

KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All the Sick especially: Fernando M. A. Menoscal, Orla Rose McMullen; Mary Francis Chance; Isa Keatings; Enrique Menoscal Valarezo; Nazia McNulty; Martin Keenan.

Deaths: Tommy McNaughton.

Months Minds:

Anniversaries/Remembrances: Thomas Tierney; Annie Murphy; Anne Lilley; Teddy Clarke.



POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION – January:

For the gift of diversity in the church

Let us pray that the Spirit help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy is off for the next two weekends and will recommence on Sunday 14th January at the 10.00am Mass.

Activity sheet for Children

An activity sheet for children in Primary 1 to Primary 4 inclusive is available at all Masses. Coloured pencils are available, please return these to the box provided when leaving the Church.



Coffee and Tea after Sunday 10.00am Mass

The next teas, coffees and all, it is anticipated, will take place, after a break in January, on Sunday 4th February 2024 after the 10.00am Mass.

Hire of Parish Hall

To hire the Parish Hall please contact Joe Mullen on 01698 860015.



St. Teresa's R.C. Church

Address: Benford Avenue, Newarthill, ML1 5BE

Telephone: 01698 832920

Email: stteresa@rcdom.org.uk

Parish website: www.stteresa-newarthill.org.uk

Facebook: St Teresa's Church, Newarthill

Parish Priest: Rev. Kevin Lawrie

A Scottish Registered Charity No. 011041

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 7th January 2024

Day and Date	Times	Mass and/or other
Sunday 7 th January	10:00am 12.00noon	Mass Mass (Live-streamed on Facebook)
Monday 8 th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.00am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass
Tuesday 9 th January	9.00am 9.30am	Rosary Mass
Wednesday 10 th January	9.00am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass
Thursday 11 th January	9:00am 9.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Rosary Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Friday 12 th January	9.00am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass
Saturday 13 th January <i>St Kentigern</i>	9:30am 4.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass

Confessions

Confessions this week will be available on Thursday between 6.30pm and 6.50pm and after the 9.30am Mass on Saturday until 10.30am.

‘Offertory’ collections

The Box at the entrance of the Church: last weekend – 30th/31st December - £948.58. Thank you once again to everyone who contributes to the Offertory Collections using the Box at the Entrance to the Church and to all those who make payments direct to the Parish Bank Account.

Parish Social Events

Watch this space in the New Year when we will look to plan more Parish Social Events for everyone to enjoy.

Western Catholic Calendar 2024

The Western Catholic Calendar is available from the Parish Stall priced £3.50.

Day by Day Booklets

Copies of the January and February 2024 booklets are available from the Parish Stall priced at £1. These booklets provide the daily readings used at Mass as well as quotes from Saints.

Living Faith Booklets

Copies of the Living Faith Booklet for January, February and March are available from the Parish Stall priced at £1. This booklet provides daily thoughts including a quote each day from the scriptures as well as prayers and blessings.

St Teresa’s Primary School – Enrolment Week

If you wish to register your child at St Teresa’s Primary School for the term August 2024 please go along to the school between 15th – 19th January to complete the registration process. The school require the following: Child’s Birth Certificate; Current Council Tax Bill; and Baptismal Certificate (if applicable). See poster at entrance to the Chapel.

Parish Building Fund

Building Fund Envelopes continue to be available at the entrance to the Church, allowing as previously suggested, parishioners when able, in light of their own circumstances, to make a financial contribution to assist with the ongoing maintenance, repair and renewal of Parish Property. The envelopes, that can be placed in the Offertory Collection Box at the entrance to the Church, are totalled on a monthly basis. For the month of December £300 was received. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.

Letter from Bishop Toal

A letter from Bishop Toal for the New Year is printed on the back of this weekend’s Mass Leaflet.



The Epiphany and The Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday – 7th January is the Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord. This Monday – 8th January is the Feast of The Baptism of the Lord with Mass as normal at 9.30am. The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of Christmastide.

Thank you

Thank you once again to all those who helped in any way to prepare for the Christmas Celebrations. May God Bless you all for your time and support.

A personal Thank You from Fr Kevin

Fr Kevin gives a personal thank you to all for the thoughts, prayers and gifts given this Christmas, your kindness and ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

World Day of Prayer for Peace and Second Collection

This Sunday - 7th of January, the World Day of Prayer for Peace takes place and a Second Collection will also take place for the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland. A summary of the work of the Justice and Peace Commission in 2023 is available at the entrance to the Chapel, as well as, a copy of the letter from Archbishop Nolan for the World Day of Prayer for Peace.

