



Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St, Tayport



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Fourth Sunday of Advent 18th December 2022

The Lord is at hand: come, let us adore him. Year: A(I). Psalm week: 4. Liturgical Colour: Violet.

First reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14. The maiden is with child.*

Responsorial Psalm: *PS 23 (24). Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.*

Second reading: *Romans 1: 1-7. Our apostolic mission is to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations.*

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-24. How Jesus Christ came to be born.*

HOLY MASS TIMES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Saturday Vigil 5pm,
Monday and Friday 10am.

St Fillan's: Sunday 10:15am,
Wednesday and Thursday 10am.

Christmas Mass Times

Vigil Mass of the Nativity, Our Lady Star of the Sea

Saturday 24 December, 7pm

Christmas Morning Mass, St Fillan's

Christmas Day, 10.15am

Mgr. Pat's Corner

Pope Francis has often said that St. Joseph is his favourite saint. Because, he says, he shows us how God reveals his plan to us in our times of silence and rest. He keeps a statue of sleeping Joseph on his desk, placing prayer requests under it.

Speaking on a trip to the Philippines in 2015, he said: "I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength ... Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In the moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us. But, like St. Joseph, once we have heard God's voice we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act on God's word".

Today's Gospel recalls the central role played by St. Joseph in the story of the birth of Jesus. A man of honour from the outset, the goodness of his character is further highlighted by his response to God's voice. When he wakes up after hearing God's instructions in a dream he immediately acts on it, and takes Mary into his home. His openness to God's will is a crucial element in the story that follows: his partnership with and support of Mary, the birth of Jesus, his care for the child 'who is to save his people'.

Christmas is very near now, and we are busy and preoccupied with our preparations. A good time, perhaps, to pause in silence, to rest with God, and to listen to what he might have to say to us.

Mgr Pat

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH DONATIONS TO SHELTER SCOTLAND Every 18 minutes a household becomes homeless in Scotland; 14,372 children were made homeless in Scotland last year. **Shelter Scotland** gives people struggling with bad housing or homelessness the help they need, through advice, support and legal services [<https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>].

Instead of sending Christmas cards, spending money on cards and stamps, why not place a Christmas Greeting in the Parish Newsletter and make a donation for the homeless? Simply write out your greeting and put it with your donation in the box at the back of the church. Your message and your donation do not need to go together; you can email your greeting to the editing team [via jkmcj@hotmail.com] or donate directly via the charity's website [<https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/donate>].

CALLING ALL CHILDREN ARTISTS: DRAW A PICTURE FOR THE GREETINGS PAGE and post your picture into the box with a donation for Shelter. Artwork will be photographed and published with the newsletter.

The Parish will send all donations to Shelter Scotland. **Greetings will appear in the Christmas Newsletter and on the website and WhatsApp pages. Please remember that you can donate to Shelter at any time. You can also make a donation using the boxes in the churches, even if you are not posting a greeting.**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewportTayportCatholic/ **Parish WhatsApp:** 07484 170812.

Hospital Chaplaincy: Ninewells, Victoria and Roxburghe House. Please call the duty chaplain on 07821 624124

Special Prayers: We pray for those who have died recently; for those who are sick and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time. We pray for those struggling to cope with difficulties in their lives. We pray especially for peace, for the victims of war or natural disasters and for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

To request prayers in the Newsletter please contact Mgr. Pat or Fr Jude.

The Antiphons of the pre-Christmas week

Vespers on each of the seven days preceding Christmas includes one of seven ancient antiphons, unique to this period. Nothing compares to them - even Sundays have no antiphon of their own. Here follow two of these.

For the Magnificat for Evening Prayer today: **O Adonai!**

O Adonai et Dux domus Israel, qui M6ysi in igne flammæ rubi apparuisti et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extenso.

“O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush, and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.”

Approaching the feast of God as man, we remember that this baby is the God and leader of Israel. “Adonai” is the name which is pronounced whenever the too-sacred name “YHWH” occurs in the Hebrew scriptures. It means “Sovereignty”, and by its use in sacred contexts it itself becomes too sacred to be used in ordinary speech. This is the second great Vesper antiphon in the seven day period before Christmas.

For Monday, 19 December: **O radix Jesse!**

O radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continébunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

“O stock of Jesse, who stand as a sign for the nations; before whom kings fall silent; whom the peoples acclaim – come come to deliver us, do not delay any more.”

Born into humble circumstances, Jesus is nevertheless a descendant of David and his father Jesse. The family has long lost its royal glory in the eyes of the world, but still it stands as the hinge of salvation history.

As Isaiah says: “A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.”

Advent Reconciliation Liturgy with a GENERAL ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Mon 19 Dec, 7pm. in St Andrew’s Cathedral.

Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday. **The Solemn Midnight Mass of Christmas** with a carol service will be celebrated in **St Andrew’s Cathedral** from **11.30pm** on Saturday, 24 December.

The **Cecilian Choir Annual Carol Concert** takes place this afternoon, **18th December, at 3pm** in St Andrew’s Cathedral.

Pope Francis calls for prayer and practical help for the people of Ukraine at Christmas

At the conclusion of the General Audience on Wednesday, 14 December, the Holy Father called on everyone to “renew our closeness to the battered Ukrainian people” and to persevere in “prayer for these our brothers and sisters who are suffering so much.” He went on to say “Let us not forget... Christmas, yes. At peace with the Lord, yes.... But with the people of Ukraine in our hearts. And let us offer concrete signs of help for them.”

Please remember THE FOOD BANK. Non-perishable foods and toiletries can be left at the back of the churches or at local collection points: the Co-op in Tayport, Scotmid in Newport and Spar in Wormit. Financial donations also welcome.

The Taybridgehead Foodbank is in need of volunteers, particularly in the Tayport area. If you are willing and able to volunteer some of your time to help the Foodbank, please get in touch by calling 07840 957039 or through the ‘Contact Us’ link on their website. <https://www.taybridgeheadfoodbank.org.uk/>

THE SUNDAY CAFÉ. All welcome to stay after Sunday Mass for coffee/tea and a chance to chat with fellow parishioners. **DONATIONS TO COVER COSTS ARE APPRECIATED.** If you would like to help occasionally, please contact Angela Morton. Phone/text **0792 3931147** Email: angela3morton@gmail.com

From Pope Francis’ Reflections on Advent

The Holy Father has pointed out that, in sending his disciples to ask Jesus who he was, St John the Baptist appeared to doubt the reality of Christ’s mission. He reminded us, however, that “even the greatest believer goes through the tunnel of doubt. And this is not a bad thing; on the contrary, sometimes it is essential for spiritual growth: it helps us understand that God is always greater than we imagine Him to be.” Let us pray that, when the pressures of this world bear down upon us, raising doubt in our minds, we can turn in confidence to Jesus, whose nativity reassures us that he shares and understands our human state.