

**The Parish of St Gregory & the Oratory of St Charles Christmas Services 2018**

**Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> –Christmas Eve**  
**Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6pm in St Charles.**

Christmas Midnight Mass at midnight in St Gregory's.  
-Carol singing for 30 minutes before each Mass. -Confessions until 10 minutes before Mass.

**Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day.**  
Dawn Mass of Christmas at 9.30am in St Gregory's.  
**Christmas Day Mass at 11am in St Charles.**

**Monday 31st December.**  
Mass to bring in the New Year at 11.30pm in St Gregory's.

**Tuesday 1st January 2019. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
Mass at 9.30am in St Gregory's.  
**Mass at 11am in St Charles.**

**Special Intentions- please remember in your prayers-**

**Sick-** Harry Thompson, Theresa Boyle, Neil Reilly, John Wallace, Kathleen Black, Theresa Lyall and Mrs McGarrigle.

**Deceased-** William Brannan, Patricia Benham, Nora Quinn and Margaret McKay

**Anniversaries-** Tony Jenkins, Janette O'Neil, Alex & Mary Cowan, Jean McCracken, John McCracken Snr, Jemma McCracken Dother.

**Months Mind-** Mr Patrick McCloskey

**St Charles Borromeo, Pray for them**



**COLLECTIONS IN ST. CHARLES'-Sunday 16/12/18:**  
Offertory £143.58 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection £143.70 (St Nicholas Care Fund)  
Hall Hire £90. St Anthony's Box (Oct - Dec 16<sup>th</sup>) £173.25

**The Oratory of St. Charles Borromeo.**  
**Sunday 23rd of December 2018.**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C.**

**\*Email-stcharles@rcag.org.uk \***

Join us facebook.com/ SC Glasgow or Twitter

@stcharlesg1 All correspondence to the parish priest should  
be directed to: Fr Allan Cameron St. Gregory's Church, 130  
Kelvindale Rd, G20 8DB, 0141 946 3009

**\*E-mail: stgregory@rcag.org.uk\***

Mass Times Sunday: Midday & FRIDAY 10am.  
Monday to Thursday Service of the Eucharist: 10am

\*The Church is open every morning except Saturday\*

CONFESSIONS: on request BAPTISMS or WEDDINGS: through parish of residence.  
The Oratory of St. Charles is a Parish of the Archdiocese of Glasgow Designated Religious Charity,  
Number SC018140



**The Pope's Monthly Intentions- Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith-** That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

**Today's Responsorial Psalm: God of Hosts, bring us back; let your light shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**This week in the Parish**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Mass at 10am in St Gregory's. **Mass at 12pm in St Charles.**

**Monday:** Mass at 9.30am. **Vigil Mass of Christmas 6pm in St Charles. Midnight Mass at Midnight in St Gregory's.**

**Tuesday: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Dawn Mass of Christmas at 9.30am in St Gregory's. Day Mass of Christmas at 11am in St Charles.** Please note there is no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament today or next Tuesday.

**Wednesday: Feast of St Stephen.** Only Mass at 7pm.

**Thursday: Feast of St John.** Mass at 9.30am.

**Friday: Feast of the Holy Innocents.** Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 9.30am in St Gregory's. **Mass at 10am in St Charles.**

**Saturday:** 9.30am Mass, followed by confessions until 10.30am. Confessions from 5.15 -5.45pm. Mass at 6pm.

**Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family.** Mass at 10am in St Gregory's. **Mass at 12pm in St Charles.**

**Lectio Divina** sheet accompanies your bulletin this week.

**St. Nicholas Care Fund-** Please take away an Advent Pack (Wee Box), and return before the end of December. St. Nicholas Care Fund is a source of practical help and funding for all those in need in our community.

**Food Banks at Christmas-** Foodbank appeal. Thanks to everyone for their continued generosity. Whatever you can give goes to those who need it.

**St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society – Collection for the Crib on behalf of them.** There will be a box in front of the Crib when it is built for donations for this charity.

**Monday 31st December. Hogmanay Watchnight Service At Glasgow Cathedral,** Cathedral Square, 2 Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0QZ on Thursday, 31 December 2015 at 11.00 pm

**The Parish and Oratory Christmas card** with the times of Christmas services for St Gregory's and St Charles' are now available. Can we ask you to take some and give them to people whose relationship with the parish isn't as strong as it might be?

