



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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4th Sunday of Advent—22nd December 2024

The Lord is at hand; come, let us adore him.

Year: C(I). Psalm week: 4. Liturgical Colour: Violet.

First reading: *Micah: 5:2-5a.* 'From you will come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.'

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 80 (79).* God of hosts bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10.* 'Behold, I have come to do your will.'

Gospel: *Luke 3:10-18.* 'Why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'

HOLY MASS TIMES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Saturday Vigil 5pm

St Fillan's: Sunday 10:15am

EUCCHARISTIC SERVICES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Monday and Friday 10am.

St Fillan's: Wednesday and Thursday 10am.

Christmas Masses

Vigils, Christmas Eve — Our Lady Star of the Sea, 7pm (preceded by carols from 6.30pm)
St Columba's, 9pm (preceded by carols from 8.30pm)

Christmas Day — St Fillan's, 10.15am; St Columba's 11.15am

WEEKDAY MASS

Bishop Andrew has advised that he will continue to say Mass in St Fillan's on three days each week, ordinarily Monday, Thursday and Friday. However, this arrangement is obviously subject to change, as dictated by his pastoral duties. Such changes will be notified at the Saturday Vigil Mass in Tayport and the Sunday morning Mass in Newport, and will also be posted on WhatsApp - Sam Morton has set up a dedicated group for this purpose (Daily Mass at St Fillan's) and placed the link on the Parish Group. It is reproduced here for those who might not have seen it already: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/COZWXsnfWEZ6ZKK3IUBZLP>.

Mgr. Pat's Corner

Today's Gospel shows Elizabeth and her unborn son, John, reacting with joy to the nearness of the, as yet, unborn Christ. Elizabeth immediately understood that Mary was carrying in her womb Jesus, the long-awaited Saviour. But how could John comprehend what was going on, to the point that he would leap for joy in his mother's womb? Maybe his reaction teaches us that we don't need to see God working in the world or solving our personal problems before we too can leap for joy. The joy that we receive, which comes from recognising the presence of Christ in our midst, is God's Christmas gift to us. It is a joy that comes from a faith that appreciates God working mercifully in our lives in ways that are both seen and unseen. Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything will work out alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.

Mgr Pat

Special Prayers: We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time, including Marguerit Britt, a friend of Heather Fairley, whose anniversary falls on Christmas Day. 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 for peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and sub-Saharan Africa, and for the victims both of war and of natural disasters.

To request prayers in the Newsletter please contact Mgr Pat.

Please note: Mgr Pat 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 as he checks this daily.

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

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

Saints and Feastdays

Wednesday, 25th December: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. A Christmas message given at a Christmas lunch this week by a now-retired minister of the Church of Scotland struck a chord. Touching upon the arrival of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, to find no accommodation available, a potential disaster in view of Mary's imminent labour, he eloquently described the events that followed. He laid emphasis upon the fact that, entering the world as, to all intents and purposes, a homeless child, with parents displaced from their own home, and being laid, not in a cot but in a manger, Jesus has a hard-wired link to the poor, the displaced and the homeless. It is for us, therefore, his representatives in this world, to show, by our actions, at this time above all, that we are prepared to follow where he led, showing his compassion and concern to those many who, in their daily struggle to survive, need all the help that we can give. Our Parish appeal for donations to Shelter in lieu of cards to fellow parishioners is but a small means whereby we can do this.

Thursday, 26th December: St Stephen, the first martyr. One of the deacons appointed by the Apostles to organize the distribution of food to the poor, Stephen performed many miracles and confounded the Jews in disputation. Humiliated, and having thus lost face, they fabricated false charges against him. At his trial he preached the risen Christ to them, so angering his oppressors that they stoned him to death. As he was dying, he prayed for his persecutors. A young man, Saul of Tarsus, was tending the cloaks of the stone-throwers, and went on to be a major player in the persecution of the early Church, only to encounter Jesus on the road to Damascus, which led to his conversion, becoming the great Apostle to the Gentiles, St Paul.

Parish Christmas Greetings

As has been advised elsewhere, it is again proposed to offer the opportunity for parishioners to send Christmas greetings to fellow members of our Parish community via a special Christmas issue of the weekly Newsletter, as we have done in previous years. The system will operate as follows: Boxes are provided in Our Lady's and in St Fillan's into which those wishing to avail themselves of this facility are asked to place their greeting, written as they would wish it to appear. The intention is that everyone so doing would make a donation to Shelter Scotland, either directly into the box or on-line. The latter is, of course, more beneficial to the charity, at least where the donor is a tax payer, as a Gift Aid declaration can be made, allowing Shelter to claim an additional 25% from the Government. In the current financial climate, that bit extra becomes much more significant. On-line donations can be made at <https://scotland.shelter.org.uk/>. Mgr Pat will ensure that money placed directly into the boxes is collected and sent as a single donation.

The greetings section of the special Christmas edition will be published in colour—we can't guarantee the "full, glorious Technicolor" treatment, but we will do our best. Regards to all from the editors!

P.S. Please don't think that it is now too late to get your greetings in! The wonders of modern technology will allow us to go to print as late as mid-day on Christmas Eve! If you can't get to a box, please send your greeting by email to: f.leonard741@btinternet.com.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL SOUGHT

Could you help with the cleaning rota in St Fillan's. Half an hour once per month would be greatly appreciated. Please see Angela Davey or phone/text on 07768406946

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! Contact Anne Meiland (01382 543037) if you have any questions.

From the Evening Prayer of the Church tonight

The voice of John crying in the wilderness is echoed tonight in the voice of the Church: – *Make our hearts ready, O Lord!*

For your coming to us in grace this Advent: – *Make our hearts ready, O Lord!*

For the work we must do in creating a more just world: – *Make our hearts ready, O Lord!*

For the understanding we shall need this week for our families and friends: – *Make our hearts ready, O Lord!*

For our death, for our judgement, for eternal life with you: – *Make our hearts ready, O Lord!*