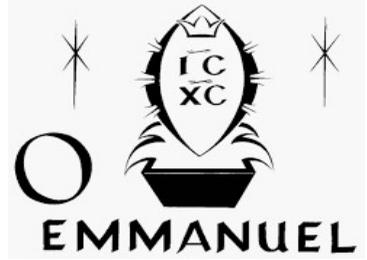


St. Patrick's Parish

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18th December 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A Page 33 in the Mass Book

Only on the last Sunday of Advent do we ever have an infancy narrative in the Gospel: this year, Matthew's annunciation- to Joseph rather than to Mary. Joseph sets in motion the final part of the history of the line of David. By adoption, Mary's child, whom she will call Jesus, will be descended from King David. There will be no further descendants after Jesus: he will be the eternal king!

Today's gospel is not a Christmas story: it is an Advent passage. Advent is about focussing on God who took on human form in the person of Jesus, but it is also about the presence of Jesus among us just now. Paul, Isaiah, Ahaz (unsuccessfully), Joseph and Mary too would not only be witnesses to God's plan – they were to be part of it. So are we. But God who plans from all eternity does not force our participation: **God invites us and leaves the choice up to us.** A thought for the final Advent Sunday: **do we accept God's plan?**

Mass Times this week

Monday	10am	Advent Feria 19 th December
Tuesday	10am	Advent Feria 20 th December
Wednesday	10am	Advent Feria 21 st December
Thursday	10am	Advent Feria 22 nd December
Friday	10am	Advent Feria 23 rd December
Saturday	10am	Advent Feria 24 th December
Saturday	8.30pm 9pm	Carol Service Midnight Mass
Sunday	10am	Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord

ADVENT DIARY

PARISH ADVENT SERVICE will take place **TODAY** Sunday 18th December at 3pm. Please make an effort to come along and spend some time in spiritual preparation for Christmas.



DAY OF CONFESSIONS St Andrew's Cathedral Tuesday 20th December 2016. Priests will be available all day in the Cathedral from 7.30am to 5.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT in aid of the Mungo Foundation at St Andrew's Cathedral 20th December 2016 at 7pm. Tickets £7 or £5 concession.

THE BIG CLEAN will take place on **Tuesday 20th December at 6.30pm**. Please join in with the cleaning and preparation of our church for Christmas. Please sign up at the back of the Church. **Men needed as well as women. Many hands make light work!**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Many thanks for the generous donations made.

ST NICHOLAS CARE BOXES

As usual we will have the St Nicholas Care Fund boxes available for collection of your loose change during Advent to help the poor of our city. Please take a box away with you and **bring it back before Christmas**.

MONTH'S MIND MASS for Canon Simcox will be celebrated by Canon Peter McBride in St Martin of Tours Parish Church, Renton on 30th December 2016 at 7pm followed by a light supper in the hall. All welcome

PARISH FUNDRAISING

Funds raised are split 50/50 between the Parish and the Mission Project in Nigeria.

To date we have raised around £3600 for the Mission Project and £2100 for the Parish (we had some specific donations to the Mission Project). We have already sent £1000 to the Project so Fr Francis will be able to take another £2600 away with him after Christmas. **MANY THANKS** to all who have helped and supported this fundraising.



The **PARISH RAFFLE** will be drawn on 18th December.



Our **cake and candy** stall is on today.

THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT WORKING GROUP - SCES

The Parent Involvement Working Group of the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) are organising an event for all interested Catholic parents with children currently at school. This Gathering for Catholic Parents is on Saturday, 21 January, 10.00 am - 12 noon in St Francis Xavier Church Hall, Taylor Avenue, Carfin. Parents will have the chance to talk about the matters which are important to them regarding Catholic education and to discuss ways in which they can contribute to the Mission of their child's Catholic school. Places for this event are free, but booking is essential. For further information and to book a place, email: mail@sces.uk.com or phone: 0141 556 4727 or complete the online form at sces.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Month's mind: Mary O' Brien (11 months)

Anniversaries: David Keenan, Francis Keenan, Joseph Keenan, Sebastian & Felicidade Da Silva, Charles Watson, Anne Walters, Liz Owen, Michael O' Brien.