



Congratulations Maria!

Congratulations to Maria Bartlett who is presented with the Benemerenti award this weekend by his Lordship, Bishop Robson. On behalf of Maria and all in the parish I'd like to thank Bishop Stephen for joining us for this celebration, and I would like to invite you all present at the Sunday morning Mass at St. James' to join us in the church hall after Mass for refreshments and to continue our celebrations.



St. James', Kinross & St. Matthew's, Auchtermuchty

A warm welcome to St. James' & St. Matthew's

If you are visiting we are glad to welcome you. Please introduce yourself to the parishioners & to our priest.

In the Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld

Scottish Charity Number: SC001810
Parish Priest: Fr. Martin Pletts

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A report of parish collections, etc. will be given in the next newsletter for the 5th of January 2020, and the newsletter will return to its usual format. Meanwhile I'd like to thank you for your contributions to the parish Advent Project which has been a great success (a report will be given in due course). In particular Fr. Colin Golden has asked me to convey his sincere thanks for your generosity in suppling presents for children as these will go to help many in his own parish who are in need. God bless you for your kindness!

Timetable of Masses, Confessions & Devotions over the next couple of weeks of the Christmas Season:



Monday 23rd December:

Holy Mass in St. James' at 10.00a.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession. Please note that there will be no Prayer Group this evening.



Tuesday 24th December:

Carols at 4.30p.m. in St. Matthew's followed by Holy Mass at 5.00p.m., and Carols at 7.30p.m. in St. James' followed by Holy Mass at 8.00p.m. There will be mince pies and tea/coffee available in St. James' church hall after the 8.00p.m. Vigil Mass - all are welcome.

Wednesday 25th December:

Holy Mass of the Nativity of the Lord at 9.30a.m. in St. James' - this is the only Mass in the parish on Christmas Day itself.

Thursday 26th December:

Holy Mass for the **Feast of St. Stephen** at 10.00a.m. in St. James' followed by an opportunity for Confession.

Friday 27th December:

Holy Mass for the **Feast of St. John** at 10.00a.m. in St. James' followed by an opportunity for Confession.

Saturday 28th December:

Holy Mass for the **Feast of the Holy Innocents** at 10.00a.m. in St. James' followed by an opportunity for Confession. Confessions at 5.30p.m., prior to the **Vigil Mass in St. James' at 6.00p.m.**

Sunday 29th December:

Holy Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph: celebrated at 9.30a.m. in St. James', and at 11.30a.m. in St. Matthew's. There is no Mass today at Kilgraston.

Monday 30th December:

Holy Mass in St. James' at 10.00a.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession. Please note that there will be no Prayer Group this evening.

Tuesday 31st December:

Holy Mass in St. James' for the **Optional Memorial of St. Sylvester** at 10.00a.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession.

There will also be a Midnight Mass in St. James' for the beginning of the New Year and celebrating the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God. Mass will begin at midnight and after Holy Mass there will be tea/coffee and cake in the church hall and a chance to get together to see in the New Year.

Wednesday 1st January:

Holy Mass in St. James' for the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God at 12.00 noon. There will be an opportunity for Confession after Mass.

Thursday 2nd January:

There will be no Mass today.

Friday 3rd January:

There will be no Mass today.

Saturday 4th January:

Confessions at 5.30p.m., prior to the **Vigil Mass in St. James' at 6.00p.m.**

Sunday 5th January:

Holy Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord: celebrated at 9.30a.m. in St. James', and at 11.30a.m. in St. Matthew's. There is no Mass today at Kilgraston.



Please retain this newsletter until Saturday 4th January as there will be none next weekend.

A Christmas Message from Fr. Martin

Every Christmas we inevitably think of our loved ones since this is a time of the year steeped in family gatherings and family traditions, a time when we come together to celebrate, to reminisce, to enjoy the blessings that God has given us through our families, and also, for many, a time to silently, sadly, and gratefully think about the loved ones who are no longer with us—at least physically.

As a Church we are a wider family community - brothers and sisters in Christ - and we experience as a family the ups and downs that any family experiences: the times of great joy and those times of mourning. I think of the happy times we have had over the past year, the celebrations of baptisms and weddings, and First Holy Communions, and I think too of the sad times we have shared together when members of our church family have left us to go on to God, leaving us behind with their legacy of faith and friendship and a sense of their absence.

Being a family of faith we are strengthened by the Lord's presence in good times and in sad times, because we know, as the Christmas story makes quite clear, that God is with us, He is a God intimately involved in our lives, concerned about everything that we do, who loves us in such a way that He has every hair on our head counted.

I rejoice in our family of faith, in the strength and support it gives me, in the challenges for growth that it presents to me, in the hope that it gives me, and I thank God, as I know you do too, for His abiding presence among us—especially in the Most Holy Eucharist and in the Sacraments that He has left for us in the Church.

I pray that this Christmas Season and our entry into a New Year will open up many more opportunities for us in our relationship with God, and many more opportunities for us to share His love and His peace with each other - beginning here in this community and then spreading out to touch the lives of those around us. This, as we know, is what we have each been commissioned to do, to radiate the love and the presence of our God and Saviour in this world.

Ever encouraged by the charity and generosity, by the faith and devotion of the members of our parish I look forward to us all receiving many blessings from the Lord in the time to come as together we seek to follow His will and to live the Gospel with real passion, allowing Christ's message to transform our lives, as we take it more and more on board, as we grow in our union with Him.

I want to express my gratitude to all who help and support me in the parish, in the tasks that are quietly and diligently carried out from day-to-day, in those who maintain, clean, and keep an eye on the properties, those who help to make our churches beautiful and prayerful places to worship, those who enhance our liturgies and who contribute to the prayer life of the church, those who encourage and support our young people, or who visit the sick, or who take that call of the Lord so seriously to see Him in their neighbour and offer practical charity on behalf of our faith community, those who help us to have a vibrant social life—in fact all of you, who contribute in any way to the life and the functioning of the parish—all that you do is greatly appreciated, so thank you very much.

I also thank you for your personal support and your kindnesses, which I never take for granted, and I thank you, too, for your patience with and tolerance of me - only God is perfect, and I am most certainly not, so your understanding, your forgiveness, and your charity towards me - as well the support of your prayers—is always received with gratitude.

God bless you and your loved ones in this holy season, may He grant you every good gift: good health, strong faith, happiness and peace, and every blessing that you need to grow deeper in His love. Let us pray for each other, and may the Christ Child fill our hearts with His love and joy!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Martin

