

LITURGY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Saturday Vigil)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.
 Rejoice, rejoice and again I say rejoice.
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FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1.6-10



Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and

Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response:
Save us, O Lord, carry us back. Rouse your power and come. Rescue your people, show us your face. Bring us back

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us; return and we shall be saved.
 Arise, O Lord; hear our cries, O Lord. Bring us back!

How long will you hide from your people?
 We long to see your face.
 Give ear to us, draw near to us, Lord God of hosts!

Turn again, care for your vine,
 protect what your right hand has planted.
 Your vineyards are trampled, uprooted and burned.
 Come to us, Father of might!

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient;



do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Abba, Father, send your spirit 96

HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord, God almighty! (2)
 Who was and is and is to come: holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

Blessed, blessed, blest is he who comes,
 blest is he who comes in the Lord's name! (2)
 Hosanna in the heights of heaven: holy, holy, holy is the Lord.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Come and praise him, royal priesthood,
 come and worship, holy nation,
 worship Jesus, our Redeemer,
 he is risen, King of glory.

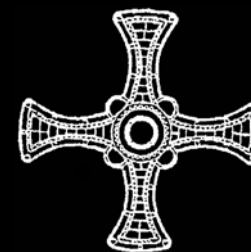
COMMUNION HYMN

As bread, my Lord comes to me 139

RECESSIONAL HYMN

How lovely on the mountains 346

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Parish of Our Lady and St Cuthbert

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Stephen G McGrattan**

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 Telephone: 01655 882145 Fax: 01655 882173 Email: info@olasc.org.uk Web: www.olasc.org.uk

<p>Sunday Masses Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm. Sunday 9.30 am</p> <p>Weekday Mass this week Mon 7 pm; Thu 9 am</p> <p>Celebration of the Word and Eucharist Tue, Wed, Fri 9 am</p>	<p>Mass intentions this week: Sat: Kathleen Frankowski (RIP) Sun: Johnny Mills (Ann) Mon: Pete McDonald (RIP) Thu: Harry Merrick (Ann)</p>	<p>Sacrament of Confession After Vigil Mass and when requested</p> <p>Sacrament of Baptism Forms available at the back of the church</p> <p>Sacrament of Marriage At least six months notice is required</p>
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<p>PARISH PRAYER</p> <p>Lord our God, we the people of Our Lady and Saint Cuthbert's Parish offer ourselves to you to be your people in this place, to be your Church in this community, to be agents of peace and forgiveness and love. Help us to face what the future holds, and to make new beginnings in your name. Amen.</p>	<p>PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS</p> <p>Lord, make me a better person: more considerate toward others, more honest with myself, more faithful to you.</p> <p>Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.</p> <p>Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to enter priesthood or religious life may have the generosity to answer your call, so that those who need your help may always find it.</p> <p>We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>
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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER 2007

From prison John sent out his disciples to question Jesus, and hearing his testimony, they must have felt re-assured. Jesus, to whom John had so often witnessed, gave them an answer which demonstrated clearly who he was. Their doubts, which might have increased due to John's imprisonment, were replaced by new hope.

As well as the works of healing which his Father gave him to do, Jesus considered John's testimony to be a witness to his identity as Messiah. He corroborates John's identity as the one who prepared the way and goes further declaring him the greatest of all children born of women. Yet he tells us that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.

Jesus is the one who brings the kingdom among us. The astonishing destiny to which we are called – eternity shared with God – begins now on earth, as we encounter the Risen Lord in our daily lives. We are a people of hope. As we draw nearer Christmas, our preparation takes on a joyful note – reflecting this hope which the babe of Bethlehem brought to mankind.

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing to David Kiltie (882644 or david.kiltie@virgin.net) Last week's collection £569.07 Thank you.

CARDINAL KEITH PATRICK O'BRIEN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



When we compare the seemingly peaceful and tranquil scene of the first Christmas in Bethlehem to what we are experiencing at this present time, we can easily become pessimistic about the state of our world. There are many reasons for a certain pessimism. The reality of searing poverty in much of our world, the threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the ongoing disregard for marriage and family life. Not to mention the widespread de-Christianisation of our society, never more evident than at this time of year. Recently a Christian MP suggested that taking Christ out of Christmas was like serving turkey without any stuffing. I disagree. Christmas without Christ is like serving stuffing without any turkey! A gesture that is both empty and void without context or meaning.

a time of hope - hope for all of the earth – that we will see love and joy and goodness and beauty, the signs of God's presence on earth and renew our hope that there will be peace and goodwill among all peoples.

As we look to the New Year ahead we must be ready to translate these hopes into action. We must pressurise our political leaders to ensure that they are more and more aware of our international obligations to help the suffering throughout the world.

We must be prepared to stand up and oppose negative legislation on marriage and family life ensuring that our legislators are observing the Laws of God.

We must constantly seek the ways of peace and beat our swords into ploughshares. How can we reconcile the countless millions being spent and being promised to maintain nuclear arsenals in the face of so much abject and dire poverty throughout the world?

Christmas is a time for looking beyond the evils of this present time to see goodness and beauty in those around us, to look at tragedy and see the stories of kindness and compassion that carry with them the hope of life beyond the darkness.

