

**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

Twitter: @rcblesstrinity

Facebook page:

Parish of the Most Blessed Trinity

1st Sunday of Advent, B

3rd December 2023



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

FEAST DAYS

Wednesday 6th

St. Nicholas

Thursday 7th

St. Ambrose

Friday 8th

**The Immaculate Conception
of The Blessed Virgin Mary**



Advent has a twofold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas, when we mark the First Coming of the Son of God and likewise we look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of preparation, expectation and hope. During the Advent season the Gloria is not said, flowers and music are restrained, and the vestments are purple, and rose on Gaudete Sunday

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.

The Sundays of Advent 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

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."

ADVENT RETREAT, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow, begins on the First Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2023.

Go to **Advent Retreat – Online Prayer**, just click on the date and the prayer for that day will open.

The Annual Mass for the Deceased Clergy of Motherwell Diocese will take place on Wednesday 6th December in St James', Coatbridge, at 7.00p.m. Canon Joe Clements, Father Damien Gilhooley and Father George Donaldson will be especially remembered.

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.

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.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES Online booking is now available for couples preparing for marriage within the Catholic Church. Courses take place from 10.30 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. in St. Augustine's Parish Centre, Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ. Courses cost £50 and includes all course materials. Book your course today at www.marriagefamilylife.org. For more information contact Fr. Michael Kane from the Marriage and Family Life Agency: info@marriagefamilylife.org.

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.

Raffle to win A meal for 4 at Celtic Park.

Tickets £1 each now on sale.

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

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.**

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

BE VIGILANT in the church with your belongings following the theft last Sunday morning, before the 10.30 a.m. Mass, of the Christmas Hamper from the back of the church.