

## Advent Reflection by Deacon Bert

### Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025

The themes for each Sunday over the Season of Advent are:

1st Sunday - Hope, 2nd Sunday - Peace, 3rd Sunday - Joy, 4th Sunday - Love.

These themes for each Sunday will be expanded upon as well as looking at how they correlate to each other.

As we gather on this final Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves standing very close to the manger. Our waiting is almost over and in just a few days we will celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word made Flesh, God's greatest gift of Love to the world.

Over the previous Sundays, Advent has guided us step by step through the themes noted at the top of this reflection. It began with Hope, trusting that God is faithful and keeps His promises. Peace then flowed from Hope, the Peace Jesus promised when He said, 'My peace I give you, not as the world gives peace.' Then came Joy, a deep lasting Joy that comes from knowing God is near - Emmanuel, God with us. And today all of these come together in Love.

Love is at the heart of Advent and is the true meaning of Christmas. The Hope we hold, the Peace we seek and the Joy we celebrate all flow from God's love revealed in Jesus. We read in John 3:16 that 'God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son.' The birth of Jesus isn't only historic, it is the visible sign of God's love for the world, for each and every one of us.

God sends His Son not out of obligation, but out of Love. He sent Him not in pomp and ceremony, but as a child born into poverty and vulnerability, showing us the depth of His Divine Love a Love that bows down to meet not just the prominent but the lowly no matter who we are or where we are.

Jesus teaches us how we are to live this Love. He tells us, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' He deepens this command when He said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' This is a Love that is generous, forgiving and self-giving, the same love we see in the manger and on the cross. As we enter the final days of Advent, we are invited to make room for this Love, not only in our hearts but in everything we do in our daily lives. Loving as Christ loves means choosing kindness over impatience, mercy over judgement and compassion over indifference.

As we draw closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus, may our Hope be renewed, our Peace strengthened, our Joy made complete and our Love reflect the Love of God who so Loved us so much that He gave us His only Son.

\*\*\*\*\*MERRY CHRISTMAS\*\*\*\*\*

#### DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

Scottish Charity No: -  
SC001810



#### St Fergus'

94 Glenogil Terrace  
FORFAR  
Angus DD8 1NG

#### SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil Mass Saturday at 6.00pm

Sunday Mass 1115 am

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Wednesday & Thursday @  
10am.

Each Wednesday – Rosary  
immediately after Mass

Last Wednesday of the month  
– Rosary, Exposition of The  
Blessed Sacrament and  
Benediction immediately after  
Mass.



#### St Anthony's

3 St Mary's Close  
KIRRIEMUIR  
Angus DD8 4GW

SUNDAY Adoration of the  
Holy Sacrament at 08-45am  
Sunday Mass at 9-15

WEEKDAY MASSES Each  
Tuesday – 0930 Novena to St  
Anthony immediately after  
mass.

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.  
Rosary and Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament immediately  
after Mass.

Friday: Adoration of the  
Holy Sacrament at 0900: Holy  
Mass at 0930.

Saturday 4.30pm – 5.30pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation,  
or on request in Forfar

**WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF**  
**ST FERGUS, FORFAR & ST ANTHONY, KIRRIEMUIR**  
**E-mail:** [stfergusandstanthony@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:stfergusandstanthony@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)  
**Website:** - <https://www.stfergusrc-forfar.org.uk>  
**PARISH PRIEST: - REV. FR. DIJO THOMAS CST**  
**Tel No: 01307479715 Mobile: 07442 002494**  
**Email:-** [durulel@gmail.com](mailto:durulel@gmail.com)  
**PARISH DEACON: - REV. BERT MILLER**  
**Items for Newsletter to:** [fergusandanthonynews@yahoo.com](mailto:fergusandanthonynews@yahoo.com)

21<sup>st</sup> December '25  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
Advent Year A

**Children's Liturgy**  
Today Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>  
December

**Second Collection**  
Today -  
Altar Flowers

#### The 4th Sunday of Advent

##### First Reading:

The Prophet Isaiah 7:10-14

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive*

##### Psalms 24

*Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory*

##### Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

*Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God*

##### The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which  
means, God with us.*

Alleluia!

