

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Saturday Vigil)

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

My soul is filled with joy 489

FIRST READING

Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

All that I am 122

HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come. Lord Jesus, come in glory!

LAMB OF GOD

(Cantor sings verse)
Hear our prayer, hear our prayer;
through this bread and wine we share,
may we be your sign of peace ev'rywhere.

COMMUNION HYMN

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of death. Amen.

Gentle woman, quiet light, morning star, so strong and bright, gentle Mother, peaceful dove, teach us wisdom; teach us love.

You were chosen by the Father; you were chosen for the Son. You were chosen from all women and for woman, shining one.

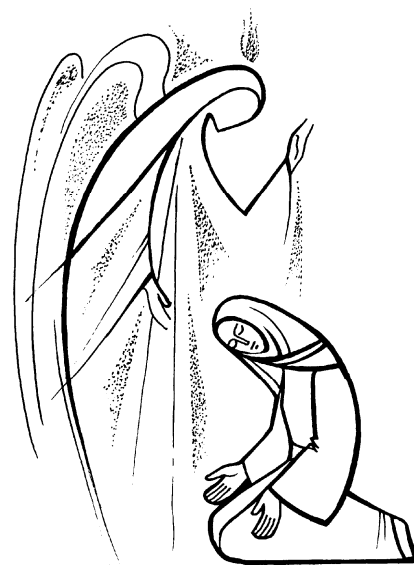
(Refrain)

Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too. Blessed they with peaceful spirits. Blessed they with gentle hearts.

(Refrain)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel 503



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Parish of Our Lady & St Cuthbert

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Stephen G McGrattan**

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

Telephone: 01655 882145 Fax: 01655 882173 Email: info@olasc.org.uk Web: www.olasc.org.uk
Our Lady & St Cuthbert's, Maybole, a parish of the R C Diocese of Galloway. Charity number SC010576.

Sunday Masses

Sat Vigil 5.30 pm; Sunday 9.30 am
Teas in the hall after Sunday Mass

Weekday Masses

Mon, Tue, Thu 9.00 am; Thu 11.30 pm
(carols then Mass); Fri 10.00 am

Celebration of Word and Communion
Wed 9.00 am

Mass intentions this week:

Sat: John Mills (Ann)
Sun: Betty Corbett (RIP)
Mon: Catherine McDermott (Ann)
Tue: Bill Lawson (Ann)
Thu: Jean & William Wallace (Ann)
Fri: Mary Dodd (Ann)
Next Sat: James Scobie (Ann)
Next Sun: Robert Malone (Ann)

Sacrament of Baptism

Forms available at the back of the church

Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

Sacrament of Marriage

At least six months notice is required

Useful numbers: Sacred Hearts, Girvan: 01465 713331
St Paul's, Ayr 01292 260197
St Margaret's, Ayr: 01292 263488

Church and hall bookings (Tom McCahill): 01655 882884
St Cuthbert's Primary, Maybole: 01655 882349
Queen Margaret Academy, Ayr: 01292 268379

PARISH PRAYER

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.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, make me a better person: more considerate toward others,
more honest with myself, more faithful to you.

Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it
I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER 2009

This Sunday's gospel centres on some of the principal characters involved in the nascent life of the Son of God. The work of the Holy Spirit is evident in the inspired prophetic words of Elizabeth as she joyfully greets her young cousin, identifying her as the mother of her Lord.

The Holy Spirit continues to be active in our lives too as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Just as he prepared the body of Our Blessed Lady to nurture her child, so spiritually he continues to assist us to be receptacles of Christ. To the degree we are like Mary, attentive and obedient to God's word, the power of the Holy Spirit will be released in our lives. Mary probably never dreamt of so great a role, but her humility led her to obey without knowing the consequences. She is a great role model for us to learn to trust God.

Podcast on today's Gospel reading at www.gallowaypodcasts.org.uk

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing
to David Kiltie (882644 or david.kiltie@virgin.net)

Last week's collection: **£573.76.**
Thank you.

PRIMARY SCHOOL COFFEE MORNING: Thanks to everyone who supported this event. Over £250 was raised for school funds and Jodie Murdoch won the Christmas hamper.

CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS: The Christmas Dinner for parishioners who are senior citizens will take place today, Sunday 20th December, at 2.00 pm in the parish hall. Please add your name to the list on the notice board.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS READING: Why not buy a CTS booklet from the rack beside the door at the back of the church to help you set aside time for your spirit before Christmas. A selection of Advent/Christmas titles are available.

YOUNG SINGERS NEEDED: To entertain the senior citizens at their Christmas dinner, young parishioners are asked to come and rehearse at 2.30 pm in church today, Sunday 20th December, to make a choir who will then sing at 3.00 pm. You don't need to be the best singer in the world but the parish does need you to come along! Thank you.

CATHOLIC DIARIES customised for our parish are now available free of charge at the back of the church. They include useful local contact details, information about the Sacraments, and all the feast and saints' days of the Church's year. They make good stocking fillers too!

IT'S THE EUCHARIST, THANK GOD: Bishop Taylor's new book about the Mass combines teaching and memoir. He himself describes it as "a miscellany, a collection of different items on the Mass." The book is available at the back of the church for £8.50.

