



Parish Newsletter

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

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St,

Tayport



Parish Priest: Very Rev. Monsignor Patrick McNally Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Makuro

20 King Street, Newport DD6 8BN. Tel: 01334 209867/01382 540494 Website: <http://www.stfillans.org/>

Email: canonpatmcnally@gmail.com and stfillannewport@gmail.com

First Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2023

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

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

First reading: *Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8. Our sins blew us away like the wind.*

Responsorial Psalm: *79 (80): 2-3, 15-16, 18-19. God of hosts, bring us back. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*

Second reading: *1 Corinthians 1: 3-9. God is faithful.*

Gospel: *Mark 13: 33-37. He must not find you asleep.*

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

St Fillan's: Sunday Mass 10.15am; Wednesday & Thursday 10am.

Advent Penitential Services

Mgr Pat will be conducting two Penitential Services in preparation for the Christmas Feast:

Tuesday 19th December in St. Columba's at 7pm,

and Thursday 21st in Our Lady Star of the Sea at 7pm.

For those who wish for private individual confession, Fr Jude will be available after all Masses during Advent when he is on duty at Our Lady's or St. Fillan's.

Mgr Pat's Corner

STAY AWAKE

Staying awake is not easy. At night, it is quite natural for us to want to go to sleep. Even when Jesus asked them to do so in the Garden of Gethsemane his disciples could not stay awake. They fell asleep. But that same drowsiness can also overtake us. There is a dangerous type of sleep: it is the slumber of mediocrity. It comes when we forget our first love and grow satisfied with indifference, concerned only for an untroubled existence.

Without making any effort to love God daily, and awaiting the newness he constantly brings, we become mediocre, lukewarm and this slowly eats away at our faith.

So how can we rouse ourselves from the slumber of mediocrity? With the vigilance of prayer: for when we pray we light a candle in the darkness, and allow God to come close to us; it frees us from solitude and gives us hope. Praying and loving one another as Christ taught us: that is what it means to be watchful.

"Come Lord Jesus as we enter into this Season of Advent. Take our distracted hearts and make them watchful. Awaken within us the desire to pray, to love and to feel loved by others."

Mgr Pat

Monsignor Pat McNally.

canonpatmcnally@gmail.com

Fr Jude may be contacted (in person or via a note through his letterbox at the Newport Presbytery House) should you have prayer requests and both he and Mgr Pat are ready to help should you have matters that need priestly support.

ROU TANDEV HERAWT SAH EVIF SLANDEC. True of False?

Special Prayers Please pray for all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries are around this time, especially Mary Elizabeth Murphy. We pray for those whose lives are disrupted by ill health or troubles and for those who bring relief. May the new year bring fresh vision and courage to tackle causes and consequences.

Feasts & Solemnities

Thursday 7th	Saint Ambrose	Bishop, doctor.	white
Friday 8th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		white

St Ambrose's father was a Roman who was Praetorian in the Prefect of Gaul. The young Ambrose was born in Germany in the 4th century. He was educated in Rome and, following in his father's footsteps, was made prefect of Milan in Northern Italy. He was a follower of Catholicism but wasn't actually a baptised Christian when the Catholics who felt he had shown leadership in dealing with conflict between Catholics and Arians, pressed, with the Emperor's support, for him to be made Bishop of Milan. Within a week he was baptised, ordained and installed as bishop, giving his money to the poor and lands to the Church. He already knew Greek so was able to set to, studying theology from the East as well as the West of Christendom. He was not afraid to call the powerful to order, forcing the Emperor Theodosius, who had ordered a massacre of 7,000 people to do public penance. He was an intelligent man who valued learning, balancing firmness with gentleness, writing hymns that put singing and chant solidly in the liturgy (with clear Trinitarian doxology), and inspiring Augustine to convert to Catholicism.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee! By thy Immaculate Conception, O most Holy Virgin, obtain for us purity of heart and body, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. ' At Lourdes, Mary's message to Bernadette was penance, calling on us to focus on the sin that hinders our lives, doing our part so God can do his and forgive us.

Happy New Year! The violet month of preparation has begun. The Advent wreath with its 5 candles leads us week by week to prepare ourselves for 'God With Us'. Emmanuel.

From St Ambrose's Advent Hymn

Saviour of the Nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

Assorted tips from St Ambrose: Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light. No-one heals himself by wounding another.

It's Advent! Time for the Newsletter's Christmas Greetings Pages! Spot the festive Boxes!

Our special bumper Christmas newsletter is back! A special Christmas double edition will be prepared to allow you to share jolly greetings via the newsletter. Why send paper cards to people you'll see when you can save trees (and stamps) and make a difference to a national cause with local impact? Mary and Joseph arrived with no place to go at Christmas and Shelter is a charity that offers warmth and care to those with no roof over their heads, here and now, in Scotland.

Many of us have friends and family who live too far off to be greeted in person over the coming festive season. The newsletter appears in many forms, in print at our Masses, and also digitally, being posted on the WhatsApp group, Facebook and the webpage so it's a good way to reach people who can't always make Mass. Why not make a special greeting for them in the Christmas festive Greetings pages? There is no limit on the number of greetings you can add, as long as you make a donation each time. It will be possible to include small pictures if you fancy letting your artistic talents shine. All money will be sent to Shelter.

Place your written greeting and donation for **Shelter** in the special Christmas box and the editors will empty the box after Masses. Or, you can email your greeting directly to the editing team (via jkmcj@hotmail.com) and donate directly via the charity's website. Gift Aid it and they can claim back tax: <https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/donate>

Vatican News: Cardinal Parolin has been at COP28, representing Pope Francis (who has a lung infection and was advised by his doctors not to go to Dubai), calling for leaders to show courage, to 'transcend their petty interests and to think in bigger terms.' Speaking of the conflicts in the Holy Land and in Ukraine, the Pope exhorts not to let hope 'be stolen from us.' It must be bedded in realism, recognising the 'interconnectedness of moral, social, environmental, political and economic crises. Individual problems are actually cause and consequence.' He calls leaders to have the 'courage to act - the audacity to throw ones heart over the obstacle, to renounce evil and step out of the narrow spaces of personal or national interests, to take those small possible steps of good every day to try to improve complicated situations and sow peace with patience and trust.'

Thank you for continuing to **support:** appeals for Wool and the Food bank (Taybridgehead 07840 957039).

Parish WhatsApp group: 07484 170812 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Newport-on-Tay-and-Tayport-Catholic-Parish-114980280046954/> **Duty Chaplain for Nine Wells, Victoria and Roxburghe House:** 07821 624124