

**First Sunday of
Advent (Year B)**

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass St Thomas's 5.30 pm

Sunday Mass
 St Thomas's 10.00 am
 St Bernadette's 12 noon

Monday–Friday St Bernadette's 9 am
 St Thomas's 10 am

Saturday Marian Devotions
 St Bernadette's 9.30 am
 St Thomas's 10.30 am

Confessions
 St Thomas's 5.00–5.30 pm Saturday

The Captain's Table

As I sit at my cousin's computer and write these few words, my holiday is almost over, but I'm really looking forward to coming home and being among you again! In liturgical terms another year has also ended. We now begin the season Advent. Hopefully our First Advent candle will be lit.

This season is the most counter-cultural in our calendar. Coming home on the freeway tonight I was astounded by the number of houses that already have Christmas trees and some houses completely covered with lights and decorations in preparation ... but preparation for what? Christmas doesn't wait for *something*, it waits for *someone!*

By way of preparation and getting ready, we will follow a European tradition that tells us that the Crib goes up (without the baby Jesus) on December 8 – our crib will go up on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (if I can find it!) I would like to invite anyone who is free to come along next Friday evening at 6.30pm, beginning with the Angelus, to help put up the Crib and join me in the house afterwards for some tea and cake.

The crib will come down (so you know) on the Feast of the Epiphany (Sunday 7 January 2018) and any help to do this would be most appreciated.

Let's not miss the the rich celebratory style that Christmas season brings by thinking it ends quickly after Christmas – and it also means you can send Christmas cards and exchange gifts right up until the Epiphany!

Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday it is also known as *Bambinelli Sunday*, *Bambinelli* is the Italian for 'figurines'. The tradition was started by Blessed Paul VI in 1969. Since then, the blessing has been given by the Pope during the Angelus in St Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday – people bring the baby Jesus from their Cribs at home and the Pope blesses them. I plan to do something similar and bless all the baby Jesus' from your cribs (or your cribs if they're small) on Gaudete Sunday.

We will also put up our Christmas trees on the Third Sunday of Advent in the afternoon at about 4pm and again I'd like to invite you all to come along and help with the decorating.

This year we will have two tall trees on either side of the sanctuary in the Church and one in the house facing onto Cumbernauld Road.

The Feast of Immaculate Conception

The Feast isn't a holy day of obligation but do come and say a quick prayer around the crib if you're able.

Poinsettias

The poinsettia is the somewhat beautiful plant with green leaves, symbolizing the wood of the crib and in same way the wood of the garden of Eden – the red leaves symbolizing the blood of the cross by which we are saved. We are going to fill the Sanctuary with them this Christmas and you will have the opportunity to purchase one in memory of a loved one. They will be available in the week before Christmas. Full details to follow.

Attendance Cards for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

Cards are now available for children preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please pick a card up and have your child bring it each Sunday when they attend Mass for the priest to sign.

First Reconciliation

I would like to invite parents of First Reconciliation children to a short meeting on Monday 22 January 2018 in St Thomas' Church at 7pm.

ST BERNADETTE'S NOTICES

From the Captain –

Christmas Trees

We will be putting two four foot real Christmas trees up in the sanctuary as the space is too small for more.

When I get back I will work out a date that suits people for preparing the Church and decorating the trees.

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The Nativity (BBC film)

The East End Deanery has arranged a showing of the BBC film The Nativity on Monday December 11 at 7pm at St Thomas's Hall. The event is free and you're warmly encouraged to come along. Tea, Coffee and Juice. Families are most welcome!

School Christmas Fair

The school is holding its Christmas Fair this week on Friday 8 December from 9am–3pm. Open to all, there'll be stalls, crafts, tombola, hot rolls and tea/coffee. Please come along and support your school.

Meeting of Parish Pastoral Councils

The meeting of the Parish Pastoral Councils for parishes in the East End Deanery is on Monday 4 December at 7.00 pm in the Hall St Joseph's Parish in Tollcross.

All night vigil in Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On Friday 8 December 2017, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, from 8.00 pm to 6.00 am at St Andrew's Cathedral, Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. All welcome, Tea and Coffee available all night. For more information contact: phone 07806517383 or Facebook – Glasgow Vigils Events

St Thomas's Justice & Peace

Wish to thank to everyone who has contributed to the fund over the past year. This year, donations were made to St Francis's Leprosy Guild (£400), Franciscan Kenyan Project (£500) and SPRED (£400).

Christmas Concert

Join St Andrew's Cathedral Choir and special guest Michelle McManus

on Thursday 14 December at 7pm for a carol concert in aid of the Mungo Foundation and Premier Christian Radio. Free entry.

Santa Dash

Join thousands of Santas on Sunday 10 December for a Festive 5k through Glasgow. Visit facebook.com/themungofoundation or call Suzanne on 07773 219 122 for details.

Christmas Lunchtime Recital

There will be a recital on Saturday 16 December at St Aloysius’s Church from 1.30–2.30pm given by the St Aloysius’s Singers. Music from Bach, Parry, Handel and others. Donations gratefully received for the Renovation fund.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 3 First Sunday of Advent

Mass Intention: The Parish

Monday 4

Mass Intention: Teresa Connolly, RIP

Tuesday 5

Mass Intention: Grace McBride, RIP

Wednesday 6

Mass Intention: Kathleen Carroll, RIP

Thursday 7 St Ambrose

Mass Intention: Kathleen Carroll, RIP

PARISH DONATIONS

25.11–26.11.2017

**St Thomas’s
£986**

**St Bernadette’s
£534**

Friday 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Intention: Michael McGrath, RIP

Saturday 9

Vigil Mass Intention: Special Intention

Sunday 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Mass Intention: The Parish



Appointment Times

If you require an appointment with Father Neil please contact the parish secretary on 0141 770 7542 or email him on: parishpriest@st-thomastheapostle.co.uk

Baptisms

Anyone requiring Baptism please contact Fr McGarrity, or Sr Francesca.

The Sacrament of Anointing

If you or a member of your family are going into hospital please arrange to receive this sacrament beforehand.

Marriage

See Fr McGarrity if you intend to marry in the Church. The Archdiocese requires 6 months notice.

INTENTIONS

Those sick at home or hospital

Anne MacKay and all the sick & housebound of both Parishes.

Recently Dead

Agnes McDonald, Patrick McLaughlin

Anniversaries

Theresa Herritty, John Mitchell, John Duffy, Sr Rose Swan, William Patterson, Annie Jack.
