**MONDAY GROUP**

Meetings take place at 7.00pm in the parish hall. We begin by praying Vespers (Evening Prayer) together after which there is an input on an aspect of the Catholic Faith. Light refreshments give us time to continue discussion and to socialise. In the coming weeks we will be exploring the seven Sacraments. Next meeting is on Mon 21st January 2019.

**Q&A SESSION**

Do you have any questions about your faith? about the Church? about the parish? Fr Joe and Deacon Tommy will host an open evening to give us the chance to raise our concerns, queries, hopes, etc. Parish Hall, 7.00pn, Fri 8 February 2019.

**WEE BOXES**

Parishioners who have taken home a Wee Box for the St Nicholas Care Fund and/or St Margaret’s Adoption Society are kindly requested to return these to the parish by Sunday 20th January 2019. After this date donations should be sent directly to the charity.

**THE EVERLASTING FOODBANK**

I have received a letter of thanks for our support of the Everlasting Foodbank which I have posted on the noticeboard at the back of the church. Collections continue on the first Sunday of every month.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Last week’s Offertory Collection came to £620

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

**OCTAVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The theme for this year’s Octave, which takes place form 18-25th January 2019, is *Only Justice*. “Our prayers for Christian unity are offered within a context of a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. We ourselves are often complicit in in justice, and yet called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ’s healing grace for a fractured world.” (resource pack)

**MASS FOR RELIGIOUS**

Archbishop Tartaglia will celebrate the annual Mass for Religious on the Feast of the Presentation, Saturday 2nd February 2019, at 10.00am in Saint Andrew’s Cathedral. All welcome.

**AGAP FILM AND FAITH CLUB**

Will meet at 1pm for a Matinee and also at 7pm on Thursday 7th February in St Mungo’s Retreat House, next to St Mungo’s Church, 52 Parson Street, Townhead G4 0RX. This month’s film is **“Paul, Apostle of Christ”** (2018), Cert. PG-13. New members welcome. Totally free! Big screen and speakers. Tea/coffee and char. To book: [www.agapglasgow.eventrbite.com](http://www.agapglasgow.eventrbite.com) Tel: 0141 552 5527 or email info@agap.org.uk

**AGAP REEL KIDS PARENTS AND TOTS CINEMA CLUB**

Meets on 2nd Friday of every month at 11am in St Mungo’s Retreat House, next to St Mungo’s Church, 52 Parson Street, Townhead G4 0RX. Next screening is **“The Lion King” (1994).** For parents with young children to enjoy a film with their little ones and chat afterwards. Please register to attend: [www.agapglasgow.eventrbite.com](http://www.agapglasgow.eventrbite.com) Tel: 0141 552 5527 or email info@agap.org.uk

**FAITH FORUM: EXPLORING CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).  Keen to learn more about the Church’s magisterial teachings? Come along to the Glasgow Faith Forum’s fortnightly series of talks in 2019: 24 January Creation (Fr Jamie McMorrin). Turnbull Hall, University of Glasgow Catholic Chaplaincy, 13-15 Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG.  All young people welcome.

**POPE FRANCIS TWEETS**

Don’t let the sufferings you see frighten you. Place them before the Crucifix, and the Eucharist from which we draw patient and compassionate love.

@Pontifex

**POPE FRANCIS WRITES:**

**REJOICE AND BE GLAD**

Pope Francis renewed the Lord’s call to holiness in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*. The full document can be purchased in the Pauline Multimedia store in St Enoch’s square or downloaded from the Holy See’s website: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

90. Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance. He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for “whoever would save his life will lose it” (Mt 16:25).

91. In living the Gospel, we cannot expect that everything will be easy, for the thirst for power and worldly interests often stands in our way. Saint John Paul II noted that “a society is alienated if its forms of social organization, production and consumption make it more difficult to offer this gift of self and to establish this solidarity between people”. In such a society, politics, mass communications and economic, cultural and even religious institutions become so entangled as to become an obstacle to authentic human and social development. As a result, the Beatitudes are not easy to live out; any attempt to do so will be viewed negatively, regarded with suspicion, and met with ridicule.

Accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems: that is holiness.

**PARISH PRAYER**

*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*

*Pray for us.*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel*

*Pray for us*



**VOCATION DISCERMENT**

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 first event is at 7.00pm pm on Fri 11 January 2019 in Turnbull Hall, Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG.

For further information contact Fr Ross Campbell: 0141 339 4315. Email:

Ross.Campbell.2@glasgow.ac.uk