EXPOSITION DURING ADVENT: There will be an extra opportunity during Advent to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in church. After Mass on Monday the Blessed Sacrament will be

exposed for half an hour of prayer. This week Mass on Monday is at 9.00 am.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS: Christianity has lasted 2,000 years through the efforts and prayers of millions, and the work of the Spirit. As Christians, we have a duty to become evangelists for Christ. You can do this in a simple way like placing a 'Keep Christ in Christmas' sticker when sending Christmas cards and other correspondence. The stickers are available at the back of the church at the low price of £1.50 for 100. Proceeds to help street children in Colombia through 'Let the Children Live!'.

RETREATS: Advent Retreat: A time of gentle quiet and reflection and an opportunity to hear again God's Word and, like Mary, to ponder it and treasure it in your heart. **Year End Retreat:** Would you like some time and space for reflection as this year ends and another one begins? Then perhaps this retreat is for you. It is called "Healing in the Spirit: a Spirituality of True Self-esteem", and will take place at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, Perth, from 27th -31st December 2009.

The retreat is led by Fr Jim McManus, CSsR, and Miss Marie Hogg. For more details on both these retreats please contact The Secretary, St Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth, PH2 7BP; or phone 01738 624075. You can also find more information at www.kinnoullmonastery.org or by emailing stmaryskinnoull@btconnect.com.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: This year's Christmas day collection will go towards the Queen Margaret Academy project of building a health clinic in Badagry, Nigeria.

THANKS: Grateful thanks to Saint Clare for favours received. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified and loved today and every day throughout the world, Amen. K and D

Please remember those members and friends of our parish family who are sick: Margaret Manning, Helen Henderson, Nancy Baird, Margaret Murray, Catherine Ward, Moira Sillars, Lee-Anne McLean, John Hagan, Bill Close, Vera O'Neil, Valerie Connolly, Reginald and Helen Beans, Hugh Rodger, Jessie Doherty, Anne-Marie Keane, Jean Milligan, Marie Murray, Joseph Hernández, Billy Torbett, Edward Purvis, Rena McCrindle, Nancy Flanagan.

In our bidding prayers at Mass we pray for all the sick listed here. If you know someone who should be added to (or taken from) this list please email or speak to Fr Stephen.

THE LOVING ENVIRONMENT OF A FAMILY draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realise that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word, and the love He offers His people. Parents, do you encourage your children to develop their talents and gifts? Do you encourage your children to think of priesthood or religious life as a possible life choice?



Above: St Cuthbert's Primary stages 4-7 Christmas production this year was "There's Something Amazing Going on". Family and friends of the school were able to enjoy show in the school's newly refurbished Gym Hall. It was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time.



Bottom right: Children from the local primary schools sing at the Maybole Council of Churches Carol Service in the Town Hall last Tuesday. Carrick Academy brass band and teachers led the accompaniment for the other carols, and the Parish Church choir sang.



PLEASE LEAVE A BABY GIFT UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE

At this time of year in the parish we collect baby gifts to give to mothers in need after bringing the best gift—the gift of human life—into this world. A representative from the 'Society of the Innocents' will be invited to receive and pass these gifts on in the New year. Gifts can be left under the Christmas tree, left in the sacristy or handed to Fr Stephen.



Old mobile phones can be recycled to raise money for the charity Guide Dogs for the Blind. If you would like to recycle an old handset please give it to Bennett or Denis Ward, or leave it at the back of the church.

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

	READER	PRAYER BEFORE MASS & BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC	SUPERVISOR FOR YOUNG LIT	BELL RINGER	COUNTERS
Sat 19 December <i>4th of Advent</i> Youth Mass	Phoebe McDowall	Patrick McCallum	Gillian Thomson Owen McDowall	Paige Campbell Rhiain Collins	Emily, Connor, Zak, Ronan	Youth Choir		David Malone(Jnr)	Nancy Flanagan Chris Connolly Betty McCaffery
Sun 20 December <i>4th of Advent</i>	Roddy Wright	Caoimhe Hunter Blair	Irene Hewitt Dennis McCaffery	Tony Kerrigan Jim McDermott	Liam, Brittany, Deáglan, Dara, Jack	Maria Newlands	Gerry Murphy	Laura Kiltie	
Fri 25 December <i>Birth of Our Lord</i> 12.00 midnight	Alex Meek	Elizabeth Meek	David Malone Jnr. Doreen Donald	Alex Kelly John Sabbatini Jim Campbell	Patrick & Roisin McCallum Owen & Phoebe	Maria Newlands		Jim Campbell	
Fri 25 December <i>Birth of Our Lord</i> 10.00 am	Ronan McDowall Patrick McCahill	Zak Roy	Ellen Hawkes Eileen Hamilton	Dennis McCaffery Cindy McEwan	Deaglán, Dara, Rachel, Rebecca, Ciera, Niall	Youth Choir		Laura Kiltie	
Sat 26 December <i>Holy Family</i>	Margaret Boyce	Matthew Reilly	Jim Hawkes Angela Kirkpatrick	Jim Campbell David Malone Snr.	Owen, Connor, Phoebe, Ronan	Nicola Lawrence		David Malone (Jnr)	Jim McDermott Irene Hewitt Wilma Valdrighi
Sun 27 December <i>Holy Family</i>	Jim McDermott	Elizabeth Meek	Dennis McCaffery Betty McCaffery	Chic McDermott Jim Campbell	Liam, Brittany, Deáglan, Dara, Jack	Guitars	David Strang	Laura Kiltie	

New rotas for January and February are now available from the back of the church. Please take one.