

**St Kessog's Catholic Parish: One Parish, two churches**  
**St Anthony's Balfron & St Kessog's Blanefield**

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**Parish Sunday Bulletin 12th December 2021**

**Weekly Celebrations Schedule: 13th December - 19th December 2021**

DAY & DATE	TIME	CHURCH	ACTIVITY	FEAST
<b>Monday</b> 13th December	10.00am	St Anthony's Balfron	Daily Mass	<b>St Lucy Memorial</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 14th December	<b>Day Off</b>			<b>St John of the Cross Memorial</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 15th December	10.00am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Daily Mass	
<b>Thursday</b> 16th December	9.20am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Eucharistic Adoration	
	10.00am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Daily Mass	
<b>Friday</b> 17th December	10.00am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Daily Mass	
<b>Saturday</b> 18th December	9.30am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Holy Rosary	
	10.00am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Daily Mass	
<b>Sunday</b> 19th December	9:30 am	St Anthony's Balfron	Sunday Mass	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
	11:00 am	St Kessog's Blanefield	Sunday Mass	

**Mass Booking just for Christmas Eve**

There will **two Christmas Eve Masses** in our Parish: **6:00 pm in St Anthony's church in Balfron** and **7:30 pm in St Kessog's church in Blanefield**. There is a risk to have many people in one church if everybody goes for the same mass time. So, to find a balanced number of participants in each church we need to know in advance in which mass anyone would like to take part. For this reason, please contact Clare Cushing for St Anthony's church and Patricia Orr for St Kessog's church.

**Booking for St Anthony's Christmas Mass:** please contact **Clare Cushing** at **01360 550166**

**Booking for St Kessog's Christmas Mass:** please contact **Patricia Orr** at **01360 770202**.

No worries about morning mass on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, usually there are few participants !

## **Advent as a spiritual journey to Christmas**

“*What must we do?*” This 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday” because of its invitation to Rejoice in the Lord who is very near. However, to this exhortation to “rejoice” in the Lord is added a crucial question about “*what must we do?*” During the two previous Sundays, we insisted on the fact that Advent is a time of preparation to welcome the Lord Jesus who must be born in our hearts and lives. John the Baptist, as “the Voice which cries in the wilderness” told us last Sunday to “prepare a way for the Lord and make his paths straight.” (cf. Luke 3:4). At that point, many people, from different backgrounds, various occupations, in private and public services, as we are nowadays, wanted to know what they should do concretely? Therefore, Advent as a spiritual journey to Christmas has some requirements for each of us. It is the time to share with the needy and the poor, to be fair and just in our business, it is a time to treat others with love and respect, to be tolerant to everyone and humble in our relationship, a time of prayer, thanksgiving and seeking of peace with one another, wherever we live or work... If we do so, we will be able to rejoice with one another in the Lord, because there is no joy in being happy alone. May this Christmas be for us a favourable time of joy and love shared in humility with one another.

## **Advent talks: Faith, Hope & Love**

Find out more about the season of Advent and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love in a series of online talks held each Monday in Advent. Hosted by the Archdiocese, the third talk is on Monday 13 December 7:30pm-8:00pm, with Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM. No registration required, simply use this link each week to join: [bit.ly/AdventTalk](https://bit.ly/AdventTalk) (or webinar ID: 891 8951 4801).

## **Advent: Rosary for Life**

Join parishioners and clergy from across the Archdiocese each Tuesday throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. It continues at 7:45pm this Tuesday (14 December) and includes a reflection from Fr Martin Eckersley of St Francis Xavier in Falkirk. Event on Zoom, register at [bit.ly/14DecRosary](https://bit.ly/14DecRosary)

## **Food Bank collection in our Parish**

The food bank collection has started again in our Parish (St Anthony’s church and St Kessog’s church). There will be a box at the back of each of our churches for the collection of donations to the Food bank. Please no perishables, as usual, but tins, long-life cartons and dry goods all welcome. Thank you

*Feed back that was given when the St Anthony’s food box was handed in:*

‘The food bank folk thank us for the good substantial things we’re giving so far. When asked they say that apparently there’s often also a shortage of things like brown sauce, tomato ketchup, and jams.’

