



Parish Newsletter

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



Parish Priest: Very Rev. Mgr. Patrick McNally

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Makuro

20 King Street, Newport on Tay, DD6 8BN Tel: 01334 209867 Website: <http://www.stfillans.org/>

Emails: canonpatmcnally@gmail.com and stfillanewport@gmail.com

Third Sunday of Advent 11th December 2022

Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice, the Lord is near. Year: A(I). Psalm week: 3. Liturgical Colour: Rose or Violet.

First reading: Isaiah 35:1-6,10. Be strong, fear not! God himself is coming to save you.

Responsorial Psalm: PS 145 (146). Come, Lord, and save us.

Second reading: James 5: 7-10. Do not lose heart, the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11. Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist.

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.**

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In preparation for Christmas, there will be a Penitential Service in Our Lady Star of the Sea on Thursday 15th December at 7pm and in St. Columba's on Monday 19th December at 7pm. All parishioners are invited and welcome.

Mgr. Pat's Corner: Christian Joy and Peace

Christian joy is not founded on belief and expectation of the second coming of Christ. Together with peace, it is a gift from Christ: 'My peace I give you' (John 14:27). And, in the same Gospel, it says that Christian joy is a gift that no one can take from believers in Christ Jesus (John 16:22). Jesus told his disciples to rejoice and be glad when people persecute and slander them for his name's sake.

If joy is a gift from Christ it is active in the entire life of believers, not just in religious affairs. Christian joy comes from belief in a God who is present at every moment of our daily lives. There is joy in many things: at sports events, for example, at football matches when one's favourite team is supported; or in conversation, over a drink, with chat and music; and in many other ordinary events of life.

And in times of trouble there can also be joy, that God is at our side and will give us the strength to see it through. As St. Paul says in his Letter to the Philippians (4:4): 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say Rejoice! The Lord is near'.

Advent Reconciliation Liturgies with a GENERAL ABSOLUTION OF SINS will be also held as follows: Sun 11 Dec, 4pm in St Mary's, Forebank; Thur 15 Dec, 6pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel; Mon 19 Dec, 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral.

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 [\[https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/\]](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 jkcj@hotmail.com] or donate directly via the charity's website [\[https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/donate\]](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 on Sundays 18th and 25th December.**

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.

Saints & Feastdays

Mon 12th **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Patroness of the Americas, Patroness of the Unborn *Memorial, White*
Tues 13th **St Lucy**, Virgin, Martyr, Patron Saint of the visually impaired *Memorial, Red*
Wed 14th **St John of the Cross**, Priest, Doctor of the Church *Memorial, White*

Our Lady appeared to a native Aztec convert, St Juan Diego, near Mexico City in 1531. She called herself **Holy Mary of Guadalupe, the Mother of God and the Mother of all humanity** and left with him a picture of herself, as a pregnant mother, impressed upon his cloak. Historians estimate that at least one out of every five children in Mexico was sacrificed to the Aztec gods. The apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe brought an end to human sacrifice, as 8-10 million Aztecs converted to the Catholic Church in a few years following the apparitions. The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in America. Nestled on the grounds of this Shrine, the Memorial to the Unborn provides a place for naming and honouring unborn children and spiritual healing for parents, relatives and friends.

Saint Lucy or Lucia (283–304) was martyred in Syracuse during the persecution of Diocletian. Devotion to her spread rapidly and she is commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

St John of the Cross (1542-1591) is a major figure of the Counter-Reformation, a mystic and one of the great poets of the Spanish language. He was born near Avila, Spain, into a Jewish family which had converted to Christianity. He was educated in charitable schools for poor children and later studied theology and philosophy at the university in Salamanca. He joined the Carmelite Order in 1563; five years later Saint Teresa of Avila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult and dangerous task: Carmelites opposed to his strict observance imprisoned and tortured him for nine months. It was during this very period that he found most comfort and inspiration in the love of God and composed the poetry that would serve as the basis for his spiritual writings. In his mystical poems, St John of the Cross narrates the journey of the soul until it reaches its union with God.

Youth Christmas Party Catholics aged 18-30 are invited by Fathers Jean and Greg to the **Cathedral Christmas Party** which will be held on **Sunday 11 December, after 6pm Mass, at St Andrew's Cathedral Hall.**

All young people - whether studying or working- are invited to join this new youth group.

International Volunteer Day, commemorated annually on **5 December**, celebrates the theme of "**Solidarity through volunteering**". It highlights the capacity of collective humanity to stimulate positive change through volunteer efforts.

Pope Francis thanked and encouraged volunteers in a video message saying:

"**Volunteers are the strength of the Church**, they are a dimension of the Church's mission because they maintain so many actions of the Church".

"**Volunteering is a grace from God**, please accept it with strength. Do not be afraid".

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-12/pope-francis-volunteers-volunteering-world-day-video-message.html>

Pope Francis' catechesis: "Good choices improve daily life" "The goodness of a choice benefits all areas of our lives, for it is participation in God's creativity". The Pope offered the example of someone who decides to dedicate an extra half-hour to prayer. Such person will find that the other moments of their day are more serene, that they care more for their work, that their relationships with difficult people are more tranquil. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-12/pope-francis-general-audience-discernment-confirmation.html>

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

Prayer: Lord our God, may we, your people who look forward to the birthday of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. Amen.