

ST MATTHEW'S and OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Martin Chambers

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SUNDAY LITURGY: 6th December

2nd Sunday of Advent - B

Psalm Response	<i>Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.</i>
Gospel Acclamation	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!</i>

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm: St. Matthew's. Sunday 9.30am: St. Matthew's and 11.00am: OLMC

Illuminating Our Darkness

The poet Christina Rossetti was looking through the lens of Incarnation when she prayed:

*Lord, purge our eyes to see
Within the seed the tree,
Within the glowing egg a bird,
Within the shroud the butterfly.*

God is now fleshed. To perceive the world in Christina's light is to discern the hidden depths of everything, the astonishing possibilities in all that happens, the extraordinary mystery abiding within the ordinary. This Christian revelation of an incarnate God is alone among the religions of the world.

On Christmas eve, in my last parish, with the liturgies almost upon us, I dashed into town to savour the rush and buzz if the season, the flash of red gloves and scarves against the swirling snow, the colour and the music that never fail to bring a tingle of childhood delight.

What struck me most were people's faces – expressions of many moods, from eager expectation to sheer exhaustion. Their eyes were full of memories of warm wonder and lost dreams, of a magic innocence and broken hopes. Their stories told in the shops and cafes, in the hospital, surgeries and post-office queues, were painfully rich and delightfully earthy.

...some of these people will be at Midnight Mass. How can I share with them something of the meaning of Incarnation, recover for them the lost secret? How do I explain that Christmas reveals the holiness of every single moment of their difficult lives, not just at this festive time but throughout their lives; a feast of Light that celebrates the invisible light that shines from all people, from all creation, from all time? The monk and mystic, Thomas Merton, came from thinking that the religion-less people of Louisville were less graced than his monastic brethren to a stunning Christmas insight. "It is a glorious destiny to be a member of the human race, though it makes many terrible mistakes...and yet God himself glories in becoming a member of it ...it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, where neither sin nor shadow can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could see themselves as they really are. Who will tell them that they are walking around, shining like the sun?"

Daniel O'Leary

Day	Mass and Eucharistic Service Schedule for the Forthcoming Week		Gospel Reading
Sunday 6th December	9.30am Mass at St. Matthew's	11.00 am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
Monday 7th December	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass from St. Matthew's 11.30am Funeral Mass for Mary Hewitt OLMC	<i>Luke 5:17-26</i>
Tuesday 8th December	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass from Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
Wednesday 9th December	10.00am Mass at St. Joseph's		<i>Matthew 11:28-30</i>
Thursday 10th December	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass from Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<i>Matthew 11:11-15</i>
Friday 11th December	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass from St. Matthew's	<i>Matthew 11:16-19</i>
Saturday 12th December	6.00pm Mass at St. Matthew's		<i>Matthew 17:10-13</i>
Sunday 13th December	9.30am Mass at St. Matthew's	11.00am Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel	<i>John 1:6-8.19-28</i>

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Mary Hewitt and Sandra Murray
May all our departed rest in peace.

Anniversaries: John McCann, Jimmy Caddis and Tommy Thomson

People who are ill: Eimear Callaghan, David O'Callaghan & Michelle Hanlon, Mary Gibson, Michelle Dunne, Bridget Kirkwood, Leona McAllister, Helen Wass-O'Donnell, Betty Deeney, Lorette Pearson, Mary Hasson, Donald Gibon, Senga McCann, Benny McGuinness Snr, Bernard McGuinness Jnr., Valerie Toal, Sarah Lobban, Frank Mullen, Helen O'Donnell, Nathalie Feeney, Mary McLaughlin, Agnes Lennon and May Hollywood