## **The Archdiocese is recruiting**

The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is looking to recruit a full-time Religious Education Adviser (Primary Schools). Closing date for applications is this Monday (13 December). Details at [bit.ly/vacancy\\_2021](https://bit.ly/vacancy_2021)

## **40 Hours’ Devotion**

The 40 Hours’ Devotion has started and takes place in parishes across the Archdiocese throughout this new liturgical year. It continues this weekend in the parishes of St Patrick’s in Kilsyth and St Mark’s, Oxcgangs. Come and pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Full parish schedule for the 40 Hours’ Devotion: [bit.ly/40hoursschedule](https://bit.ly/40hoursschedule)

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### **Restoration of Sunday Obligation**

The Bishops of Scotland have decided that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation will be reinstated from Sunday **2 January 2022**. Their pastoral letter can be read at [bcos.org.uk](http://bcos.org.uk)

### **Getting married?**

You should be in touch with the parish priest at least six months before getting married. A Marriage Preparation Course is a requirement for those wishing to get married in the Catholic Church. Courses fill up fast so please register via [bit.ly/ArchMarriagePrep2021-22](http://bit.ly/ArchMarriagePrep2021-22)

### **Mary's Meals: Double the Love**

Until 31 January 2022, all donations up to a total of £1.6 million will be matched by a group of private donors, so please consider supporting this campaign and praying for its success. There are many ways to donate, including choosing Mary's Meals gift cards as a meaningful gift this Christmas, or setting a virtual place at your Christmas table. Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk)

### **Diploma in Catechetics 2022**

Get ready to explore the richness and depth of the Catholic faith with course leader Sr Anna Marie McGuan from the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. She and a range of guest speakers bring you online lectures each Thursday, guided reading, one-to-one support, retreats and supplementary courses on Zoom and YouTube. The Diploma in Catechetics lasts one year, begins in January 2022 and costs £200. Registration is now open at [bit.ly/DiplomaCatechetics2022](http://bit.ly/DiplomaCatechetics2022)

### **Feast of the Holy Innocents**

Archbishop Cushley will celebrate Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents in St Margaret's Chapel, Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB, at midday on Tuesday 28 December. The Mass has been organised by our Pro-Life Office and will be followed by refreshments, covid guidelines permitting. Register at [bit.ly/InnocentsMass21](http://bit.ly/InnocentsMass21)

### **Standing Order Payments:**

**Message from George** : This is specifically aimed at our parishioners paying by Standing Order into the current St Anthony's bank account. Central Finance of the Archdiocese have instructed us that only one bank account should be operated in each parish and we should comply with this instruction. Therefore can I ask that all our parishioners currently paying through the bank amend their standing orders and make all donations to the account detailed below:

**Bank:** Royal Bank of Scotland

**Account Name:** Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, St Kessog's Blanefield

**Account Number:** 10423646 **Sort Code:** 83-06-08

### **Finance**

We thank you for your financial support to our Parish. Nevertheless, we still need your support to face our regular bills or invoices. That is why, we still encourage you to make a standing order through the Parish **Bank Account Name:** Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, St Kessog's Blanefield;

**Account Number:** 10423646; **Sort Code:** 83-06-08; or to send a cheque to Parish Priest House in Blanefield (See the Postal Code in the footer).

**Gift Aid:** For any questions regarding donating to the parish, please contact George Edwards on Tel: 07866 683172 or e-mail: [geojoedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:geojoedwards@yahoo.com)

**Parish Bulletin:** If you have any news you would like included in our Sunday Parish Bulletin, please email it to Frances: [fmdouglas61@icloud.com](mailto:fmdouglas61@icloud.com) (Mobile: 07901336305) by Thursday evening. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the bulletin by email, please let Frances know. The current bulletin and previous ones can also be seen on the parish website.

### **Cleaning & Flowers Rotas**

	<b>St Anthony's Balfron</b>	<b>St Kessog's Blanefield</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cleaning</b>	Justyna & Katie	Patricia Orr	Week 13th - 19th December
<b>Flowers</b>	Advent- no flowers	Advent - no flowers	Saturday 18th Dec

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