

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 45:8
Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.’ But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 88:2-5,27,29. R. Cf. v.2

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages. **R**

‘He will say to me: “You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.”
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.’ **R**

Second reading Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the

way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. He went in and said to her, ‘Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.’ She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, ‘Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?’ ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you’ the angel answered ‘and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.’ ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord,’ said Mary ‘let what you have said be done to me.’ And the angel left her.

Communion Antiphon Is 7:14
Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel

Prayer after Communion
Having received this pledge
of eternal redemption,
we pray, almighty God,
that, as the feast of our
salvation draws nearer,
so may we press forward
all the more eagerly
to the worthy celebration of the
mystery of your Son’s Nativity.
Who lives and reigns
for ever and ever.

Sunday 11.15am Mass		
Entrance Hymn	644	Tell out my soul
Offertory	343	Holy Virgin, by God’s decree
Communion	418	Let all mortal flesh keep silent
Marian antiphon	128	Alma Redemptoris Mater
Recessional	218	Come, O long expected Jesus



St. Mary's Cathedral

20 Huntly Street, Aberdeen AB10 1SH

www.stmaryscathedralaberdeen.org



MEDITATION

It seems to surprise Christians that God's fleshtaking in Christ should have to come to pass in such simplicity and quiet. We are still tempted to read the gospel accounts for concrete details which will reveal spectacular manifestations of divine power in the life of a homespun maiden of Israel.

If the story does reveal anything of the extraordinary, it is because it lies in the tradition of other stories from Israel's history, stories which recount the birth of great heroes of the people.

Mary's "yes" is the hinge of human-divine history. The God who created all makes the fulfilment of his promise dependent upon one of the most dispossessed and powerless of his children. The fact that God so ordains the working out of his plan shows the powerlessness of our might and the relentlessness of his surprising love.

‘Let what you have said be done to me’

As we rush about making wars or dazzling loved ones with the brightness and size of our gifts, it serves us well to pause in silence and to let our imaginations enter into the humble setting of hearth and heart where God's almighty Word waited upon the "yes" of a woman.



St Mary’s Cathedral - Aberdeen AB10 1SH

Clergy & Religious		
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Liturgical Ministries		
Head Sacristan: Jacqueline Armstrong jacquelinearmstr@hotmail.com Readers: Fiona Mitchell fiona.j.mitchell@hotmail.co.uk Euch. Ministers: John MacKinnon 07926 628 941 johnmackinnon2602@hotmail.co.uk Welcomers: Collectors: Diego Mejias Morffe 07960 325 046 dmejiasmorffe@gmail.com Altar Servers: George Brand 01224 630 159 geobra@msn.com Flowers: Pixie Mathers 07763064146 pixie2704@sky.com		
Notices		
Adoration: Monday - Saturday Confessions: Tuesdays Saturdays	6.00am-12 midnight 6pm 10.30am & 6pm	
Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday 6.30am		
Night Prayer: Thursdays Rosary: Fridays (Vocations) Saturdays (Priests)	8.30pm 1.30pm 10.30am	
Housebound? John MacKinnon (See above) for visits Coeliacs: 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 & Carol Service Times				
Date	Details	Service	Time	Mass Intentions
Sun 24th	4th Sunday of Advent	Mass Polish Mass Solemn Mass	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am	Intentions of Obi and Mary For the Diocese
	Christmas Eve	Spanish Carol Spanish Mass Polish Carol Polish Mass Carol Service Midnight Mass	5:00 pm 5:30pm 9:00pm 9.30pm 11:30pm 12.00pm	
Mon 25th	Christmas Day	Mass Polish Mass Solemn Mass Polish Mass	8.00am 9:30am 11.15am 3:00pm	Intentions of C. Simpson -Reilly Intentions of the Diocese
Tue 26th	Feast of St Stephen	Mass Polish Mass Solemn Mass Polish Mass	7.00am 9:30am 11.15am 3:00pm	Altar Servers
Wed 27th	Feast of St John the Evangelist	Mass Mass	7.00am 12.30pm	Intentions of Bishop Hugh
Thu 28th	Feast of the Holy Innocents	Mass Mass	7.00am 7.00pm	Jeremy Mathews Child of Paul&Giulia Ness
Fri 29th	St Thomas Becket	Mass Mass	7.00am 12.30pm	For Pluscarden Michelle Allan
Sat 30th		Mass Vigil Mass	10:00am 7.00pm	Matey Paulicek
	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	Mass Polish Mass Solemn Mass Polish Mass Mass	8.00am 9.30am 11.15am 3.00pm 6.00pm	Babies Pirie & Docherty RIP Parish Intentions
Sun 31st				
	New Year Eve	Midnight Mass	11:45pm	
Mon 1st Jan	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	Solemn Mass Polish Mass	11:15am 7:00pm	

Mass Intention Envelopes	
These are available at the back of the Church. 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	Cathedral itself. Recommended offering for each Mass is £5. Sunday 11:15 Mass is normally reserved for the Administrator’s or Bishop’s Intentions for the Parish or Diocese.



Fair Trade tea, coffee & home baking after Mass

Youth



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.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT GIFT FOR YOUR TEEN? Look no further! St. Andrew's Youth Pilgrimage will be going to Lourdes, France next summer. Spaces are limited so contact the St Andrew Community now.

Income

SVdP

Donation

£331.99

Polish Collection

£ 30.97

Box Collection

£181.27

Total Income

£544.23

Spent on Food

£82.85



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

CONGRATULATIONS

to Clara Christina & Laila Lucia Blackburn who were Baptised on Saturday 16th Dec Please remember them in your prayers.

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.

Please take me home

Cathedral



25th December 2017

12:45 to 5.00pm in Cathedral Main Hall

The Catholic Women's Organisation and the Holy Family Sisters of the Needy are organising a Christmas party for all parishioners. An invitation has been sent to the homeless and needy. If Parishioners have anything they want to share: food items, gifts etc. Please give them to any of the Sisters or CWO member. Donations are welcome.

There will be something for everyone!!

Stella Maria Onuoha, tel: 07449951415
Email: nnesin@yahoo.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.

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

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.

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



Uniting to end poverty
Caritas Scotland

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS ADVENT

In El Salvador SCIAF is working with people with disabilities to help them fight for their rights, lift themselves out of poverty and become champions in their communities. Join us and help change lives. Find out how here: www.sciaf.org.uk

SYRIAN NEW SCOTS DONATION REQUEST

In preparation of some new families arriving in December and in order to help Somebody Cares who will be looking after the families, the following donation request list has been drawn-up:

- ◆ 1 x two seater sofa.
- ◆ 2 x TV (preferably with USB or HDMI inputs .
- ◆ Kitchenware: big pots, big plates, trays, utensils.
- ◆ Food blender / chopper.
- ◆ Small amount of bric a brac to brighten up homes.
- ◆ Cushions and throws.
- ◆ Cosy set of hats, scarfs and gloves for 4 adults, 3 teens and 2 older primary school children.

Sheona Bell, Senior Refugee Support Officer
Communities, Housing & Infrastructure
Business Hub 1, Lower Ground Floor West
Marischal College, AB10 1AB, Tel: 01224 523934
Email; SheBell@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Sunday 24th December, 2017

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 5379 479 Credo 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 Ogilvie 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