

St. Mary's RC Church

~ 7 Academy Street, Nairn, IV12 4RJ ~

Parish Priest: Very Rev. Father Domenico Zanrè, VG
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Parish Bulletin: 24 December 2023 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B (II); Psalter: Week 4)**

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Saturday 23 December / Sunday 24 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YR B)	Confession / Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday Morning Mass	5 pm / 6 pm 11.30 am
Sunday 24 December / Monday 25 December	CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY	Carol Service / Vigil Mass Christmas Day Mass	6pm/6.30pm 11.30am
Tuesday 26 December	St. Stephen, the First Martyr (Feast)	Holy Mass	10.00 am
Wednesday 27 December	St. John, Apostle, Evangelist (Feast)	Holy Mass	10.00 am
Thursday 28 December	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)	Holy Mass	10.00 am
Friday 29 December	5 th day within the Octave of Christmas	Holy Mass	10.00 am
Saturday 30 December / Sunday 31 December	THE HOLY FAMILY	Confession / Saturday Vigil Mass Sunday Morning Mass	5 pm / 6 pm 11.30 am

NEWS

Thank you! – Fr. Domenico would like to thank you for all the kind wishes, Christmas cards, and gifts that he has received. They are much appreciated. He would also like to thank those of you who assist in any way in our parish: without you, our liturgies and events would not be possible! Finally, to all the parishioners of St. Mary's, in great gratitude for your support, patience, and prayers throughout the past year. As a parish family, we rely on one another, and each of you has your part to play. Thank you!

St. Mary's 90 Club: Our Grand Christmas Draw takes place this Sunday, 24 December! Good luck to those of you who have a ticket!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP HUGH TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE

"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened which the Lord has made known to us" (Lk 2:15). This is what the shepherds say to one another after the angel has shared the Good News of the Saviour's birth. Once again, we too want to go to Bethlehem and to see God's gift in the new-born Child. Even if we are physically alone, we don't go alone. We go with believers all over the world as members of the Church, walking together and in communion with one another and the Successor of Peter. We go with the people we carry in our hearts. We go mindful of those enduring war or sickness or hardship and who may not be able to acknowledge Christ or experience any of the joy the angels announce. We go for others as well as ourselves, simply and doggedly like the shepherds and the wise men. Even animals and angels are involved: the whole of creation is realigned by the Child in the manger. He is the still centre of the turning world. He is magnetic, with a power to draw which is all his own. And when we reach him, what do we see, what do we come to? "To the things that cannot be and that are", as someone wisely and wonderfully said.

Things that cannot be and that are: a virgin who is a mother; a man who is God; men and women born again to eternal life as children of the Father. These are things that, left to ourselves, we would all say "cannot be", that don't happen. But Christmas says they have happened and "are". Wonders. We are so sure we know what's possible, what can happen and what can't. We are so stuck in our mindsets. Christmas blows things open. Christmas gives birth to other possibilities. We are allowed to imagine and dream. We can venture and dare. We can try. Above all, in faith and hope, we can entrust our baffled selves and our ravaged world to an ultimate Love. We can learn what Mary learned: "nothing is impossible to God" (Lk 1:37). I wish you all the best of Christmasses,
Yours devotedly in Christ, + *Hugh OSB*

PARISH FINANCES

Weekly Collection of 17 December: £ 000.00

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Dorothy Ahern, Bruce Lamont, Ann Stewart, Austin Birks, Siobhan, Freddie Brown, Christina, Ann Mackinnon

Anniversaries: Maybell Semple (26 December 2013), William McCluskey (28 December 2005), Florence Dennis (30 December 2013)