

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART BRIDGETON GLASGOW

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Mass times and times for celebrating other Sacraments will be published after next week.

Contact details for the parish will also become available soon. In the meantime for emergencies, please contact St Michael's, Parkhead.

A parish in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow Registered Charity Number SC018140

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY 2021 ✦ SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS YEAR B

SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021 DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE

At the beginning of the New Year we are invited to pray for peace. Today, on this first Sunday of the New Year we recall that God's saving love reaches to the ends of the earth and embraces all his daughters and sons, making them all our sisters and brothers and obliging us to reach out to them in peace and friendship. One way in which we bear witness to the love God has shown towards us is in our support for the Church's universal commitment to Justice and Peace.

NEXT PLANNED OPENING OF THE CHURCH:

SUNDAY 10th JANUARY

FR LIAM McMAHON

As you will know, Father Liam McMahon's appointment as parish priest takes effect tomorrow (Monday 4th January). He will continue to be Parish Priest of St Michael's, Parkhead as well. Fr Liam has asked me to let you know that thanks to the helpfulness of Fr Sweeney, there will be a Mass at 11am next Sunday (10th January) (and a second Mass at 12noon) if the government leaves the Covid-19 restrictions at Level 4, limiting Mass attendance to 20. Next weekend Fr Liam will announce his plans for the schedule of Masses and arrangements for other celebrations and services here in Sacred Heart, allowing him to serve both parishes.

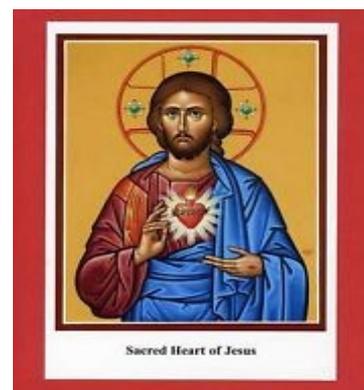
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NORMAL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ADVICE.



2020-Year of Laudato Si-2021
Care of our Common Home

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
I place all my trust in thee!

THE HEART
OF BRIDGETON AND DALMARNOCK



THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS IS REQUESTED FOR:

THE SICK, especially Mary Reilly, John Reilly, May Lamont, Maria MacDonald, Margaret Sommerville, Sheila McGee, Charlie Crossan, Elizabeth Ward, Kathy Lamont, Patrick McMullan, Wilma McIntosh, Marie and Ally McKinnon.

ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED especially John McQuilken, Barry Clark and all those who have died recently, and David Anderson, Delia Johnstone and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday 6th January THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THANK YOU - ON A PERSONAL NOTE

As you will know already, today is a very significant day for me. In offering Mass for the last time publicly as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Bridgeton I am beginning my retirement brought on by ill health. Since coming to Sacred Heart in 2012, I have always been struck by your warmth and generosity. My first memory was being met by John McLaren and receiving the special and personal Sacred Heart welcome. Over the years we have worked to create a community extending a welcome to those who came to join us and through prayer and dedication, with fun along the way, we have achieved a lot, even raising money through events such as the Christmas and Summer concerts with Dana and Svetlina, performers from the parish and others from the Royal Conservatoire and the games and raffles. We were here for the Commonwealth Games and still provide safe, convenient and free parking for many who wend their weary way to Celtic Park. We have had many sad partings from loved ones, parishioners, friends and family and we have shared moving times together. We have shared the pain of illness and the grief of death in our witness to the life of Christ which we are called to live. We have shared the joy of new life; celebrated marriages and new beginnings that remind us to have hope and believe in the future. Christmas has mostly been a time to care for one another, sharing cards and exchanging gifts. Even this year with all the restrictions I would like to say thank you for your kindness: the Christmas greetings and cards I received and the many gifts for which I am very grateful. I have been especially touched this year by the many messages of support, prayers and good wishes I have received since announcing my retirement due to ill health. Many others are suffering just now because of isolation, financial worries or illness but as a parish we are blest to be able to support and care for each other. Over the years as a student and then a priest I have known many people who have shown me and taught me about living life as a priest and as I move into a new chapter of my life, I take with me much love and cherished memories. Finally, I am full of appreciation for the thoughtfulness, concern, kindness and overwhelming generosity which has been shown to me personally while I have been in Sacred Heart and in particular these last two years. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you. Thank you for welcoming me to your hearts. Forgive me if I single out by name a few others who represent the gratitude I owe to all of you: Brother Gerry, Sharon Macys who with Brother Gerry and Gerry Anderson look after the parish finances, those who have served on the Parish Pastoral Council and to Irene and May and Agnes and all the workers. Thanks to Father Tony Sweeney for all his support. Please be assured that you will remain in my prayers and I ask you to remember me in yours

THE YEAR OF LAUDATO SI—MAY 24th 2020—MAY 24th 2021

Pope Francis has appealed to the whole Church and all people of goodwill to mark the fifth anniversary of the publication of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si* to take part in this special year long programme to redouble our efforts *to take care of our common home and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters*. To read the new encyclical "*Fratelli Tutti*" or to find the Pope's prayer for the Year of Laudato Si or for more information see www.vatican.va)

THANK YOU

So many people deserve our thanks for the generous gifts they make of their time and talents to ensure the smooth running of the church and especially at this time of the year for repairing the church for our Christmas events. This year, as well as our usual helpers who assist with the cribs and Christmas trees, our stewards and cleaners have played an essential role in making sure we comply with the measures required by the government for the safe opening of the church across the different levels of precaution. Our congregation is comparatively small yet so many of those who keep well enough and had time to offer have made what we have been able to achieve possible. A word of gratitude and appreciation is owed to everyone who has been so generous in continuing to make their weekly contribution towards the financial upkeep of the parish. For many people these past few months have been a strain and the future continues to be uncertain, so your continued financial support of the parish and other good causes towards which we are asked to provide help, is especially welcome. Due to the problems associated with Covid-19 it seemed prudent not to try to print and circulate parish Christmas cards or calendars this year. No doubt these tokens of goodwill and affection have been missed, like so many other things we have come to expect and appreciate at this time of the year. Please, God, in the coming year we will be able to return to so many of the things we miss, without forgetting all the good ways we have tried to take care of each other when times have been so difficult.

