



# St. Patrick's Parish

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**27th November 2016**  
**First Sunday of Advent, Year A**

| Mass Times this week |           |                                 |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Monday               | 10am      | Week 1, Year A                  |
| Tuesday              | 10am      | Week 1, Year A                  |
| Wednesday            | 10am      | Solemnity: St Andrew            |
| Thursday             | 10am      | Week 1, Year A                  |
| Friday               | 10am      | Week 1, Year A                  |
| Saturday             | 10am      | Memorial: St Francis Xavier     |
| Saturday             | 6pm Vigil | Second Sunday of Advent, Year A |
| Sunday               | 10am      |                                 |

**Rosary (9.30am) and Morning Prayer (9.45am) daily** in the church  
**DIVINE MERCY PRAYER GROUP** Thursdays 7pm

**COLLECTIONS 20<sup>th</sup> November: £424.40**

## **FORTHCOMING COLLECTIONS:**

**CARING SUNDAY** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2016

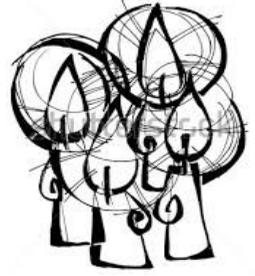
**SCIAF COLLECTION** for the refugees of Syria, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**THE RITE OF ENROLMENT** ceremony takes place at 10am Mass today and marks the beginning of a "journey of faith" for children (and their parents) who are starting their preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. It takes place in our community Mass because is also a sign to the larger community that all of us have a role in the formation of anyone in the parish. Please pray for these children and their families.



## **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

In Advent the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity, when we recall Christ's first coming AND it also looks forward to his second coming at the end of time. It is a period of joyful hope. The hope of Advent is expressed during the first part of Advent with a focus on the Second Coming with attention switching from 17<sup>th</sup> December onwards to the Incarnation, when Christ is seen as the fulfilment of the hope of Israel. Our celebration looks and sounds different: vestments are purple; the Gloria is not used; the use of flowers is restrained and music is also restrained.



It is also the start of the liturgical year and we are now in Year A.

### **ADVENT STARTS TODAY!**

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.

### **ADVENT REFLECTION FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF -**

St Andrew's Cathedral on Tuesday 29 November 2016, 7pm

### **THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB - George Square, Glasgow** Wednesday 07 December 2016, 18:30

Join the Lord Provost and other civic leaders with Church leaders of Glasgow at this annual event to mark the season of Advent and the journey towards Christmas. Participate in Carols and listen to the schoolchildren of Glasgow sing of the Story of Christmas. All welcome to this very special occasion.

### **DAY OF CONFESSIONS** St Andrew's Cathedral 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Priests will be available all day in the Cathedral from 7.30am to 5.30pm.

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** tickets now on sale at £1 per strip.

**NEW MEMBERS** still needed for 200 Club as we have lost some members recently due to bereavement. Please see Helen at the stall.

**GOD'S MERCY EXPRESSED THROUGH ART** - Monday 21 November 2016, 7pm with Fr Geoff Wheaton, SJ. At The School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street. All welcome. Admission free.

**NEWMAN ASSOCIATION TALK** - "Different Lives: Irish Catholics in Scotland and the USA since the Great Famine" on Thursday 24 November 2016, by Professor Sir Tom Devine. The Ogilvie Centre, St Aloysius' Church, Rose Street, Glasgow, G3 6RE at 7.30 pm. All welcome. Non-members: admission £3 - includes refreshments.

**FASS ECUMENICAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** - St Alphonsus Thursday 24 November 2016, 7.30pm

Service of remembrance for those who have died from drug/alcohol related problems at St Alphonsus Church, London Road.

**200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL  
MASS OF THANKSGIVING** 30<sup>th</sup> November 1pm

## 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.



Our **cake and candy** stall is on the second Sunday of the month.

**READERS AND MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST** who did not attend the meeting on Thursday are required to pick up the "Code of Practice" handout that was used at the meeting.

**THE YEAR OF MERCY HAS ENDED.** Pope Francis has released an important letter to the world's Catholics. It is entitled Misericordia et Misera. It contains important new provisions including:

- having a "Bible Study" Sunday annually in the parish
- The establishment of a new annual World Day of the Poor (Sunday before Christ the King).

## **Lighting Advent Candles**

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

### **To light a candle is an act of hope**

In the days of apartheid in South Africa, Christians there used to light candles and place them in windows as a sign to themselves and to others that they believed that some day this injustice would end. A candle burning in a window was a sign of hope and a political statement. The government didn't miss the message. It passed a law making it illegal to place a lit candle in a window, the offense being equal to owning a firearm, both considered equally dangerous. This eventually became a joke among the kids: "Our government is afraid of lit candles!"

They had reason to be! Lit candles, more than firearms, overthrew apartheid. Hope, not guns, is what ultimately transforms things. To light a candle as an act of hope is to say to yourself and to others that, despite anything that might be happening in the world, you are still nursing a vision of peace and unity based upon something beyond the present state of things and this hope is based upon deeper realities and powers than the world admits. To light a candle is to state publicly that you believe that what's real and what isn't is ultimately determined by powers and issues that go beyond what's seen on the evening news. To light a candle is an act of political defiance. It's also an act of hope.

### **What is Hope?**

First of all, it's not wishful thinking. I can wish to win a lottery, but that wish, all by itself, contains no real power to make it happen. Second, hope is not just natural optimism, an upbeat temperament that always sees the bright side of things. An unwavering optimism about things can sometimes even be helpful, but it's no basis for hope, like wishful thinking it lacks the power to make its own dream come true. Finally, hope is not simply shrewd observation and common sense, the talent for sorting out the real from the fluff. Useful as this is, it's still not hope. Why not?

Because hope doesn't base itself upon a shrewd assessment of the empirical facts, but upon belief in a deeper set of realities: God's existence, God's power, God's goodness, and the promise that flows from that....

We light advent candles with just that in mind...we continue to light candles and hope anyway, not on the basis of a worsening or improving evening newscast, but because the deepest reality of all is that God exists...We light candles of hope because God, who is more real than anything else, has promised to establish a kingdom of love and peace on this earth and is gracious, forgiving, and powerful enough to do it.