##### The Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

*Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to  
Joseph, son of David*

#### Today - Readers & Bidding Prayers:

9.15am – Irene Miller

11.15am – Anne Cormie

#### Next Sunday 28th December

##### The Holy Family Year A

9.15am Mass –Gavin Gowans

11.15am Mass – Martin Korabiowski-  
Smith

##### Second Collection dates:

21/12/25 – Altar Flower

28/12/24 – Building Fund

(2026 Second collection programme  
will be published before the New Year)

##### Feast, Memorials, Holydays etc.

Thursday – Mary – The Holy Mother of  
God – Solemnity

Friday –St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen  
- Memorial

#### MEMORARE

*REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled  
to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.  
Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you do I  
come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise  
not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

#### Offertories 14<sup>th</sup> December – 3rd Sunday of Advent Yr A

Combined Vigil Mass	£47.20
St Fergus Sunday Mass	£153.81
St Anthony Sunday Mass	£128.00
Total (1) =	£329.01

Donations Total (3) £80.00 Forfar Pipe  
Band and an anonymous donation

Fundraising – Building Fund £



Total (4) £684.87

#### Special Collections etc.

Collection Vigil Mass	£35.48
Collection Forfar	£66.50
Collection Kirriemuir	£73.96
Collection Total	£175.94
Building Fund Total (4) £	
Second Collection Forfar £	
Second Collection Kirriemuir £	
Tea/Coffee Forfar £	
Tea/Coffee Kirriemuir £	
Candles Kirriemuir	£57.82
Candles Forfar	£
Flowers Kirriemuir	£
Flowers Forfar	£
Repository Forfar	£
Repository Kirriemuir	£42.10

Parish Safeguarding Please note that the Parish Safeguarders for Kirriemuir are Kaye Donaldson  
and at Forfar Zofia Korabiowska-Smith.


*Could parents please make sure that any toys or books borrowed from the back  
of the church are returned after Mass. Thank you.*

TEA, COFFEE & BISCUITS: available after both Sunday Masses. Why not come along for a natter and meet up with other visitors, friends and other parishioners alike. There are no strangers here, only friends who have never yet met. A rota list is available at both churches if you would like to assist in the provision of this facility. Donations gratefully accepted.
Gift Aid - Please Note the Gift Aid Scheme Is completely CONFIDENTIAL. It is a requirement of Law, that anyone who completes a Gift Aid Form must ensure that they pay tax sufficient to cover the donation. Offerings made under Gift Aid allows the church to claim 25p for every £1.00 donated from HMRC. The extra revenue greatly benefits our churches. If you wish to claim ‘Gift Aid’, then ask Father to register for Gift Aid and receive envelopes to use every week. Thank you.
<div><div></div><div><b>SICK, DECEASED &amp; ANNIVERSARIES</b></div><div></div></div> <p>Please remember in your prayers those who are sick: Alex Moss, Gerry Quinn, Jim Robson, Charles Blackwell, Duncan Fisher, Andrzej Axenti, Annete Fraserburgh, Yvonne Cargill, John &amp; Margaret Clowes, Tom Doyle, Alistair Cormie, Dawn Clark, Denis Delaney, Philip Jackson, Margaret McAuley, Mrs Lebida, Callan Bray, Luis Rodolfo, Maria Claudia; Peter Harvey.</p> <p>The Beloved Recently Departed: and those whose anniversaries occur at this time (month of December) Mary Cormie; Mary Devine; James Quinn; Margery Flight; Les Hay; Helen Burns; Annie Black; Thomas Steele; Robert Black; Florence Findlater, Olive Weaving, Michael Kilcoyle, Michael McGuire, Anne Smith, Michael Connolly, Nora Piggot, Joseph Smith, Lena Duncan, Martin Quigley; <i>May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.</i></p>
<div><div><b>Children’s Liturgy</b></div><div>Today, there will be a Children’s Liturgy. All children of any age are very welcome, and if feeling a little nervous or shy, may be accompanied by an adult.</div></div>
<div><div><b>Hymns at St Anthony This 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></div><div>646 The angel Gabriel Lord have mercy 489 My soul is filled with joy Holy Holy Lamb of God 285 God fills me with joy 216 Come O divine messiah</div></div>
<div><div><b>Smartie Tubes</b></div><div>Many thanks to everyone who filled a tube. <b>We collected an amazing £616.49.</b> The children at the party seemed to be delighted with Santa’s gifts. Any donations remaining or latterly handed in, will be secured towards future funding of youth events/projects. Thank You, Helen and Bill Flight.</div></div>
<div><div><b>Notes From The Liturgical Calendar For Scotland</b></div><div><b>The Season Of Christmas</b> Preceded only in importance by the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, The church has no more ancient tradition than the celebration of the Christmas season. From Jesus humble birth in Bethlehem; The announcement of his birth to the Shepherds by angels; the revelation to the Magi and their subsequent adoration of the Child; his baptism in the River Jordan and the Father's declaration of Jesus as “Beloved Son” and the beginning of his public ministry. The other feasts of Christmastime (Saint Stephen., Saint John the Evangelist, the Holy Innocents; the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God) all have an intimate connection to the Lord’s manifestation.</div></div>

