



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**
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Charity No - SC011041

ST MARY'S LANARK ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH



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THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 5th December 2021

John the Baptist in Advent

What do we learn about John the Baptist from the gospel passages about him that will be read over the following two Sundays? As we continue our liturgical journey through Advent by hearing about this man who 'was clothed with camel's hair...and ate locusts and wild honey'.

Every year in the Lectionary used in Catholic churches all over the world, the gospel readings on the second and third Sundays of Advent have as their main focus John the Baptist. Who was this man and how does he come across in the various passages from the gospels read on these days? Have we anything to learn from him today?



We learn who he was from the Jewish historian, Josephus. Writing about the death of John the Baptist at the hands of Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, he remarks about John, 'He was a good man and had exhorted the Jews to lead righteous lives, to practice justice towards their fellows and piety towards God, and so doing join in baptism. . .' (Josephus, Antiquities 18.5.2). Josephus was only interested in John because he was part of the story of Herod Antipas, the ruler in Galilee, who saw him as a threat. Likewise, the evangelists include John in their gospels because of the role he played in the life of Jesus. We read about him in the Sunday Lectionary because the story of his ministry can enrich our preparation for Christmas during the season of Advent.

We prepare for Easter by the observance of Lent, traditionally a time of penance and mortification. The season of Advent, too, includes an invitation to personal penance and reconciliation with God and neighbour. This theme is most prominent on its second Sunday. The word 'Repent' occurs in each of three gospel passages of the three year cycle; the context is the desert preaching of John the Baptist which came to its climax in the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. At first sight, the account that Luke offers in Year C of the ministry of John the Baptist has much in common with those found in Matthew and Mark, heard in Years A and B, respectively. He too has John proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. But we may note three additions that Luke, the most literary and historically sensitive of gospel writers, makes to the story given us by Matthew and Mark. First, he gives a list of the powerful people in the world of the time, from Tiberius, the emperor in Rome to Annas and Caiphas, the high priests in Jerusalem. Secondly, he extends the quotation from Isaiah found in other gospels to include the lines about mountains being lowered and valleys filled (Isaiah 40:3-5). This is the message of Mary in her Magnificat about the powerful being brought down from their thrones and the lowly being lifted up (1:52). Thirdly, he extends the quotation of the words of Isaiah to include his verse about all flesh seeing the salvation of God.

Through these additions, Luke adds a universal dimension to the familiar story. He places John the Baptist into world history and makes us wonder why, with so many powerful people around, God chose to send his word to a person like John. This new information encourages us in our Christmas preparations to gaze outside our small world at the big world outside, and to grasp how the Christmas story is a gift for the whole of humanity and no mere domestic celebration. He reassures readers from whatever nation or class they came, that 'these things did not happen in a corner' as Paul would tell Festus and Agrippa, the Roman governor and the Jewish king, respectively (Acts 26:26). John's message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins is for all.

St Nicholas Church Charity Afternoon



St Nicholas Church Choir and Friends, are hosting a Christmas Concert in aid of St Andrews Hospice. The Concert will take place on **Sunday 5th December 2021 at 3pm**. All are invited to attend. Many thanks to St Nicholas Church for supporting such a great charity and also for bringing some festive joy to our town.

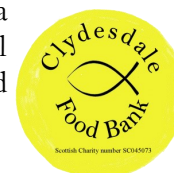


Mass with Anointing of the Sick

On Monday, 6th December, at 12noon, there will be Mass celebrated in St Mary's with Anointing of the Sick. After Mass, there will be tea/coffee and soup served in the Clubrooms. This Mass is being organised by our parish SSVP. The Mass is open to all parishioners, if you require transport please speak with a member of our SSVP or phone 07756523623.

Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Thank you very much for your generosity last weekend to the Clydesdale Foodbank. We collected **£445 and 19 bags** of groceries. What a great contribution to our local community. God bless your continued generosity and support.



Liturgical Calendar

Monday 6th December St Nicholas, Bishop - He died in the fourth century. Bishop of Myra (Turkey) but nothing more is known about his life. Since the tenth century, widely venerated and frequently claimed as a patron in both East and West. His cult in the West was further ensured when his relics were moved from Myra to Bari (Italy) in the eleventh century. His reputation for generosity led to the custom of giving children gifts on his feast day, and thus to the Christmas figure of Santa Claus.

