

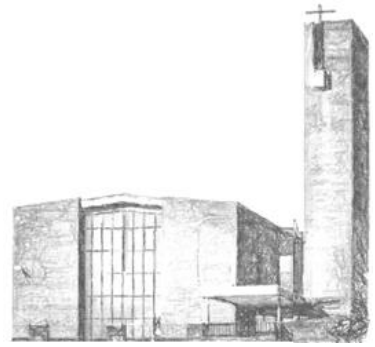
# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

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Father Frank Dougan, Deacons Bill McMillan & Kevin Kirby, Sr Sophie McGinness



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Mon	10:00	Devotions
Tue	10:00	Mass
Wed	10:00	Mass
Thu	10:00	Mass
	<b>17:00-18:45</b>	Confessions
	19:00	Mass
Fri	07:00	Mass
	10:00	Mass
Sat	09:00 - 09:45	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	09:15 - 09:45	Confessions
	10:00	Mass
	16:15 - 16:45	Confessions

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023

	17:00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sun	09:00	Sunday Mass
	11:00	Sunday Mass
	17:00	Children's Vigil Christmas Mass
	20:30	Carol Service and Mass

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

ISA 61:1-2A, 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

LUKE 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

My soul glorifies the Lord.

1 THESS 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

*A parish of the RC Diocese of Motherwell, a registered Scottish charity, SCO11041*

### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

John the Baptist identifies himself as who he is not. He is not Elijah, not the Christ, not the prophet, not the light. His own identity is much less important to him as the message he carries, and the work he must do. He points to Christ through his mission, ministry and martyrdom. We too must point to Christ in all we do, allowing him to live in us and shine through us. Like John, we must decrease, Christ must increase.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### THE SICK

Richard Carnichan, Catherine Sheed, Len Kelly.

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Theresa Gowans, Jim Simpson, Ernie Robson, Alice Dowling, John McConnachie, Dick Lynas, Maureen O'Keane, Beth Regan, David Hurrell, Michael and Betty Horn, John and Molly Lynas

#### ANNIVERSARIES, MONTH'S MINDS, BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES

George McCormack, James, Agnes and Charles Dupree, Alyson Foley.

### COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS - THANK YOU

Cash	£1,504
Envelopes	£386
Standing Orders	£905
Estimated Gift Aid	£265
	<b>£3,060</b>

Stall received **£235** and votives **£146**.

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December: Children's Mass at 17:00. Carol Service and Mass at 20:30.  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day Mass at 10:00.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND

### GAUDETE SUNDAY

On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-coloured, deliberately lighter than the penitential purple.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

### BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

On this Third Sunday of Advent children and adults bring their baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peter's Square in Rome where they are blessed by the Pope. Pope John Paul II began the tradition of 'Bambinelli Sunday' during his papacy to remind families about the joyous event of baby Jesus' arrival in the manger.

We will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' at all our Masses on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to bring their baby Jesus figure from their home cribs to be blessed by Father Frank.

Children will receive a baby Jesus at the children's liturgy. After the blessing, the children are invited to take their baby Jesus home, wrap him in Christmas paper and place him under their Christmas tree. On Christmas morning, the Bambinelli is the first Christmas gift to be unwrapped and placed in the family crib.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

### ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

This will be at St Leonard's Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> at 19:00. Fr Quinn will lead a service including a communal act of contrition followed by an opportunity for individual confessions with a number of priests present.

### EXTRA CONFESSIONS

There will be extended confessions here on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> from 17:00 until 18:45.

### FRIDAY DROP-IN LUNCH INITIATIVE

Continues on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 12:00 until 14:00. It is open to all and does not require any form of registration or notification. It is simply a case of turning up and being able to access the lunch items - soup and roll/bread, tea and coffee with biscuits. There will also be tea and toast from the end of 10:00 Mass.

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## OTHER NOTICES

### CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR LIFE

The first issue of the newsletter from the Bishops' Commission for Marriage, Family & Life can be downloaded by clicking on [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS TREES

As usual, the children (including the big weans) are invited to bring a decoration for our trees. The trees will be on the sanctuary from next weekend and so the children can bring any

decoration they want so that they can play their part in preparing the church for Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be on sale for a Christmas hamper. Proceeds to the High School Retreats Programme.

### PARKING AT CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Eve Masses could be quite busy, so it would be good to plan ahead. Could you park a little bit further away and walk to the church to allow the more frail to park nearby?

This is a good time to remind each other to avoid parking in such a way as to inconvenience those who live near the church.

### ADVENT PART 2

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> marks the second half of the season of Advent. We now focus firmly on the story of the Nativity based on the first two chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Matthew's Gospel contains the Annunciation to Joseph. Luke has the Annunciation to Zechariah and the Birth of John the Baptist, and the Annunciation to Mary and the Visitation. These are read out at Masses during the week in the lead-up to Christmas. It would be a great part of any Christmas preparation to attend Mass during the week. It would also be worthwhile to read Chapters one and two of those Gospels and appreciate the dramatic build-up to our celebration of Christmas.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation.

