

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

**Rev. Thomas W. Doyle, 293 Muirhall Street,  
Coatbridge, ML5 3RZ Tel: 01236 441110  
Email: themostblessedtrinity@rcdom.org.uk**

website: [www.mostblessedtrinity.com](http://www.mostblessedtrinity.com)  
Twitter: @reblesstrinity  
Facebook page:  
Parish of the Most Blessed Trinity  
3rd Sunday of Advent, B  
17th December 2023



**All Saints**

Monday	7.30 p.m.	Mass/Novena
Tuesday	9.30 a.m.	Funeral Mass
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Funeral Mass
Friday	9.30 a.m.	Mass
Saturday	4.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Mass
Sunday	5.30 p.m.	Mass

**St. Stephen's**

Tuesday	No Mass (funeral)
Wednesday	No Mass (funeral)
Thursday	10.00 a.m. Mass
Saturday	5.30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday	12.15 p.m. Mass

**0 FEAST DAYS**

**Thursday 21st: St. Peter Canisius  
ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY**

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. The Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness. Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.



**THANK YOU** to all the Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, cleaners, all who supported the various events in the parish throughout the year, those who donated money for flowers, those who supported the various hamper raffles and other fundraising events

during the year and to all parishioners for their support and generosity throughout the year. **Father Doyle**  
**MEMORY TREE**

There is a Christmas Tree in the Muirhall Street Porch. Gift tags are available and you may want to remember an intention for someone who has gone before marked with the sign of faith. Write on the gift tag and hang on a branch of the tree.

*If desired, donations may be given.*

**THURSDAY NIGHT BINGO** on holiday until  
**1st February 2024.**

**PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS** are available giving details of our Christmas

Services. Details of the services are also available on the Home Page of our website just click on the link for All Saint's or

St. Stephen's, halfway down the page.

**ADVENT RETREAT**, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, **Go to Advent Retreat – Online Prayer**, just click on the date and the prayer for that day will open.

**ADVENT RETREAT WITH  
FR. DENIS MCBRIDE C.S.S.R.**

Father Denis McBride leads a FREE online retreat, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*. Fr Denis will read twelve of the fourteen episodes chosen from the Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Go to **Advent Retreat** ([rpbooks.co.uk](http://rpbooks.co.uk))

**HOGMANAY CELEBRATION** Tickets now on sale. £20 for adults, £10 for children, includes supper.

**In the Bleak mid-winter** is the title of this year's Carol Service by the Diocesan Choir on

**Wednesday 20 December at 7:30pm in  
The Cathedral, Motherwell.** Admission Free.

**MY DAY BY DAY** booklets on sale at the back of the church, contain the readings and the Gospel for each day of the month. **THE ADVENT AND JANUARY ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT £1 EACH.**

**COLD WEATHER:** As with last year, a wee reminder to wrap up warm as the colder months approach. Although there has been a small reduction in the tariff we pay for gas it is hugely inflated in comparison to the previous rates we were paying. This will mean that we must remain prudent with the heating of all our buildings.



**RAFFLE WINNERS**

**Hamper: Lisa Rossi;  
Hamper: Joe Docherty  
Meal for 4 and tour of Celtic Park:  
Celia McConville.**



**TUESDAY CLUB** on holiday until Tuesday  
**30th January 2024.**

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU** to all the parishioners and friends of St. Stephen's who supported the recent sale of knitted goods and small Christmas gifts to provide fresh flowers for the altar for Christmas. The ladies involved have raised over £500 this year.

