



ST MARY, STAR OF THE SEA LEITH

106 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6AW, SCOTLAND

Roman Catholic Parish of the *Archdiocese of St Andrew + Edinburgh*
www.archedinburgh.org Scottish Charity No. SC008540

Ministered by the *Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate*
www.oblates.co.uk Registered Charity in Britain: 223318

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year B

17th December 2023



Gaudete! Rejoice!

The readings of *Gaudete Sunday* encourage us to **REJOICE** because our salvation is near. The first reading from Isaiah foreshadows the coming of the Messiah, the anointed one. The psalm taken from Luke's Gospel is the Magnificat of Mary - *My soul rejoices in my God*. In Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, the second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give

thanks. In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist tells everyone that he is not the Christ but that the Messiah is coming. John the Baptist's role as a witness to the light, who is Jesus, is emphasized. John's clear denial of being the Christ, Elijah, or the Prophet reflects his understanding of his own identity and mission. It is important to know one's role in God's plan and stay true to it. We can pray that we may be like John; sure of the path that God wants us to walk. If we are unsure or have gone our own way a bit, what better time is there to find the path once more and set our feet back on it with renewed resolve? We are sent, full of the spirit of God, responding to that spirit with action and joyful hearts.

COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION

At the Vigil Mass and the Sunday Mass this weekend, we will have the opportunity for a communal celebration, *the Sacrament of Reconciliation*. This will help to facilitate those who are not able to approach the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. It is highly recommended that you avail yourself of the individual celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation when time and space permits.

ANNIVERSARIES for the week beginning the 17th December: Frances Smith, Elspeth Finlay, Mary Anne Raeburn, Daniel Fegan, Elizabeth Reilly, Mary Flucker, Michela Czerkowskyj, John Cooney, Maureen Smith, Frederick Oliver, Mary Elizabeth Gilchrist, Maisie Moriarty, Michael Hughes, Celia Finnian, James Brown, James McEneny, Frances Scott, Elizabeth Hogan, Helen Flannigan, James Gordon, Patrick F Hickey, Brian Taylor, Margaret Belam, Margaret McDonald,

CRIB DONATIONS: FRIENDS OF THE HOLYLAND

A non-political group supporting Christians living in the Holyland. Your support is greatly appreciated at this difficult time.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULES

(A) Anniversary; (RD) Recently Deceased; (RIP) Remembrance (B'RIP) Birthday Remembrance; (SI) Special Intention; (GW) Get Well	
Sat. 16 th Dec.	5.15-5.50 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 6.00 pm People of the Parish
Sun. 17 th Dec.	10.30 am Mass: Charlotte McBrierty (A)
Mon. 18th Dec.	NO MASS CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED
Tue. 19 th Dec.	12 noon Mass: Elaine Connolley (RD)
Wed. 20 th Dec.	12 noon Funeral Mass: Molly Tomes
Thu. 21 st Dec.	12 noon Mass: Margaret Healy (RD)
Fri. 22 nd Dec.	9.30 am School Christmas Concert 11.30 am Exposition: Blessed Sacrament 12 noon Mass: Brian Taylor (A)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Luke 1:46-54
My soul rejoices in my God.



CHRISTMAS 2023 – CHURCH EVENTS

INDIVIDUAL CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd December: 11.15 am – 11.50 am

Also, by appointment at the priest's house – phone Fr Leo 07424935231

Friday, 22nd December: 9.30 am **Christmas Carol Concert** led by St Mary's RC School

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (*Christmas Eve*)

Saturday, 23rd December: 6.00 pm *Vigil Mass of Sunday*

Sunday, 24th December: 10.30 am *Sunday Mass*

SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS EVE)

7.30 pm *Carols at Christmas*

8.00 pm **NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS**

MONDAY, 25TH DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS DAY)

10.30 am **DAY MASS OF CHRISTMAS**



CHRISTMAS OCTAVE MASS Schedule:

Tuesday	26 th December: St Stephen's Day (<i>Boxing Day</i>)	12 noon Mass
Wednesday	27 th December: St John, Apostle & Evangelist	12 noon Mass
Thursday	28 th December: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	12 noon Mass
Friday	29 th December: <i>Fifth Day of Christmas</i>	11.30 am Exposition 12 noon Mass
Saturday	30 th December <i>Vigil of Sunday</i>	6.00 pm Mass
Sunday	31 st December The Holy Family	10.30 am Mass

