




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



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


PARISH CLERGY
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THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
19th December 2021

Advent Waiting

You may have grown up thinking of the Season of Advent as that four-week sprint just before Christmas. Or, maybe you thought of it as the appetizer whose sole purpose was to get you to the main course—Christmas! To say that the Season of Advent is four weeks long is liturgically correct albeit a bit short-sighted. The Reign of God broke into the world in the most definitive and subversive way on that first Christmas 2000 years ago, yet the Reign of God is still on the way. Christ has come, but Christ still needs to come.

If that's true, then we are Advent people all year round. Staying awake for the signs of Jesus's Second Coming should be our everyday posture 365 days of the year and not just for four weeks. We say as much, do we not, each time we gather for Eucharist? At each Mass, the priest says, "The mystery of faith." One of the assembly's responses is this: "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again." Another response goes like this: "When we eat this Bread and drink his Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again." These refrains can only fall from the lips of Advent people. They are little reminders that when Jesus returns in glory, there will be no need to eat this Bread nor drink from this Cup, anymore. But, we're not there yet. We still have to gather. We still have to eat. We still have to drink. So, how do we get there? How do we wait?



We wait for the Second Coming of Jesus by taking our cues from those who waited for His First Coming. The prophets in Biblical times had to keep the embers hot. They had to give hope to people, over centuries, that the Messiah was coming, a new reign would break upon the land and last forever. Because it was hard to keep the edges hot, many gave up hope. However, a small group, a remnant, never gave up hope. They are referred to as the "faithful remnant of Israel." Here is how they waited and how we are called to wait as well.

1) Wait with a sense of promise. God, through Angel Gabriel, promised Elizabeth and Mary that each would bear a child. God's promise would be fulfilled. We can only wait for what is already growing within us. If you're not pregnant, you have no need to wait. But, if you are pregnant, the anticipation, I'm told, is all-consuming. Similarly, a farmer waits for his planting to bear fruit. Trust that what you are waiting for right now is, in some way, already present to you, although not fully revealed.

2) Wait actively. You know something is happening. Passive waiting means it's out of your hands, and you are simply punching in time. However, a patient person remains still knowing the real thing isn't always tomorrow; it's right here today. Fear makes us run. The angel says to Mary and to us, "Do not be afraid."

3) Wait open-ended. This is the difference between wishing for something versus hoping in something. Wishing says, "This is what I wish for, and it must unfold according to my agenda, or I will be very disappointed." Hope is feeling confident that God's plan will be fulfilled according to God's promises. Let go of wish lists. Hoping says, "Let it happen to me according to your will." I don't try to control the situation. I try, instead, to be formed by God's life-giving will rather than by my own fears.

4) Wait together. Mary and Elizabeth are cousins who sought each other out and helped each other to wait. Each reminded the other of the promise the angel had made and that what they were waiting for would be fulfilled. This is what we owe each other as member of the Church. My job is to remind you that God's promise is growing in you—so stay close to it—even, and especially, on your worst day. Similarly, your job is to remind me, especially in moments of discouragement, that God's promise is growing in me and will come to fruition soon. Although we call Pentecost the "birth of the Church," I think Mary and Elizabeth's waiting together was the real, but "unofficial" birth of the Church."

If we wait with a sense of promise, actively, open-ended, and together, Christmas will come of its own accord. And not only that, it will be more fulfilling than anything we could put on our wish list.

Fr. Phil Mulligan

St Mary's Social Committee Coffee Morning **Cancelled**

Due to the new Omicron variant of COVID19, St Mary's Social Committee have decided, in the interest of public health, that it would be better to CANCEL the coffee morning on Sunday 19th December after 10.30 Mass. We do apologise for any inconvenience, however, due to being so close to Christmas and the new rules of self isolation, we know you will understand. The Christmas Raffle will now be livestreamed at 11.45 from St Mary's Clubrooms. Once again thank you for your understanding and constant support.

