

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

This is probably as short an Advent there can be! Next Sunday will be the fourth in the season and then as evening falls that day we will begin to gather for the Christmas Masses. **Please note that there will be no Sunday evening Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 24 December; there will however be a Vigil Mass in the Cathedral at 6pm next Saturday 23rd December.**

The final **General Absolution Liturgy** takes place in the **Cathedral** this Monday 18 December at **6pm**.

Please let your friends and family know of this Liturgy, especially those who may find coming to individual confession difficult or who have been away from this Sacrament or from the community of the Church for some time. This is a gentle invitation to return.

The **Midnight Mass of Christmas** is an intensely spiritual experience, with its Carol Service beforehand. We shall celebrate the Midnight Mass according to the Church's ancient tradition in the Cathedral; please consider attending and inviting your families and loved ones to join us. All the Christmas Mass times are noted on the page opposite.

On the Feast of the Holy Innocents - 28 December - we shall have the Pro life Mass in the Cathedral at 1pm.

This Sunday 17 December, Bishop Stephen will celebrate the 11am Mass in the Cathedral, offering it as a *Month's Mind* Mass for Bishop Tony Farquhar of Ireland, who died recently, and who was a great friend to a number of the clergy in our Diocese. RIP.

Our Prayers for the sick:

Bill Perrotti, Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan, Margaret Caullay, Heather Moffit, Susan McKay, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Marie Manunga, Karen Dammer, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher;
for those who have died recently: Andrew Sutherland, Jane Hay, Don Clark, Bishop Tony Farquhar;
and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Geoff Petch, Joseph Clenaghan, Catherine Taylor, Anthony Callaghan Junior, Ted Adams, Elizabeth Leo, John Laing, Kathleen Baxter, Elizabeth Barbour, James Gibson, Mary Knight, Catherine Ogilvie, Josephine Foster, Jane Reid, Andrew Reilly, Anne Moore; Marie Young, Rita Dagen, Ruth McGeoghie James Smith, Emma Kennedy, Mary Sheridan, Syd Pacione, Elizabeth Macpherson, Liz Gibson, Susan Beatrice Ayimba, Peter Campbell, Bernard Creegan, Sister Clare McGurke; Charlie Hastie, Nancy O'Brien, John Jaffray, Peter Walls, Alexander Gillan, Jessie Farquharson.

There will be no tea and coffee after the Cathedral 11am Mass this Sunday, but everyone is invited to the hall this afternoon after the Cecilian Choir Carol Service. Sunday teas will resume in the new year.

The Funeral Mass for **Mr. Jim Freeman RIP** will take place in Our Lady of Good Counsel this Monday 18 December at 11.30am with the Reception of Jim's Remains this Sunday 17 December at 5pm.

Thanks to everyone who did so much to make the Carol Service in Our Lady of Good Counsel such a welcoming and hospitable occasion; it was much appreciated by us all and by the visitors who attended.

Father Andriy and the Ukrainian community had a wonderful St Nicholas' Day service in the Cathedral last Saturday with more than a hundred children present to celebrate and receive gifts and Christmas refreshments in the hall too. A Ukrainian Liturgy for the feast of the Epiphany will take place on the evening of Saturday 6 January in the Cathedral.

A new **Ukrainian Club** will open on 7 January 2024 at St Paul's Church Hall, 118 Meadowside; there will be carols and gifts, a Christmas nativity scene and a chance to make new friends.

Christmas Cleaning in St Mary's:

We need volunteers to clean the Church for Christmas; the suggested dates are Thursday 21 December & Friday 22 December after morning Mass. Can you help? Please let Pat know if you can give us some time.

Christmas offering envelopes are now available in St Mary's and in Our lady of Good Counsel.

Raffle winners in St Mary's, Forebank

Hamper — Katie-Rebecca Whitham
Sherry — Anne Haldane
Red Wine — Maureen Kearns
Ferrero Rocher — Father Michael
Ladies' toiletries — Susan Pringle
Gents' toiletries — Sulakshana De Alwis
Handcream and soap — Alice McLean
Decorated glass — Mary Ann Cockburn
Diffuser — Eddie McCabe

The raffle raised £200 for parish funds. Many thanks to all who contributed and to Pat for organising.

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday:

Sunday 10 December:

£942 in the Cathedral, £371 in St Mary's Forebank and £692 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The collection for the Diocesan Poor Mission Fund came to £380 in the Cathedral, £227 in St Mary's Forebank and £359 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the *Nightfever* event such a success in the Cathedral last Saturday evening: it was a true moment of grace in the midst of Advent. Thank you!