

St. Patrick's Parish

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4th December 2016 Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

Mass Times this week		
Monday	10am	Advent Week 2, Year A
Tuesday	10am	Advent Week 2, Year A
Wednesday	10am	Memorial: St Ambrose
Thursday	10am	Solemnity: Immaculate Conception
Friday	10am	Advent Week 2, Year A
Saturday	10am	Advent Week 2, Year A
Saturday Sunday	6pm Vigil 10am	Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

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

COLLECTIONS 27th November: £364.80

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS:

NEXT WEEK IS CARING SUNDAY when we collect for our Archdiocesan charity, the St Nicholas Care Fund. The charity provides small grants to groups in and around the Glasgow area which offer life-changing assistance to those most in need.

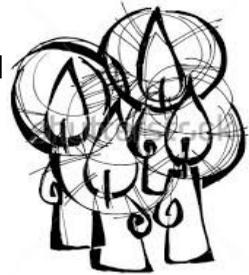
SCIAF COLLECTION for the refugees of Syria, 18th December 2016

200 CLUB monies due this week. Please see Helen at the back of the church. **NEW MEMBERS** still needed for 200 Club as we have lost some members recently due to bereavement.

ADVENT DIARY

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.



PARISH CAROL SERVICE involving children from the school will take place on Sunday 18th December at 3pm. Please put this date in your diary and make an effort to spend some time in spiritual preparation for Christmas.

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 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.**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: a basket will be available for donations next Sunday

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 **SANTA RUN** is on next Sunday Morning and access to the church will be affected as the route will pass along St Vincent Street, Finneston Street and the Broomielaw.

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. Tickets still available at £1 per strip.



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

THE RITE OF ENROLMENT ceremony took place at 10am Mass last Sunday 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. Please pray for these children and their families.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Anniversaries: Betty McGowan, Terence Gallagher, Peter Muir, James Farrell, Thomas McGinty, Margaret Kennedy, Katie, Willie & John Gourlay.

READYING OURSELVES FOR CHRISTMAS

John the Baptist tries to prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance: "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." Whatever else that means, it includes the idea that one of the best ways we can prepare for Christmas is by making a good, honest, searing confession. To repent means to confess our sins.



This notion has fallen out of favour. The idea of confession is very much challenged today. At a practical level, less and less people are in fact going to confession.

This is an unfortunate development because private confession is one of the pillars of the spiritual life. At a certain point in one's growth, there is no progress without it. Why? Why confession? Why the need to tell one's sins to a priest? Surely the radical mercy and forgiveness of God are not contingent upon telling our sins to a priest? Surely God's mercy cannot be controlled by or limited to one prescribed ritual? In both scripture and church tradition it is clear that our sins are forgiven through sincerity of conscience and through touching the body of Christ (and this has many forms). The Christian community itself is the radical sacrament of reconciliation and God's mercy can never be tied down to just one vehicle of grace. So why confession?

Simply put, confession is the sacrament of the mature and one grows mature by confessing one's sins. Mature people face themselves and apologise explicitly – and people grow mature by apologising. The critics of the sacrament of reconciliation are right in saying that God is not tied down to one vehicle as an avenue for the forgiveness of sins. They are wrong however when they denigrate the importance of private confession. One may not have to confess one's sins explicitly to another human being to have them forgiven, but one does have to confess them explicitly if he or she hopes to live a transparent life, free of addictions, rationalisation, and dark skeletons in the closet.

Confession is not so much about having one's sins forgiven as it is about coming to maturity within the community and being able to live a transparent life, free of dark secrets, addictions, and rationalisation.

The Baptist's message is as true today as it was 2000 years ago. To make straight the path for the coming of the Saviour, to make a proper advent, to prepare ourselves to have Christ born in our lives, we need to undergo a baptism for the remission of sin. In simple talk, that means, among other things, making a searing, honest, open, confession.