COVID-19 LEVEL 4 RESTRICTIONS

The Government safety measures continue to be set at Level 4, so only 20 people can attend Sunday Mass. (Funerals are still limited to 20). Please adhere to the safety measures. We must wear masks, use hand sanitiser, observe social distancing, register our attendance and follow the directions of the stewards and cleaners. The church has to be cleaned after every Mass, which restricts the frequency of Masses and the opening of the church. Please do not come to the church if you or someone with whom you have been in close contact with has Covid symptoms. Please do not come to church if you have been told to have a test and are awaiting the results. Please do not come to the church if you have been told to self-isolate. Please look out for further announcements from the parish and the government regarding what level is in force in our area, what is permitted at the different levels and what measures go along with them. The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday continues to be suspended.

THE EPIPHANY (WEDNESDAY 6th JANUARY)

This year the Epiphany is being celebrated twelve days after the birth of our Lord on January 6th. The visit of the Magi which this feast celebrates marks another high point in the unfolding events of the Christmas mystery. The small group of shepherds who were told by the angels to go in search of the baby king in the manger represent the manifestation of God's saving presence to the chosen people, especially to the poor and lowly for whom the baby's coming confirmed God's special care for the humble and the needy. The visit of the Magi and the guidance of the star makes known God's intention and desire to draw the whole world and all nations to Bethlehem to find the newborn king of the Jews, to pay him homage and by bowing down in adoration to welcome the Saviour of the world in faith. The wise men's gifts express their faith in the child to whom the star guided them. Gold is a gift for a king, so the baby is a king, which King Herod's rage and murderous and jealous reaction also confirmed. Frankincense is a gift given to God, the incense rising to the Divine Majesty, symbolic of prayer and adoration and the offering of one's whole being to our Lord and Maker. Myrrh is a gift which is set aside until the time comes to use it to embalm the body after death but in this case it also symbolises the death this baby will suffer to bring about the salvation of the world. Today on the Feast of the Epiphany the world is given a glimpse of the mystery of who this child is, in whom heaven and earth become one to overcome the destructive consequences of sin and reconcile God with broken humanity. The feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of revelation and light- God making himself known and making himself visible as the light of hope and redemption of the world.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B (Year B The Year of Mark)

FIRST READING

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1—2; 8—12 “*From eternity, in the beginning, God created wisdom.*”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 147 “The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1: 3—6; 15—18 “*Before the world was made, God chose us in Christ.*”

GOSPEL

John 1: 1—18 “*The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.*”

REFLECTION

The Wisdom of God and the Word of God often appear in the Old Testament meaning the same thing. Wisdom and the Word express the Truth which is God’s own knowledge and understanding of himself. Over the ages at various different times and in various different ways, as the letter to the Hebrews tells us, God spoke to us about himself and about his relationship with us. Now, however, he has spoken to us through his Son - the Word was made flesh by the Holy Spirit who is the Wisdom of God, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In our Scripture readings today we are reminded that Christmas enfolds us in the great Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Through Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, God reveals and shares his divine nature with us and in us: we become divine. Each of the divine Persons reaches out to us and reimprints in its beauty and glory the image and likeness of God which was tarnished and diminished but not wholly lost by sin. Sin deceives us into thinking we are not good enough but the truth which God makes known to us about ourselves is that his grace and his love make us good enough; God himself banishes sin and the harm it does and makes us worthy to be what we are made to be - God’s own sons and daughters, brought into being to share forever in the everlasting life which has become our inheritance through the death and resurrection of Christ who was born in the stable of Bethlehem to teach us the wisdom of God and the truth about ourselves.

REQUESTING THAT THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS FOR YOUR INTENTION

To support the parish, for an offering of £10, you may request that the name of a loved one or some other person or intention be associated with the sanctuary lamp as it burns before the Blessed Sacrament. Donations have been received asking prayers for the intentions of Agnes McCabe, and as a wedding anniversary remembrance for Robert and Ellen Sannachan and to mark the anniversary of Delia Johnstone. (Please Note: sanctuary lamp donations are not Mass offerings.)

COLLECTIONS, PARISH BANK DETAILS AND “MYGIVING” PLATFORM

Thank you to all those who have found ways of continuing to provide financial support to the parish during this time when our regular source of income through the collections at Sunday Mass has not been possible. If you are not already doing so, you can transfer your offering directly into the parish bank account. Clydesdale Bank, 30 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2HL, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow— Sacred Heart Bridgeton Sort Code 82-48-08 Account 70487142. If you wish to GiftAid your offering, please keep a note of what you give and let the parish know when that becomes possible. You can continue to use a new online facility which has been set up through the Archdiocese at **MyGiving**. You can make a donation to Sacred Heart, Bridgeton by following the link at the webpage of the Archdiocese of Glasgow (www.rcag.org.uk) and using the dropdown menu to find Sacred Heart Bridgeton. Fill out your details and indicate the amount you want to give, either as a one-off payment or more regularly. You can also GiftAid your offering. You may prefer to bring your offering with you when you visit the church. *Thank you for your ongoing financial support, especially during this time when many people are struggling simply to make ends meet.*