



# Parish Newsletter

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



**Parish Priest: Very Rev. Mgr. Patrick McNally**

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023

*Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the God who saves us, alleluia.*

*Year: A(I). Psalm week: 1. Liturgical Colour: Green.*

**First reading: Isaiah 58:7-10.** Then will your light shine like the dawn.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111.** The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

**Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.** The only knowledge I claimed was of the crucified Christ.

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16.** Your light must shine in the sight of men.

### 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.

### Mgr. Pat's Corner

#### **We are kingdom people**

Over the coming weeks we will be hearing from the section of Matthew's Gospel called the Sermon on the Mount. It focuses on 'Kingdom people' as Jesus defines their role as 'salt' and 'light'. Salt served as a currency in ancient civilisations. It was essential for preserving foods, even for keeping wounds clean. Jesus calls on us to be the salt of the earth. He did not say 'you *will be*' but 'you *are* the salt of the earth'. Therefore we are called to be witnesses to the presence of God active in our lives and our world.

Both salt and light operate by associating with the thing that they want to change. Salt must go into the food to change it from within, and so we must get up and get involved, for the Kingdom of God is about this world in which we live.

Mgr. Pat

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

To request prayers in the Newsletter please contact Fr Jude or leave your request through his letterbox.

Please note: Either Mgr Pat or Fr Jude can be contacted at any time, should anyone have a matter requiring support. If emailing Mgr Pat, he recommends that you use his personal email: [canonpatmcnally@gmail.com](mailto:canonpatmcnally@gmail.com) as he checks this daily.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NewportTayportCatholic/](https://www.facebook.com/NewportTayportCatholic/) **Parish WhatsApp:** 07484 170812.

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

### Looking ahead

As we enter February, it is strange to look back upon the very few weeks that have passed since the feast of Christmas saw us welcome the Lord into our world and yet to realise that, in only 17 days time we will be entering into the season of Lent. Are we looking ahead to this season as a period of opportunity, making space for meaningful reflection and focusing on our relationship with God and with our fellows? In a world which seems increasingly bent upon division and disharmony, can we stand up and be counted, and make even a little bit of a difference?

## Saints and Feastdays

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Sts Paul Miki (1564/6—1597) and Companions, Martyrs. Red.** Born in Japan between 1564 and 1566, Paul Miki joined the Society of Jesus and preached the gospel to the Japanese people with great success. When a persecution of the Catholics arose he was arrested together with twenty-five others. Mocked and tortured, they were eventually taken to Nagasaki on 5 February 1597, bound to crosses and speared.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February: St Scholastica (480-543), Scholar and Virgin. Feast, White.** According to the *Dialogues* of Gregory the Great, Scholastica was born c. 480 in Nursia, Umbria, of wealthy parents (Anicius Eupropius and his wife Claudia Abundantia Reguardati). While Gregory states that Scholastica was Benedict's sister, a later tradition says she was his twin (whether this is meant biologically or spiritually, or both is unclear). Gregory also says she was dedicated to God from a young age. She and her brother Benedict were brought up together until the time he left to pursue studies in Rome.

A young Roman woman of Scholastica's class and time would likely have remained in her father's house until marriage (likely arranged) or entry into consecrated life. On occasion several consecrated virgins would live together in a household and form a community.

Benedictine tradition holds that Scholastica established a hermitage about five miles from Monte Cassino and that this was the first convent of Benedictine nuns. However, it is possible that Scholastica lived in a hermitage with one or two other consecrated virgins in a cluster of houses at the base of Mount Cassino where there is an ancient church under her patronage Monastero di Santa Scolastica. Ruth Clifford Engs notes that since *Dialogues* indicates that Scholastica was dedicated to God at an early age, perhaps she lived in her father's house with other religious women until his death and then moved nearer to Benedict. She is celebrated as a saint by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Communion.

**Also on 10th February:** As related in the Acts of the Apostles, the ship taking Saint Paul as a prisoner to Rome was shipwrecked on the coast of Malta. Paul and his companions were welcomed by Publius, the prefect of the island, and spent three months on Malta, preaching and performing miracles. The event is celebrated as the birth of the Maltese Church.

## From the Vatican

### Ecumenical leaders tell South Sudan's rulers to act for peace now.

The Holy Father, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland are in South Sudan on a long-planned ecumenical "Pilgrimage of Peace". Immediately prior to the Pope's arrival, some 27 people died in a further outbreak of violence involving cattle herders and other residents. The Pope, The Archbishop and the Moderator had direct words for the country's leaders at a meeting with Authorities, Civil Society and Diplomatic Corps in Juba on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

Speaking shortly after his arrival in the ravaged East African nation, after a visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Pope reminded them that he has come "as a pilgrim of reconciliation, in the hope of accompanying you on your journey of peace." He told the leaders that future generations will either venerate their names or cancel their memory, based on what they do now, and he issued an appeal "to leave the time of war behind and let a time of peace dawn."

Following the Holy Father, the Archbishop of Canterbury recalled having witnessed the devastation of war in the country and the suffering and grief it caused when he visited the nation nine years ago. Archbishop Welby reminded those present that, together with a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Pope Francis hosted a retreat at the Vatican in 2019 for the leaders of South Sudan. "We prayed it would be a space for the Holy Spirit to work, and in that meeting we saw the possibility of hope. Pope Francis knelt to kiss the feet of each politician. Almost five years later, we come to you in this way again: on our knees to wash feet, to listen, serve and pray with you." However, the Archbishop continued, when he remembers the commitments made back in 2019, he is saddened by what he sees and hears. "We hoped and prayed for more; we expected more; you promised more. We cannot pick and choose parts of a Peace Agreement. Every part must be done by every person, and that costs much."

The Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields highlighted the need for the peace of Christ. "Today, we need that peace. We need churches and leaders who are generous of heart, liberal of love, and profligate with God's grace," he exclaimed. "We need leaders who care about the values by which our countries live, who care about the conditions in which people live, and who act out their faith in work amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised." Noting that all the people are essential co-workers in God's desire for a world in which all people can live life in fullness, he said it is "in the reach of the President, Vice-Presidents, leaders and people of South Sudan to extend the reach of justice and compassion to the whole of this young and optimistic country, full of people ready to work for a vibrant and fulfilling future."

**THE SUNDAY CAFÉ.** All welcome to stay after Sunday Mass for coffee/tea and a chance to chat with fellow parishioners. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help occasionally, please talk to one of the team at the back of the church. Donations are always welcome and will keep this channel of communication open.

**THE FOOD BANK STILL NEEDS YOU.** 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/>

**Can you donate double knitting wool?** THE KNITTING GROUP provides warm items for the Salvation Army and for refugees but they always need wool. Donations of double knitting wool would be much appreciated. They may be left at the back of Our Lady's or in the box at the back in St Fillan's. Please do have a hunt in the loft and the backs of all those cupboards—you never know what you might find!

### From the Evening Prayer of the Church

May your Church be a light to the nations, the sign and source of your power to unite all men: may she lead mankind to the mystery of your love. — *Your kingdom come!*

Lord, give peace to our troubled world; and give to your children security of mind and freedom from anxiety. — *Your kingdom come!*