

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Lk 2:16

God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

First Reading

Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7,14-17

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127:1-5

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **R**

Second reading

Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated

Gospel Acclamation

Heb1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Communion Antiphon

Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion

Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament,
most merciful Father,
to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family,
so that, after the trials of this world,
we may share their company for ever.

Sunday 11.15am Mass		
Entrance Hymn	698	Unto is a boy is born
Offertory	636	Once in royal David's city
Communion	601	See amid the winter's snow
Marian antiphon	128	Alma Redemptoris Mater
Recessional	193	Child in the manger



St. Mary's Cathedral

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www.stmaryscathedralaberdeen.org



MEDITATION

“Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.” We must see all our activities as linked with God's work. In keeping with the Christmas season, we can reflect on God's presence in even the most “secular” places. Parents, children, communities, single persons, your and old should find hope in this presence.

The passages for this Sunday from Sirach and Colossians specify the shape of a happy home for their times. Whether it be in care for an aging parent or in the loving interaction of spouses, the ideals have perennial appeal. The particular historical applications remind us that the ideals need ever-fresh interpretation in our daily lives. While the cultural picture of nagging fathers and submissive wives remind us of a waning era, we are challenged to see what a happy home can be for us. How will our relationships evolve if we do all in the name of Christ Jesus?

The gospels for each year open up for us a variety of episodes in Jesus' early life. His happy home, the Holy Family, is far from idyllic. Joseph must take the child and Mary to Egypt. Interpreting God's will, they are able to escape Herod and then settle in Nazareth (year A). Joseph and Mary marvel at the poetic



words of an aged man who awaits the consolation of Israel. Even here, Simeon's words show the swords of pain and division in their home. Mary, the first to hear God's Word must encounter the challenges of his life (year B). Jesus' later visit to the temple presages his destiny and the tension this brought (year C).

In their family interaction, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus did all in the name of God. Within our own history, we must do all in the name of this present One.

Vienna Religious Centre



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Notices to be in by Tuesday evening

Hall Bookings: halls@cathedral-abdn.org
Call between 9am & 1pm only
Terms & Conditions see Parish website

Liturgical Ministries

Head Sacristan: Jacqueline Armstrong
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Altar Servers: George Brand 01224 630 159
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Flowers: Pixie Mathers 07763064146
pixie2704@sky.com

Notices

Adoration: Monday - Saturday 6.00am-12 midnight

Confessions: Tuesdays 6pm
Saturdays 10.30am & 6pm

Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday 6.30am

Rosary: Fridays (Vocations) 1.30pm
Saturdays (Priests) 10.30am

Housebound? Coeliacs: John MacKinnon (See above) for visits
Speak to clergy before Mass

Sunday Coffees: Ann Ryans 07545 615 198
annryans@aol.com

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Margaret Hammond
nfp@cathedral-abdn.org

Mass Times

Date	Details	Service	Time	Mass Intentions
Sun 31st	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Mass Polish Mass	8.00am	Baby Pirie & Baby Docherty RIP
		Solemn Mass	9.30am	
		Polish Mass	11.15am	
		Mass	3.00pm	Parish Intentions
	New Year Eve	Midnight Mass	11.45pm	
Mon 1st	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Solemn Mass	11:15am	
		Polish Mass	7:00pm	
Tue 2nd		Mass	7.00am	The Docherty Family
		Mass	7.00pm	
Wed 3rd	The Most Holy Name of Jesus	Mass	7.00am	Intentions of Colin Simpson-Reilly
		Mass	12.30pm	
Thu 4th		Mass	7.00am	The Callanan Family
		Mass	7.00pm	
Fri 5th		Mass	7.00am	Thanksgiving D. Dieseru Family
		Mass	12.30pm	
Sat 6th		Mass	10.00am	Njideka Chima Thanksgiving
		Vigil Mass	7.00pm	
Sun 7th	The Epiphany of the Lord	Mass	8.00am	Special Intentions D. Dieseru
		Polish Mass	9.30am	Parish Intentions
		Solemn Mass	11.15am	
		Polish Mass	3.00pm	
		Mass	6.00pm	

Mass Intention Envelopes

These are available at the back of the Church. Cathedral itself. Recommended offering for each Mass is £5.

