

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd December 2012

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“When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.”

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass, 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday: 9.45 to 10 a.m.
4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Monday is the Memorial of St. Francis Xavier; Tuesday, the Memorial St. John of Damascus (Day of Prayer for Peace in the Middle East); Friday, the Memorial of St. Ambrose; Saturday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

This Sunday we enter one of the most beautiful of the Church's seasons: **Advent**. In the midst of the pre-Christmas rush and all the stress that can go with it, Advent invites us to put time aside to be alone with God. He can help us ask ourselves the right questions as regards our lives. A secular year draws to an end: a religious year begins. What should we leave behind so that we be healed and renewed? What “good thing” will we aim at in the coming twelve months? Perhaps the answers lie in the heart that learns to be still and be with God.

There is an **Ecumenical Advent Service** in the Church of Scotland in Caol this Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Come along, if you can

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Patrick Curran, Mgr. Roderick MacDonald, Allan MacLean, Thomas MacPherson, Arthur McGinlay, Margaret MacDonald, Margaret B. MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Lachlan Wynne, Roderick Gemmel, Agnes Gemmel, Mary MacKellaig and John MacDonald.** May they rest in the peace of Christ.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on Saturday, 8th December, is, of course, the Patronal Feast of our parish. If we cannot manage Mass on that day, why not a quiet and prayerful decade of the rosary at home? This Feast reminds us that Christ is not only the Son of Mary: he is also her Saviour, for the extraordinary grace that was hers from the moment of her conception was granted her through the Mediator of all grace, her beloved Son and also God's Eternal Son.



As part of the celebration of the Year of Faith, Bishop Toal has designated certain churches of the Diocese as privileged places for **Plenary Indulgences**. Our church is one of them, but only on certain days. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is one of these days. Whoever receives Communion on that day, with a true and determined conversion of heart and life that rejects all sin, praying also for the Pope's intentions, may be the recipient of such an Indulgence. Recent celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is also required.

The British Legion thanks you most sincerely for your support. The Poppy Appeal box that was at the back of the church raised £68.65 for the Legion's good work on behalf of so many veterans and their families throughout Scotland.

We remind you again that instead of Midnight Mass we will have the **Mass of Christmas Night** at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve. It will be preceded by a short Carol Service beginning at 9.45 p.m.



Dr. Maria Santos Gorrostieta

On the 12th November Dr. Maria Santos Gorrostieta was driving one of her three daughters to school in Tiquicheo in Mexico. She had recently served as the local mayor and was an outspoken opponent of the infamous drug cartels of her country. She carried the scars of two assassination attempts. Suddenly another vehicle forced her car to stop. The 36-year-old was hauled out and physically assaulted as horrified witnesses watched. They described how Maria begged for her child to be left alone and then appeared to get into her abductors' car willingly. The little girl was left wailing as her mother was driven away. Eight days later Dr. Maria's body was found dumped by the roadside. She had been tortured before being killed. A woman of great Christian faith who wished only to serve the most vulnerable of her people, she is now one of the 50,000 people who have met violent death because of the horrific, sadistic power of Mexico's drug barons. Drug production and supply is one of the great evils of our planet and the death of a good and brave woman is yet another example of that, as is a terrified and traumatized little girl standing by a roadside in Tiquicheo.

Mary, the Woman of Faith

As the Old Covenant begins with the faith of Abraham, the New Covenant or Testament begins with the faith of Mary. Before attempting articles on Mary's faith, let us look at some very different examples of art's fascination with this extraordinary young woman.



The Annunciation
Dante Gabriel Rossetti



The Visitation
Orthodox Icon



'Kissing the Face of God',
by Morgan Weistling



Visitation - Irish Capuchin Image



Fra Angelico's Annunciation



Mary's First Steps
12th century Mosaic



Visitation by Carl Bloch



Nativity by Arthur Hughes, 1858



Statue of the young Mary
Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth

*And Elizabeth said,
"Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled!"
(Luke 1:45)*