

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

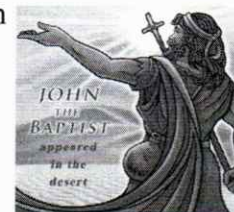
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Parish of the Most Blessed Trinity
**2nd Sunday of Advent, B
10th December 2023**



All Saints

Monday	7.30 p.m.	Mass/Novena
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	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	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sunday	12.15 p.m.	Mass

FEAST DAYS

Tuesday 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe.
Wednesday 13th St. Lucy
Thursday 14th Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid of
Cathedral, Motherwell

St Joseph Advent Hero: Fulfilling God's Will is not usually easy. St. Joseph had his share of trials and difficulties. He had to travel to Bethlehem with his nine-month pregnant wife. Then, in the middle of the night, he was told to flee with his young family into Egypt. After the death of King Herod, he was beckoned to return to Nazareth to raise the Child.

The angel once told Joseph to "Fear not," and he took that command to heart and turned every problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence."

Joseph tried desperately to find a place for his wife to give birth to God's Son, but no one made room for them. So, Joseph made a place for Mary in a stable where Jesus came quietly into the world. Joseph laid Jesus in a manger. In God's Divine Providence, the Bread of Life was placed in a feeding trough in a town whose name means "House of Bread." God always takes care of us, not always in the way we would envision it, but in a way much grander than we could ever imagine.

"St Joseph, to you God entrusted His only Son.

In you, Mary placed her trust.

With you, Christ became man.

Through you, may we understand The wisdom gained from an open mind, The courage nurtured by an open heart, The strength found in silence, The hope born from faith, The value of patience." AMEN

The Advent Liturgy reminds us of the importance of Our Blessed Lady. She reminds us of the expectations and hopes of the Old Testament, which she perfectly fulfils with her Expectation and welcoming of the Son of God. Here is a reflection from the Coptic Church which beautifully reflects the importance of Our Lady.

"Hail Mary, the most beautiful dove, which carried the word of God for us; we greet you with the Archangel Gabriel saying: 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O Virgin, the glory of our race; you have borne Emmanuel for us. We pray that you will remember us before the Lord Jesus Christ, that he will forgive us our sins.'

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.

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.

Final Mass — 75th Anniversary of the Diocese

We will celebrate Mass for the Solemnity of the Dedication of Our Lady of Good Aid on Thursday 14th December at 7p.m. as this year marking the 75th Anniversary of Motherwell Diocese draws to a close.

A special board detailing the clergy who have served in the Cathedral will be blessed and the part played by the Diocesan Choir in the Cathedral and Diocesan Liturgies will be recognised as some of its senior members are honoured.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CANDLES etc. are now on sale in the shop situated at the Sacred Heart side of the church.

Raffle to win A meal for 4 at

Celtic Park. Tickets £1 each now on sale.

Advent Retreat with Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.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)

800 years of the Christmas Crib

As Christmas 1223 approached, St Francis of Assisi remembered his pilgrimage to the Holy Land and knew that most of his contemporaries could never visit Bethlehem or realistically imagine the Nativity. Artists who attempted to paint the scene engaged the mind and heart but couldn't offer the touch, smell and sounds needed to recreate the birth of Jesus. Francis knew that the stable was associated with an inn and was possibly one of many hillside caves close to Bethlehem. At the time, he was staying just outside Greccio, a small town sixty miles south of Assisi and surrounded by the

beautiful hills and valleys of Umbria. The town is very hot in summer and piercingly, bitterly cold in winter. If he could find a suitable cave for recreating the Nativity, the people of Greccio could experience the similar low temperatures of a Bethlehem winter's night. Like Joseph and Mary, they would also feel grateful for any shelter they could find and for a small fire which brought warmth and light into the cave's darkness.

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.

PROJECT WELLSRING is a new initiative from the Bishop and we look forward to supporting this important initiative for the future of the Diocese. Watch this space.

MARY'S MEALS: Double the Love campaign is back. Every donation made between 22nd November 2023 and 22 January 2024 will be matched, up to £1 million. Further information from <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/> or telephone 0800 698 1212.