Print details and post through Clergy House letter box.

It may not always be possible for Mass to be celebrated on your preferred date or at the Sunday 11:15 Mass is normally reserved for the Administrator's or Bishop's Intentions for the Parish or Diocese.

OFFERTORY: Due to the Christmas break, the offertory will be reported next week



Youth

LIFE TEEN

Both Lifeteen (S3-S6) and Edge (P7-S2) youth groups will resume again on Friday 5th January in the Lower and Main Halls, respectively. Time is 7-9 pm.

FAITH & FUN ON SATURDAYS

Youth group for P2's to P7's in the Main Hall from 12.30pm to 2pm every Saturday afternoon. For more details and to register online please see our website.



ABERDEEN DIOCESAN CHOIR

Rehearsals on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Upper Hall, St Mary's Cathedral. New members are most welcome (especially tenors and basses!) Further information available on ADC website and Facebook.

SVdP

Many thanks to all our benefactors who have supported our work this past year. The members of Cathedral Conference SVdP wish every member of the Cathedral Parish our warmest wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Cathedral

SPUC SCOTLAND

A SPUC Petition is available at the back of the church to oppose the campaign to extend abortion. Please sign the Petition to help mobilise opposition to this threat to future generations of children.



SUNDAY PRAYER MINISTRY

After 11.15am & 6.00pm Masses Patrons Altar If you require prayer for yourself, a family member, or friend, please feel free to make yourself known to the team.

CATENIAN ROSARY GROUP

The group is now focusing on sending white plastic rosaries to prisoners where there is an urgent need. Rosaries, especially white plastic rosaries can be sent to Michael Blackburn, 164 Green Park Rd., Halifax HX3 0SP. Any queries 'phone 01422 352559 or email: michael@jibr.co.uk

Cathedral

HEALING SERVICE

The First Healing Service of 2018, will be held on Thursday 4th January, after the 7pm Mass. All welcome. Prayer and Praise.



BIBLE STUDY & GROWING IN FAITH

The Group is breaking for Christmas. We will resume on Wednesday January 10th in the Clergy House after the 12:30 Mass. Contact kevin.ocarroll@live.com

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME AFTER MASS CAFE

This is now closed over the festive period but will open again on Friday 12th January 2018. Looking forward to seeing all our regulars and visitors. Frank and Norma.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION CLASSES

Sacramental Preparation Classes for children at non-Catholic schools will begin in January, 2018. Children must make their First Reconciliation before making their First Communion. If your child is 7 years old or more then please register him/her online for the appropriate Sacrament at :- www.stmaryscathedralaberdeen.org or contact Ruth Paterson on 01224 593069 Email: ruthpaterson@hotmail.com

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

The 11.15am choir is looking for new members, especially altos, tenors and basses. We sing a wide range of music from Gregorian chant to Graham Kendrick. For details speak to a choir member after Mass or email: music@cathedral-abdn.org



Cathedral Bookshop
New arrivals

Book sale every Wednesday and Thursday until end of January:

- ◆ Words for the Advent & Christmas Season by Bishop Hugh Gilbert.
- ◆ Our Journey to Christmas by Pope Francis.
- ◆ Nothing is Impossible With God.
- ◆ You Are Not Alone.
- ◆ St Faustina Way of The Cross.
- ◆ The Secret of La Salette Revealed.
- ◆ Praise of Angels St Michael Archangel.
- ◆ I Will Wait at The Gates of Heaven, St Pio.
- ◆ St of a Thousand Miracles.
- ◆ Passport to Heaven, St Faustina.

Thank you to all volunteers in the shop and to those who have donated to the shop.

CHILDREN AT 11.15 AM MASS

Children can get bored at Mass because they can't see what is going on so we would like to encourage all children of primary school age to sit in the front left rows of the church with the Catechists. Hopefully, both you and them should find it easier to engage with Mass.