St Mary's Christmas Concert **Cancelled**

Once again, we regret to inform you, that the Christmas Concert organised by The Choir of St Mary's and Carluke Primrose Orchestral Flutes, to take place on Sunday 19th December at 7pm in St Mary's Church, is now CANCELLED.

Again, the organisers thought it prudent and wise to cancel due to a variety of communities coming together and the event encouraging people to gather in large crowds so close to Christmas. We take this opportunity to thank Carluke Primrose Orchestral Flutes and St Mary's Church Choir for all their hard work, and we very much look forward to them performing their Passion Play in 2022.

Christmas Mass Invites

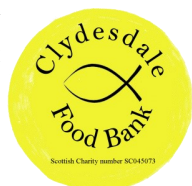
This year we are trying to encourage as many people as possible to return to Mass. Quite often people fall away from attending Mass for no reason, and just need some encouragement to return. Christmas is always a good time for people to come back to Mass. We kindly ask that you take some Christmas Invites home and distribute them to family and friends as you see fit. It would be wonderful to see many parishioners and families back at Mass this Christmas, and to see all the children at the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass, to meet our special visitor...

Staying Safe

As we approach Christmas, and we prepare for the Masses to be busier than normal, we take this opportunity to remind everyone that our churches are safe spaces to worship and that our parishes follow the guidance given to us by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Working Group. We want to assure everyone that our churches are safe, and that you should feel; your health is our number one priority. Many thanks to all those who continue to help as Passkeepers or Track and Trace for serving us so well.

Clydesdale Foodbank

Next weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection to help support Clydesdale Foodbank. Bags of shopping can be handed to any pass-keeper, or left in the sacristy. Monetary donations can be placed in the basket with your weekly offering. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the Foodbank.



St Isidore's Mass Time

For the last few weeks now Mass has been celebrated in Biggar at 1pm, due to the Church Service earlier in the day. Many people have expressed their concern that 1pm is too late and not convenient. After his pastoral visit to our parish, Bishop Toal, has decided that Sunday Masses will remain at their current time. Once again we thank Rev Mike & Biggar Kirk for their continued hospitality during this time.

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection:	£	944.00
Standing Orders:	£	647.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection:	£	27.00
Standing Orders:	£	95.00

(Including St Mary Magdalene's)

St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection:	£	-----
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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



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - Eileen McQuaid; Wullie Kerr; John Callaghan.

Months Minds & Anniversaries - John & Bridget McNally; Nessie McEwan; Tommy Starrs; Mary Starrs; Joseph McGuire; Joe Hughes; David Main; Eddie Main; James McCrossan; Margo Egan; Sadie Palmer; John Renton; William Kennedy; Tom, Kathleen, David, Steven & Joanne Flannigan; Victims of the Lockerbie Disaster; Bridget Brady.

