Diocesan Advent Retreat: This will be held at the Pastoral Centre at St Mary's in the Forebank Hall, Dundee, on Saturday 10th December, starting at 10am and running till 3pm. All are welcome. Full details will appear in the Cathedral newsletter/website next week.

Sunday Afternoons across the Tay during Advent:

This Sunday, there will be Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) and Benediction at 4pm at the Cathedral. Next Sunday, there will be Benediction in Our Lady of Good Counsel in Broughty Ferry and on the 3rd Sunday there will be a 4pm service at St Mary's, Forebank. On the 4th Sunday there will be the:
Cecilian Choir annual Carol Concert on 18th December, at 3pm in St Andrew's Cathedral.

NIGHTFEVER- an evening of adoration and outreach on 3rd December. Vigil Mass at 5.30, then from 7-9pm, music and candles with the Blessed Sacrament. Open for all, particularly newcomers and occasional visitors.

****The return of Festive Newsletter Greetings! ****OUR FESTIVE GREETINGS BOXES HAVE ARRIVED!

It has been observed that many of us have friends and family who live too far off for us to meet and greet them in person over the coming festive season. Why not make a special greeting for them in one of the Advent festive Greetings pages? There is no limit on the number of greetings you can add, as long as you make a donation each time. All money will be sent to Shelter. You could pick up an extra copy after Mass (or print at home) and tuck it in with a package. Alternatively, you could 'go digital' and send the link to the Facebook or Webpage where the Greetings pages will be posted.

*Place your written greeting and donation for **Shelter** in the special Christmas box and the editors will collect them once a week to prepare the weekly Advent Greetings pages.*

Alternatively, if you prefer to communicate by email, you can email your greeting to the editing team (via jkmcj@hotmail.com) and donate directly via the charity's website. Doing this will allow you to authorise the charity to claim back tax if you can Gift aid it. <https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/donate>

NEW: CALLING ALL CHILDREN ARTISTS – DRAW A PICTURE FOR THE GREETINGS PAGE

Imagine you have been asked to design a little picture to go behind the door on an Advent calendar leading up to Christmas. What picture would you draw to tell the Christmas story? If you'd like to take part you can post your picture into the box with a donation, for you too can help as every penny helps. Shelter is a charity which supports people who, like Mary and Joseph, have no home of their own on Christmas night.

Artwork will be photographed and published with the newsletter. This is a new venture so size of the image printed in the newsletter may vary depending on the number of images received. Colours will show up on the web jpeg versions and can there be expanded to allow Artwork to be seen in full glory but line drawings will likely be most effective on the printed page. You can work in miniature, but we can also reduce large images so even the smallest hands can join in the fun of making our greetings pages festive.

Postponed till 2023: The decision has been taken to delay the local Ecumenical Nativity Play till next year. It was originally scheduled to be in the Newport Church of Scotland grounds on 3rd December.