Maintenance to Mission



Resumes Wednesday 17th January 7 - 8pm Clergy House

We are hoping to move to a new phase in the life of the Cathedral. We are inviting anyone who is interested in seeing the parish move from a maintenance parish to a mission orientated parish to join us in reading Fr James Mallon's book, *Divine Renovation: Bringing your parish from Maintenance to Mission*. We shall be reading through the book together and discussing its contents. Please buy a copy of the book and then join us for the meetings in the Clergy House.

Deanery & Diocese

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND

Led by Rt Rev Hugh Gilbert 9th - 16th July 2018.

Flights direct to Krakow from Edinburgh airport. Ground Package £560pp (based on 2 people sharing) plus cost of flight. Package includes half board at Pilgrim Hotel Campanile Krakow. Full service of courier through out tour. Local guides will accompany group when visiting Krakow, Weiliczka, Czestochowa and Wadowice. A tour of Auschwitz included. Coaching supplied where necessary.

Details from: Joyce Webster—Diocesan Office: 01224 319154 or Gill Didino—Tangney Tours: 017 886666



YOUTH MINISTRY GATHERING

For current youth workers and those interested in starting a youth group in a Roman Catholic parish. **26th January 2018 at Kilroy Castle, Muir of Ord, Inverness and 27th January 2018 at St Mary's Cathedral, Aberdeen**
Contact Sr. Anna Christi, OP at ogilvie@rcda.scot

EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING WITH CHALK

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to hand out blessed chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: 20+C+M+B+18 above the doorways: 2018 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi - Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar - and for Christum Mansionem Benedicat, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House." As you are writing, pray: *The three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's Son who became human two thousand and fifteen years ago. May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.* Then offer the following prayer: *Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen*



Weekly Calendar

Mon	Mother & Toddler Group For parents with young children. All ages welcome. Main Hall from 13.30-15.30pm Contact: Yi-pei Chou 0745 5479 479
	Crede Community Meeting Polish charismatic prayer group. Main Hall at 7.30pm. Contact: Klaudiusz Mozolewski 07928323313
Tue	Magnificat Prayer Group 7.30pm in the Lower Hall after Mass. Contact: Stella Maria Onuoha 0744 9951 415 nnesin@yahoo.com
	St. Vincent de Paul Feeding the homeless Contact: Evelyn Murray murray.evelyn@sky.com
	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Cathedral House at 7.30pm Contact: Fr Keith
Wed	Light Exercise Class for all Main Hall at 10:00am Contact: Laura Walker 0777 3 021 851 laura@laurawalkerlimited.co.uk
	Beloved Disciples Bible study and growing in faith Clergy House Dining Room After 12:30 Mass Contact: Kevin O'Carroll
	Seniors Club Speakers, fun & fellowship Main Hall at 2 pm every 2 weeks Contact: Jean on 01569 765 799
	Healing of Memories Prayer for the healing of painful memories of the past to bring peace to the present. Clergy House at 2.30pm (by appointment) Contact: Deacon Tony
	Legion of Mary Lower Hall from 6pm to 7.30pm Contact: Nogie Osula nogisula@yahoo.com
	African Choir For Africans and anyone else. Upper Hall from 6 - 8.00pm Contact: Patricia Malikebu 07891 714 549
Thu	Cenacolo Prayer Group Exposition & Rosary praying for healing of those with addictions Church after Mass Contact: Liam Sharkey 07774 931 996
	Band Practice Contemporary music for Sunday 6pm Mass Upper Hall after Mass Contact: John Costaschuk
	Cathedral Choir practice 7pm in the Ogilve Centre
Fri	Altar Servers' Practice Church from 6.00 to 7.00pm Contact: Simon bebbie_no1@hotmail.com
	Youth Groups For teenagers between 11 & 17 Halls 7pm to 9pm Contact: St. Andrew's Community
Sat	Church Cleaning Church at 10.30am
	K4J (Kids for Jesus) Youth group for P2's to P7's in the Main Hall from 12.30pm to 2pm
	African Choir (As above) Upper Hall from 6 - 8.00pm
Sun	Choir Rehearsal Leading the music for 11:15 Sunday Mass Upper Hall 10.00am Contact: Shelagh Noden