NEW YEAR 2024 SCHEDULE

Monday	1 st January: Mary, Mother of God	12 noon Mass
Tuesday	2 nd January: SS Basil & Gregory	12 noon Mass
Wednesday	3 rd January: The Holy Name of Jesus	12 noon Mass
Thursday	4 th January: <i>Second Week of Christmas</i>	12 noon Mass
Friday	5 th January: <i>Second Week of Christmas</i>	11.30 am Exposition 12 noon Mass
Saturday	6 th January: <i>Vigil of Sunday</i>	6.00 pm Mass
Sunday	7 th January: The Epiphany of the Lord	10.30 am Mass

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED From Friday, 22nd December. Re-opens on Tuesday, 9th January.

For all enquiries during Office closure, please contact Fr Leo at 07424935231

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF EDINBURGH

Christmas Vigil & Day Mass times for all churches in the Archdiocese can be viewed at www.archedinburgh.org/christmas-day-mass-times/

Return to ordinary Parish Schedule starting Monday, 8th January. No Mass on Mondays

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

This weekend (Third Sunday of Advent) we will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Each person is invited to **bring a piece of cloth (a piece of rag torn from an article of old clothing you used to wear or have) from your home** – about the size of an A5 (folded A4) page. The cloth will be used during the celebration to symbolize our desire to place everything we struggle with at the feet of Jesus in the crib. God comes into our lives and finds us in the mess of our creation and the creation of others. He takes our sins on Himself. *Pieces of cloth are available in St Eugene's Chapel for those who forget or don't have any old rags lying around.*

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



ONLINE ADVENT ROSARY: Mondays in Advent at 7:45 pm. Run by the Archdiocese. Register at bit.ly/archprolifeevents

ONLINE ADVENT REFLECTIONS: Tuesdays of Advent 8-9 pm. Led by Fr Ray, OMI. Register at <http://eepurl.com/hOgE6r>

ADVENT REFLECTION ON THE GOSPELS: Reflection sheets prepared by **PARTNERS IN FAITH** (in Ireland) are available in St Eugene's Chapel for those who would like to reflect on the Gospels for the Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent.

PARISH CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT: Saturday, 16th December, starting at 10 am with Mass, followed by talk and reflections in the Parish Hall till 1 pm. Led by **Deaconess Lynda Wright**.

SUNDAY ROLLS, TEA & CHAT

Drop in after the Sunday Mass to the Stella Maris Parish Hall for cold-filled Rolls (£2.50) and tea/Coffee. **Thank you to the Teams for the Friday lunches and Sunday Teas; they will be taking a well-earned Christmas break! This Sunday is the last tea of 2023. Thank you to all who came over for tea and chats. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

"FRIDAY lite LUNCH" will resume after mid-January. Big thank you to all who prepared rolls and served. Enjoy the break!



New helpers who can spare an hour are always welcome. Thanks to all who help.

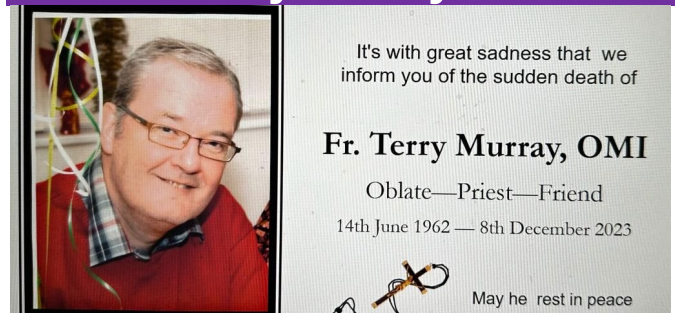
SCIAF REAL GIFTS for Christmas

If you are looking for Christmas gifts, Danni will be selling **SCIAF Real Gifts** this weekend in the Eugene Chapel. Please support this worthwhile cause.

