

### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions (December)**

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

### **Feasts this Week**

9 December-Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
13 December-Memorial of St Lucy  
14 December-Memorial of St John of the Cross

### **What's On This Week**

**Legion of Mary**—Monday 6.00 to 7.30pm contact Giuseppe (ourladyseatofwisdomglasgow@gmail.com)

**Catholic Society**—Tuesday 6.00 to 8.00pm in the TV room. For under graduate students. Contact Aoife (aoifeong@hotmail.com or Giuseppe (celicogiuseppe@gmail.com)

**SSVP**—Mondays, fortnightly, contact Lynette (turnbullssvp@gmail.com)

### **Collections**

Sunday 1 December £211.96 (Gift Aid £53.00)

Last Year £270.52 (Gift Aid £52.00)

*Thank you for your generosity. Please consider Gift Aid—we receive back 28p on every £1.*

Gift Aid forms available from Rosemary

**TURNBULL HALL  
UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY**  
15 Southpark Terrace G12 8LG  
Tel. 0141 339 4315

**Chaplain**  
**Fr Ross Campbell**  
RCchaplaincy@glasgow.ac.uk

**Chaplaincy Secretary**  
**Rosemary Inglis**  
rcsecretary@glasgow.ac.uk

**Masses**  
**Sunday** 9.00am and 11.00 am  
6.00pm (during term)  
**Monday-Friday** 1.05pm  
**Saturday** 10.30am

**Confessions**  
**Monday/Wednesday /Thursday/Friday**  
12.45pm or any time on request)  
**Saturday** 10.00am

**Rosary**  
**Monday-Friday** 12.45pm (during term)

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Tuesday 1.30pm-6.00pm finishing with  
Benediction (during term)

### **8 December 2nd Sunday in Advent**

Bob Dylan won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016. I am less interested in the debates about whether he qualifies strictly as a literary figure or a 'poet', say, than in the fact that he is so often an excellent lyricist – or even, dare I say it, preacher. The Jewish and Christian inspiration of so many Dylan songs is palpable, even where he is at his most subtle. Perhaps this is never more so than in *Blowin' in the wind*.

The ancient prophet's cry that Israel is 'a rebellious house, who have eyes to see, but see not, who have ears to hear, but hear not' (Ezek 12:1-2; cf. Jer 5:21). There is injustice and violence in the world, in our homes and in our hearts. We need to open our eyes to see and our ears to hear, and we need to turn our hearts back to God. We need to listen to the greatest of prophets, John the Baptist, saying to us in today's gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

John bursts on the scene every Advent as the Forerunner to Christ: 'the one who follows me is more powerful than I, and I am not fit to carry His sandals'. In his preaching, Jesus actually has the same message as John – 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (Mt 4:17) – but the focus different. John is the signpost, the one who points to Jesus. John is the voice crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. Whereas Jesus is the Lord incarnate, the One who says, 'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest' (Mt 11:28). John baptises with water for repentance, but acknowledges a greater baptism to come: it is Jesus who 'will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire', for the forgiveness of sins.

The Holy Spirit was not, of course, absent before the coming of Christ. He was hovering over the waters at the dawn of creation and was breathed into the nostrils of the first human being, according to the Church Fathers' reading of Genesis (1:2; 2:7). The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole earth and is present to all things (Wis 1:7; cf. Jer 23:24). Jesus himself teaches us that His Spirit is like the wind, blowing wherever it wills (Jn 3:8). So Dylan may refer to the Spirit when he sings: 'The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind, the answer is blowin' in the wind...'

This is the Spirit of which Isaiah speaks in our first reading: 'a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of piety, and his delight

shall be in the fear of the Lord'. Here we have the scriptural basis for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, with which we are strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

John the Baptist was filled with these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. His mother Elizabeth was 'filled with the Holy Spirit' at the moment John leapt in her womb to greet the unborn Christ (Lk 1:41). Thus John is understood to have been sanctified in the womb, receiving the fulness of sanctifying grace, which is why the Church celebrates the feast of his birth (on 24 June), the only person to be so honoured besides Christ and Mary. Then as a grown man, John exhibited the gifts of the Spirit, having knowledge and wisdom, a deep insight into God's unfolding plan, and being inspired to preach with counsel and power that piety and fear of the Lord are necessary for repentance.

