

The Season of Christmas

Thank you to all parishioners for the very fine celebrations of the liturgy that were enjoyed during the feast of our **Lord's Nativity** and are still being enjoyed during the **Octave of Christmas**. There are many ways of discerning the quality and depth of a parish. However, the quality of its liturgy and the resulting prayer life of the parish must be considered as important. Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many different ways both during Advent and Christmas: **Lectors and Ministers of the Eucharist, servers and musicians, cleaners and florists**, members of the **SVP** who collected, organisers of the piety stall, **children** who read so fabulously during Advent and on Christmas Eve, **parish catechists** who encouraged and assisted our children in the Faith and fostered their role in the life parish. **There was also great financial generosity from parishioners in continuing to support the parish and the Diocese.**

Thank you to parishioners for supporting the **SVP** involvement with the Belshill Community Foodbank. **A letter of thanks can be read on the noticeboard in the porch.** The gifts that have been placed in the crib will soon be taken away and distributed by the SVP.

The Octave of Christmas will continue until the feast day of **Mary the Mother of God on January 01st**. This title is the greatest given to our Lady. In Greek the title is Theotokos meaning '**God Bearer**'. Jesus is fully God and fully man a Mystery called the Hypostatic Union. He is the 'God'Man'. Many of us will remember when this was the feast of the Circumcision a feast celebrated in keeping with Jewish religious tradition which saw all male children circumcised eight days after their birth. It was a Holy Day of Obligation. In an age when staying up most of the night to welcome in the New Year this Mass must have posed great difficulties for many suffering the effects of the night before!!! Attendance at Mass on New Year's Day is still highly recommended. **Note the time of Mass that day.**

The season of Christmas used to continue until the feast of the **Presentation on February 02nd**. Nowadays it continues until the feast of the **Lord's Baptism on January 13th**. However, **January 06th** is the feast of the **Epiphany** a major Christmas celebration. The shepherds are removed from the crib and replaced by the Magi. **The Bishop has asked for a collection in support of Justice and Peace.** On that day we are being invited to bring in children's backpacks in support of Mary's Meals.

In many Catholic European countries a house blessing takes place on the feast of the **Epiphany**. We also might like to add this to the spiritual traditions of our homes. With a piece of chalk write this on the doorpost of your front door : **20+C+M+B+19**. Our homes are blest through the journey of 2019 in the names of **Casper, Melchior** and **Balthazaar** who journeyed towards Bethlehem. These three letters also stand for **Christus, Mansionem, Benedicat**. May Christ bless our home. Another simple blessing rooted in good practice. Building up traditions such as this keeps the flame of Faith alive.

We are all familiar with the song '**The 12 days of Christmas**'. Perhaps a fun song to be used during the festivities. There is another set of meanings. Between 1538 and 1829 Catholics in England were subject to severe penalties for supporting and practising the Catholic Faith. Efforts were made to assist children to learn the ancient Faith, including '**Catechism Songs**'. There are those who believe the 'The 12 days of Christmas' is a 'Catechism Song'. The symbolism is interesting:

- 1st day.** Partridge in a Pear Tree represents Jesus Christ, Son of God.
 - 2nd day.** Turtle Doves represent the Old and the New Testaments
 - 3rd day.** French Hens represent the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
 - 4th day.** Calling Birds represent the four Gospels and the four Evangelists
 - 5th day.** Golden Rings represent the first five books of the Bible called the Pentateuch and also the Five Wounds of Christ
 - 6th day.** Geese a laying means the six days of Creation.
 - 7th day.** Swans a swimming means the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven Sacraments
 - 8th day.** Maids a milking means the Eight Beatitudes
 - 9th day.** Ladies Dancing means the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - 10th day.** Lords a leaping means the 10 Commandments
 - 11th day.** Pipers Piping means the eleven faithful disciples
 - 12th day.** Drummers Drumming means the 12 points of Doctrine in the Apostles Creed
- More about this next week**

Response to the Psalm: They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Prayer For The Week

Star Child, earth child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightening rod.

*This year, this year, let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears.

Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store.

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, star of stars that shine.

*This year, this year, let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!*

*Christmas Masses Attendance: 443, Collection: £1755
Fourth Sunday of Advent Attendance: 251, Collection: £769,
Thank you to the parish for this generosity.*

Months Minds: Jane McMahon, Peter Molloy, John Cadden,
Anniversary of: Mary Theresa Millsip, Hugh Connor,
Mary Donnelly, Gerald McMorrow,

Season of Christmas Remembrances: John, Elizabeth & Charles
Gallagher, James & Elizabeth Coyle, Charles & Catherine Woods,
Anthony, Mary & Catherine Gallagher, Pearl & Owen Corrigan, Mary &
Mick McAlorum, Anne & Frank Dougan, Daniel McKinney, Mr & Mrs Hughy
McStay, Pat McGlynn, Maryanne McGlynn, Arthur McConnachie, Mary
McConnachie, Tommy Hendry, Sandra Nimmo, All who lost their lives on
Piper Alpha and All who have no one to pray for them.



Administrator:
Revd W. G. Bergin

ST. TERESA'S R.C. CHURCH

Address: Benford Avenue, Newarthill,
Motherwell, ML1 5BE

Telephone: 01698 832920

Email: fatherbillthepadre@gmail.com

Parish website: www.stteresa-newarthill.org.uk
A Scottish Registered Charity No. 11041

The Season of Christmas

Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Sunday 30th Dec. <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	10:00am	Dennis Harvey <i>No Devotions this week</i>
Monday 31st Dec. <i>Christmas Week Day</i>	9:30am 7:00pm	Helen McLaughlin and the McLaughlin Family For the Peace of the World
Tues 1st Jan. <i>Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i>	11:00am	Mary Donnelly
Wed 2nd Jan. <i>St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen</i>	9:30am	Hugh Connor
Thurs 3rd Jan. <i>Christmas Week Day</i>	9:30am	Gerald McMorrow
Friday 4th Jan. <i>Christmas Week Day</i>	9:30am	Mary Theresa Millsip
Saturday 5th Jan. <i>Christmas Week Day</i>	4:00pm 4:30pm	Holy Rosary People of the Parish

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 5th Jan.	F McQuade	B Naughton, M Connor, A M Lynn
Sunday 6th Jan.	E Smith	P Cullion, J Mullen, F Carroll