



St Michael's Catholic Church Linlithgow NEWSLETTER

4th Sunday of Advent

CYCLE B

24th December 2023

Week 52

Canon Paul Kelly
St Michael's Catholic Church,
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Public Mass this Sunday is at 10am; 5pm and 7pm

LIVESTREAM: 11:00 am Mass on the second Sunday of each month

Please follow the link on our Parish website: www.stmichaels-rc.org.uk

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Readings this Sunday

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 The prophecy of Nathan was very ancient – older than the text of 2 Samuel. It came to be seen as a beacon of light that promised the coming of Messiah and a new kingdom of David.

Psalm Response I will sing forever of your love O Lord

Romans 16:25-27 God promises salvation to all peoples.

Luke 1:26-38 God's plan of salvation for the human race depends on Mary's response

PUBLIC MASSES IN THE COMING WEEK

Monday	10am	People of the Parish
Friday	10am	Ivy McCann
Saturday	10am	Kevin Porter
Sunday	9.15am	People of the Parish
Sunday	11am	Sick of the Parish

Please note that Mass on Sunday is always for the people of the parish. Private intentions are remembered at weekday Masses.

CRIB COLLECTION BOX (ARCHDIOCESAN CARE FUND) The proceeds this year will be sent to Friends of the Holy Land, a nonpolitical Christian charity, which gives help to our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

MASS AT CHRISTMAS

24 Dec. 4th Sunday in Advent: Mass at 10am
24 Dec. Vigil Mass of Christmas: 5pm
24 Dec. Mass during the night: 7pm (beginning with carols)
25 Dec. Mass during the day: 10am

ANNIVERSARIES IN THE COMING WEEK: Sarah Cairns, Ivy McCann, Charles Hancock, Charles Bissett

‘BUFFER ZONE’ BILL A new bill proposes criminalising prayer and offers of help to women in designated ‘buffer zones’ around abortion centres in Scotland, including inside private homes within a 200m zone. Please respond to the government consultation which ends on 20 December at bit.ly/f2pshortsurvey. Please also write to your MSP to express your concerns. Visit <https://rcpolitics.org/buffer-zones> for more information on what you can do to stop this disproportionate and intolerant law being introduced, including help with responding to the consultation and writing to your MSP.

FIRST COMMUNION 2024 Meeting for parents of children preparing for First Communion in the hall, Wednesday 10 Jan., 6pm.

CONFIRMATION 2024 Parents of children expecting to be confirmed in 2024 should contact Canon Paul as soon as possible. There will be a meeting for parents in the hall on Wednesday 10 January at 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY TEAS/COFFEES will be back on 10th January. Thank you to everyone that has supported this.

HAMPER RAFFLE Winner Morag O’Dwyer.

NOVEMBER ACCOUNTS Offertory collection was £4897 with expenditure £4485. Exceptional expense was the church roof £1736.

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2023; Thanks are due to Tricia and Caroline who made a lovely display on the Tree representing both the Ladies’ Club and the Parish at this event on the first weekend of December.
Pictures are available on the parish Facebook page.

WINTER APPEAL The Wayside Club works to meet the needs of the homeless, those suffering from hardship, addiction to alcohol or gambling and others who are socially excluded. The club is appealing for; warm winter jackets, walking shoes/ trainers, hoodies, joggers, hats, scarves, gloves, socks. The club is operated by the Legion of Mary, a lay Catholic organisation and helpers from other religions and none. Please help. Contact Stevie Gallacher, Stephengallac@gmail.com or Angela Hughes, angela.hughes@blueyonder.co.uk for collection or leave the clothes in the box marked “Wayside Club” at the back of the church.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE AND GAZA O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace. Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Inspire our thoughts, words, and deeds to bear witness to your presence in our hearts. May your Holy Spirit fill us with every grace and blessing so that we may pursue what leads to peace for all humanity.

NEWSLETTER – items for newsletter email, before Thursday, DeaconDouglas.Robertson@staned.org.uk

*St. Michael’s is a parish of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Andrew & Edinburgh
A Charity registered in Scotland Number SCO08540*

Parish website www.stmichaels-rc.org.uk Archdiocese website www.archdioceses-edinburgh.com

GARDEN PROJECT - THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Having obtained charitable donations from local companies and parishioners we built our raised beds on the old tennis court in March. Since then, we have harvested 175 kilos of organically grown vegetables and donated these to West Lothian Foodbank. We have also built 3 compost pens from old pallets, donated by Grow Wild Organics. During the course of this project, we have forged links with various organisations, eg West Lothian Foodbank, West Lothian Growers, Linlithgow Allotments [LADAS], and Grow Wild Organics. As a result of these associations, we became responsible for collecting excess and donated produce from them and delivering this to the Foodbank too. This amounted to > 100 kgs. The garden project team from St Joseph's primary school visited in early Autumn and helped with harvesting. We will assist St Joseph's with their fruit harvest next year. We hope to expand further next year and we have an expanded team. Some members of the wider local community have said they will add beds and assist as well.....It will be exciting. Don't hesitate to ask an SSVP member if you want to help.