The Pharisees and Saducees who heard John preaching think that they have a guaranteed place in the kingdom without producing the fruits of repentance and conversion. They underestimate the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. We should not follow their example. The Spirit is even now calling us to repentance and faith in Christ this Advent. For we read in St Paul today that God has not only confirmed the covenants with the patriarchs of Israel, but also offered salvation to the gentiles, so that all peoples 'might glorify God for His mercy.

*Fr Matthew Jarvis O.P.*

### CATECHIST'S CORNER

The Church dedicates December to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That Our Lady was conceived without the stain of original sin is a dogma of the Church. The dogma was defined by Pope Pius IX in his Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* in which he stated that

from the very beginning God did not mean man to perish because of Adam's sin, but intended to send a Redeemer. Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Fulgens Corona* stated that the foundation for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, defined by Pope Pius IX, can be found in Scripture. If Our Blessed Lady had been destitute of Divine Grace even for the briefest moment there would not have been the enmity between her and the serpent spoken of in Genesis 3:15, but rather a certain subjection. "She was by sheer grace conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, the most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty" (CCC722).

### CHAPLAINCY NEWS

#### Catholic Society

The purpose of the society is for young Catholics (and those interested in Catholicism) to socialise, discuss and discover the faith. We meet **every Tuesday after 6.00pm Benediction** at the University Catholic Chaplaincy during the academic year. Open to all young people! Talks this year will focus on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Contact: aoifeong@hotmail.com or celicogi-useppe@gmail.com

#### Glasgow Faith Forum

A series of talks for young people aged 16-25. The next talk is on **Thursday 12 December in Turnbull Hall at 7.30pm** on the subject of "The Challenge (III): Male and Female He created them." Speaker Sr Andrea Fraile. All young people welcome.

#### Parking

Please note that from 6 Southpark Terrace onwards parking is reserved for Permit Holders only. You should avoid these spaces

or you will be booked by the traffic wardens.

#### Turnbull Hall Christmas Dinner

Turnbull Hall's annual Christmas Dinner will be held on **Thursday 19 December at 7.00pm**. Tickets are priced **£7.00** and are available from the student office. All welcome.

#### Advent Mass

During Advent there will be a Rorate Mass (Candlelit Mass of Our Lady) every **Thursday at 6.00pm**.

#### Adoration

Adoration on Tuesdays has now finished until the New Year.

#### 6.00pm Mass

The last 6.00pm Mass will be on Sunday 15 December. It will resume on Sunday 12 January.

#### Solemn First Vespers

On Saturday **14 December**, Solemn First Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Gaudete Sunday will be held in the chapel at **6.00pm** followed by a social in the upstairs hall.

#### Lunch Time Café

Please note that our lunch time café will close on Wednesday 11 December. It will re-open at the start of the next academic term.

#### Safeguarding

As required by the Archdiocese Safeguarding office, Helen Border, our Safeguarding Officer, will be speaking at all Masses on Sunday 15 December about safeguarding in the Church.

#### Caring Sunday

Next Sunday is Caring Sunday and a second collection will be taken up at all Masses for the PCT-St Nicholas Care Fund.

### OTHER NEWS

#### Advent Day of Confessions

On Thursday 19 December priests will be available all day in Saint Andrew's Cathedral (from 7:45am – 5:45pm) for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Come home for Christmas!* See Poster on notice board.

#### Faith Winter Session

The Faith Winter Session will take place from **2-4 January 2020 in Stonyhurst College, Hurst Green Lancashire BB7 9PZ. Full cost is £160.00 (concession £140.00)**. Leaflets which include a booking form are available in the foyer. Booking can also be made online at [faith.org.uk](http://faith.org.uk).

#### SCIAF Real Gifts

SCIAF's Real Gifts make excellent presents at Christmas while helping families in poor countries free themselves from hunger, poverty and injustice. This Christmas, please consider giving the gift that changes lives.

#### Carols for Peace

The above event will take place in Glasgow City Chambers, George Square on Sunday **15 December at 3.00pm**. Hosted by the Lord Provost's Office, a collection will be taken up for the Lord Provost's Fund for Children. All welcome at this event to pray for peace in the world, especially in our Twin City of Bethlehem. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Banqueting Hall. See poster on notice board for details.