

TIMETABLE FOR THE COMING WEEK

Saturday 24th December <i>Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord</i> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	(I) 4.15pm Confessions (I) 5.00pm Holy Mass (<i>John & Barbara Ewing RIP</i>) (R) 11.30pm Carols & Readings (R) Midnight Mass (<i>Fr Kevin's Intentions</i>)
Sunday 25th December <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>	(I) 9.30am Holy Mass (<i>Protection of the unborn</i>) (R) 11.00am Holy Mass (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
Monday 26th December	
Tuesday 27th December <i>Feast of St John</i>	(R) 6.30pm Confessions (R) 7.00pm Mass (<i>Therese & Eric Allcock RIP</i>)
Wednesday 28th December <i>Feats of teh Holy Innocents</i>	(I) 10.00am Holy Mass (<i>Margaret Begley RIP</i>)
Thursday 29th December <i>in the Christmas Octave</i>	(I) 10.00am Holy Mass NO MASS
Friday 30th December <i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>	(R) 10.00am Holy Mass (<i>Jean King RIP</i>)
Saturday 31st December <i>in the Christmas Octave</i> <i>Vigil of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	(R) 10.00am Holy Mass (<i>Pat Coyne RIP</i>) (R) 10.30am Confessions (I) 4.15pm Confessions (I) 5.00pm Holy Mass (<i>Jean King RIP</i>)
Sunday 1st January 2017 <i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>	(I) 9.30am Holy Mass (<i>Pro Populo</i>) (R) 11.00am Holy Mass (<i>Christine Milligan RIP</i>)



Prayer to Saint Michael

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and the snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

Newsletter available online & on Facebook: *The Catholic Parishes of St Peter in Chains and Ss John & Columba*

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Ss John & Columba and St Peter in chains are parishes of the Archdiocese of St Andrew & Edinburgh. A Charity registered in Scotland Number SC008540



THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF
Ss JOHN & COLUMBA ROSYTH
AND



ST PETER IN CHAINS INVERKEITHING

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
25th December 2016

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Kevin A. Dow

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Father of light, I come to you with my whole being. After going through times of goodness and times of slipping into evil I finally understand, because of my experience, that alone I only exist in shadow and darkness. Without your light I cannot see anything. Indeed, you are the source of life; you, Sun of justice, who opens my eyes, you the way that leads to the Father. Today you have come among us, eternal Word, as light that goes on crossing the pages of history to offer humankind the gifts of grace and joy in the desert of famine and emptiness: the bread and wine of your holy Name, which at the hour of the cross will become visible signs of consummated love, give us birth with you from that fertile side that is the Church, the cradle of your life for us. Like Mary, we wish to stay by your side to learn to be like her, full of grace from the Most High. And when our tents will welcome the cloud of the Spirit in the radiance of one more word, we shall understand the Glory of your Face and we shall bless in an adoring silence without any further hesitation the Beauty of being one with you, living Word of God. Amen

Fr Kevin would like to wish each and everyone of you a blessed and holy Christmas with your family and loved ones. May the Christ child in his tender mercy bless you all for your love, generosity and support that you give to us and to the parish family. May 2017 be a year of prayer and growth for us, as we seek to serve the Lord and each other in all that we say and do. **Merry Christmas!**

NEWS & EVENTS

Please remember in your prayers the sick and infirm

John Ash, Ronnie Gorman, Paddy McCafferty, Susan Stevenson, May Lannan, Pat Condon, Theresa Murphy, Kitty McHale, Marie Boyle, Isabelle Doig, Joan McBride, Franki Murray, James McElhinney, Joe McBride, Helen O'Neill, Marie Cushley, Sheila Dredge, Violet Merrilees, Tom Kelly, Kate Finnigan, Jacqueline Hannen

Of your charity, please pray for the recently deceased

Parish Safeguarding Officers

Lisa Quinn & Theresa Hughes (Rosyth); Maureen Ritchie & Patricia Watt (Inverkeithing)

Baptisms & Marriages

Arrangements for weddings (for which six months notice is required) and Baptisms should be made by appointment with Fr. Dow