Christmas Remembrances - Bishop Frank Thomson; Bishop Joseph Devine; Father Joseph Brannigan; All Deceased Members of The Vincentian Fathers; All Deceased Members of The Daughter's of Charity; Jim McShane; John & Mary McShane; Rosemary McShane MacIntyre; Frank McMahan; Annie & Arthur Lenagh; Hughie & Mary McShane; McShane Family; McGuire Family; Lenagh Family; McMahan Family; Kate & William Campbell; Bernie & Jim McEwan; Campbell Family; McCafferty Family; McEwan Family; James E. Reid; Gerry Wyllie; Wyllie Family; Deerin Family; Valentie Family; Dogan Family; Dunbar Family; McFarlane Family; Haney Family; Stewart Family; MacIntyre Family; Joseph & Betty McLeish; McLeish Family; Peter Brannen; Brannen Family; Edgar Family; Dan O'Neill; O'Neill Family; Thomas & Helen Lamb; Thomas Lamb Jnr; Lamb Family; McGuigan Family; William & Sarah Donnachie; Donnachie Family; Michael Pavilonis; Pavilonis Family; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty Thomson; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Bill & Annie Gebbie; Madge Reilly; Martin Carway; Thomas Donaldson; Morag Donaldson; Donald Liddell; Liddell Family; McKeon Family; Dan & Marion O'Donnell; Alex & Nan Hutton; Jim Snow; Thomas Snow; Agnes Snow; John, Mary, James & Steven Donnelly; Mary & Thomas Cavanagh; William Kay; Frank & Helen Carway; John & Frances Dickson; Michael, John & Anne Tierney; Irene O'Donnell; Eddie O'Donnell; John, Henry & Jane Doolan; Mary, Jane & Jim Brennan; Agnes, Jenny & Willie Jack; James Jnr & Evelyn Brennan; John & Agnes Kennedy; Bobby Elder; Joseph McGuire; Robbie & Moira Nicholson; Rodger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Beverley & Allan Milliken; John, Annie & Liam McConnell; Bridget Bond; Leslie Bond; Anthony & Marion Bancewicz; Andrew Bancewicz; Bancewicz Family; Cathie & John Lynas; Karen Watson; Lynas Family; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; Cathy & Jimmy Travers; Gerry Haetzman; Frank & Iza Devitt; Geraldine Murphy; Mary McTaggart; Pat McTaggart; Teresa McTaggart; Margaret McAllister; Charles McAllister; Maggie McAllister; Kathleen Mangan; Clare Duffy; Lisa Geddes; Robert Geddes Sr; Johnny Livingstone; Lisa McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Susan Mays; Gerard Mays Jnr & Sr; John O'Neill; Walter, Nessie, James & Agnes McEwan; Rosemary Sherry; Hughes Family; McLaughlin Family; Sherry Family; James & Mary Tait; William & Martin McPhail; Harry, Jean & Dan McPhail; James & Mary McCrossan; James & Theresa Casagrande; Bert & Betty Sinton; Stuart McDougall; Tom & Sadie Palmer; Rona Palmer; Karen Murray; Catherine O'Leary; Kathleen O'Leary; Bernard O'Leary; Mary Thomson; Johnston Sage; May Mochrie; Catherine Brownlie;

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.

Requiescant in Pace

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>18th/19th December</u>	<u>26th December</u>
5.00pm J. Moynagh	10.30am Sr M. Brady
10.30am J. Russell	
5.00pm S. Casserly	
<u>24th/25th December</u>	<u>1st/2nd January</u>
5.00pm G. Abernethy	5.00pm J. Moynagh
9.00pm A. Haetzman	10.30am P. Roberts
9.00am E. McCabe	5.00pm S. Casserly
10.30am P. Roberts	

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>18th/19th December</u>	9.00am	C. Duddy
5.00pm M Keenan		G. Duddy
P. Stewart	10.30am	M. Keenan
10.30am J. McAlavey		A. Cruickshank
M. Keenan		
<u>24th/25th December</u>	<u>26th December</u>	
5.00pm A. Dempsey	10.30am J. McAlavey	
M. Keenan		P. Cunningham
9.00pm C. McClafferty		
J. McClafferty		

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 19th December

- 8.30am Holy Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.35am Sacrament of Confession (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
11.05am Sacrament of Confession (St Mary's)
11.45am St Mary's Social Committee Christmas Raffle (Livestream only)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Biggar Kirk)
1.35pm Sacrament of Confession (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
5.35pm Sacrament of Confession (St Mary's)

Monday 20th December

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am Sacrament of Confession (St Mary's)

Tuesday 21st December

- 10.00am Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)
11.00am Sacrament of Confession (St Mary Magdalene's)
12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)
12.30pm Sacrament of Confession (St Mary's)

Wednesday 22nd December

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

Thursday 23rd December

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am Sacrament of Confession (St Mary's)

Friday 24th December

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)
7.00pm First Mass of Christmas (Biggar Kirk)
9.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

Saturday 25th December

- 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)

Sunday 26th December

- 9.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Holy Family (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Holy Family (St Mary's)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Holy Family (Biggar Kirk)

NB: NO EVENING MASS THIS WEEKEND OR NEXT

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

*The 1pm Sunday Mass from Biggar Kirk is also Livestreamed
on St Isidore's parish YouTube Channel.*

