

# St. Bernadette's Tullibody Parish Newsletter

## 3rd Sunday of Advent Parish Diary

Sat	14 Dec	8.45am-9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass ~ Blessing of the Christmas Tree
Sun	15 Dec	8.30am 11.30pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Advent Service <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
Mon	16 Dec	9.30am	Mass
Tues	17 Dec	7pm	Ecumenical Service with St.Serfs (C of S)
Wed	18 Dec	8.20am 9.30am 11am	Mass - St. Modan's High School Mass @ St Bernadette's Dunkeld Diocese Mission Group, Dundee
Thurs	19 Dec	9.30am 7pm	End of Term Mass with Primary School <b>Penitential Service</b>
Fri	20 Dec	7pm	<b>Blues Mass</b>
Sat	21 Dec	9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	22 Dec	8.30am 11.30am 5.30pm	Mass Mass Exposition & Advent Service ~ Mary <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>
Mon	23 Dec	9.30am	Mass with Anointing of Sick
Tues	24 Dec	7.30pm 8pm	Christmas Eve Carols Vigil Mass <b>Christmas Eve</b>
Wed	25 Dec	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass <b>Christmas Day</b>
Thurs	26 Dec	9.30am	Mass <b>Feast of St. Stephen</b>
Fri	27 Dec	9.30am	Mass
Sat	28 Dec	9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass <b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>
Sun	29 Dec	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass
Mon	30 Dec	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion
Tues	31 Dec	~ ~ ~	No services
Wed	1 Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion <b>Feast of Mary, Mother of God</b>

<b>This Sunday's Readings</b>	
First Reading	Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm	12:2-3,4b-d,5-6
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel	Luke 3:10-18

<b>Last Sunday's Collection</b>	
Non Gift Aid	£355.19
Gift Aid	£413.50
Advent Collection	£235.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1004.33</b>

## **Please pray for**

### **Those who are sick ~**

Joan Jones, Msgr. Basil O'Sullivan, Seamus Freyne (Father Mike's younger brother), Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Nellie Gallon, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Fr John Callaghan, Bishop Stephen, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, Peter Caproni, Laura Laing, Susan Duvall, Alex Mulholland, Pauline Waugh, Marisa Brown, John Lawlor, Veronica Hyslop and Wullie Thomson.

### **And those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~**

Dennis Hallanan, John Neil, John Mangan, Peter Doyle, Paddy Docherty, Moira Scott, Margaret Carr, Dan Jolly, Kate Sprengel, Claire McNaught.

## **Christmas Liturgies**

Please pay attention to all the Advent and Christmas liturgies. Times may be different. All times are in the newsletter, on posters inside and outside the church, on the parish WEB site and also on the Diocesan WEB site. There should be no real need to phone the church.

## **Sick & House Bound**

Fr. Mike will be going round all the sick and housebound he has on our parish list. These people are normally supported by us throughout the year and visited by him celebrating also the Anointing of the Sick. If you know of people who are not on the list please inform us. There are two other opportunities for the Anointing of the sick. At the end of mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent and during mass on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

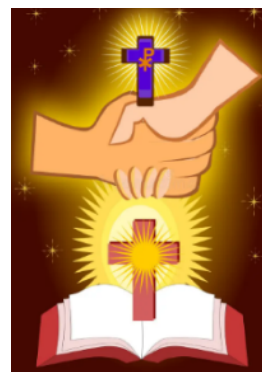
## **Christmas Tree**

During mass on the Third Sunday of Advent we will have the blessing of our Christmas tree. During this season it becomes a tree of HOPE and PRAYER. Near the tree you will find a small box full of Christmas labels and pens. People can write their prayer requests, the people they wish to remember and be prayed for during this season. These may include our sick, those in need or situation throughout the world that we need to remember and pray for people involved. During our Blues mass there will also be the opportunity to leave the names of our deceased.



# PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday 19th December 7pm



We are happy to say once again we have been informed we can celebrate our Penitential Service with **GENERAL ABSOLUTION** this Christmas. The great majority of us do not have extremely serious reserved sins and so can enjoy this experience of simply reflecting on how we have tried to live our lives following Jesus and serving others but at the same time recognise we have not always managed to do our best. Before the Lord we simply say we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness.

Do, please, join us and let others know we will have GENERAL ABSOLUTION.

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## Blues Mass

The Blues Mass we have celebrated at St. Bernadette's for over 15 years now. It is an ideal opportunity for those who want to be joyful and happy with the family, coworkers, school friends during the Christmas season but feel the pain and sadness of missing someone or a few people close to us who have since died. We feel "blue" and vulnerable, fragile and all the consequences of this. We want some quiet, prayerful time to remember them and to ask for God's strength to support us during this season. We do this within our most important prayer - The Eucharist. Please invite people you know who can take advantage of this support during this Advent season. Remember families especially who have lost a loved one in recent years and when Christmas can be a joyful but sad time.

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## Pope Francis Christmas 2024

"He is not the god of accomplishment, but the God of Incarnation. He does not eliminate injustice from above by a show of power, but from below, by a show of love," ..... "He does not burst on the scene with limitless power, but descends to the narrow confines of our lives. He does not shun our frailties, but makes them his own."

"Tonight, love changes history" "Make us believe, Lord, in the power of your love, so different from the power of the world."

"Why did he go to such lengths?,". "Because he cares for us, because he loves us to the point that he considers us more precious than all else. Dear brother, dear sister, to God...you are not a number, but a face. Your name is written on his heart."

God "waves no magic wand; he is no god of commerce who promises 'everything all at once,'" ". "He does not save us by pushing a button, but draws near us, in order to change our world from within."

"Today, though, please, let Jesus take the initiative," "He says to you, 'For your sake, I became flesh; for your sake, I became just like you.' So why remain caught up in your troubles?"

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# ADVENT – CHRISTMAS PROJECT

## Ghana Project

Fr. Gaspard writes about the project:

**SUMMARY:** To start with 50 young people this year. Reduce the socio economic violence against young people. Support the empowerment of young people to become productive in the financial welfare of their families.

The initiative aims at training young people who find themselves in difficult situations. It is a way of supporting the young people with skill trainings to prevent kayayei (Head porters), Streetism, Illegal migration, Human Trafficking... Young people in search of jobs are widespread in the capital cities of the country. The number of these unemployed young people or school dropout keep increasing because of lack of employment opportunities in their communities. Traffickers and other criminals have taken advantage of the situation and promise young people better opportunities in faraway places or engage in crimes. Most of these young people become victims of sex trafficking and forced labor or prostitution or criminals.

A strategy to prevent all that is to eliminate the push and pull factors. One way of doing this is to provide entrepreneurial training to persons identified to be vulnerable and needy. A pre-requisite of this training is the acquisition of sewing machines, looms for weaving and other materials for the training.

These are the specific items requested:

- 1 Industrial machine (Designing)
- 1 Industrial machine (Straight sewing)
- 20 Hand sewing machines
- 1 Butterfly overlock machine
- 1 Butterfly industrial sewing machine
- 20 Butterfly original hand sewing machines
- 10 Weaving machines
- 50 Wooden chairs (stools for sitting)
- 2 Metallic tables

All the projects we have supported in the past have been financing the entire project. This time the parish priest and the community have confronted a major problem and have begun the project arranging a building and creating all the necessary structure. However, the project cannot go ahead without the buying of necessary equipment. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE DO!

Hopefully two other parishes in the Deanery will help us and any short fall SPICMA will top up. Please share and give generously.