**Presbytery**

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**Parish Clergy**

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Father, almighty and eternal God, whose praise is sung throughout all creation and whose glory is proclaimed by all peoples. You create us in love and call us to our eternal destiny of loving communion with You. May the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel be a place where Your Name is hallowed and Your chosen ones are united in Holy Mass with Your Son in praise and thanksgiving.

Lord Jesus Christ, Word of God, Incarnate of the Virgin Mary, You manifest the Father’s love and reveal His will for us. May we always be aware of our Baptismal dignity as the Children of God by our sharing through the Holy Spirit in Your Sonship, and so respond to Your call in service of each other, our parish, Holy Mother Church and the world.

Holy Spirit, Advocate and Spirit of Truth, You breathed your life into the Apostles at Pentecost, inspiring them to be preachers of the Word. May we always be open to Your promptings that our parish may be renewed in praise of God and in living the truth in charity.

Our Lady Mother of the Church

Our Lady of Good Counsel

**Baptisms**

Usually take place after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday. Parents are requested to make arrangements with the Parish Clergy in good time.

**Marriages**

Couples are requested to speak to the Parish Clergy at least six months before a wedding and before any other arrangements are confirmed.

**Funerals**

Families are asked to contact the Parish before making any arrangements with a Funeral Director.

**St Vincent de Paul Society**

Meets every Sunday after the 11.00am Mass. Its members keep regular contact with the sick and elderly and support parishioners in time of need.

*Our Lady of Good Counsel is a parish of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, a Designated Religious Charity, No. SCO18140*

**INTIMATIONS**

In charity we are asked to pray for:

Sick: All commended to our prayers.

Recently deceased:

Serafina Lazzurri; Peter Murphy;

Anniversary:

Brian Melvin; Annie Hughes; Mary Boyle;

Christmas remembrance: Hugh Bradley; Blanche Bradley; Raymond Bradley; Maureen Bradley; Paul Bradley; Bruno Bradley; Tiger Bradley; George McCafferty; June McCafferty; Annie Kendal;

**The parish bulletin is sponsored by parishioner John Watters, painter & decorator. Free estimates 0141 554 7454**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**YEAR A**

**22nd December 2019**

**Liturgy of the Word:**

1st reading: Isa 7:10-14

Psalm 23; Response:

*Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory*

2nd reading: Rom 1:1-7

Gospel: Matt 1:18-25

Divine Office: Week 3, of the season.

Feast Days:

25 Dec: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

26 Dec: Feast of St Stephen

27 Dec: Feast of St John the Evangelist

28 Dec: Feast of the Holy Innocents



**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Masses**

Vigil 5.30pm

11.00am; 5.30pm

**Children’s Liturgy**

is available during school term at the 11.00am Mass for children

primary 1 to 4.

**Daily Mass**: 10.00am

(Thursday: Liturgy of the Word)

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**:

Friday after 10.00am Mass – 11.00am

**Confessions:**

Saturday after 10.00am Mass

4.30pm - 5.15pm

Please take home a copy of the Christmas schedule with times of Confessions and Holy Mass over the Christmas season.

**COLLECTIONS**

Last week’s offertory collection came to £707

£510 was donated to the collection for the St Nicholas Care Fund.

*Many thanks for your ongoing support of the parish.*

**GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY**

Sunday Mass within Glasgow Royal Infirmary will be celebrated at a new time of [3.30 pm](x-apple-data-detectors://1) [from Sunday 5th January 2020](x-apple-data-detectors://2). Mass is celebrated by Hospital Chaplains Fr Stuart and Fr Augustine every Sunday. If you would be interested in volunteering, or if you are currently an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and would be interested in this ministry within the hospital, please contact Paul on [07402274007](tel:07402274007).

If you are in hospital it is necessary to request Chaplaincy services. Inform a nurse that you wish to see a Catholic priest. If you know in advance that you will be going into hospital, I will be happy to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with you beforehand.

**POPE FRANCIS TWEETS**

IN these days before Christmas we praise the Lord for the gratuitousness of salvation, for the gratuitousness of life, for everything He gives us for free. Everything is grace. @Pontifex

**EAST END DEANERY CHOIR**

The annual Christmas Concert will take place in St Thomas’ Church on Sunday 22nd December 2019. Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night or from OLoGC parishioners who are in the choir.

**ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT EVENINGS: CATECHESIS – ADORATION - FELLOWSHIP**

These will take place on 31st January, 28th February, 27th March, 24th April and 29th May. For further information contact Fr. Ross Campbell, [ross.campbell2@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:ross.campbell2@glasgow.ac.uk) or telephone 0141 339 4315

**POPE FRANCIS WRITES:**

Excerpts from *Admirabile Signum*, Pope Francis’ reflection on the crib.

I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Lk 1:79).

The landscapes that are part of the nativity scene also deserve some mention. Frequently they include the ruins of ancient houses or buildings, which in some instances replace the cave of Bethlehem and become a home for the Holy Family. These ruins appear to be inspired by the thirteenth-century Golden Legend of the Dominican Jacobus de Varagine, which relates a pagan belief that the Temple of Peace in Rome would collapse when a Virgin gave birth. More than anything, the ruins are the visible sign of fallen humanity, of everything that inevitably falls into ruin, decays and disappoints. This scenic setting tells us that Jesus is newness in the midst of an aging world, that he has come to heal and rebuild, to restore the world and our lives to their original splendour.

It is customary to add many symbolic figures to our nativity scenes. First, there are the beggars and the others who know only the wealth of the heart. They too have every right to draw near to the Infant Jesus; no one can evict them or send them away from a crib so makeshift that the poor seem entirely at home. Indeed, the poor are a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God’s presence in our midst.

The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, “gentle and humble in heart” (Mt 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.

**THE EVERLASTING FOODBANK**

Donations are collected on the first Sunday of the month. This is a local, faith-motivated initiative to help those in need in our area and is worthy of our support. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

Fr Joe and Deacon Tommy wish you and your loved ones the graces and blessings of the holy season of Christmas.

**POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS**

General Audience, Wednesday 25th September 2019:

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our catechesis on the Acts of the Apostles, we continue to follow the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. In the early Christian community some complained that their widows were being neglected in the distribution of bread. The Apostles, aware of their principal calling to preach the Word of God, discerned a solution to maintain the harmony between the service of the Word and service to the poor. They instituted seven men, on whom they imposed hands, to carry out works of charity. One of these seven deacons, Stephen, proclaimed Christ’s Paschal Mystery as the key to the whole history of the covenant, but his words met with resistance. Yet, even when condemned to death, Stephen entrusted his life into the Lord’s hands and forgave his adversaries. The actions of this first martyr teach us that our identity as God’s children consists in abandoning ourselves to the Father and forgiving those who offend us. Let us ask the Lord that, by contemplating the martyrs of the past and present, we may live a full life, accepting the martyrdom of daily fidelity to the Gospel and conformity to Christ.

**FERTILITY CARE SCOTLAND**

We are opening a new clinic in the Diocesan offices, Paisley on alternative Monday evenings from 7 – 9pm. We run clinics in Edinburgh, Hamilton, Aberdeen and Paisley. At Fertility Care Scotland we teach The Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Fertility Regulation, which helps couples achieve or postpone pregnancy in a natural way. We can help couples optimize their chances of conceiving. Our service is free and confidential and no appointment is necessary. We invite you to come and visit us at one of our clinics. Phone: 0141 221 0858; E-Mail: [info@fertilitycare.org.uk;www.fertilitycare.org.uk](mailto:info@fertilitycare.org.uk;www.fertilitycare.org.uk) Join us on facebook

[www.facebook.com/fertilitycarescotland](http://www.facebook.com/fertilitycarescotland) Follow us on

Twitter:  [www.twitter.com/billingsscot](http://www.twitter.com/billingsscot)

**VOCATION DISCERNMENT**

A series of evening of catechesis, prayer and support has been organised for next year. Anyone considering their future and what God is calling them to do is welcome. The next meeting is at 7.00pm pm on Fri 10th May 2019 in Turnbull Hall, Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG.

28th November – Sr Roseann Reddy – *The Challenge (II); Building a Culture of Life*; 12th December – Sr Andrea Fraille – *The Challenge (III): Male and Female He Created Them.*