**One of the great things** about Christmas is people coming home. People who work or study away from home will make a special effort to be with family for Christmas.

We like to think of our parish as our spiritual home, our fellow parishioners as our Christian family. If for any reason you've been away from church, you'll find a warm welcome, a real home-coming. Why not come home for Christmas?

**INVITE SOMEONE YOU KNOW**...back to Mass for Christmas. All of us know someone who has stopped going to Mass – a family member, relative, friend or neighbour. Invite someone you know who no longer attends to accompany you to

**ChristMASS.**

#### **The Archbishops Christmas Message-**

The Christmas lights which bedeck our streets seem to go up earlier each year, just as the festive jingles appear programmed to fill shopping centres as soon as Bonfire Night is over. It's fashionable to bemoan such early manifestations of Christmas, but perhaps we should reflect on what they signify. Surely they represent a longing on the part of the men and women of our day to replace the darkness of this year-end with light, and to replace the insecurity of the modern world with words and sounds of hope.

We have recently marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Great War – a conflict which caused carnage on a truly horrific scale. And while our world is not currently in the grip of such organised industrial slaughter on a daily basis, conflict and aggression and persecution stain the planet still.

In all of this gloom, the message of Advent and Christmas is striking and also very appealing. It is an announcement of hope. It is a promise of a better tomorrow, and it is the clarion cry of the power of love. In the weeks leading up to Christmas the Church traditionally focuses on the figure of John the Baptist. In a way, he was a **translator** of God's plan, putting into the people's own language the news of the world's liberation and, by his own example, showing how to prepare for the Saviour's birth.

This festive season we citizens of 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland would do well to imitate John the Baptist in his activity as a **translator** of God's message and God's will to the world.

It is for us to **translate** to neighbours and friends the real significance of the lights and the candles, to explain the real meaning of the carols, and to put into words and action the practical implications of Christmas. As St John Paul put it in his first teaching letter to the world shortly after his election: "The Church wishes to serve this single end: that each person may be able to find Christ, in order that Christ may walk with each person the path of life..." (Redemptor Hominis, 13).

This Christmas season let's not bemoan the early lights and sounds. Let's rather interpret them for our friends and neighbours, and in so doing, bring them to meet Jesus, who is, after all, the real reason for the season.

With every blessing, Philip Tartaglia, Archbishop of Glasgow



**Advent: A time for preparing.** Now that advent is drawing to a close, our focus begins to move towards the coming of Christ our Lord in Bethlehem. This week the crib and the Christmas tree in the church will be completed and decorated. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on God's desire to be part of our history, our personal stories. He loves us so much that he comes to us a baby, completely defenceless and dependant. He invites us to welcome him, to provide the shelter and warmth. He invites us to be an innkeeper who has room for those who are most in need. He invites us to be shepherds, keeping watch and hearing the songs of angels. Most of all he invites us to be like Mary, pondering and treasuring all these things in our hearts.

#### **Pope Francis explains symbolism of Vatican Christmas tree and sand nativity.**

As the Vatican illuminated its 65-foot Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square Friday, Pope Francis shared the deeper meaning found in the traditional festive spruce.

The signs and symbols found in Christmas traditions can "help us to contemplate the mystery of God made man to be close to each one of us," Francis said Dec. 7.

"The Christmas tree with its lights reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world, the light of the soul that drives away the darkness of animosity and makes room for forgiveness," he continued. The great height of this year's Christmas tree -- cut from Italy's Cansiglio forest -- symbolizes that the Son of God, who lowered himself in assuming the human condition to draw man up to himself, the pope explained.

God raises man "from the fogs of selfishness and sin" and invites him to "participate in his divine and incorruptible nature." The Vatican also unveiled the annual nativity scene in St. Peter's square, this year sculpted entirely out of sand. The 52-foot-wide sand sculpture of Mary, Joseph, the Child Jesus, and an angel was created by four international artists using around 700 tons of sand brought from the Dolomites. The concept of a sand nativity originated from a tradition from the Northern Italian beach-town of Jesolo, where professional sand sculptors from around the world create original renderings of the nativity and other Christian stories for locals and visitors to enjoy each Christmas season.