Feasts This Week	Monday 7 th – St Ambrose; Tuesday 8 th – Immaculate Conception
Booking a Place at Mass	<p>You can book a seat at SUNDAY Mass in the following ways:</p> <p>a) Each week from the Sunday evening at 6pm, you can book a seat online through the Parish website for either of the Saturday 6pm Mass or the two Sunday Masses.</p> <p>b) For those who do not have access to online booking, on the following Friday afternoon from 2-3pm, parishioners will be able to phone in and book a seat. The number is: 07847 726 845</p> <p>BOOKING A PLACE AT WEEKDAY MASS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:</p> <p>a) You can book online from 3pm on Friday until 6pm on Sunday. You can book for Weekday mass in your Parish Church.</p> <p>b) You can book Weekday Mass by phone call on Friday afternoon from 3-4pm. The number is: 07847 726 845</p>
The Advent Calendar Cycle	<p>COVID has hit us all very hard this year. Our friends in Ecuador have been hit harder still with little help available to the poorest in the shanty towns where Fr. Martin worked. To help them this Christmas he is launching this "Cycle the Advent Calendar" where he will cycle for an hour each day of the Advent calendar from the 1st December through to Christmas Day itself. Please sponsor his efforts through the following Justgiving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/martin-chambers32</p> <p>Gracias a todos!</p>
Sunday Obligation	Please remember that, during this next stage of the COVID pandemic, the obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday has been lifted. You may decide, therefore, to attend Mass through the week instead of at the weekend.
Welcome, Welcome, Welcome	Three Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation will arrive in Kilmarnock on 15 th December. Although they will be living in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel House, they will be working in all three Kilmarnock Churches. We welcome them and pray that their new chapter will bring them and us much joy from God!
Advent Reconciliation	Due to the Pandemic, it will be impossible to have a Reconciliation Service in the way that it would normally take place. If anyone wishes to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please speak to Fr. Martin: 01563 533587.
Christmas Quiet Time	CHRISTMAS QUIET TIME: Looking for a bit of peace and quiet in the midst of this Season? Come to St. Matthew's Advent Quiet Evening on Sunday, 13 th December from 6-7pm. There will be quiet music playing in the stillness of the Church.
Carols by Candlelight	This will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday 20 th December from 7-8pm. Booking will be available nearer the time.
Christmas Masses	<p>Fr. Martin will celebrate the following Christmas Masses:</p> <p>24th December – 6pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel</p> <p>24th December – 7.30pm at St. Matthew's</p> <p>25th December – 9.30am at St. Matthew's</p> <p>25th December – 11.00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel</p> <p><i>Booking will be available nearer Christmas – once it becomes clear what Tier we will be in.</i></p>
Foodbank Donations	<p>With the prospect of a continued pandemic, further job losses and business closures, the local FOODBANK is asking for help. The Kilmarnock office is open at 13 – 15 Old Irvine Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 1DH. Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm.</p> <p>Alternatively, donations of food can be handed in to Fr. Martin.</p>
Livestream	Go to YouTube " St Matthew's & Our Lady of Mount Carmel Kilmarnock " for Masses on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
Muchas Gracias	To Parishioners of both Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Matthew's who regularly contribute to the Ecuador Trust. Your contributions have helped the poorest families as COVID has hit hard in Ecuador.

