

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Father John McGinley (PP)
& Sr Francesca Wilson

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass St Thomas's 5 pm
 St Bernadette's 6.15 pm

Sunday Mass
 St Thomas's 9 & 10.30 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 4.30–4.50 pm Saturday

THIS WEEK'S NOTICES

Caring Sunday

Many thanks for your kind donations to the St Nicholas Care Fund/Pastoral Care Trust last week. St Thomas's raised £565 and St Bernadette's: £350. Many thanks.

Please also take home a St Nicholas Care Fund box.

Christmas Raffle at St Thomas's

There's a raffle to win a Christmas food basket. Funds go to support the refurbishment of the Church. The raffle will be drawn on 21 December.

Christmas Cards

Please visit both stalls at St Bernadette's & St Thomas's to browse our selection of new Christmas cards and other gifts now in stock.

St Bernadette's Food Bank

The Sisters charity food stocks are very low and any tins or other non-perishable foods would be most welcome. Thank you in advance.

First Communions

Mass Attendance cards for St Thomas's and St Bernadette's are being given out for the new year to encourage children who are preparing

for their First Holy Communion to attend Mass with their families.

Thank you

The Christmas Tree and lights have been kindly donated by Jim & Laura Gilmour and family. Many thanks for their generosity and Christmas blessings upon them.

RCIA Meetings

There will be a meeting at 7pm on Monday 19 December in St Thomas's Chapel House for those who wish to join the Catholic Church. The topic will be 'Mary'.

Parish Mini-bus

The bus is available to bring older parishioners to Mass. On Sunday we have two couples who alternate week-



Appointment Times

10.30 am-12.30 pm each morning and from 5-7.00 pm in the evening, Monday to Thursday. Should a formal appointment be required please phone the Parish.

Baptisms

Anyone requiring Baptism please contact Fr McGinley, 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 McGinley if you intend to marry in the Church. The Archdiocese requires 6 months notice.



ends collecting/taking home parishioners for the 10.30 Mass. One person has kindly offered their help but more drivers would be very much appreciated! If you are interested please speak to Fr McGinley.

New Gift Aid Envelopes

Many thanks to all those who've picked up their new envelopes. There are still some envelopes that need to be collected so if you don't have yours please collect them from the back of the Church after Mass

Boxing Evening

Tickets for the Boxing Evening in St Thomas's Hall on Friday 17 February 2017 are now sold out. Many thanks to everyone who bought a ticket.

Diocesan Events

Please see posters in the porch.

Glasgow Phoenix Choir

Glasgow's Phoenix Choir are having a concert in St Andrew's Cathedral on Clyde St on Saturday 28 January at 7pm. The concert will be in aid of the Cathedral's Organ fund.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

For Primary 4 to Primary 7 children at the 10.30 & 12 Masses in St Thomas's. The children gather together for readings and catechesis before joining us for the prayer of the Mass. If you wish to help please speak to Father after Mass.

NOTA BENE

EAST END DEANERY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday 18th December 7.00 pm St. Thomas's in Aid of Marie Cure Cancer Care. Tickets are £5 and available from Mark the Organist or any of the Parish Choir members.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

There are still places available for the Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 21 December from 5 pm on in St Thomas Hall for both Parishes. With entertainment and prizes. There are lists in both Parishes to add your names. Deadline for putting your name down is Tuesday 20 December. This event is sponsored by a generous benefactor.

CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be a Joint Christmas vigil this year in St Thomas's for both parishes. Carols at 8.30 pm followed by Mass at 9 pm. There will be no Midnight Mass this year. On Christmas Day Masses are 9 & 10.30 at St Thomas's and 12 noon at St Bernadette's

ADVENT REFLECTION —POPE BENEDICT XVI

What is Advent? Many answers can be given. We can grumble and say that

it is nothing but a pretext for hectic activity and commercialism, prettified with sentimental clichés in which people stopped believing ages ago. In many cases this may be true, but it is not the whole picture.

We can say the reverse, that Advent is a time when, in the midst of an unbelieving world, something of the luminous quality of this lost faith is still perceptible, like a visual echo. Just as stars are visible long after they have become extinct, since their erstwhile light is still on its way to us, so this mystery frequently offers some warmth and hope even to those who are no longer able to believe in it. We can also say that Advent is a time when a kindness that is otherwise almost entirely forgotten is mobilized; namely, the willingness to think of others and give them a token of kindness. Finally we can say that Advent is a time when old customs live again, for instance, in the singing of carols that takes place all over the country. In the melodies and the words of these carols, something of the simplicity, imagination and glad strength of the faith of our forefathers makes itself heard in our age, bringing consolation and encouraging us perhaps to have another go at that faith which could make people so glad in such hard times.

This latter kind of experience of Advent brings us quite close to what the Christian tradition has in mind with this season. It has expressed its

view of Advent in the Bible texts that it took as the season's signposts. I will mention just one of them, a few verses from Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome. There he says, '... it is full time now for you to wake from sleep... the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ... (Romans 13:11-14). So Advent means getting up, being awake, emerging out of sleep and darkness.

Taken from *Seek that which is Above*

**PARISH DONATIONS
10 & 11 DECEMBER 2016**

St Thomas's	St Bernadette's
Other £354	Other £285
GAD £331	GAD £187

Caring Sunday Collection
£565 £350

Have you considered signing up for Gift Aid? If you make a donation to the parish by cash, cheque or standing order it's possible to increase the value of the donation by an extra 25%. Contact Fr McGinley if you're interested.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WED. 21

Reception of the remains of
Veronica Neil 6.30 pm (St B)

THU. 22

Requiem Mass for
Veronica Neil 9.00 am (St B)

We pray especially for Veronica's husband John and her family at this time.

SAT. 24

Joint Christmas Vigil at St Thomas's
Carols 8.30pm
Mass 9.00pm

INTENTIONS

Those sick at home or hospital

Joseph McGowan

Those who have died recently

Jeanne Rankin, Barbara Foley, Eileen Forrest, Veronica Neil

Anniversaries

Kathleen Robertson, Willie Boyle, Sheridan Family, Des McLean, Denis Kennedy, Susan Kerr (17th), Elizabeth Kirk, John McCrorie, Stephen Mangan

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Mass Bouquet

May O'Donnell