On Saturday 16th December the SSVP hosted a Christmas Concert to support this year's Christmas Tree Appeal.

The entertainment was provided by Take 2 (Elaine Cauldfield and her good friend Izzy) who were accompanied by some of their friends and had the audience merrily singing along to many favourite festive tunes. We were also treated to a wonderful performance by the St. Joseph's Primary School choir with over 20 young children singing and acting out a lovely selection of carols.

Elaine and Izzy kindly donated their proceeds from performing at the local Garden Centre during December and that money, when added to very generous donations on the day, raised an incredible total of £617.50

The money has been used to purchase Christmas Gifts to help families in need and we are indebted to our local high street toy shop "Bright Star Toys" and the owner Ian for his time and expertise in selecting the gifts.

The SSVP are extremely grateful for the talents and efforts of both Take 2 and the St. Joseph's Primary choir, for ensuring the afternoon was a huge success. We also must thank everyone who came along to the event, for their continued support and generosity and moreover their enthusiasm when joining in with the festive sing-along!

50/50 WINNERS.

The winners of the December draw were: £150 - Anne Lynch, £50 - Angela Campbell, £50 - Canon Paul Kelly, £20 - Cathy Donnelly, £20 - Hetty Redwood, £15 - Patricia Russell and £10 - Gerard McAulay. This year £1,215 was raised for charity. Thank you for your continued support. Subscriptions of £30 per annum will be collected during January 2024.

CHURCH CLEANING Wednesday 10th January after Mass Mrs. Keenan, Mrs. Antony, Mrs. Hogg, Ms. McCarthy, Mrs. O'Dwyer.

HAMPER RAFFLE Was won by Jerry O'Dwyer. Thank you to all who supported this and raised £210. for SCIAF.

STALL is closed will re-open on 7 January 2024.

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Notices from the Archdiocese

For Archdiocese events see the “News and Events” page on the website or use this QR code :



NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING Fertility Care Scotland at info@fertilitycare.or

STANTON HEALTHCARE PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICE provides practical alternatives to abortion and is supported by the archdiocese. The office is at 21 Horne Street, Edinburgh EH3 9JR. (Telephone 07526480578) Further details on the notice board in the porch.

JOB VACANCY

The Archdiocese is looking to recruit an Estates Surveyor (full-time). The role holder should have significant property related experience and ideally be RICS qualified. For details and how to apply visit archedinburgh.org/vacancy-estates-surveyor. Closing date for applications is Monday 13 January.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Day and Vigil Mass times for our parish and all churches in the Archdiocese can be viewed at www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents at midday on Thursday 28 December at St Margaret’s Chapel, The Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road Edinburgh, EH9 1BB. Complimentary refreshments and social afterwards. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

DIPLOMA IN CATECHETICS 2024

Explore the richness and depth of our Catholic faith with the Diploma in Catechetics from the Archdiocese, led by Sr Miriam Ruth Ryan RSM. Tune in each Thursday at 7:30pm for an expert-led Zoom Webinar. Includes guided readings, one-to-one support and a retreat. The course begins on Thursday 25 January 2024. Visit bit.ly/archdiploma2024. Questions? srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk.

EXPLORE GOD’S WILL

Thinking about a vocation to the religious life? Join other young Catholic women to chat and explore God's will in monthly get-togethers in Edinburgh. Led by Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO, the first one takes place on Sunday 28 January, 4-7pm at St Columba’s, 9 Upper Gray Street. It is a chance to pray, share and discuss in a relaxed environment, and refreshments will be served. The series continues each month at the same time/venue: 25 Feb, 17 Mar, 21 Apr, 12 May and 22 June. To register or find out more, please email religiousvocations@staned.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE 1

The Archdiocesan Music Day is on Saturday 27 January 2024 at The Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. It is for those who contribute to the liturgy in their parish through music and/or singing, as well as for anyone interested in finding out more about sacred music. Please save the date - details to be confirmed soon.

SAVE THE DATE II

The Archdiocesan Valentine’s Retreat for Married and engaged couples will take place at St Kentigern’s Church, Parkgrove Avenue, Barnton, Edinburgh, on Saturday 10 February 2024. Details to follow soon.

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