Christ came on earth to bring us that message of peace and goodwill. While we enjoy that peace and goodwill in our own homes and in our own country at this present time may we make every endeavour to spread it to the rest of the world and all the people whom Christ came on earth to save.

Rather than becoming despondent and pessimistic however Christians must live in hope. The message of hope has in recent weeks been echoed by nine of our Scottish Christian leaders who worked together to prepare a shared Christmas message, stressing that above all else the Christmas season is

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS IN MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

The Maybole Council of Churches United Carol Service took place in the Town Hall on Tuesday. The community singing was supported by the United Choir from the church communities in the town, and the children's choir from the primary schools in the town. The children are pictured below. £118 was raised for the Shelter charity for homeless people.



NATIVITY PLAY



St Cuthbert's Primary pupils will perform their Nativity play on Thursday evening at 7.00 pm in Our Lady & St Cuthbert's church. Please come along to see this moving presentation of the Christmas story.

CHANGE TO ADULT EDUCATION COURSE

The Adult Catechesis Session scheduled for the third Wednesday in December has been cancelled. The next meeting is in St Quivox', Prestwick at 7.30pm on Wednesday, January 23rd 2008 when the subjects will be "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" and "Who Teaches".

ROBERT BURNS... WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: An ecumenical service will take place in the Town Hall today (Sunday) at 2.30 pm to mark the end of this weekend's celebrations to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the marriage of Robert Burns parents here in Maybole parish. Please come along and represent our church community as we join with other Christians in the town to worship God.

ST CUTHBERT'S RECIPE BOOK: St Cuthbert's Primary pupils will sell recipe book they have made up from family recipes at Masses next weekend. Cost £2.

DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE: The Diocesan Carol Service will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday December 19th at 7.30 pm. This event will be a mixture of congregational and choral singing and set in a prayerful atmosphere of candlelight.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER: The annual parish Christmas lunch for senior citizens will take place in the church hall on Sunday 30th December at 2.00 pm. The lunch is for parishioners and their spouses. **Because of the popularity of this Christmas lunch and the limited number of people we can cater for using the parish hall facilities, those attending the lunch strictly must be parishioner or the spouse of a parishioner.** Please put names on the list at the back of the church.

CHILDREN OF FAITH GROUP: Will take place on Sunday 16th December, from 5.30 – 6.30 pm. This group for young people to talk about their faith in a fun way is open to all secondary age pupils. Come along and see how God can work in **your** life!

ADVENT FAITH SHARING GROUP: Five parishioners attended last Wednesday's Advent Faith Sharing Group. The group will next meet on Wednesday in the hall at 7.00 pm. All are welcome. Please come along to spend some time talk-

ing about our Christian faith — in this way we will be more prepared to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

HEALING IN THE SPIRIT RETREAT: 27-31 December directed by Fr Jim McManus CSsR and Miss Marie Hogg. In the peace and quiet of St Mary's, hundreds of men and women have found inner peace, the gift of renewed faith and the healing of the inner hurts of a life time, during this time of retreat. A perfect way to bring your year to a reflective and prayerful close. Treat yourself or a loved one to this special time, "the best holiday ever", as one grateful retreatant put it. It could be defining moment for you or them. Contact 01738 624075 or copiosa@aol.com for more information.

DRUMS: Because of a lack of space, the drums that were at the back of the church are available to a good home. They need two cymbals and sticks to complete the set. Otherwise they are in fine working order. A donation to parish funds would be requested.

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: Will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Monday January 8th at 2.00 pm.

RCIA GROUP MEETING: The next meeting will be on Monday 14th January after 7.00 pm Mass in the parish house.

CATHOLIC DIARIES: 2008 diaries, personalised to Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, are now available at the back of the church for £1. They have Mass times for this parish and contact telephone numbers for all the local parishes. They'd make an ideal stocking filler.

HALLKEEPER REQUIRED: Thank you to Jim McDermott for all his work keeping the parish hall over many years. Jim is looking to retire from this parish post and we are in need of someone to take his place. If you would like to do this, or for more details, please contact Fr Stephen on 882145.

MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Please arrange a substitute if you are unable to minister at a Sunday Mass. All ministers are asked to gather in the sacristy five minutes before Mass for a moment of prayer together.

	READER	BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC
Sat 15th Dec 3rd of Advent Youth Mass	Maeve Murphy	Owen McDowall	Danielle Connolly Gillian Thomson	Alice Mackie Jason McKay	Patrick & Roisin McCallum, Paul Strang, Rhian Collins	Youth Choir
Sun 16th Dec 3rd of Advent	Nancy Flanagan	Sacramental Preparation Par-	Irene Hewitt Jim McDermott	Dennis McCaffery Tony Kerrigan	Amy Malone, Connor Menzie's, Ali Roy	Maria Newlands Choir
Sat 22nd Dec 4th of Advent	Alex Meek	Nancy Flanagan	Ellen Hawkes Eileen Hamilton	Alex Kelly Robin Donald	Justin McQuillan, Paige & Kyle Campbell David Welsh	Nicola Lawrence Choir
Sun 23rd Dec 4th of Advent	Tom Dowman	Robert Malone	Marian Davidson Betty McCaffery	Jim McDermott Jim Campbell	Owen & Phoebe McDowall Maeve & Niall Murphy	Donna McKay Gerry Murphy Adult singers