

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.
On Request

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: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Response: Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR :

SICK : Margaret & Michael Daly, Joe Harty, Louise Chalmers,
Maureen Winning.

RECENTLY DECEASED : James Donaghy.

ANNIVERSARIES : Mgr Peter O'Farrell, Tam McIntosh, Cathie Kelly,
Rebecca Lamont, Ethan Garety, Charles Stewart.

ST VINCENT'S, THORNLIEBANK PARISH BULLETIN

15th December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent (C)



GAUDETE SUNDAY

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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*



There is an element of spring-cleaning to Advent. Although not quite as penitential as Lent, it is nevertheless a time for taking stock, for preparing a way, for smoothing out the path of our life to let the Lord enter.

Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, publicly marks one of the underlying themes of this season: joy! Coming from the Latin word meaning "rejoice!", Gaudete is the watermark of today's liturgy. Joy jumps out at us from today's prayers, readings, psalms, and no doubt from our songs and hymns.

Why be joyful? The sole reason is that the Christ, whose advent we await, is coming not to condemn or call us to task, but to set us free. The Jews longed for the coming of the Messiah; we are encouraged to yearn with a joyful expectation for the coming of Jesus. Jesus is coming not to judge but to save. This caused the psalmist to sing with joy: "God is my salvation, I trust - I shall not fear." Paul shares in this exuberant joy at the nearness of God and he writes to the Philippians with a recipe for happiness. Indeed, he says that happiness is exactly what he wishes for the Christian community.

Among Paul's ingredients is tolerance: if we know what our own weaknesses are, and if we recognise that God deals lightly with us, then we are much less ready to jump on other people for their own shortcomings.

Tolerance comes from knowing the nearness of God to us. So Paul urges us not to worry: can we change anything at all in our lives just by worrying about it? Is worry a cure for anything? All the while God is at hand.

Yet we do need things in order to live and be happy. So Paul encourages us to pray: by so doing we open ourselves before God and we acknowledge our complete dependence, trusting that God will never leave us wanting.

Such prayer causes us to be thankful: we receive so much from God that our natural response is to praise God for sustaining us day in and day out. This prayerful mood of thanksgiving brings peace: not simply freedom from argument or stress, but the deep-down security that lets us know that we are held in the palm of God's hand.

All of which brings us full circle in Paul's scheme of things. So the mood of rejoicing and happiness is very much at the heart of Gaudete Sunday. Tolerance, freedom from anxiety, prayer, thanksgiving, peace and happiness are offered to those who turn to God today. And God is very near!

"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 2024/25)

The St Nicholas Care Fund - has its Special Collection today. It does not qualify for the Gift Aid scheme, so there is no need to use your Second Collection envelopes. There are Care Fund packs in the porch. These contain details of how your money has been used in the last year plus an Advent Box into which you are asked to put your spare cash. These boxes should be returned at Christmas.

Foodbank - if you can, please donate in the immediate post-Christmas period. It is relatively easy to remember to give at Christmas but once the holiday season is over the need still remains.

Flourish - the new edition is out - a special Holy Year edition with an 8 page pull-out containing everything you need to know about the Jubilee Year which the Pope has called for 2025.

Holy Year - Archbishop Nolan will celebrate the 12 noon Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 29th December, Feast of the Holy Family, to mark the local opening of the Jubilee Year.

Western Catholic Calendar - the 2025 edition is now on sale at the stall, price £3.70 and there are only two left!

Advent Confessions - on Tuesday, 17th December, priests will be available all day in St Andrew's Cathedral (from 7.45 am until 5.45 pm) for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Christmas Day Masses - will be at the same times as our Sunday Masses i.e. 9.30am and 11.30am. There will be a Mass at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve (Tuesday) which is the Night Mass of Christmas which includes the Blessing of the Tree and the Crib.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers - are needed for the Christmas Masses, so if you are able to volunteer, could you please put your names on the list that is in the sacristy.

Sacrament of Penance - please remember that your last opportunity for Confession before Christmas will be, 7.00pm -7.30pm on Monday, 23rd December.