

**PARISH OF THE MOST BLESSED TRINITY
CHURCHES OF ST. STEPHEN AND
ALL SAINTS**

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Parish of the Most Blessed Trinity

2nd Sunday of Advent, 4th December 2022

Happy 2nd week of Advent!



All Saints			St. Stephen's		
Monday	7.30 p.m.	Mass/Novena	Tuesday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Mass	Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Friday	9.30 a.m.	Mass	Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Saturday	4.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass	Sunday	12.15 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Mass			
Sunday	5.30 p.m.	Mass			

ADVENT

Advent Wreath: The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul. The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

We often miss Advent's power because these December weeks are full of secular Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meaning. Perhaps taking some time to look at the Mass readings everyday allows us to journey to Christmas in the company of the Old Testament prophets and authors who longed for the coming of the Messiah and the fulfilment of God's promise. Each gospel reading has a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time

(First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday). The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Isaiah.

The readings from an apostle serve as exhortations and as proclamations, in keeping with the different themes of Advent.



ST STEPHEN'S ALTAR SERVERS

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Foodbank collection -

3rd/4th of December after both masses

Christmas Cafe - 11th December after 12:15pm mass.

Please join us for children's games and refreshments.

Prayer Partners - please leave your name at the back of the chapel if you would be willing to become a prayer partner for one of our new servers.



FEAST DAYS

Tuesday 6th: St. Nicholas
Wednesday 7th: St. Ambrose
Thursday 8th: The Immaculate Conception

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception asserts that, "from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of Mankind, kept free from all stain of original sin."

The observance of this feast began with a Papal encyclical by Pope Pius IX, when he formally defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, *INEFFABILIS DEUS*, on December 8, 1854. Several years later, in 1858, the Blessed Mother gave her name to St. Bernadette at Lourdes stating, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

Online booking is open for couples preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church. The course costs £50 and includes course material.

Dates of courses are:

21st January 2023, 18th February 2023, 18th March 2023 and 22nd April 2023. Book online at www.marriagefamilylife.org.

SENIORS' NIGHT Thursday 8th December.

Would those attending please arrive at 7.00 p.m.

Meal will be served at 7.30 p.m.

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

Thursday 15th December 2022

7.00—8.00 p.m. in All Saints Church.

Confessions: during the second part.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO/PARTY

13th December. Free entry. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. First come, first served.

Tickets available soon in All Saints Church.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER/RAFFLE

£1 for your chance to win.

Be in it to win it!



CHURCH CLEANERS: Could you spare approx. 1 hour a week to help clean the church, after Mass on a Wednesday morning. If so, just come along. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

MARY'S MEALS – DOUBLE THE LOVE

From 1st November 2022 to 31st January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million.

Find out more at marysmeals.org.uk

ANNUAL MASS FOR DECEASED CLERGY will be in St. Mary's Church, Coatbridge, on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7.00 p.m.