Pope Francis reflected that sand is a humble, poor material that "recalls the simplicity, the smallness with which God showed himself at the birth of Jesus in the precariousness of Bethlehem." Contemplating the God child, who emanates light in the humility of the nativity scene, we can also become witnesses of humility, tenderness and goodness," Francis said. Pope Francis encouraged families and communities come together to reflect upon the meaning of these Christmas traditions: "The nativity and the tree, fascinating symbols of Christmas, can bring families and meeting places a reflection of the light and tenderness of God to help everyone to live the feast of the birth of Jesus."

**Faith Forum: Exploring Catholic Doctrine: Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).** Keen to learn more about the Church's magisterial teachings? Come along to the Glasgow Faith Forum's fortnightly series of talks in 2019:

**10 Jan – The Most Holy Trinity** (Archbishop Tartaglia);

**24 Jan - Creation** (Fr Jamie McMorrin);

**-7 Feb - The Incarnation** (Canon Luiz Ruscillo);

**21 Feb - Ecclesiology: Models of the Church** (Fr Nick Welsh); -

**7 March - The Life of Grace** (Fr David Barrett);

**21 March - The Four Last Things** (Fr Michael John Galbraith).

These sessions will take place at 7.30pm at Turnbull Hall, University of Glasgow Catholic Chaplaincy 13-15 Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG. All young people welcome.

**GET READY FOR LENT 2019-**This year our WEE BOX appeal focuses on Lydia and her family from Uganda. Learn about this year's WEE BOX appeal and how you can join in at our Lent training taking place across Scotland. **Lent Parish Volunteer Training Glasgow** - Saturday 26th January, 11am. SCIAF Office, 19 Park Circus, G3 6BE- 0141 354 5555

In writing: SCIAF, 19 Park Circus, Glasgow, G3 6BE or email [sciaf@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:sciaf@sciaf.org.uk)

**Parish Pilgrimage to Italy 2020 Itinerary**

Flying from Edinburgh to Venice - 5 day tour includes visits to Venice, Padua, Bergamo, Verona with many interesting places to visit – where St Gregory Barbarigo and St Charles Borromeo lived and worked. Price: £1,040 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half board basis. Single rooms are available at a supplement of £145. Price includes return airfare including hold baggage, accommodation as detailed in the itinerary, all transport whilst in Italy, services of professional guides, gratuities and all entrance fees. Price does not include lunches, drinks or items of a personal nature.

Please note that this itinerary is not suitable for the less able traveller. Deposit of £250 and completed booking form required by 20.06.2019 with balance and any single supplement due by 20.01.2020. Booking Ref: GLAS03 Please write this in the box at the top right hand corner of the booking form. You must enclose a copy of the picture page of your passport.

***IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING GOING ON THE PILGRIMAGE – PLEASE INFORM FR ALLAN, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO HE CAN PROGRESS WITH ARRANGEMENTS WE NEED AT LEAST 20 PEOPLE TO MAKE THE TRIP VIABLE.***

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** If you wish to see a Catholic Chaplain during your stay in hospital, you need to ask the hospital staff to contact him. There is always a priest on call for emergencies, but staff will not page the priest unless asked by patients or families. Patient's Religious Declaration, which a person when admitted to hospital, or a relative/friend, should give to ward-staff to ensure they can see a Catholic Chaplain. This can also be achieved through a verbal-request to staff. This is necessary due to the way confidentiality rules are applied in most hospitals.

**Mass in Queen Elizabeth University Hospital-** Father Raphael, (St Paul's Whiteinch) will celebrate Mass in the Sanctuary Room of the QEUH on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm. Please share this post so that it becomes well known for patients and staff. If you are visiting a relative in hospital on Sunday afternoons and they are fit to come down, why not accompany them to Mass?

**Monday 31st December. Hogmanay Watchnight Service**  
At Glasgow Cathedral, Cathedral Square, 2 Castle Street, Glasgow, G4 0QZ on  
Thursday, 31 December 2015 at 11.00 pm