



# The Catholic Parish of St. Patrick's

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021

Clergy: Fr. Daniel P. Doherty & Fr William McQuillan

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## SAINTS OF THE WEEK

**Tuesday** Presentation of the Lord

**Wednesday** St. Blaise

**Friday** St. Agatha

**Saturday** St. Paul Miki & Co

**In your prayers** Please continue to remember all our sick and housebound, not forgetting carers and family members who look after them.

**Archbishop Cushley** celebrates Sunday Mass at 9.30am every week, please visit <https://archedinburgh.org/watch-sunday-mass-with-archbishop-cushley> to watch.

**Baptisms** The next course will be on Tuesday, 9 February. If you wish your child baptised after the lock down, please email the parish office and book a space on the next course.

**Couples' Retreat** Married and engaged couples are invited to a Valentine's retreat! It features specially prepared video reflections from Canon John Udris, Spiritual Director at St Mary's College, Oscott (Birmingham), to help you grow together in Faith. It takes place on Zoom and last 90 mins. 3:00pm, Saturday 13 February. Free event organised by the Archdiocesan Marriage Commission. Register now at [bit.ly/CouplesRetreat2021](http://bit.ly/CouplesRetreat2021)

**Vocations Mass** Ahead of the World Day of Consecrated Life on Tuesday (2 February) please join the monthly vocations Mass from St David's Parish in Dalkeith, which will be posted on the Archdiocesan Facebook at 6:30pm on Monday 1 February. If you are interested in the priesthood or religious life, you can have a chat with one of the Archdiocese's vocation directors: Father Andrew Garden: 0131 663 4286 or [vocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:vocations@staned.org.uk). Sr Mirjam Hagens FSO: 0131 623 8902 or [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

**SCIAF** Thank you to everyone who supported SCIAF during a very difficult 2020. SCIAF is only able to support our brothers and sisters in poorer countries through the generosity of the people of Scotland and your generosity in 2020 has been outstanding in the circumstances. Lent: £1.4 million raised and £1.2million matched by UK government £2.6 million. Summer appeal: £193,000 and £228,000 with Gift Aid. Christmas: Real Gifts £309,000 and £366,000 with Gift Aid. Advent Appeal: £147,000 and £174,000 with Gift Aid. 2021 looks like being another difficult year for everyone and we would be grateful for your continuing support for SCIAF. Wee Boxes will be available shortly for anyone who wishes to support SCIAF during Lent. Thank you.

**Faith in the Time of Covid** Archbishop Cushley invites you to join a series of Sunday talks from distinguished speakers who will offer their thoughts and approach to the pandemic. Each event is free and lasts 30 mins.  
Bishop Philip Egan, 5pm, 31 Jan. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Egan](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Egan)  
Dr Mary Rice Hasson, 5pm, 07 Feb. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Hasson](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Hasson)  
Professor John Haldane, 5pm, 14 Feb. Register: [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Haldane](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Haldane)  
Rt Hon Gordon Brown, 5pm, 21 Feb. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Brown](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Brown)

**Human Fraternity** for Peace and Living Together The Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the Ahl Al-Bait Scotland Society host this online conference to mark the signing of the document on Human Fraternity by Pope Francis and Sheikh Al Azhar. Keynote speakers are Dr Mohammad Ali Shomali and Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald. Monday 01 February 2021, 5-7pm. To register, search 'Human Fraternity for Peace and Living Together' on Eventbrite.

**Day by Day & Bible Alive** Lent edition available at the front door of chapel house

**Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop** is on the website and Facebook. There also copies in the chapel house porch.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year Reflection**

From the very beginning of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus goes through certain rituals that prime Him for service as God's true and authentic prophet. Jesus is baptised by John in the Jordan, and proclaimed to all as the Beloved Son of God. He then goes into the desert in order to discern His mission and also to be strengthened by the Spirit. In the desert Jesus overcomes the power of Satan. His public ministry begins with a statement and a challenge to his listeners: **"The time has come, and the Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News"**. The words we heard in last week's Gospel. In true prophetic fashion Jesus claims the establishment of God's kingdom and then challenges the people on their behaviour: they are to repent and believe in the values he will present to them.

In today's Gospel we see Jesus putting those words into practice. In the life and ministry of Jesus the authenticity of a true prophet is seen. He commands authority-an authority that comes from God-as he heals the man possessed by an unclean spirit. Jesus indeed has the authority of God to preach and minister in God's name. Ironically, He is recognised named and proclaimed, by the possessed man as **"Jesus of Nazareth...the Holy One of God"**. Do we recognise Jesus and his authority over the powers of evil and sin? Are we ready to ask Him to free us from that power? Are we committed enough to Him to allow this continual conversion and transformation in our lives? Are we as baptised and confirmed members of the Church, commissioned by the same Spirit, willing to speak and act as Jesus in the world, as prophets? This is the mission of every baptised Christian. Are we ready and willing to be directed in our words and actions by this same Spirit? If we are, then we will truly live as authentic prophets of God.

**Please Note:** All parents' sacramental preparation meetings planned for February, are now postponed to a later date, due to Covid 19 restrictions. New dates will be arranged as soon as possible.