Tuesday 7th December St Ambrose, Bishop - Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. Encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Honoured as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

Wednesday 8th December The Immaculate Conception - This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne." It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

Sacrament of Confession

As per last year, the Sacrament of Confession will be available in preparation for Christmas. Confessions will be available after Mass from Monday 13th December until Thursday 23rd December, including all weekend Masses. Please take this opportunity to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas.

St Mary's Primary School Funds

This weekend there will be Tea Towels on sale in St Mary's Stall, they are priced at £4 each and display a sketch of each child's face. All funds raised go toward school funds.

Tea Towels can also be purchased through the school.



Christmas Raffle

Christmas raffle tickets are now available, Social Committee Members will be at all Masses over the next few weekends. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted. Christmas boxes are also available to order for £15 they contain a sultana cake, cherry cake and shortbread. There are three dates for collection, weekend's 4/5, 11/12, 18/19 of December. Orders can be taken before or after Mass.



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - James & Irene Alexander; Pat O'Rourke (Carfin).

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Bishop Frank Thomson; Canon Thomas Taylor; Sadie Littlejohn; Catherine O'Leary; Agnes McQuade.

Christmas Remembrance Masses: If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Christmas Bulletin, please hand in their names before THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection, but please write on the envelope CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE, and please print the names clearly to avoid errors.

Confirmed Christmas Mass Times

As we begin to look ahead to Christmas and plan for a busy period of the year, please find below all Christmas Mass times to assist you in your planning.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Choir (St Mary's)

7.00pm First Mass of Christmas (Biggar Kirk)

9.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am Dawn Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

10.30am Day Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12noon Day Mass of Christmas (St Mary Magdalene's)



Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 900.00

Standing Orders: £ 169.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ -----

Standing Orders: £ 120.00

(Including St Mary Magdalene's)

St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection: £ -----

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.
For those who wish to pay Bank Transfer or Standing
Order please find the relevant details below.

St Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809

Parish of St Isidore's 83-16-11 00235026

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

4th/5th December

5.00pm G. Abernethy

10.30am E. McCabe

5.00pm S. Casserly

18th/19th December

5.00pm J. Moynagh

10.30am J. Russell

5.00pm S. Casserly

11th/12th December

5.00pm A. Haetzman

10.30am S. Watson

5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

4th/5th December

5.00pm C McClafferty

10.30am J. McAlavey
G. Duddy

18th/19th December

5.00pm M Keenan
P. Stewart

10.30am J. McAlavey
M. Keenan

11th/12th December

5.00pm A. Dempsey
C. Scott

10.30am J. Wilson
C. Duddy

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 5th December

- 10.00am** **TRANSPORT LEAVES ST MARY MAGDALENE'S**
10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
11.15am **COFFEE MORNING (ST MARY'S CLUBROOMS)**
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

Monday 6th December

- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
12.00noon Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick (St Mary's)

Tuesday 7th December

- 10.00am** Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)
12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 8th December

- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am **Church Cleaning (St Mary's)**
7.00pm **Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)**

Thursday 9th December

- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
7.30pm **St Mary's Church Choir (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 10th December

- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 11th December

- 9.10am** Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

Sunday 12th December

- 8.30am** Holy Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

The 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

The 12noon Sunday Mass from St Isidore's is also Livestreamed on the parish YouTube Channel.

St Isidore's Church

Due to a major flood in St Isidore's a few weeks ago, and following health and safety advice, St Isidore's will be out of commission for several months. The Catholic Insurance Company have been contacted and we have started a claim in order to get the repairs carried out. Thank you very much for your patience during this difficult time. In a special way we would like to thank our friends at Biggar Kirk, especially Rev Mike Fucella for his wonderful support and the use of the Gillespie Centre and Biggar Kirk. It is often said that in crisis you learn who your friends are!! Please pay close attention to the Facebook Group to find any updates as the weeks goes on. Our aim is to celebrate Mass in Biggar Kirk at a revised time of **1pm**. All details will be confirmed by Ian through email and on Facebook. Once again thank you for your support.