

## Scottish Bishops respond to announcement of closure of churches from 8th January 2021

Following the First Minister's statement that all places of worship will close from Friday 8 January until Monday 1 February 2021, Scotland's Catholic Bishops have issued the following statement:

"Recognising the dangers posed by the new faster-spreading variant of COVID-19, we note the Scottish Government's decision to close all places of worship from Friday 8 January 2021.

The Scottish Government believes that such measures are necessary to curtail the spread of this new strain during the roll-out of the vaccine. We appreciate the difficult choices facing the Scottish Government at this time and we have shown ourselves ready both to cooperate with and to support its efforts in protecting the common good. This has included curtailing public worship in extreme circumstances and for a limited period.

However, we are also perplexed by the decision, given that the stringent measures taken since last March to ensure public safety in our churches have been effective. No evidence has been forthcoming to justify the inclusion of places of worship as sources of infection. Without such scientific evidence these restrictions will appear to Catholics to be arbitrary and unfair. Moreover, significant number of other sectors similarly restricted last March alongside public worship – such as construction, manufacturing and elite sports - have now been left free to continue in operation.

We also note that, in England, the essential contribution of public worship to the spiritual welfare of all citizens during this crisis has now been endorsed by the decision not to close places of worship while the Scottish Government has apparently retreated from this view, causing dismay and confusion.

We are very aware of the disappointment these closures will cause not only to our own Catholic community, but to many of our fellow-Christians and those of other faiths in Scotland. We wish to emphasise again the spiritual, social and psychological benefits provided by continuing public worship, and we ask for these to be taken into full account in future decisions. Public worship is a human right and is a duty humanity owes to God. More concretely, Catholics need the Eucharist and the Sacramental encounter with the LORD as necessary to their spiritual wellbeing and their ultimate salvation.

While we unequivocally share the common goal of protecting public health, we urge the Scottish Government, when the present measures are reviewed later in January, to reconsider these restrictions in the light of the above concerns."

R.C. Diocese of Aberdeen. A Reg. Scottish Charity SC005122



## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### Sunday 10th January 2021

### The Baptism of The Lord – Feast.

*End of Christmas time*

#### Sunday Mass Times *(post Covid-19)*

ST MARY'S BEAULY 11:00am

OUR LADY & ST BEAN, MARYDALE 4:00pm  
(Confession 3:30pm 1st Sunday in the month)

ST MARY'S ESKADALE

*(Masses in abeyance until further notice)*

ST MARTIN'S ULLAPOOL

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month, 2:30pm

ST MAELRUBHA'S POOLEWE

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 2:30pm

LOCHINVER : To be arranged

FORT AUGUSTUS Sunday 10:00am, Thursday  
10:00am

#### Weekday Mass Times & Devotions from St Mary's Beauly *(Live streamed)*

**Monday** Exposition 10:00am Mass 10:30am

**Tuesday** Exposition 10:00am Mass 10:30am

**Wednesday** Exposition 10:00am Mass 10:30am

**Thursday** Exposition 10:00am Mass 10:30am

**Friday** Exposition 10:00am Mass 10:30am

**Confession:** call by the Parish House,  
phone, or email to make appointment

Next Sunday 17 January 2021,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year - B  
Livestream  
Beauly 10:00am

#### Mass Intentions

**Sun:** All Parishioners & Friends

**Mon:**

**Tue:**

**Wed:**

**Thu:**

**Fri:**

**Sat:**

Please pray for the sick of our parishes and all who ask for our prayers.

#### Liturgical Calendar

**Mon 11 Jan:** End of Christmas Time, the start of Ordinary Sundays for Year B

#### 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK OF THE WEEK OF THE YEAR

**Wed 13 Jan:** Feast of SAINT KENTIGERN (518-603). His mother, St Enoch, was a Lothian princess who became pregnant because she was raped. His father had her cast off into the Firth of Forth in a coracle. She landed on the opposite shore at St. Serf's monastic school at Culross. It was he who nicknamed him Mungo. He became the first Bishop of Glasgow. He was forced out by pagan opponents and spent time in England and Wales. He returned to spend many years preaching the Word and praising the Name.

#### Death Anniversaries (January)

Anne Jane Sutherland, Philip Hercher, Jean Munn, Pauline Macfarlane, Isobel Ann, Margaret Forbes, Margaret Ritchie

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 55:1-11*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;

though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,

your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant

out of the favours promised to David.

See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples,

a leader and a master of the nations.

See, you will summon a nation you never knew,

those unknown will come hurrying to you,

for the sake of the Lord your God,

of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,

call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,

my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

**R:/** Thanks be to God

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## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Isaiah 12*

**Response:** *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Truly, God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

**R:/**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name.

**R:/**

Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds;  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One  
of Israel.

**R:/**

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## SECOND READING

*Acts 10:34-38*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

**R:/** Thanks be to God

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*cf. Jn1:29*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

John saw Jesus coming towards him,  
and said:

This is the Lamb of God, who takes  
away the sin of the world.

**Alleluia!**

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## GOSPEL

*Mark 1:7-11*

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have

baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

**R:/** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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## PRAYER BEFORE THE HOMILY

We will make our lives your dwelling place.

We will build your throne in our hearts.

Come Father,

Come Son,

Come Holy spirit,

Oh come and take your place in our lives.

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## THE MYSTERY OF FAITH NO. 1

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.

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## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

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