



A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell.

The Bishop:

Rt. Rev. Joseph A. Toal

www.rcdom.org.uk

Scottish Charity No SC011041

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
YEAR C: GAUDETE SUNDAY  
11th-12th December 2021

ENTRANCE  
ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.  
Philippians 4.4-5

COMMUNION  
ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.  
Isaiah 35.4

1st Reading: **Zephaniah 3.14-18:**  
These beautiful, poetic words describe the joy and gladness which is given to those who believe. It is a joy shared by God himself who exults and dances for joy.

Response to the Psalm: **Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

2nd Reading: **Philippians 4.4-7:**  
With faith we can be happy in the Lord, with no need to worry. Through prayer and thanksgiving, we will receive that peace of God which is so much greater than we can understand

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

Gospel: **Luke 3.10-18:** John the Baptist points to the One who will come after him who will separate the wheat from the chaff. When the people ask what they must do by way of preparation, John urges them to give justice and equity to everyone.

He chooses to stress the renewal our relationships with each other rather than our relationship with God — something the Lord himself would do.



Bishop Toal has permitted the General Absolution of sin during Advent this year. We will have two Advent Penitential Services with General Absolution — this Tuesday 14th & Thursday 16th December at 7pm.

This will be a beautiful experience and a great preparation for our Christmas celebrations and return to Mass. Please pick up a Christmas card with my greetings and good wishes and the times of Masses and

Services at Christmas. Every family in the parish will be emailed with a Christmas message encouraging them to come back to Mass and informing them of our Celebration of General Absolution. Let me know if you don't receive this email — it means your address is missing from the parish register!

Our Primary children will present in the Church a Christmas Tableau with music and song this Tuesday 14th December at 1pm. Please join us online through the parish streaming and Facebook. Due to Covid restrictions, it is not permitted to attend in person.



**HYMNS: Entrance Music Offertory 105 Communion 795 Exit 768**

## Pope Francis' prayer intention for December: **Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This month's Lucky Numbers Draw: 1st No 05 John Hackett £125; 2nd No 30 Marion O'Hara £75; 3rd No 60 Neil Macdonald £50. Please contact Eddie Kelly at treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org for your winnings

*The Christmas Giving Tree is now up at the back of the church. Parishioners are asked to take a tag and buy the description of an item written on it. (£10 maximum)*

*Please wrap the parcel and put the tag on it. Place in the box at the back of the church no later than Sunday 12th December to enable them to be distributed to families in need in our community. We are also looking for boxes of biscuits.*

*The Hall AGM will take place this Monday 13th December in the Hall at 7pm.*

Give joy to your loved ones and enable real change for families in poverty this Christmas with a Real Gift through SCIAF. Details are available at the back of the Church after Vigil and Sunday Masses. Take a couple of minutes to have a look and please consider a real Gift this Christmas!

**For more information contact Marion O'Hara on 07467 428393 or Karen Berry on 07894 424186**

Please pray for the eternal rest of Frances Dougan, a former parishioner of many years, who has died on the Isle of Man. Frances' Requiem Mass will take place this Wednesday at 10am with the Reception of her body on Tuesday at 6pm. May the Lord bless and comfort her family at this sad time.

*Our annual collection for the homeless men and women who attend the Wayside Club in Glasgow will take place from December Saturday 4 December to Saturday 19 December. Presents of hats, gloves, jumpers, socks, underwear and other warm clothes would be gratefully received. Can presents please be wrapped and labelled male or female. Boxes will be available in the Church porch. Thank you.*



*Thanks to everyone who participated in our synodal journey over the past 4 weeks. We have prayed together and listened to each other in order to discern the will of God for his Church.*

*It has been a powerful and enlightening experience. We will come together in the new year to decide together what practical outcomes this will have for our parish. Our parish report will make its way through the Bishops' Conference and then to Rome.*

**SUNDAY TAKEAWAY:** In this season of Advent, we are called to expand the horizons of our hearts, to be amazed by the life which presents itself each day with newness. In order to do this, we must learn to not depend on our own certainties, on our own established strategies, because the Lord comes at a time that we do not imagine. He comes to bring us into a more beautiful and grand dimension.

God always answers: maybe today, tomorrow, but he always answers, in one way or another. He always answers. The Bible repeats it countless times: God listens to the cry of those who invoke Him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart, that we are ashamed to express: the Father listens to them and wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every prayer and transforms everything. Brothers and sisters, in prayer there is always a question of patience, always, of supporting the wait. Now we are in the time of Advent, a time that is typically of expectation; of expectation of Christmas. We are in waiting. This is clear to see. But all our life is also *in waiting*. And prayer is always in expectation, because we know that the Lord will answer. *Pope Francis*

**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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Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council: Mr Ronnie Cook. Parish Treasurer: Mr Eddie Kelly (email: treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org)