Sacrament of the Sick / Hospital Visitations

Those who require the Sacrament of the Sick at home should contact the Parish House to arrange for Fr. Dow to visit. The Anointing of the Sick should ordinarily be arranged prior to any prolonged hospital visit. The Catholic Chaplain to the Victoria Hospital is Fr Wanat SDS of St Marie's Kirkcaldy (Tel: 01592 592111). In cases of emergency where you or a family member require the pastoral assistance of the Catholic Chaplain please request this from the nursing staff at the hospital. For patients in Queen Margaret Hospital please contact Fr Chris Heenan at St Margaret's (625611)

Please note that a patient/family request must be made before the clergy can visit.

Names for sick list

Names can only be added by the person themselves or by a member of the family. Please advise Father of any name to be added or removed.

Mass Intentions

Please try to have any intention that is required to be said on a particular date in a month before hand. On occasion when a funeral takes place, the stated intention will be moved to the next available date.

Hall Bookings

Please contact Mrs Pat Reid on 417214 for availability.

Bulletin Notices

All notices should be dropped through the Presbytery letter box or sent by email by Thursday evening

Mass	Gift Aid	Loose monies	Total
St Peter in Chains (5.00pm)	£105.00	£135.30	£240.73
St Peter in Chains (9.30am)	£98.50	£91.20	£189.70
Ss John & Columba's (11.00am)	£51.00	£95.70	£146.70
Building Fund (Rosyth)	£26.00	£68.20	£94.20

Welcome: If you are a visitor to the parish, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world or simply from another parish.

The SSVP Conference of SS. John & Columba, and St. Peter in Chains, would like to thank the Parishioners as well as the wider community, for their help, support, and contributions to our Christmas Hamper Appeal. Elaine and Isobel would also like to thank everyone for donations of raffle prizes. They raised a total of £425.00. 1st prize, was a Luxury Hamper, won by Willow Glen. 2nd prize was a Harrods Teddy, Leeanne Bathgate. 3rd prize, Bayliss Gift Set, Susan Stevenson. 4th prize, Pearl Bracelet, Catriona O'Connor. 5th prize, Forth Country Voucher, Clare Lucas. We also helped 85 families, with 120 bags, and 200 presents. Without your support, this wouldn't have been possible.

*Thank you very much for your support.
Jim Meade, President*

Caritas Candles: many thanks for all who purchased the candles that were on sale to raise initial funds for the new diocesan Caritas. The tradition behind the candles is that they are placed on our table during the family Christmas meal, and act as a sign of solidarity with those less fortunate than ourselves. More will be ordered for next Christmas, as this year was just a trial run. A great big thank you also to the Ladies Group and to the other anonymous benefactors for their very kind donations.

Christmas Crib Fund: as is tradition, a donation box is placed in each of the cribs in the churches, and again this will take place this year. The monies raised through these donations will be used by Caritas Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh for assistance with children who suffer through poverty.

Special Collection on the weekend of the 7/8 January for the work of Justice & Peace, which in our Archdiocese is now part of Caritas.

Stewardship Reflection: *“And the Word became flesh” John 1:14*

Jesus is God's ultimate gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God showers upon us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to such generous love is with our own generous love. When we dedicate our lives to sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas joy every day.

This is our Faith: The Apostles Creed is what we say each Sunday, but what it is that we are stating we believe?

“the communion of saints”

The communion of saints is the Church, past, present & future; living & dead; on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven. (946, 954-5)

We are a communion in two related senses: a communion of holy persons (sancta) only because we have shared a communion of holy things (sancti), namely, the sacraments, and above all else, the Eucharist. (948, 950)

As we pray for each other on earth, so continues the Church in heaven. Those saints in heaven, being more closely united to Christ, more effectively intercede for us. Thus we can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us, and we can also all pray for the holy souls being purified in Purgatory. (954-9)

In this solidarity among all men, living & dead, every act done in charity will profit all, and every sin will harm the whole communion. (953)

*Merry Christmas! Wesolych Świąt!
Maligayang Pasko! Feliz Navidad!
Buon Natale! Nollaig Shona!*