Pope Francis’ Prayer Intentions (December)
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.

Feasts This Week
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 Conor (conorgildea288@gmail.com or Carter (carterlyon@gmail.com).
**SSVP**—Mondays, fortnightly, contact Lily Kearns (turnbullssvp@gmail.com)

Collections
Sunday 2 December £270.52 (Gift Aid £52.00)
Second collection £178.36
Last Year £318.16 (Gift Aid £80.00)
Thank you for your generosity. Please consider Gift Aid—we receive back 28p on every £1.
Gift Aid forms available from Rosemary

Day of Confessions
Priests will be available all day in St Andrew’s Cathedral, Clyde Street on Thursday 20 December from 7.45am until 5.45pm.

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. There are some Real catalogues on the table in the foyer. If you don’t already have one, please take one and give the gift that changes lives. See poster on notice board.

Carols for Peace
The above event will take place in Glasgow city chambers, George Square on Sunday 16 December at 3.00pm. Hosted by the Lord Provost’s Office, a collection will be taken up for the Lord Provost’s fund. All welcome at this event to pray for peace in the world. Refreshments will be provided afterwards in the Satinwood Suite. See poster on notice board for details.

Advent is, among other things, about returning. In our first reading we witnessed the return of exiles to Jerusalem, to God’s city. From east and west, at God’s command, they return, carried back like royalty. God has removed every obstacle to their return, as though He had flattened mountains and hills and filled in the valleys, so Israel can return in safety, saved by the Lord.

But more important is the fact that the people are accompanied by God in their return. He is present with them, escorting them, just as they had been escorted away into exile by their enemies. So when they return home, the Lord’s special presence among His people is also returning home. This is as much about the return of God as it is about the return of Israel.

In today’s Gospel, we see how these prophecies are more deeply fulfilled in the New Covenant. John the Baptist is that voice foretold by the prophets which calls for a straight road to be prepared for God, with valleys filled in and hills laid low. That return takes place definitively in Jesus, when He comes amongst us, and the salvation of God is made plain for all. When God becomes human, He is returning to be present in the most special way of all among His people. And all this is done so that we too can return to Him and be part of the city of God.

Scripture teaches us how we human beings turned away from God in our first ancestors, at the very beginning of human history. Now, as soon as we come into existence, each one of us, we share in that turning away from God. This is the mystery of original sin. But in baptism that sin is taken away: we are turned back to God by grace, and our return to Him is underway.

We read also in the prophets how the Lord declares, ‘Return to me, and I will return to you.’ But we can only return to God because He first returns in His grace to us. But when God returns to us, He enables us to return to Him. This is as much about our returning to God as God’s returning to us. We see the fruit of God’s return to us laid out in our second reading. Paul speaks of how God, who began a good work in us, will bring it to completion on the Day of Christ Jesus.

This good work has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Our returning to God has a begin-
ning, a middle and an end. It is begun by the grace of God and becomes a stable reality in us through baptism. It is completed at Christ’s Second Coming when we are raised from the dead in glory. But in the meantime, that return is an ongoing journey of faith.

Paul speaks of that journey in terms of an increase in mutual love among us. It increases in knowledge and discernment, as we come to know the mystery of God’s return within us more and more. And all this changes us: we come to approve what is excellent, and become more pure and more blameless, filled with the righteousness that comes as a gift through Christ. If we are to be preparing for Christ’s return at the end of time, this path of Christian growth must be our way of return to Him now.

Of course this is part of our Christian faith all year around. Perhaps in Lent we concentrate a great deal on our returning to God, on manifesting our repentance in prayer, fasting, almsgiving and other forms of penance. Perhaps in Advent we can turn our thoughts first to God’s return to us, that He has returned to us in Christ, that He has begun our return within us, and that we wait for the return of Christ at the end of time and in the celebration of Christmas.

Fr Simon Francis Gaines O.P.

