

## TIMES OF SERVICES

**EUCHARIST :** Sunday : Vigil Mass : 6.00 pm Saturday  
9.30 am and 11.30 am

Weekdays : 10.00 am

**PENANCE :** Saturday morning after 10.00 am Mass.  
Saturday evening after the Vigil Mass.

**BAPTISM :** Normally after 11.30 am Mass on Sundays, by prior arrangement.

**MATRIMONY :** By appointment, with at least 6 months' prior notice to  
allow for administration and any necessary preparatory instruction.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm Response: In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR :

**SICK :** Sandra Blair, John Byrne, Kevin Brolly.

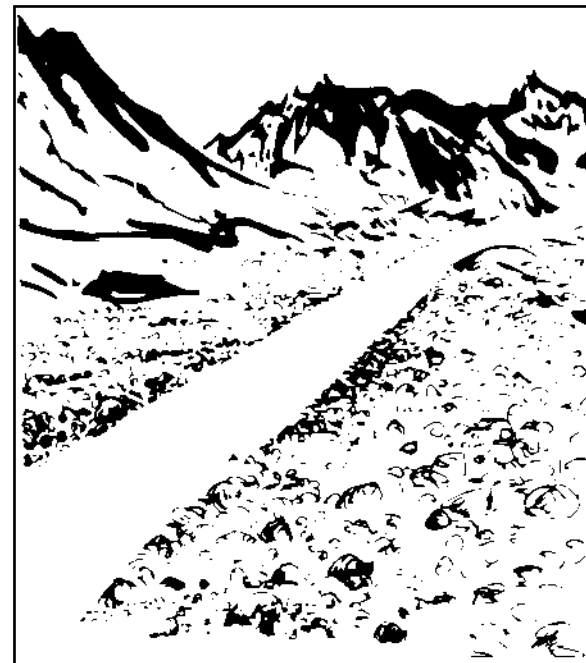
**RECENTLY DECEASED :** Steven Moran, Thomas Lawson.

**ANNIVERSARIES :** Robert McWilliams, Doreen Field.

## ST VINCENT'S, THORNLIEBANK PARISH BULLETIN

4th December 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)



A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way  
for the Lord, make his paths straight. (Mt 3:3)

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**PARISH PRIEST :** Fr Gerard Hill

*St Vincent's is a Parish of  
the Archdiocese of Glasgow,  
a designated Religious Body, Charity No SC018140*

## GRUBBY PROPHETS

We've all seen them somewhere or other. Perhaps outside a football stadium carrying a placard. Maybe walking up and down the High Street with a sandwich board. Or sometimes in a park or at Speakers' Corner when they take on the whole world and threaten disaster to those who don't Listen.



You can call them religious nuts or fanatics, bible punchers or God botherers, but they never go away. They may be well-to-do. They may be down at the heel. But what unites them is their conviction of the need to change the way we behave and to start living a life which is more committed to God.

And if we find them embarrassing, these grubby prophets, then we are not the first to do so. John the Baptist was considered something of an eccentric in his day. Someone living out in the desert wilderness, dressed in camel hair and eating locust and wild honey was bound to attract attention. People went in droves to listen to his rantings. It was even greater fun when he went for the jugular of the religious leaders. He was no soft touch; he even questioned the motives of those who decided to follow him. And when he started ducking people in the river, it must have been quite a spectacle.

But prophets don't tell the future. They just speak on behalf of God. And the urgent message which the Baptist delivers is that the Lord is coming to visit his people and those who are looking forward to this visit need to get ready for it. To prepare a way for the Lord means that we must give God a chance. It means that we have to take stock of the way we live and accept that there are areas which need changing. To make the Lord's paths straight means that we cannot keep putting off things until tomorrow. If we believe, we must act. We must be ready for whenever Christ may call.

Prophets are a nuisance. But we need them; even today.

**Scottish Catholic** - there are still a few copies of the current issue available in the porch, price £2.00.

**Flourish** - the December issue is now available at the back of the church.

**Western Catholic Calendar 2023** - is on sale in the stall, price £3.20

## This Week's Feasts



Wednesday 7th December  
St Ambrose

Thursday 8th December  
Immaculate Conception  
(not a Holiday of Obligation)



**Piety Stall** - is now fully stocked with Advent calendars, Christmas cards etc.

**St Vincent's Christmas Celebration** - will take place on Sunday, 18th December, from 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm, a somewhat scaled-down version this year. There will be soup and sandwiches, a raffle, a surprise visitor and post-party transport home on the minibus. Tickets can be had in the porch.

**Walking Together in Advent** - Fr James Hanvey SJ will lead 3 evening meetings during Advent on the "heroes and heroines of the Infancy Narratives". These will take place in the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, 35 Scott Street, 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm on Monday 12th December (Mary and Elizabeth and Women's Voices) Tuesday 13th December (Joseph : Fatherhood and the Church) and Thursday 15th December (Simon and Anna - Voices of the Elderly). Each evening Fr Hanvey will give a presentation followed by a listening exercise and time for prayer.

## ADVENT

*"In Advent the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity, when we recall Christ's first coming. As we remember so also we look forward in faith to his Second Coming at the end of time. It is a period of joyful hope The hope is expressed during the first part of Advent with the concentration on the Second Coming while the first coming is recalled particularly from 17th December when Christ is seen as the fulfilment of the hope of Israel. (Liturgical Calendar)*

**Advent Wreath** - the expectation of Christ's coming is heightened by the gradually increased number of lit candles on the wreath.

**St Nicholas Care Fund** - has its special Caring Sunday collection on the 3rd Sunday, allowing us to respond in practical ways to the call of the prophets to social justice which we hear in the Advent Liturgy. This collection does not qualify for Gift Aid, so please do not use your envelopes. We can also respond through the small collection boxes which are in the Advent Packs in the porch.