

# ST MATTHEW'S and OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Martin Chambers

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## SUNDAY LITURGY: 13<sup>th</sup> December

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - B

<b>Psalm Response</b>	<i>My soul rejoices in my God.</i>
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring news to the poor. Alleluia!</i>
<i>Sunday Masses:</i>	
<i>Saturday Vigil 6.00pm: St. Matthew's. Sunday 9.30am: St. Matthew's and 11.00am: OLMC</i>	

### Gabriel and Mary

For a moment I hesitated on the threshold. For the space of a breath I paused, unwilling to disturb her last ordinary moment, knowing that the next step would cleave her life, that this day would slice her story in two, dividing all the days before from all the ones to come.

The artists would later depict the scene: Mary bedazzled by the archangel, her head bowed in humble assent, awed by the messenger who condescended to leave Paradise to bestow such an honour upon a woman, and mortal.

Yet I tell you, it was I who was dazzled, I who found myself agape when I came upon her – reading, at the loom or in the kitchen, I cannot now recall. I only know that the woman before me was blessed and full of grace long before I called her so. She shimmered with how completely she inhabited herself, inhabited the space around her, inhabited the moment that hung between us.

I wanted to save her from what I had been sent to say.

Yet when the time came, when I had stammered the invitation (history would not record the sweat on my brow, the pounding of my heart; would not note that I said "Do not be afraid" to myself as much as to her), it was she who saved me. Her first deliverance, her "Let it be" not just declaration to the Divine but a word of solace, of soothing, of benediction for the angel in the doorway, who would hesitate one last time, just for the space of a breath torn from his chest, before wrenching himself away from her radiant consent, her beautiful and awful Yes.

Day	Mass and Eucharistic Service Schedule for the Forthcoming Week			Gospel Reading
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am Mass at <b>St. Matthew's</b>	11.00 am Mass at <b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b>	6.00-7.00pm Christmas Quiet Time at <b>St. Matthew's</b>	<i>John 1:6-8.19-28</i>
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass from <b>St. Matthew's</b>		<i>Matthew 21:23-27</i>
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	1.30pm Mass at <b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b>			<i>Matthew 21:28-32</i>
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.00am Mass at <b>St. Joseph's</b>			<i>Luke 7:19-23</i>
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass at <b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b>		<i>Matthew 1:1-17</i>
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Private Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 9.30 am	10.00am Mass at <b>St. Matthew's</b>		<i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6.00pm Mass at <b>St. Matthew's</b>			<i>Luke 1:5-25</i>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	9.30am Mass at <b>St. Matthew's</b>	11.00am Mass at <b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b>	7.00-8.00pm Carols by Candlelight at <b>OLMC</b>	<i>John 1:26-38</i>

*Please remember the following in your prayers:*

**Recently Deceased:** *Lewis Orr*  
*May all our departed rest in peace.*

**Anniversaries:** *Edward O'Neill and John McKee*

**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 Sr, Bernard McGuinness Jr., Valerie Toal, Sarah Lobban, Frank Mullen, Helen O'Donnell, Nathalie Feeney, Mary McLaughlin, Agnes Lennon, May Hollywood and Jean Hall.*

<b>Feasts This Week</b>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – St John of the Cross
<b>Tier 3 Masses</b>	Now that we are back to Tier 3, this means that our capacity is back to 50!!!
<b>Booking a Place at Mass</b>	<p><b>You can book a seat</b> 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: <b>07847 726 845</b></p> <p><b>BOOKING A PLACE AT WEEKDAY MASS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:</b></p> <p>There is no need to book for weekday Mass while we are in Tier 3 or below.</p>
<b>The Advent Calendar Cycle</b>	<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 1<sup>st</sup> December through to Christmas Day itself. Please sponsor his efforts through the following Justgiving page: <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/martin-chambers32">www.justgiving.com/fundraising/martin-chambers32</a></p> <p>Gracias a todos!</p> <p>Many thanks to the Parishioners and friends who have contributed to Fr. Martin's Cycle in support of the Ecuador Trust projects. To date £1385 has been handed in. Added to the donations online through Justgiving, the total is £3845. Muchas gracias a todos!</p>
<b>Sunday Obligation</b>	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.
<b>Welcome, Welcome, Welcome</b>	Three Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation will arrive in Kilmarnock THIS TUESDAY, 15 <sup>th</sup> 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!
<b>Advent Reconciliation</b>	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.
<b>Christmas Quiet Time</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS QUIET TIME:</b> 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 <sup>th</sup> December from 6-7pm. There will be quiet music playing in the stillness of the Church.
<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>	This will take place at Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December from 7-8pm. Booking will be available nearer the time.
<b>Christmas Masses</b>	Fr. Martin will celebrate the following Christmas Masses: 24 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>6pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>7.30pm at St. Matthew's</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>9.30am at St. Matthew's</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> December – <b>11.00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel</b> <i>Booking procedure will be announced this weekend.</i>
<b>Foodbank Donations</b>	With the prospect of a continued pandemic, further job losses and business closures, the local <b>FOODBANK</b> 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. Alternatively, donations of food can be handed in to Fr. Martin.
<b>Livestream</b>	Go to YouTube " <b>St Matthew's &amp; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Kilmarnock</b> " for Masses on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

<b>OLMC Religious Advent Calendars and Christmas Cards</b>	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. <b>Please do not handle the packs of cards before buying</b> – 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
<b>Diocesan Priesthood</b>	<b>DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD:</b> 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: <a href="mailto:martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk">martin.chambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>EACHa Christmas Gift Distribution</b>	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 TODAY, Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December.
<b>SCIAF Real Christmas Gifts</b>	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 <a href="http://www.sciaf.org.uk/realgifts">www.sciaf.org.uk/realgifts</a>
<b>Caritas Videos</b>	This year the S6 Pupils at St Joseph's Academy have been unable to do the 'usual' charitable activities like helping at the Foodbank and Homeless Lunch. However, they have excelled in preparing videos for the Children's Liturgy each week of Advent and Christmas. All children are invited to watch and take part on the Parish Facebook pages. So very well done, amigos!
<b>Being Catholic Website</b>	<a href="http://www.beingcatholic.org">www.beingcatholic.org</a> The Scottish Bishops have been giving some consideration to various ways of facilitating access to online resources to support those who are unable to attend their local parish church during these times. The Being Catholic website some resources that can be used in different pastoral settings: prayers and devotions, catechesis talks and a youth section.
<b>Crib Appeal</b>	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 <a href="http://stmargaretsadoption.org.uk">stmargaretsadoption.org.uk</a> . 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.
<b>Galloway News</b>	The Diocesan Newsletter is now available online at: <a href="http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk">www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk</a>
<b>Ecumenical Call to Prayer</b>	You are invited to join with Christians throughout the country in praying together online every Sunday at 7pm. Join in on: <a href="http://www.acts-scotland.org/">http://www.acts-scotland.org/</a>
<b>Hillhouse Christmas Project</b>	Thank you for the generosity shown in the amount of pyjamas that have been donated over the past few weeks. We are truly grateful for your support.
<b>Bulletin</b>	This bulletin is available online but, if you know of anyone who wishes to receive a letter by post, please let Fr. Martin know.
<b>East Ayrshire Coronavirus Call Centre</b>	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.
<b>Foodbank</b>	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
<b>Food Parcels</b>	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.
<b>St. Matthew's Collections</b>	
<b>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Collections</b>	
Cheques/Cash: £525 Standing Orders for November: £2,146	1 <sup>st</sup> Collection: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Standing Orders for November: £957 Renovation Account Standing Orders for November: £246
THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED	

