

St Aidan's Parish Church

Mass Times

Sunday Masses Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm, Sunday 10.00 am and 12 Noon.

Holyday of Obligation Vigil 7.30pm, 10.00am and 7.30pm

Weekdays 8.15 am (Mondays to Fridays) and 10.00 am (daily)

Confessions After all Saturday Masses

Parish Ministers' Rota

27th December 2009

Mass	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
Vigil	B. Higgins, E. Lynn, S. Woods	K. Cassidy
10.00am	A. McCrossan	D. Ness, A. McCrorie
12 Noon	J. Fox, E. Hamilton	J. Fox, R. Fox

Today's Readings

Today's Gospel tells the story of Mary, now expecting Jesus, going to visit her cousin Elizabeth, the mother to be of John the Baptist. Luke's Gospel story is more than a tale of a friendly visit, he teaches us that Mary as she travels to the Judean hills is bringing the good news of the coming of the Messiah. Mary is, in effect, a preacher spreading the Good News.

Elizabeth immediately recognises the presence of the Lord and she declares both Mary and her child blessed. Elizabeth also praised Mary's faith, thus portraying Mary as a woman of faith, a true disciple of her Son. The child leaping in Elizabeth's womb is an anticipation of what happens later in the ministry of John the Baptist. He recognises and bears witness to the Messiah and points him out to his listeners as the one who is to come after him and who is greater than John. At the coming of the Saviour, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. This anticipates the saving work of Jesus, which results in the coming of the same Spirit, not just at Pentecost but for all people in the era of the Messiah and the Church he established.

Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with the hymn we call the Magnificat in which Mary praises God for the great things God has done for her and others. Today's Gospel does not include the Magnificat, but it is mentioned since it shows Mary interpreting the Good News of God's love and care for his people as Jesus was to do later in his ministry.

St Aidan's Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

20th December 2009



*“Of all women you are the most blessed and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”*

Parish Priest: Rev. Joseph Clements

Rev Francis King Chaplain Wishaw General Hospital

298 Coltness Road, Wishaw, ML2 7EX. Tel. (01698) 384730

Scottish Registered Charity Number SCO 11041

www.staidanswishaw.org.uk

Email: staidanswishaw@live.co.uk

Weekdays in Advent

Friday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION
Saturday 26th December St Stephen The first martyr for Christ. 'A man full of faith and power'. He was a Greek speaking Jew, one of the seven deacons chosen by the apostles to look after the Greek speaking widows of Christians in Jerusalem.

There will be no 8.15am Mass from now until Monday 4th January 2010

Christmas Services



Carol Service 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.
Followed by Midnight Mass Christmas Day Masses at 10.00am and 12 Noon

Wishaw Deanery

Sacrament of Penance

Christmas Reconciliation Services

Monday 21st December 7.00pm

St Athanasius's, Carluke

Frs. J. Naughton, J. Brannigan, H. Kelly

Tuesday 22nd December 7.00pm

St Mary's Cleland Frs. J. Naughton, J.

Brannigan, H. Kelly.

St Patrick's, Shieldmuir Fr. G. Chromy,

Canon K. O'Farrell.

Children's Liturgy Group

Christmas Crib Appeal 2009

The children will be invited to give a small gift at the crib at the 10.00am Mass on Christmas morning. These gifts will be sent to some of the poorest children in the world.

Suitable gifts: Basic school needs: e.g. pencils, jotters, writing pads, etc.

Clothing and basic toiletries.

Gifts may be left at the crib after all other Masses.

Altar Servers: All altar servers available to serve at Midnight Mass MUST attend a practice on Wednesday 23rd December at 4.30pm in the church

Christmas Carol CD

By pupils of St Aidan's High School and local primaries in aid of St Andrew's Hospice £3.00 each or 2 for £5. See Fr King (sole agent) for copies.

Thank You

Thanks to the Tiny Tots Group for their donation of £350.00.

Questions People Ask

Q. Why was 25th December chosen for the birth of Jesus?

A. The conception of Jesus at the Annunciation to Mary, 9 months earlier, was an older celebration than his birthday. The 25th March was a very important date, regarded as the first day of creation and the day if Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Another reason for choosing 25th December was that this date was decreed by the Emperor Aurelian as a feast for the return of the Unconquered Sun after the mid-winter solstice. Christians put their own spin on the feast by celebrating the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

Eucharistic Ministers are reminded that all parish pyxes MUST be returned to the church as soon as possible after use. In recent weeks there has been a shortage of Pyxes!

Please pray for:

The Sick:

Anne Marie Fagan

The Recently Deceased:

William Hattie, Angela Jones

The Anniversaries and Month's Mind of:

Anne Leonard, Susan Fox

Parish Humour

Just before Christmas God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the evil that was going on. He decided to send an angel down to Earth to check it out. So he called one of His best angels and sent the angel to Earth for a time. When she returned she told God, yes it is bad on Earth, 95% is bad and 5% is good.

Well, he thought for a moment and said, maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another point of view. So God called another angel and sent her to Earth for a time too. When the angel returned she went to God and told him yes, the Earth was in decline, 95% was bad and 5% was good.

God said this was not good. So He decided to email the 5% that were good and He wanted to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going. Do you know what that email said? Ah, so you didn't get one either?

Wee Hughie's parents were discussing his progress at school. "How did Hughie get on in his History exam", asked his dad. "Not very well", replied his mother, "but then you can't really blame him. A lot of the questions were about things that happened before he was born!"

St Aidan's Primary Calendar 2010

Superb new Christmas Calendars featuring every pupil from St Aidan's Primary will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. £3.50 or 3 for £10.00.

An excellent stocking filler!

Children's Corner

Christmas Wordsearch

A Baby to be Born

K F R M Y W J U D E A
J O Y B M A O E J T M
F Z A L L A S M I M G
I B E H E S R R E W G
L A D C E A I Y W N R
L L U L H P P O N A E
E X B B S A D E K T E
D C M Y A D R V D O T
A O L R R R Y I E W I
W O M O T H E R A N N
H E L I Z A B E T H G

Mary / Town/ Judea / Zechariah / Elizabeth / Greeting / Baby / Womb / Filled / Holy / Spirit / Blessed / Women / Mother / Lord / Leaped / Joy.

West Of Scotland Catholic Calendars are now available from the stall.

Christmas Services

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are required for the Christmas Services. Please put your name on the list in the porch. (Readings for the Carol Service are available from the Sacristy).

PARISH NOTICES

BINGO Live bingo in the hall every Sunday at 7.30pm

STALL In the hall after both Sunday Masses. Christmas Cards are now available.

MEN's CLUB meets in the hall every Thursday at 7.30pm. Men's Club monthly Mass is held on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Intimations for the sick, the recently deceased and anniversaries and all other items for the bulletin must reach the Parish priest by Thursday for inclusion in the bulletin for the following week. We acknowledge the assistance of *Intercom* in the preparation of the text for parts of this bulletin