Results Week 6 – 30th November

£5 No. 60 Tom Doyle; £10 No.52 Jim Houghton; £20 No.28 Anne Delaney

We are now at Week 9, the next is The Big Braw Draw, who will the Lucky People Be??



*Geoff & Anne Marie Bray wish all Parishioners and Clergy of Ss Fergus & Anthony a Joyous Christmas and good health in the coming year.*

*Christmas and New Year Wishes*  
If you would like to include a New Year’s Greeting, please email or contact myself, Kaye or Father Dijo

Services and Masses for Christmas and New Year 2025/26
<b>Confession</b> ( Priest will be available at these times and places) <b>Forfar 24/12 Wednesday @9.30am to 12.30pm</b> <b>Kirriemuir 23/12 Tuesday @9-00am to 11.30am</b>
<b>Vigil Mass (20/12 Saturday)</b> <b>Sunday Mass 21/12</b> <b>Kirriemuir @ 9-15am</b> <b>Forfar @ 11-15am</b>
<b>Christmas Eve Vigil Mass</b> <b>Kirriemuir 24/12 Wednesday:- Morning Holy Mass as usual @ 10.00am</b> <b>Kirriemuir 24/12 Wednesday@ 5-30pm Carols and Mass at 6-00pm</b> <b>Forfar 24/12 Wednesday @ 8-00pm Carols and Mass at 8-30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day Mass</b> <b>Kirriemuir 25/12 Thursday @ 9-15am</b> <b>Forfar 25/12 Thursday @ 11-15am</b>
<b>New Years Eve Adoration and Mass</b> <b>Forfar 31/12 Wednesday @ 10-00am</b>
<b>New Year’s Day Masses</b> <b>Forfar 01/01/2025 Thursday @ 10-00am</b>

DIOCESE OF DUNKELD ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT  
NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It falls to me as Bishop to make our Annual Safeguarding Statement and to renew our commitment to the support of survivors of all forms of abuse.

As always, our goal is to nurture a culture of care within our Diocese by demonstrating a shared commitment to creating safe church environments, offering shelter, support, and compassion to all those affected by abuse.

Our safeguarding procedures are there to assist in creating this culture of care. These procedures include our Safe Recruitment Policy, which makes sure volunteers do not start their ministries until all necessary checks are completed, and our Mandatory Reporting Policy which ensures all allegations of abuse are reported to the police.

Safeguarding training plays a vital role in equipping all volunteers, group leaders, and Parish Safeguarding Coordinators with the knowledge to report all safeguarding issues appropriately.

Our clergy also receive training in safeguarding procedures and associated topics. Whilst these processes are crucial it is equally important that our culture of care encourages all in our parishes and communities to be vigilant, care for each other and pass on any safeguarding concerns.

I wish to give my thanks to Roger Bromage and members of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group whose knowledge and expertise continues to guide us in our aim to ensure our people, places and activities are safe within a culture of transparency and understanding.

Additionally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Linda Gourlay, our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, to clergy, parish safeguarding coordinators and volunteers for their ongoing work and commitment to safeguarding.

We humbly reach out to all **survivors of abuse within the Catholic Church**. There is no time limit for those who have suffered to come forward to share their experience of abuse. We pledge our commitment to offer the best support possible to anyone who needs our help.

I ask that you all remember survivors of abuse in your prayers as we continue to pray for their healing and peace.

With every good wish,  
Yours in Christ  
**Andrew McKenzie, Bishop of Dunkeld** On behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group