

DATE	TIME	CHURCH	LITURGICAL ACT	INTENTION
<b>Sunday 17 December</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent	5:00pm (Sat)	St Peter in Chains	Vigil Mass	For the People Bobbie Robertson (RIP)
	9:30am	St John & St Columba	Holy Mass	
	11:30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	
	5:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	
<b>Monday 18 December</b> Advent Weekday by Date	10:00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	Kitty Murray (RIP)
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b> Advent Weekday by Date	7:00pm	St John & St Columba	Holy Mass	Canon Tom Gormley (Anniv.)
<b>Wednesday 20 December</b> <i>(St Peter Canisius)</i>	NO	MASS	CELEBRATED	TODAY
<b>Thursday 21 December</b> Advent Weekday by Date	7:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	Jim Norman (Anniv.)
<b>Friday 22 December</b> Advent Weekday by Date	10:00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	Annie Lynch
<b>Saturday 23 December</b> <i>(St John of Kanty)</i>	10:00am	St John & St Columba	Holy Mass	Kathleen Keenan
	4th Sunday of Advent	5:00pm	St Peter in Chains	Vigil Mass Maureen Green
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> 4th Sunday of Advent  <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	9:30am	St John & St Columba	Holy Mass	Jim Norman (RIP)
	11:30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	For the People
	5:00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Vigil Mass of Christmas	Eddie Lamond
	7:00pm	St Peter in Chains	Vigil Mass of Christmas	Eva Gibbons (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday - St John & St Columba - 6:30pm - 6:50pm  
 Thursday - Our Lady of Lourdes - 6:30pm - 6:50pm  
 Saturday - St John & Columba - 10:30am - 11:00am  
 - St Peter in Chains - 4:30pm - 4:50pm

Rosary & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday - St John & St Columba - 6:30pm - 7:00pm  
 Thursday - Our Lady of Lourdes - 6:30pm - 7:00pm  
 Saturday - St John & St Columba - 9:30am - 10:00am  
 Sunday - St John & St Columba 9:00am - 9:30am  
 Our Lady of Lourdes 4:30pm - 5:00pm

**PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest - Fr Andrew Kingham** (email: frandrew.kingham@stened.org.uk)  
 Parish Office & Presbytery - 67 Aberdour Road, Dunfermline, KY11 4QZ Telephone 01383 722202

**Parish Deacon - Rev Pat Carrigan** (email: obl.columba@gmail.com)

**Parish Secretary** - please email the Parish Priest

**Parish Assistant - Dean McGuire** (email: mhparishnewsletter@gmail.com) newsletter submissions to be received by 12 noon on a Thursday.

**Parish Safeguarding Officers** - Michael McCourt (PiC); Lisa Quinn & Karen Parker (J&C); Andrew Millar & Christopher Nwachukwu (OLoL)

**Marriages & Baptisms**

Arrangements for weddings, for which six months notice is required, as well as Baptisms should be made by appointment with the Parish Priest.

**The Anointing of the Sick & Hospital Visitations**

The Anointing of the Sick should ordinarily be arranged prior to any prolonged hospital visit. Those who require the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at home, should contact the Parish Priest to arrange a visit. In cases of emergency where you or a family member require the pastoral assistance of the Catholic Chaplain, please request this from the nursing staff at the hospital.

**Funeral Arrangements**

For funeral arrangements please make contact with Fr Andrew.

**Names for sick list**

Names can only be added by the person themselves or by a member of the family. Please advise the Parish Office.

**Mass Intentions**

Please collect an envelope from the back of the Church. When complete these can be given to the Priest or put through the Presbytery door at Our Lady of Lourdes. Please print the name of the person in block capitals for ease of legibility.

**The Most Holy Trinity is a Parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. A Charity registered in Scotland Number SC008540**

*The Catholic Parish of the  
Most Holy Trinity  
Parish Newsletter.*

**Sunday 17 December 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent (B)**

*Reflection - Rejoice! The Lord is Near*

Today is Gaudete Sunday. The name comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin, which means, 'Rejoice'. The full text of the antiphon is: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near.

That is what we are rejoicing in: God's nearness to us. We recognise that nearness in the presence of Jesus, born so long ago, and his continuing presence through the Holy Spirit in our lives now. We rejoice that God has always been with us, whether we realised it or not. God has never left us.

Advent is very much about a fresh discovery of God's presence and grace in our lives, in our own moment of history.

This is what we are celebrating on Christmas Day, too. Christ is God's great present to the human family. Christmas celebrates not only the birth of Jesus in one moment of human history, but his continual birth in us so that he may be present in every moment of human history.

As we wait for the final coming of Jesus we, like John the Baptist, are called to be witnesses to the Light. We do that best by taking up the mission of the prophet in the first reading, just as Jesus did. The Lord has anointed us to bring Good News to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison and a year of favour from the Lord. God trusts us to do that. We have been commissioned by the Church through our Baptism to do that.

Our faith in (that is, living relationship with) Christ is meant to be lived openly, generously and graciously, at the service of our brothers and sisters in the world by being the living presence of Jesus in our day and age.

