

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR
CHRISTMAS**

Next to the Easter Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memory of Christ's birth and early manifestations; the announcement of his birth to the Shepherds by Angels; the revelation to the Magi; his Baptism in the river Jordan and the declaration by his Father that he is his "Beloved Son"; the beginning of his public ministry at the Marriage Feast in Cana.

JANUARY: The Holy Name of Jesus.

TODAY: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort (1175-1275, Priest & Religious.

NEXT SUNDAY:

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD,
End of the Christmas Season.**

PARISH PRAYERS

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

January 2026

For prayer with the Word of God

That praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

We pray for all who are ill or housebound, especially:

Joan Birt, Jim Docherty, Annabelle Melville, Tommy Gallacher, Margaret McGarry, Chris Jones, Sandi Bray, George Bennett, Michael Fitzharris, Gina Robb, Isobel Diorio, Anne Faller, Nan Scullion, Lexi Kerr (baby), Linda Scott, Maureen Hanvey, Emma Sinclair, Maureen Houston, Anne Kane, Jessica Glover, Caroline McNeil, Joanne King.

We pray for all who have died recently, R.I.P., especially:

Catherine Margaret Kelly,
Katherine Demuro,
Jim Miller, Jennifer McNeill,
May Strachan, Jimmy Miller,
Agnes Tait, Anne Coyle.

We remember those whose anniversaries are at this time, R.I.P., especially:

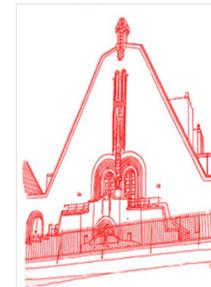
Rev. William Mallon,
Assistant Priest here, 1929-1931,
Rev. Hugh G. Heslin,
Assistant Priest here, 1957-1967,
Rev. John J. Canon Scanlon,
Parish Priest here, 1948-1957,
Dan Crawley, Elizabeth Wright,
Edward Mitchell.



ST. PATRICK'S BULLETIN

St. Patrick's Presbytery,
5 Orangefield Place,
Greenock, PA15 1YX.

Parish Priest: Rev. Gerard Gallagher



4th. January 2026

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday Vigil; 5.30pm Sunday: 11.00am

Sunday Readings: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

WEEKDAY MASS: Tuesday-Saturday: 10.00am

Weekday Readings: Christmas Season after Epiphany.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday-Friday: 9.30-9.50am

PENANCE & RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 10.30am & 4.45-5.15pm

Divine Office: Christmas Season after Epiphany. Psalms: Week 2

Baptism: Sunday after 11.00am Mass by prior arrangement

Marriage: Please give at least 6 month's notice of Marriage.

TODAY'S LITURGY

1st. Reading: Isaiah 60.1-6

'The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 72 (71)

**R./ All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate
before you, O Lord.**

2nd. Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6

*'It has now been revealed
that the gentiles are fellow heirs of the promise.'*

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 2.1-2

'We have come from the east to worship the king.'



The annual telling of the Epiphany story could lead us to take it all for granted: Magi from far away places, guided only by a star, fabulously rich and so on. However, they were gentiles, outsiders, detested by all! Yet they sought out the new-born King when King Herod's religious advisors, who knew all the prophecies about the King being born in Bethlehem, make no move to go and see this wonderful deed of the Lord. Their gifts recognise that the Christ-Child is God (frankincense), that he is a king (gold) and that he has come to die for us (myrrh).



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

**In the Parish Hall to help:
Sunday 12.00pm—12.30pm.
Parish helpline, please call:
07746009763**



Telephone: 01475 720223

E-mail: stpatrick@rcdop.org.uk

Website: www.stpatricksgreenock.info

X(Twitter): [@stpatricksrcdop](https://twitter.com/stpatricksrcdop)

The text of the **Creed** and of the **Solemn Blessing** are on the back of the sheet with the Readings.

