

CARING SUNDAY

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity in last week's second collection which amounted to more than £2,600 for the Saint Nicholas Care Fund.

ARCHBISHOP TARTAGLIA'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

It is reported that very shortly after being elected Pope, and just before appearing on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica for the first time to greet the crowds, one of the cardinals closest to the new Holy Father whispered to him: "Don't forget the poor".

This Christmas I would like to whisper to you the same message ... "Don't forget the poor."

Poverty is a scourge, in whatever form it presents itself, and we can sometimes feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem. But even if we can't, on our own, solve the problems of malnutrition of Africa or eliminate child poverty in our own land, we can all do something.

I would like to suggest to you three kinds of poverty which each of us could help alleviate in some small way this Christmas season:

The first of these is material poverty. We should make an effort not to become inured to news reports showing children and adults begging for food in war-torn areas of the world. Just think of how awful it must be to feel pain in your body, anxiety as your children cry for food, and humiliation as you are forced to beg for scraps. This is the awful reality for literally millions of our fellow human beings. What a scandal! Similarly, we must never become used to statistics which show 34 per cent of all children in Glasgow were living in poverty last year. We can all help (even in a small way) by being generous to overseas aid agencies like SCIAF and local charities like the St Nicholas Care Fund which assists communities in our own back yard whose lives are blighted by lack of resources.

The second poverty we can try to alleviate is social poverty. Older people shouldn't feel lonely and isolated. Can you imagine how it feels not to speak to another human being for a whole month? Most of us would agree that would be pretty tough. Yet, sadly, loneliness and isolation are a stark reality for around 100,000 older people living in Scotland today. We can all help in our own small way by dropping in with a Christmas card or gift to an older person living alone in our own street or neighbourhood, or by inviting an elderly neighbour or relative to join us at our Christmas gatherings. Such gestures of common humanity cost nothing financially but can be hugely important to people living in isolation.

The third poverty we can help tackle is spiritual poverty. All around us our fellow citizens look forward to the Christmas feast without really knowing what it's all about. We can do a great deal of good by simply being ourselves, without being ostentatious or judgemental, and explaining to our work colleagues, friends and relations why we go to Midnight Mass, or why we put a crib in a place of honour in our houses at this time of year. It's hard for us to imagine, but many people have very little idea of the nativity of Jesus. With our lives (and sometimes with our words!) we need to help dispel that poverty, by helping others realise that when God entered human history, through the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem 2000 years ago, our human story changed decisively for the better.

May these thoughts offer you some ideas as you continue the Advent path towards the great feast of Christmas. And remember ... don't forget the poor.

Yours devotedly
+Philip Tartaglia
Archbishop of Glasgow

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS.....

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

Vigil Mass (Saturday 23rd) at 5.30 pm,
Masses on Sunday 24th at 09.00 am and 11.00 am.

(Please note that the 11.00 am Mass is the last Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent: There is no Sunday 5.00 pm Mass).

CHRISTMAS EVE (24TH DECEMBER)

Christmas Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm
Midnight Mass begins with Carol Service at 11.30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Masses at 9.00 am and 11.00 am. **There is no evening Mass.**

TUESDAY 26TH DECEMBER

Mass at 12 noon

27TH-30TH DECEMBER

Mass at 10.00 am

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Usual Sunday Mass times: Vigil Mass (Saturday 30th) at 5.30 pm, Masses on Sunday at 09.00 am, 11.00 am. and 5.00 pm

Service of Thanksgiving and to ask God's blessing on the year to come at 7.30 pm on Hogmanay

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

(Mary, Mother of God)
Mass at 12.00 noon

TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY

Mass at 12 noon

WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY

Normal Mass schedule
however, the Church will close each day after the 10.00 am Mass



Sick

Mgr. Peter Smith, Chris Whelan, George Burnett, Kay Fernandez, Patricia Murphy, Stephen Hart, Vanessa Young, Marlene Rennick, Michael Campbell, Angela Carroll, Mary Kelly, Michael Gallagher, Frank McLaughlin, Nancy McCabe, Norah Webster, Lilian Sharp, Norah Sweeney, John O'Neill,

Recently Deceased

Denise Burke, John Gilhooly, John McGloin, Kitty Buchanan, Jimmy Garrity, Jean Morris, William Toohill, Gladys Connolly, Brid McDevitt, Denise Burke, Arlene Barker, Josephine Mair (former organist at Saint Helen's)

Anniversaries

Lucia McWhirter, Maeve Christie, Nuala Nolan, John Nolan, Charles Gallen, Helena McLaughlin, John O'Neill, Cathie Douglas, Shirley Simonini, Agnes McKenna, James Friel, Joanne Ellis, Joseph O'Neill,

Congratulations and Prayers

to parishioners, Stacey McGrinder and Ryan Lynch who will be married in Saint Helen's on Wednesday this week.

Monsignor Paul and Deacon Kevin wish to offer all our parishioners their prayers and best wishes for a holy, peaceful and Blessed Christmas.

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(89):2-5,27,29

R/ 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.

‘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.

‘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.’

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

Lk1:38

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.



SAINT HELEN’S, LANGSIDE PARISH BULLETIN

24TH DECEMBER 2017 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil (Saturday) 5.30 pm; 9.00 am,
11.00 am and 5.00 pm

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Mass at 10.00 am preceded by Morning
Prayer at 9.50 am. The Rosary is prayed
every day after Mass.

CONFESSION:

Saturday 10.30 – 11.00 am
Saturday 6.15 – 6.45 pm
Thursday 7.00 – 7.30 pm

ADORATION:

Tuesday to Thursday from after the 10.00
am Mass until 1.00 pm

ROSARY FOLLOWED BY NOVENA:

Thursday at 7.00 pm

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

Masses on holy days of obligation are at
7.30 am, 12.30 pm and 7.30 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Saint Helen’s Presbytery
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Parish Priest

Monsignor Paul Murray

Permanent Deacon

Rev. Kevin Kelly

www.sthelenslangside.org.uk

*The Archdiocese of Glasgow is a Religious Charity
Number SC018140*



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