Our Lady of Fatima – 1st Saturday Devotion

The next Devotion will take place on Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 9.00am.

The Crib and St Margaret’s Children & Family Care Society

The Crib remains in place until tomorrow - the Baptism of the Lord. Please make a special effort to visit the crib and encourage our children to visit also. As in previous years, all donations left at the Crib will be forwarded onto St Margaret’s Children & Family Care Society, formerly known as St Margaret’s Adoption Society.

For more information on the work of the Society, please see their website: <https://stmargaretsadoption.org.uk> or Telephone 0141 332 8371.

Youth Group Meetings – Diocese of Motherwell

The next Youth Group Meeting of the Diocese of Motherwell takes place next Sunday – 14th January in Motherwell Cathedral beginning at 7.30pm then to St Bride’s Hall across the road from the Cathedral.

Mary’s Meals – Double the Love – Extended date

“From 22 November 2023 to 31 January 2024 (was 22nd January), donations made to Mary’s Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. Amongst the many challenges we see in today’s world, from conflict to the cost-of-living crisis, your little acts of love can go further thanks to Double the Love, bringing hope to desperately hungry children and their families. Please pray that we can reach even more children around the world with our life-changing school meals this Christmas. There are many ways to give, including our gift cards and e-cards. Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk “

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 7th January 2024

Letter from Bishop Toal

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1st January 2024

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and every blessing for 2024.

The first Reading at Mass today on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is a very fitting blessing for all God's people from the Book of Numbers as we begin a new year:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

The desire for God's blessing is very strong in people of faith and it is particularly sought after at times in life when we feel weak and vulnerable. We ask for this blessing frequently in our personal and communal prayer, and at times we ask a priest or deacon to pray with us and make the sign of the cross over us. This offers us a sense of God's love and mercy, and his consolation and protection in our particular time of need.

The recent Declaration from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Fiducia Supplicans*, offered a reflection and direction on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, extending the possibility of giving a blessing to couples who are living in irregular relationships in the eyes of the Church, including same-sex couples. In the foreword Pope Francis made it clear that the Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to the Rite of Marriage or other liturgical rites, so that any confusion is avoided. The value of the document is that it permits a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding of blessings, based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis. Since this is a development which has caused much comment and debate in the Church, I recommend that you read the Declaration and gain an appreciation of the rich teaching offered on blessings. On the particular possibility of offering a blessing to those in irregular sexual relationships, I quote No. 31 from *Fiducia Supplicans*:

"Within the horizon outlined here appears the possibility of blessings for couples in irregular situations and for couples of the same sex, the form of which should not be fixed ritually by ecclesiastical authorities to avoid producing confusion with the blessing proper to the Sacrament of Marriage. In such cases, a blessing may be imparted.....that involves the invocation of a blessing that descends from God upon those whom – recognising themselves to be destitute and in need of his help – do not claim a legitimisation of their own status, but who beg that all that is true, good, and humanly valid in their lives and in their relationships be enriched, healed, and elevated by the presence of the Holy Spirit. These forms of blessing express a supplication that God may grant those aids that come from the impulses of his Spirit – what classical theology calls "actual grace" – so that human relationships may mature and grow in fidelity to the Gospel, that they may be freed from their imperfections and frailties, and that they may express themselves in the ever-increasing dimension of divine love."

The possibility of blessings being given by the clergy to those in irregular situations, not within the liturgical or sacramental life of the parish, "but in other contexts, such as a visit to a shrine, a meeting with a priest, a prayer recited in a group, or during a pilgrimage" is very much in line with Pope Francis' often repeated desire that the Church reaches out to all her children, particularly those who feel isolated or on the margins. Such blessings can reassure that God loves and cares for them in their particular circumstances, and that the Church accompanies each of us in the often difficult journey of Christian faith and love. As Bishop, I welcome the initiative taken, and the possibilities it offers, and pray that it will assist the clergy in caring for those who seek our pastoral care and support, so that they experience the desired blessing from the Lord, who loves us so much that he took on our nature in order to save us all.

May Our Blessed Lady, Mother of God, be with all her children, and help us grow in faith and love.

Yours in Christ,



+ Joseph Toal