PROCLAMATION OF THE DATE OF EASTER

Because the date of Easter changes each year, there is an ancient tradition that the Church today, the Solemnity of the Epiphany, proclaims the date of Easter and of all the feasts calculated from Easter. The practical reason for this was, that in the old days, people didn't have calendars at home and most people couldn't read or write. Nowadays this proclamation reminds us of the importance and centrality of Easter in the Church's life and worship. It also encourages us to continue to celebrate the great paschal mystery each and every Sunday and holy day throughout the year. All the time which we have is God's gift to us and we should make time to praise and thank God for his gifts, and above all for the gift of salvation which is ours through Christ Our Lord.

MASS THIS WEEK

Tuesday—Friday: 10.00am.

Thursday, 10.00am:

Funeral Mass of Catherine Margaret Kelly, R.I.P.

N.B.: NO 10.00am Mass on Saturday.

HOLY YEAR 2025

The closure of the jubilee year will be celebrated in Rome on **Tuesday (6th. January), the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**, when Pope Leo will close the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica. The **Ceremony of Closure and Mass** begins at **8.30am** (our time) and will be broadcast live on the Vatican website:

<https://www.vatican.va>.

FINANCE

THANK YOU for last Sunday's **Offertory Collection** which came to **£1,125.39** and for the **CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTION** which came to **£1,577.14**. Thank you for your kind generosity at a time of year when so many demands are made on you.

THIS WEEKEND Second Collection for the work of **Justice & Peace**.

JUSTICE & PEACE SCOTLAND is the Commission of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland which highlights our concern for social justice, human rights, peace, development and the integrity of creation. There is a **letter** to take home with you today from Archbishop Nolan, President of Justice & Peace.

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CRIB COLLECTION There is a box at the crib for donations to the **St. Margaret Children & Family Society**. **Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the appeal.**

As you know, St. Margaret's focusses on finding families for children who have difficulty finding a permanent home. However, their finances have not yet returned to normal after COVID, so if you can possibly contribute to this, please do so. If we are truly "pro-life" then we have to try to support organisations like St. Margaret's.

PARISH HALL EVENTS

WARM HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP from **Sunday 4th. January 2026** in the Hall after **11.00am Mass**. We will be providing soup, sandwiches, cakes, hot and cold drinks.

We would welcome **new volunteers** to help with this, if you are able to spare a couple of hours once a month, please contact Father Gerry.

R.C.I.A. — THE RITES OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

This is the process by which adults are brought into membership of the church. It concludes with the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. If you are thinking of becoming a member of the Church, please let Fr. Gerry know so that we can begin the process immediately in the new year.

The key dates for the celebration of RCIA are:

The **Rite of Enrolment** with Bishop John in the Cathedral in Paisley on the **1st. Sunday of Lent, 22nd. February 2026**.
The **Easter Vigil**, on **Saturday 4th. April**

2026 when we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

YOUNG PEOPLE Pilgrimage to Paris with Diocese of Paisley Youth in **Autumn 2026**. Opportunities for prayer, time for retreat, catechesis, sightseeing and much more. Register your interest today at:

www.tinyurl.com/dpy-paris

For further information please contact:

kerry.miller@rcdop.org.uk

DIOCESE OF PAISLEY: MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES 2026

Engaged couples are invited to register for one of the Marriage Preparation courses on offer in 2026. The course consists of two evening in-person sessions, and one Saturday morning workshop, which will be held in St. Mirin's Cathedral Hall, Paisley. For any additional details or queries please contact Rebecca Harrison at marriageandfamily@rcdop.org.uk

The cost for the course per couple is £70. Once couples have registered they will be contacted directly regarding attendance and a certificate will be issued upon completion. This course fulfils church requirements regarding preparation before marriage and is a wonderful opportunity to meet other couples and share in fellowship. You can follow the link to access further information <https://www.rcdop>

IRH CHAPLAINCY We have a catholic chaplaincy team who are happy to visit patients in the hospital for non-emergency visits. Please let Fr. Gerry know that you or your relative would like a visit from a catholic chaplain.