OBLATE 2024 CALENDARS

FREE GIFT! Available at the back of the church in St Eugene's Chapel. **FREE!**

Fr Terry Murray OMI



It was with deep shock and sadness that we received the news of the sudden death of Fr Terry Murray on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Terry was a charismatic figure who touched the lives of so many people in every place he was missioned. He was in Leith when he was ordained a priest in 1988 and served here till 1992 when he was sent as Chaplain to the Youth Camp at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, France. For the last six years, he served as the Parish Priest of the Oblate Mission in Kilburn, London. A memorial stand is on the Sanctuary, and the Book of Condolences is available for those who wish to offer their sympathies to Fr Terry's family, the Oblate Family and the Community of Kilburn.

ALSO PRAY FOR: Fr Des O'Donnell OMI (Dublin, Ireland) and Fr Leo Roache OMI (Johannesburg, South Africa), who also died on the 8th December.

FUNERAL NOTICE

Molly Tomes died on 3rd December. Funeral Mass on **Wednesday, 20th December at 12 noon** followed by a private committal at Piershill Cemetery.

PARISH INFORMATION

Please note information and times given below may change without notice due to unforeseen or urgent circumstances.

MASSES

Monday: No Mass (*Church Closed*)

Tuesday – Friday: 12noon

Saturday: 6 pm *Vigil of Sunday*

Sunday: 10.30 am *Family Mass*

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES

EXPOSITION of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 11.30 am to 11.55 am.

Sacrament of RECONCILIATION on Saturdays from 5.15 pm to 5.45 pm. Or by appointment.

Sacrament of BAPTISM is celebrated on the Second Sunday of the month. Contact the Parish Office for the Baptismal Form and booking information.

Sacrament of Marriage requires six months' notice. For all inquiries, please contact the Office.

PARISH OFFICE/PRIEST CONTACT

Parish Office: Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am – 3.30pm

On MONDAYS, the Parish Office is Closed

Parish Office Telephone: 0131 554 2482

Email Parish Administrator (Kathy):

info@stmarysstarofthesea.org

Outside of Parish Office Hours:

Priest (Fr Leo): 07424935231

Email Parish Priest: **leith@oblates.co.uk**

PARISH PERSONNEL

Fr John McFadden, OMI Parish Priest

Fr John is currently on sick leave and will not be available until further notice. Please keep him in your prayers.

Ms Kathy Barclay Parish Administrator

Fr Leo Philomin, OMI Parish Assistant

Archbishop Cushley appointed Fr Leo as an interim parish priest until mid-January 2024.

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Mr Scott Mackenzie. Tel: 0131 626 8949

Email: safeguarding.officer@staned.org.uk

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/safeguarding>

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Ms Kathy Barclay. Tel: 07795 386636

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with Kathy or Scott.

Pope Francis SPEAKS TO US



“To celebrate Mary is to celebrate the closeness and tenderness of God who meets His people, who does not leave us alone, who has given us a Mother who cares for us and accompanies us.”

ADVENT VISIT TO SICK/HOUSEBOUND

If you know anyone who is sick or housebound and would like a priest **to visit during Advent**, please contact the Parish Office. If you are currently visiting someone with Holy Communion or just visiting on behalf of the parish, please inform us.

RETIRING COLLECTION TOTALS

19 Nov - World Day of Poor: £ 550.00

26 Nov - Scottish Catholic Education: £ 195.00

Thank You for your support.

CHURCH REPOSITORY

CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE in the Repository. Also available are Advent Candles, Advent Calendars, 2024 Diaries, cribs and more.

PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME

Donors who are taxpayers are invited to consider gift-aiding their contributions or collection donations to the parish church. **In this way, the parish receives from Inland Revenue 25p for every £1 donated.** You can donate using the gift aid envelopes or by setting up a Direct Debit/Standing Order. Please contact Kathy in the Parish Office.

Parish St Vincent De Paul Society

For help and support, please contact 07895 436287. The SVdP have a **retiring Collection on the First Sunday of the Month.**

St Mary's Leith RC Primary School:

30 Links Gardens, Leith, EH6 7JG

Tel: 0131 554 7291

Email: admin@st-maryspri.edin.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Ms Angela Burnett

Please PARK RESPONSIBLY

Given the limited parking space, please remember to take care when entering and exiting the car park. Be mindful of pedestrians.