OLMC Religious Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards	From this Sunday 22 November, Advent Calendars and Christmas cards will be on sale after Sunday Mass. Packs of cards are priced on the box and Advent calendars cost £1.25 A few good practices will keep us all safer. Please do not handle the packs of cards before buying – the style of card is displayed on the front of the boxes. Please bring money in cash to save multiple handling of change. There should be no more than one customer in the repository at any one time. It will be strictly one in one out. Social distance is to be observed between households, masks worn, and hands sanitised on entry and exit. Please follow the one-way system, entering through the door and leaving through the side exit at the ramp - thank you				
Diocesan Priesthood	DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD: Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2021? The Catholic Church in Scotland is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr. Martin Chambers by e-mail: martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk				
EACHa Christmas Gift Distribution	As in previous years parishioners are invited to donate clothes, toys and toiletries to the needy of our area. These will be distributed by the East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa). There is a box at the back of Church. Please mark gifts for boy/girl and approximate age. The final date for donations is Sunday 13 th December.				
SCIAF Real Christmas Gifts	If you are wondering what to give people for Christmas, why not think of giving a SCIAF Gift? You can buy a poor family a Goat (£32) to help them get 12 pints of fresh milk a week or give a family in need a Coronavirus Emergency Pack (£11). For more details, go to www.sciaf.org.uk/realgifts				
SCIAF	The UK government has just announced plans to u-turn on a Conservative manifesto pledge to protect UK Aid spending. Successive governments have been proud to honour our legal commitment to spending 0.7% of our national income on life-saving aid for the world's poorest people. That's less than a penny for every pound we earn as a country. The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, wants us to believe that slashing aid spending is necessary due to the cost of the pandemic. This is simply not true. SCIAF needs you to take action today by telling the UK government not to turn our backs on the world's poorest at this critical time. Go to www.sciaf.org.uk to find out how to help ...				
Crib Appeal	There will be a 'Virtual Crib Appeal' this Advent hosted by St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. This is instead of the collection at the Crib inside each Church. St Margaret's Virtual Crib is a peaceful, animated crib scene accompanied by a full Christmas Carol Concert from the St Andrew's Cathedral Choir. St Margaret's Virtual Crib will be live until the Feast of the Epiphany on their website at stmargaretsadoption.org.uk . Donations can be made via the St Margaret's website or by cheque posted to the charity's office at 26 Newton Place, Glasgow, G3 7PY.				
Galloway News	The Diocesan Newsletter is now available online at: www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk				
Ecumenical Call to Prayer	You are invited to join with Christians throughout the country in praying together online every Sunday at 7pm. Join in on: http://www.acts-scotland.org/				
Hillhouse Christmas Project	Every year the Hillhouse Christmas Project supports families in need by providing two quality Christmas presents (one of which is a pair of pyjamas) for each child referred to us by a professional body (Health, Education, Social Services or other recognised Charity. We are now preparing for this December and will work hard to ensure that every family receives their presents before Christmas. Would you like to help this work? If so, we would love it if you would buy a pair of pyjamas for a child (age 0-16yrs - boy or girl) and leave them in the box provided in the church porch. Please don't wrap them as we do this ourselves with the aid of volunteers. Your help is very much appreciated not only by Hillhouse but by the families who need our help at this present time. If you are presently not visiting the church for services then please do not hesitate to deliver your gift to Hillhouse Distribution Centre or one of our shops in the town. Thank you, your generosity last year was very much appreciated.				
Bulletin	This bulletin is available online but, if you know of anyone who wishes to receive a letter by post, please let Fr. Martin know.				
East Ayrshire Coronavirus Call Centre	East Ayrshire Council will coordinate assistance to the community at a single telephone number 01563 554400 from Monday to Friday from 9 am – 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am – 3 pm. You will be asked to describe the type of support or assistance required. Urgent needs, including meals and food parcels will be supported through local resilience groups. In a crisis, support will be arranged by a council officer.				
Foodbank	Ayrshire East Foodbank continues to operate. Contact 01563 550951 for assistance, and your name will be added to the list for the delivery service. You can also make a monetary donation by phoning this number				
Food Parcels	Through the donations from parishioners, Fr. Martin has been able to provide small food parcels to those who come to the St. Matthew's Church house.				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>St. Matthew's Collections</th><th>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Collections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cheques/Cash: £214.00 Standing Orders for October:</td><td>1st Collection: £644.00 2nd Collection: £304.10 Education Sunday: £65.00 Standing Orders for October: Renovation Account Standing Orders for October:</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		St. Matthew's Collections	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Collections	Cheques/Cash: £214.00 Standing Orders for October:	1 st Collection: £644.00 2 nd Collection: £304.10 Education Sunday: £65.00 Standing Orders for October: Renovation Account Standing Orders for October:
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NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST					



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