(Reflection shared with permission from Carmelites website Ocarm.org)

**The Parish Clergy**

**Parish Priest:**

Fr. Andrew Kingham

**Parish Deacon:**

Rev. Pat Carrigan

Contact details can be found on the back page.



*St Peter in Chain's Church, Inverkeithing*



*St John & St Columba's Church, Rosyth*



*Our Lady of Lourdes Church,  
Dunfermline*

## Scripture Readings & Responses

### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

*The Word of the Lord— Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

LUKE 1:46-50,53-54

**R.** *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (**R**)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (**R**)
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (**R**)

### SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The Word of the Lord— Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LUKE 4:18

*Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

JOHN 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord— Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

Scripture Readings from The Jerusalem Bible © 1966 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.  
Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England).

<b>Sunday 10 December 2023</b> <i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	<b><i>St Peter in Chain's</i></b> <b><i>Inverkeithing</i></b>	<b><i>St John &amp; St Columba's</i></b> <b><i>Rosyth</i></b>	<b><i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i></b> <b><i>Dunfermline</i></b>
Offertory Collection	<b>£249.90</b>	<b>£135.82</b>	<b>£483.55</b>
Special Collection		<b>£60.20 (Building Fund)</b>	<b>£17.45 (Building Fund)</b>
Standing Orders	<b>£158.75</b>	<b>£364.63</b>	<b>£100.50</b>
Bank Account Details	RBS A/C No: 00600297 Sort Code:833300	RBS A/C No: 00114865 Sort Code: 832339	RBS A/C No: 00249131 Sort Code: 833300

## This Week's News & Events

### **Advent & Christmas Notice**

Please note that next Sunday (24 December) is the 4th Sunday of Advent. To fulfil your obligation to attend Sunday Mass, please come along to either the 9:30am or 11:30am Mass. Participating in the Vigil Mass of Christmas at either 5pm or 7pm, means you will not be required to attend Mass on Christmas Day itself. So for some, this will mean coming along to celebrate Holy Mass twice in one day!

### **Church Stalls**

In the lead up to Christmas please consider visiting the stalls in our three churches. You will find a fantastic selection of Christmas cards, as well as other gift ideas such as scripture books and rosary beads. All of your purchases no matter how small, financially benefits the parish.

### **Mass Times for Christmas**

Christmas Mass times for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord will be as follows: Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve), Vigil at 5pm in Our Lady of Lourdes: Vigil at 7pm in St Peter in Chains. Monday 25 December (Christmas Day), Holy Mass will be at 9am in St John & St Columba's and 11am in Our Lady of Lourdes. Please feel free to share this information with family, friends and the wider community, who may wish to join us at this wonderful time of the year. Mass times for parishes within the Archdiocese can be found at [www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/](http://www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/)

### **Parish Crib Collection**

Our parish crib collection will be donated this year to Friends of the Holy Land. A non-political Christian charity which supports our Christian brother and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time. Please be as generous as you can!

### **Advent Rosary**

The Advent Pro-Life Rosary concludes on Monday (18 December) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Mgr Allan Chambers (St Mary's, Bathgate). You are welcome to join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at [bit.ly/archprolifeevents](http://bit.ly/archprolifeevents)

### **Advent Talk Series**

Canon Hugh White concludes his Advent video talk series 'Time with God' this Monday. All of his talks are available on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel. Visit [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

### **Donations for Holy Land**

Archbishop Cushley is encouraging us to consider making a donation to Friends of the Holy Land in Advent. He said: "It is a non-political Christian charity and the donations will be used to provide aid and support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time." A donation page has been set up for the Archdiocese at [bit.ly/archholylnd](http://bit.ly/archholylnd). Find out more about its work at [www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/about-us](http://www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/about-us)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal**

The St Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Lourdes are collecting non-perishable food and Christmas gifts. Please kindly label gifts with information (boy/girl, teenage boy/girl, and age the gift is most suitable for). We would be grateful for supermarket vouchers, which gives people more choice. Please hand vouchers as well as donations, to a member of the SVDP at the back of the church. Thank you for your assistance and generosity in previous year's, and in anticipation of this year's collection.

### **St Paul's Bookshop, Edinburgh**

If you are in Edinburgh shopping and are looking for Christmas gift ideas, cards, bibles, rosary beads, holy images, calendars and lots more, visit St Paul's Bookshop at St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh (beside John Lewis). It is open seven days a week from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

### **Criminalising of Prayer in Scotland**

A new bill proposes criminalising prayer in designated 'buffer zones' around abortion centres in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please respond to the government consultation which ends on 20 December (<https://bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey>). Please also write to your MSP to express your concerns. Visit <https://rcpolitics.org/buffer-zones> for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced. This includes help with responding to the consultation and writing to your MSP.

### **Feast of the Holy Innocents**

Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents at midday on Thursday 28 December at St Margaret's Chapel, The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Complimentary refreshments and social afterwards. Register at [bit.ly/archprolifeevents](http://bit.ly/archprolifeevents)