CATECHISTS’S CORNER

This season of Advent should be a time of joyful anticipation in preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Yet we can become to caught up in the secular preparations for Christmas that we forget its true message—the birth of our King and Redeemer. The birth of this tiny baby in Bethlehem was part of God’s loving plan of salvation for mankind and we should be rejoicing that the day of our redemption is at hand. It can be difficult when we are surrounded in the shops by Christmas trees, flashing lights, seasonal songs, snowmen and robins to remember that pleasant as these things are they have no real connection with this Holy Season. Our celebrations should be centred on Jesus who was born to save us, even if our daily lives make it difficult for us to take the time to appreciate this important fact. We have to ensure that in our spiritual lives the day does not come upon us like a thief in the night but that the Lord finds us alert, watching in prayer and ready to greet him.

CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Sunday Evening Mass

Please note that the 6.15pm Sunday evening Mass will be discontinued from Sunday 16 December. It will resume on Sunday 6 January.

Chaplaincy Advent Devotions

On Saturday 15 December, Solemn First Vespers (Evening Prayer) will be held in the chapel at 7.00pm with Confessions. This will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Lunch Time Café

Please note that our lunch time café is now closed. It will re-open at the start of the next academic term.

Advent and Christmas

Saturday 15 December—Solemn First Vespers (Evening Prayer) 7.00pm with Confessions (followed by mince pies & mulled wine)

Sunday 16 December—Mass 9.00am and 11.30am

Monday 17 to Friday 21 December—Mass 1.05pm

Monday 17 to Friday 21 December—Confession 12.45pm

Saturday 22 December—Confession 10.00am, Mass 10.30am

Sunday 23 December—Mass 9.00am and 11.30am

Monday 24 December—Confession 12.45, Mass 1.05pm

Carols 11.30pm, Midnight Mass 12.00 (followed by cheese & wine)

Tuesday 25 December—Mass of Christmas Morning 11.30am (followed by cheese & wine)

No evening Mass

Wednesday 26 December—Mass 1.05pm

Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 December—No Mass

Sunday 30 December—Mass 9.00am and 11.30am

Monday 31 December—Mass 1.05

Tuesday 1 January—Mass 1.05pm

Normal timetable resumes thereafter

Caring Sunday

Next Sunday is Caring Sunday and a second collection will be taken up for the PCT St Nicholas Care fund. Please take one of the Advent packs that are at the side and the back of the Church, fill one of the boxes which they contain and return them during Advent.

Lauds (Morning Prayer)

Sung Lauds (Morning Prayer) on Monday mornings has now stopped. It will resume in the new semester.

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! Contact: conorglidea288@gmail.com or carterlyon@gmail.com

Carol Concert

The Academy of Sacred Music are presenting an evening of Christmas Music and Carols on Tuesday 18 December at 7.00pm. Payment by donation at the door. All welcome. All proceeds going to the Chaplaincy.

Music at Mass

The music group at the 6.15pm Sunday Mass is looking for new members to join us in the new semester - if you sing or play an instrument such as piano, guitar, flute, violin etc, please speak to Thomas Starkie or email 21193525@student.gla.ac.uk

Discernment Evenings

Discernment evenings will be held next year on the following dates for those thinking about the Diocesan Priesthood:

11 January, 8 February, 8 March, 12 April and 10 May. Please contact Fr Ross (Ross.Campbell.2@glasgow.ac.uk) for further information.

RCAG Youth

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA is a quarterly event for S5-30 year olds, during which Archbishop Tartaglia will be leading us in the prayerful reading of the Gospels. Afterwards there will be pizza and Compline. It will take place in Turnbull Hall, G12 8LG on Monday 10 December 2018, 11 March 2019 and 20 May 2019.

OTHER NEWS

Faith Winter Session

The Faith winter Session will take place from 27-29 December 2018 in Stonyhurst College, Hurst Green Lancashire BB7 9PZ.

A bus is available from Glasgow Cty Chambers at 10.30 on 27 December. The