

10 December 2023

**Second Sunday of Advent,
Year B**

Holy Mass
9.00am, 11.00am & 4.30pm

Readings begin **page 85**

1st Reading:

Isaiah 40: 1 - 5, 9 - 11

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 84

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

2nd Reading:

2 Peter 3: 8 - 14

Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 3: 4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the
salvation of God

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 1: 1 - 8

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Church open 8.00am - 7.00pm daily,
Monday - Saturday

Monday 11 December

St Damasus 1

Holy Mass 5.45pm
with Devotions to St Philip Neri

Tuesday 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Mass 12.30pm
with prayers to Venerable Margaret
Sinclair for her cause

Wednesday 13 December

St Lucy

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm
Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm
Holy Mass 12.30 pm

Thursday 14 December

St John of the Cross

Holy Mass 12.30 pm

Friday 15 December

Blessed Antony Grassi

Holy Mass 12.30pm

Saturday 16 December

Rorate Mass 7.30am
followed by refreshments

Exposition 11.30am : 12.15pm
Confessions 11.40am : 12.10pm
Holy Mass 12.30pm

Special Collection:

Today's retiring collection is for the
Christmas Flowers. It is our small
way of giving thanks to Our Lord with
the gift of flowers to deck the church.
Many thanks for your generosity in
advance.

St Patrick's RC Church Edinburgh

National Shrine of Venerable Margaret Sinclair

Served by

Fr Gerard Hatton, Administrator
Fr Ninian Doohan, Assistant Priest

Contact: 0131 556 1973
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Dear Friends,

Advent is a journey towards littleness.

I'm sure you know Raymond Briggs story
'The Snowman' where the young boy,
James built his snowman after a heavy
snowfall and the next day it turned into a
living snowman!



The friendship of the boy and snowman reminds us of the littleness of God's
creation and a child; both we can take for granted, and yet, both lead us into
a spiritual understanding of having nothing but God, seen in snow as he
made it and in little children. Both have no worldly power, apart from
disruptive snow and the joy children have of bringing us into their current
moment. The snowman's mission is to take James to see Father Christmas
and after that is over, the Snowman melts on Christmas Day. The snowman
shows the boy the awe and wonder, which is needed to understand the
mighty works of the Lord, including death.

Advent helps us to understand littleness. It is spoken of in Micah 5: 1 - 4
"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little ..."

In other words: you are so little, but you will be great, because your ruler will
be born from you and he will be peace. He himself will be peace, because
from that littleness comes, peace.

This is the meaning of Advent, the smallest compared to the other seasons.
God, who chooses little things, the humble, to do His will. Advent strips us of
our ego as the Lord is revealed to be the Great and we are the little ones.
That is why He tells us to be like little children to be able to enter the
Kingdom of Heaven, whereas the great ones, the powerful, the arrogant, the
proud, cannot enter. God, however, reconciles and makes peace in
littleness.

Littleness is the secret to confession and confession is the secret to a
peaceful life as we accept the salvation brought to us by the Incarnation.
Look at the Saints, Our Lady, St John the Baptist, and our patron, St Patrick;
they can help us on the path of nothingness as He is everything.

Try to go to confession this Advent. There are many opportunities here for
Confessions here (30 minutes before every Mass and even during and after).
It is also very understandable that some people may wish a different priest; if
this is the case do seek them out. When preparing for confession, set some
time before hand and examine your conscience. Don't hide anything, there is
no point and be thankful for His Gift of Mercy.

The words of St Philip can also help us "*Frequent confession is the cause of
great good to the soul, because it purifies it, heals it, and confirms it in the
service of God.*"

All we can do is offer Him our hearts this Advent, that is the offering of our
own littleness.

Yours in Jesus and Mary
Fr Gerard

The closing date for donations for the **SSVP Appeal** to support local
foodbanks & provide gifts for families in need is Friday, December 15th. Gifts
should be wrapped & labelled indicating age & gender. Thank you.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY: Bring your Baby Jesus from your home Nativity
scene to Mass for Blessing on 17th December.

There will be a **sale of Catholic books** (theology, history, spirituality, prayer
and fiction) after all Masses on Sunday 17th December. This is a good
opportunity to buy some beneficial Christmas gifts, and to support the
Oratory Project. Please bring some extra cash along on the day!

Finance:**Sunday 3 December collection**

GA £ 147.00

NGA £ 389.50



Donate online by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for your support.

Making a donation:

You may wish to consider taking out a standing order for your weekly / monthly contribution, in this case, the parish account details are:

St Patricks Church

Bank of Scotland

Sort code: 80-02-29

Account No: 00687306

During Advent **Confessions** will be available half an hour before each Holy Mass as well as during and after Holy Mass whenever there is a priest available.

The **Advent Pro-Life Rosary** continues on Monday (11 December) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Fr Gerard Hatton (St Patrick's, Cowgate). Join people from across the Archdiocese to pray for the unborn, mothers and all pro-life intentions. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

Explore the richness & 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 & a retreat. Course begins Thursday 25 January 2024. Visit bit.ly/archdiploma2024. Questions? srmiriam.ruth@staned.org.uk

Marking the Advent Time: Father Adrian Porter SJ will explore the prayers, customs and traditions of the Advent liturgy at 7pm on Monday 11 December at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh EH3 9DJ. This is a free, one-hour session. All welcome.

Canon Hugh White continues his **Advent talk series** 'Time with God' each Monday. Visit bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Archbishop Cushley is encouraging us to consider making a donation to **Friends of the Holy Land** in Advent. He said: "It is a non-political Christian charity & the donations will be used to provide aid & support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land at this difficult time." A Diocesan donation page has been set up at bit.ly/archholylnd More information at www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/about-us

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 December 20 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.

Visit **St Paul's Bookshop at St Mary's Cathedral** 10am to 5:00 daily for a wide range of Christmas gift ideas

The **Lourdes Hospitalité Committee** is hosting a **Carol Service** at 3.00pm today at **St Margaret's Church**, Davidson's Mains. All are welcome to come along and join the festivities. Refreshments served in the church hall.

Mass Intentions

10 December	9.00am	People of the Parish	Recent death. RIP
10 December	11.00am	Helena Walukiewicz Elizabeth McIver.	Repose of the soul. 1st Anniversary of death
10 December	4.30pm	Monica Law	RIP
11 December	5.45pm	Karl Adnan Bhatti	RIP
12 December	12.30pm	Scott Fraser	1st Anniversary
13 December	12.30pm	Hughes Family	
14 December	12.30pm	Karen McKay	First Anniversary. RIP
15 December	12.30pm	Karl Adnan Bhatti	RIP
16 December	7.30am	Brian Gibson	Recent death
16 December	12.30pm	Irene Kylie	Recent death

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