

Parish of St Thomas the Apostle

Parish Priest: Rev. Joseph Balmer BD
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Sunday Masses: 16.00 (Vigil), 10.00
 Daily Masses: 10.00 except Wed 18.00
 Confessions: Wed 17.25 – 17.55
 Sat 10.30 – 11.00
 By appointment
 Adoration: Mon – Sat 09.00 except Wed 17.00
 Also Thu 10.30 – 11.30

Gaudete Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent (C) Sunday 16th December 2018

<p><u>Important Contact Details</u> SSVP: 07598511261 Hall Enquiries: 07488397392</p>	<p><u>Last Week's Collection(s)</u> Offertory: £369.70 + £355.00 (Standing Order)</p>															
<p>Third Sunday of Advent: The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin words "gaudium," joy, and "gaudeo," to rejoice or be glad. Gaudete Sunday occurs eight to thirteen days before Christmas, and the nearness of the feast is reason for great joy. Rose represents joy and may be used as the liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday. Violet remains the official colour for the Season of Advent, the Third Sunday included, because all of Advent has a penitential tone, a time to be absolved of sin and be in the state of grace for Christmas. Gaudete Sunday offers a brief respite to focus on the uplifting, upcoming joyful celebration of the Nativity. The joy is heightened by the importance of Christ's birth that he was born to save people from their sins (Mt 1:21b). The joy also extends to the anticipation of the Second Coming, either at the end of physical life or the end of the world, the time when believers will be given the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8) and a place in the Father's house (Jn 14:2) to dwell with God and his angels and saints for all eternity.</p> <p>Prayer for Advent: "O holy, patient, and loving God, in this season of grace-filled longing, we await the coming of your Son and our Saviour. It is difficult for us to remember that this is a holy time. There are many distractions: commitments seem to pile up, and expectations are high. In the midst of our busy world, our busy lives, we need your help to remind us of what is important and necessary. While many of those things that we do not need will come to us in packages gleaming and bright, the one gift that will last comes from you alone, gracious God, as we grow in our awareness of your love. Bless us, our family and friends, and the food and the company that we share. Increase in us a growing urgency to celebrate the birth of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen."</p>	<p>Christmas Mass Times in St Luke's Cluster.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Christmas Eve</td> <td>5pm</td> <td>St Thomas'</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7pm</td> <td>St John's</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Midnight</td> <td>St John's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christmas Day</td> <td>10am</td> <td>St Thomas'</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>11am</td> <td>St John's</td> </tr> </table> <p>SPRED Advent Boxes Please take away your SPRED Advent Boxes and bring them back as full as you can early in the New Year. SPRED is our Special Religious Education Group for our parishioners with special needs and meets in twenty-one groups around our diocese, also reaching out to our local special needs' schools, through 200 volunteer parishioners. Last year your Advent Boxes brought in an amazing £12,000. We will be holding our annual SPRED parish collection in February which, last year, raised £23,000. Thanks again for your generosity which is helping this wonderful organisation in our diocese to spread and grow from strength to strength.</p> <p>Carols in the Cathedral – Bishop John invites you to the annual Diocesan Christmas carol service for all the family on Thursday 27th December at 3pm in St. Mirin's Cathedral. Come along and join in on the festive cheer! There will be tea, coffee and mince pies in the cathedral hall after the service and a selection box for the children.</p> <p>Drawing of Cathedral for Auction The Diocese is holding a Silent Auction of a Drawing of St. Mirin's Cathedral, framed charcoal, by the local Made in Paisley Artists, Caroline Elizabeth Gormley and Alexander Guy. Please email bids with contact details to colette.cardosi@btinternet.com, closing date 20th December 2018. All proceeds to the Diocese of Paisley.</p>	Christmas Eve	5pm	St Thomas'		7pm	St John's		Midnight	St John's	Christmas Day	10am	St Thomas'		11am	St John's
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Meaning of the Carol 12 Days of Christmas:

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in Britain were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew,

Mark, Luke & John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first

five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold

gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching,

Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy

Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness,

Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful

disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the

twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Pro-Life Mass: This month's Pro-Life Mass is on Wednesday, 19th December in Blessed John Duns Scotus, 270 Ballater St, Gorbals, Glasgow G5 0YT. There will be Adoration at 6pm followed by Rosary at 7pm and Mass at 7.30pm. All welcome. The celebrant will be a priest from St Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley.

Parish Stall: There are Christmas Candles for your Christmas meal and table as well as small angels to watch over you this Christmas bringing you the peace of the Baby Jesus.

Catholic Directory (Calendar): These Directories are for the Western Provinces of the Archdiocese of Glasgow and the Dioceses of Paisley & Motherwell. They give details of the times of Masses, Confession, Adoration and of the Diocesan agencies of all three Dioceses. A handy book to have. **Price £3.20**

Day for the Sacrament of Confession: This will take place in St. Mirin's from 9am - 9pm this Friday the 21st of December. Priests will be available for Confession between these times.

Carols by Candlelight: The Senior & Junior Choirs of The Academy of Sacred Music. Followed by mulled wine and Christmas cake. Turnbull Hall, Glasgow. Tuesday 18th December at 7pm.

St Luke's High School: The Caritas Day will start on Monday morning (17th Dec) with Mass at 8.50am in the School Oratory.

Journey from Advent to Christmas Service: This will take place in St Luke's High School this Thursday the 20th of December at 7pm. The St Luke's cluster parents and family and parishioners are all welcome. Tea/Coffee afterwards.

St Thomas Primary School: The pupils of St Thomas will join us for their end of Term Advent Mass this Friday at 10.00am. To prepare for the Mass Fr Joe will hear the Confessions of Primary 7,6 & 5 on Monday/Tuesday of this week.

Art work by James Callaghan: James is a parishioner here in St. Thomas' and painted the picture of St Thomas above the water font as you enter the Church. He is an artist who focuses most of his work through his faith/religion. If you are interested in Mr Callaghan's work, you can contact him at jim.callaghan1010@ntlworld.com

200 Club 2019: If anyone wishes to purchase a small gift for someone as a Christmas present and at the same time help the parish, then why not buy them a membership of the 200 club for 2019.

Margaret Wood will be available after the 10 am Mass this Sunday to receive new and continuing memberships. The draw for both November and December 2018 will take place this weekend.

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in our day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust Satan into hell and with him all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

We pray for all those who are **sick**. We pray for those who have **died recently**: Margaret Mc Quinnie and the 6 Months mind of Maria Minnery, and for the **anniversaries** of those who died around this time: Amelia Clarke, Elliot Cleary, Thomas Hughes, Jack Kennedy, Robert Minnery, Brigid O'Kane.

*Legacies: When making your Will, have you thought of leaving a legacy to the parish or diocese?
Gift Aid: If you pay tax, ask for a Gift-aid form; with your one-off signature, we get an extra 25%!*