

ST ANTHONY & ST MARK'S

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Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell Scottish Charity No. SC011041

THE HOLY FAMILY (C) 29TH DECEMBER 2024

HOLY MASS	Tues (New Year's Eve) 7pm at St Anthony's	Sat 5.00 pm Vigil at St Mark's
	Wed (New Year's Day) 11 am at St Mark's	Sun 10.00 am at St Mark's
	Thu 11 am at St Anthony's	Sun 11.30 am at St Anthony's
	Fri 11 am at St Mark's	Sun 2.00pm St Anthony's (Syro-Malabar Qurbana)
	Sat 9.30 am at St Anthony's	Sun 5.00 pm at St Anthony's
HOLY ROSARY	Sat 9.10am at St Anthony's	
CONFESSION	Sat 9-9.20am St Anthony's	Sat 4.30-4.50pm St Mark's Sun 4.30-4.50pm St Anthony's

SUNDAY READINGS

Reading 1	Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28	Samuel, as long as he lives, is lent to the Lord.
Psalms	Ps 84(83):2-3. 5-6. 9-10.	Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.
Reading 2	John 3:1-2, 21-24	We are called children of God; and so we are.
Acclamation	Acts 16:14b	Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Gospel	Luke 2:41-52	Jesus is found by his parents sitting among the teachers.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently, especially: Betty McCulloch (funeral reception Wed. 8th Jan 6.30pm; funeral Thursday 9th Jan 9.30am, St Anthony's); Bernadette Ward;

Anniversaries: Jane MacDonald; Agnes & Mary McGinn; Evelyn McHugh; Elsie & Jimmy Douglas; James Maguire; Denis McKenna; Charles McLaughlin

Sick & housebound : Patrick Gallagher; Catherine Scott; Erin Lavery; Beatrice Hannah; Pauline Mahon; Mary McColgan; Ella Connolly, Isa Daniels, Finn McGuinness, Hope McKenna, May O'Donnell, Margaret Rice; Sandra Morgan; Neil Morton; Steven Murphy.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Fr Stephen would like to offer a very sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to another wonderful celebration of Advent and Christmas in our great parish.

First of all, on a personal level, many thanks to all parishioners, families, visitors and friends, for the many good wishes, cards and kind gifts received. Also a special shout out to the LifeTeen group for putting up his Christmas decorations!

Christmas is a time when everyone pulls together and makes an extra special effort, and this is true of all parish volunteers who welcome parishioners and guests to our churches; who keep the grounds & buildings clean, neat and tidy; who decorate the churches with flowers, Christmas trees and cribs; who lead the music and singing; who serve on the altar; who fold the bulletins and ring the bells (yes we mean you Janice!!); who serve in the parish stalls; who provide hospitality to parishioners and guests after Mass and the carol service; who proclaim the Word of God and minister the Holy Eucharist; who distribute the parish Christmas cards; who show the face of Christ to those in need via our Society of St Vincent de Paul and Foodbank; who work with our children and inspire them to focus their eyes on the Christ child; and all others who work away quietly out of love for their parish and for the Lord himself.

From the very jolly St Anthony's Christmas Fayre on 24th Nov onwards (who can forget Rudolf the Bagpiper welcoming people to Mass!), it's been a marathon but always enjoyable, dignified and uplifting: to you all, well done!

JUSTICE AND PEACE SUNDAY AND SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Epiphany which is also Justice and Peace Sunday. We will be hearing about the work of Justice and Peace Scotland—who have been so supportive of our parish over the past few months via the Caritas Award project and the Catholic Social Teaching seminar series—and we will be taking up a second collection to support the work of this branch of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

HOLY YEAR OPENING EVENT TODAY

The Holy Year opens in our diocese with a pilgrimage moving towards the Cathedral behind the cross prepared by Holy Cross High School for the jubilee – a pilgrim people behind the cross of Christ which remains the anchor of salvation.

People are invited to gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Carfin at 1pm on Sunday 29th December for a short gathering that introduces the pilgrimage and the opening of the Holy Year. Bishop Toal, with a small group of young people, will then make the first part of the pilgrimage towards the Cathedral.

At 2.30pm, all people from across the Diocese are invited to gather in St Bride's Hall (across from the Cathedral) for the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, the veneration of the Cross, a memorial of our baptism and the celebration of Mass.

PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY SOLD OUT. RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED

Everyone is very much looking forward to the parish Hogmanay Party which will be in aid of Kilbryde Hospice, and feature live music from Franny Conway, the McHughs and Fr Stephen as the families of the parish see in the bells together at St Mark's Hall. Thanks to everyone who has donated raffle prizes: keep 'em coming! Many thanks to the organising team for making this night happen.

ALTAR SERVERS & LIFETEEN GROUP CARNIVAL TRIP SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY

Following last year's successful trip we'll return to the Inn Bru carnival on Saturday 4th January, meeting at 10.30am at Rutherglen Town Hall (lifts also available from the churches), travelling by train and returning approx. 4pm. The trip is open to both altar servers and the S2-4 LifeTeen group. Information sheets / permission slips are available from the altar server sacristies/St Anthony's side chapel from this weekend. There will be lots of adult helpers but parents can attend if they wish.

DEACON CHRISTOPHER ARRIVING TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY

Our new parish deacon Christopher Igwe is currently visiting his family in Nigeria and will be taking up residence at St Mark's on Tuesday 7th January, with his first Sunday among us being 12th January. Deacon Christopher will be with us ministering in both churches throughout the first half of the year, before please God being ordained as a priest at some point in the latter half of 2025.

FOODBANK NEWS

A reminder that the Foodbank will be running at **St Mark's** on **Monday 30th Dec, 12-1.30.**

On behalf of everyone involved in the Foodbank we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FR JOHNY

Our very own Fr Johnny Vettickal Abraham, resident priest at St Anthony's and chaplain to St Mary's Syro-Malabar Catholic Mission, celebrates his 24th anniversary of ordination tomorrow, 29th December. We'll look forward to celebrating his Silver Jubilee this time next year. Fr Johnny will also be travelling to see his family in India soon and we wish him a safe journey.

DAY OF REFLECTION ON THE FINAL DOCUMENT ON THE SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Bishop Brian McGee of Argyll and the Isles has kindly agreed to come to Motherwell on **Tuesday 21st January** to share his experience of participating in the Synod on Synodality in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024. He will take part in two gatherings here:

- Afternoon Session for Clergy from 2- 4pm in St Bride's Centre, Motherwell.
- Evening Session for everyone from **7-9pm**. The location is still to be confirmed. Our parish is invited to send two delegates from their parish, and others are free to attend: please let Fr Stephen know if you'd like to go along.

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (WHITE FATHERS) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Missionaries of Africa in Rutherglen are looking for someone to add to their team who can provide holiday and sickness cover for the cook.

The successful applicant will be required to prepare, cook and serve a three course meal to be served at lunchtime to our community of six in their home. Lunch is served at 12.30pm. The hours are 9.00 'til 2.00pm which allows for food preparation, cooking and preparing the dining room before lunch.

If you are interested in working in a friendly and welcoming environment and would like to find out more about this paid position please contact Joan McLaughlin, Housekeeper on 0141 647 3800/07455 091749.

CRIB COLLECTION FOR ST MARGARET CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE

You are most welcome to visit the cribs along with your families, not least as they are quite spectacular this year. As is traditional, all moneys from the crib will be sent to St Margaret Children and Family Care.

QR CODE FOR PARISH GIVING If parishioners or visitors would prefer to use their mobile phones to make a donation at Sunday Mass, then please feel free to use the QR code (which is working again!)

