



A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell.

The Bishop;

Rt. Rev. Joseph A. Toal

[www.rcdom.org.uk](http://www.rcdom.org.uk)

Scottish Charity No

SCO11041

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR C  
1 ST-2ND DECEMBER 2018

ENTRANCE

ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, **O** my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be **put** to shame. Nor let my enemies exult **over** me; and let none who hope in you be **put** to shame. *Psalm 24.1-3*

COMMUNION

ANTIPHON

The Lord will **bestow** his bounty, and our earth shall **yield** its increase. *Psalm 84.13*

1st Reading: **Jeremiah 33.14-16:** "See, the days are coming..." This is a common refrain in the Old Testament which invites the people to lift up their eyes from their current problems to the future God is creating. It is an invitation to hope.

Response to the Psalm:  
**To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.**

2nd Reading: **I Thessalonians 3.12-4.2:** Paul appeals to the people to live lives that God wants: lives of love and holiness and blamelessness, as they await the return of the Lord. In this way they will make progress in the spiritual life.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Wait for the Lord whose day is near, wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart. Alleluia!**

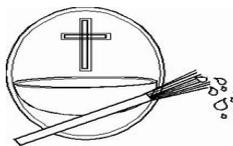
**Luke 21.25-36:** As we begin Advent, we are invited to watch, to stay awake and to pray at all times. In the midst of the threats which life and the world bring to us, we stand ready for the Lord who comes to us.

And we do so filled with confidence and without fear, as we entrust our lives to him who came once and will come again.



The Season of Advent and our preparation for Christmas begin this week. During these weeks we remain watchful and awake as we get ready for the celebration of the Lord's birth. It is a time when we become ever more sensitive to this Lord who came once among us in history, who will come again in glory, and who comes to us each day when we have eyes to see him.

**Watch stay awake pray**



We will open the season of Advent with the *Asperges* at the beginning of Mass. This is the rite of blessing and sprinkling of holy water, which evokes our baptism, brings forgiveness of sins and enkindles love of God and neighbour. It takes the place of the usual *Penitential Rite*. The *Advent Wreath* will then be blessed.



On Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a solemn concelebrated Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, with the Sacrament of the Sick, celebrated in the Church of St Francis Xavier, Carfin, at 1 pm. At the end of Holy Mass the Grotto's newest Shrine will be blessed – a monument to mark the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Foundation of the Legion of Mary in Scotland. Light refreshments will be served afterwards in the Xavier Centre.

Remember, Motherwell Diocesan Choir with the children of St Athanasius' Primary School will present a Christmas Concert of Carols in the Church on Sunday December 16th at 7.30. There will be mince pies and mulled wine in the Hall afterwards. A donation of £5 per adult for the church refurbishment is suggested.

**FORTHCOMING SOCIAL EVENT:** Thursday 6th December 2.30pm: Live music and food in the Hall. Tickets £7.50.

St Andrew's Church have their annual Carol Service for those who have been bereaved this Wednesday December 5th at 7pm. Please see the poster for details.

A box will be left in the welcoming area at the back of the church for the next few weeks for the Christmas Toy Appeal For easier distribution please do not wrap your gifts unless you prefer to do so. Thank you.

*Pope Francis' prayer intention for November: That we pray for peace and for the language of love to prevail over the language of conflict.*

SPRED will host a Christmas Reflection Service in the SPRED hall behind St Mary's, Cleland on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm. This will be a quiet reflective service and will provide a bit of calm before the commercial mayhem of Christmas begins. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Everyone is welcome

Thank you for your giving last week. There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection this week for the church refurbishment. Please Gift Aid your donation if you are eligible.

The Christian Aid Christmas Concert takes place in St John's Church on December 9th at 7pm. All welcome

### **PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS:**

*On sale in the shop are cards with a beautiful photo of our church at night in the snow. £1 each, all proceeds for the church refurbishment. Consider buying at least a few to send to your favourite relatives or friends!*

Our parishioner, Bill Doran, will be taking part in the "Sleep in the Park" event in Kelvingrove Park on Dec. 8th to raise funds for the homeless. Sponsor sheets are on the noticeboard.

*Now on sale in the shop: Pens engraved with the parish details. A lovely stocking-filler for Christmas.*

### ***Choir practice for Christmas this week after Sunday Mass. New members are warmly welcome.***

*Please keep in mind that the spiritual focus for our parish this coming 12 months is GROWTH IN-HOLINESS THROUGH PRAYER, both as individuals and as a community. The RCIA meets again this Monday from 7.30-9pm in the parish house. This Wednesday in the Oratory at 7pm, we continue our reflections on Pope Francis' document, Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love— on the beauty and blessing, the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. **Our Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) is reflecting on the story of Jesus' birth in the Gospel of Luke. Meetings in the Oratory 1-2pm Thursday 6th & 13th December.***

Please remember in your prayers our sick and housebound: Father, as Jesus cured the sick and raised Lazarus from the dead, give comfort to those in our community who are sick or housebound. We pray that your Spirit may heal their bodies and soothe their minds leading them to find peace and hope in your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have recently died and whose month's mind and anniversaries occur at this time: Ellen Power, Edward McGunnigal, Ann Devine, & Joyce McLaughlin.



**HOLY MASS: Vigil of Sunday: Saturday, 6pm; Sunday: 11am.**

**Monday-Friday: 10am.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5.30-5.55pm and on request.**

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Website: [www.stathanasiuscarluke.org](http://www.stathanasiuscarluke.org)

Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council: Mr Ronnie Cook.

Parish Treasurer: Mr Eddie Kelly (email: [treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org](mailto:treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org))



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