

SAINT KESSOG'S

ONE PARISH - TWO CHURCHES

MASS | SAINT ANTHONY'S
SUN | 9.30AM

SAINT KESSOG'S
SUN | 11.00AM



Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel Luke 1:39-44

Becoming Walking Tabernacles, Like Mary

Dear friends, it is two days to Christmas. The Advent Season is coming to a close. Today we are presented with the example of Mary, the mother of God. The Gospel reading gives us an account of the Visitation. Mary's great gift to Elizabeth during the difficult time of her older cousin's pregnancy was the gift of her time, her assistance, her support and her presence. There have been many deeply theological and spiritual reflections on the significance of the Visitation. We should not forget that it was also a very human three-month visit of one relative to help another. As the angel departs, Mary's first thoughts are not for herself but for her cousin Elizabeth. We are told that she traveled in haste, a journey of at least three days, not minding her pregnant state and all the inconveniences. This is what Christianity is all about – caring and committed to the needs and welfare of others. **This is what Christmas is about too, the coming of our Lord to visit us in our dire state of need, to extinguish the darkness of our lives and our world.**

Her visit brought Joy not only to Elizabeth but also her child. Elizabeth felt an unusual movement in her womb. Pope Benedict XVI commenting on this episode says that "When she (Mary) entered Elizabeth's house, her greeting was overflowing with grace: John leapt in his mother's womb, as if he were aware of the coming of the One whom he would one day proclaim to Israel.

cont'd over

THANK YOU

Last Sunday's cash collection

SAINT ANTHONY'S
£136.07

SAINT KESSOG'S
£161

TOTAL
£297.07

We also thank those who donate by direct debit.

If you have a special event to celebrate, such as a birthday, wedding anniversary, or memorial for a departed loved one, and would like to share it with other parishioners by having it included in the bulletin, please contact Fiona Radif stkessogsparish@gmail.com



PARISH NEWS

The children exulted, the mothers exulted. This meeting, imbued with the joy of the Holy Spirit, is expressed in the Cantic of the Magnificat. Is this not also the joy of the Church, which ceaselessly welcomes Christ in the holy Eucharist and brings him into the world with the testimony of active charity, steeped in faith and hope? *Yes, welcoming Jesus and bringing him to others is the true joy of Christians!*" (cf. Homily on the Feast of the Visitation, May 31, 2006)

So let us imitate the unconditional yes of Mary. Her assent did not only inspire her to be a hearer but a doer of God's word. It was a yes with her whole being.

Let us make ourselves persons of annunciation and visitation, that is, of service to God and of service to others. Let us like her share the joy of Christ with the world.

One simple truth of Christmas is that the gift of ourselves remains the most magnificent gift we can give to God. Just as Jesus' greatest gift to the Father was the gift of His life, so our response to Christmas is the commitment of our life to the Gospel. Gospel fidelity can effect enormous change in our life on levels we least expect. Mary's visit to Elizabeth reminds us that the Lord's work and our most important gift takes place not just in moments of high drama but in the ordinary transactions of human contact and care. Mary's simple, helping visit was Elizabeth's "Christmas."

Let us look around us this Christmas and bring Christ to all we encounter. **Like Mary we must become walking tabernacles of joy and peace in our homes, work places, communities and world.**

Fr. John Adesotu

Christmas Confession

To give us all an opportunity to have confession before Christmas, Fr. John will be available to hear confessions immediately **after Sunday Mass in both churches on Sunday 22nd December.** Please kindly avail yourselves the opportunity to reconcile with God as we prepare for Christmas.

Christmas Mass Times

Here are the Christmas Mass times for every church in the Archdiocese of St. Andrews & Edinburgh. To view visit Christmas Mass Times in the Archdiocese - Archdiocese of Edinburgh visit <https://archedinburgh.org/christmas-mass-times-in-the-archdiocese/>

Mass for the Opening of the Jubilee Year

Archbishop Cushley will solemnly open the Jubilee Year 2025 for the Archdiocese with Holy Mass and the blessing of the Jubilee Cross at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, at midday on Sunday 29 December. Follow 'Holy Year Scotland 2025' on Facebook and visit www.iubilaeum2025.va for more details about this special year.

Lourdes 2025

The Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes for the Holy Year 2025 takes place from 11-18 July. For more details please visit <https://www.edinburgh-lourdes.com/lourdes25>

Marriage, Family and Life

The Catholic Families for Life Newsletter is available to read online. Visit <https://marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk/newsletter/>



Diploma in Catechetics

The Diploma in Catechetics is a year-long course beginning in January. It consists of a weekly lecture on Zoom, readings from the Catechism and regular one-to-one support. Holy Year discount: £125 (normally £200). [Register at bit.ly/diploma2025](http://bit.ly/diploma2025)

Feast of the Holy Innocents

Join Archbishop Cushley, priests and people of the Archdiocese to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Innocents at St Margaret's Chapel at The Gillis Centre, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB on Saturday 28 December at midday. Complimentary refreshments and social afterwards. Register at bit.ly/prolifeevents or just come along on the day.

Justice and Peace – special collection

The Day of Prayer for Justice & Peace is on **Sunday 5 January 2025** and a special collection would take place for the work of Justice & Peace Scotland. A letter from Archbishop Bill Nolan will be read out at all Masses in all parishes that weekend.

IN LOVING MEMORY

This week the following will be remembered at mass:

GARTH HEFFERNAN (R.I.P) Sunday 22nd, 9.30am at St Anthony's

LIZ CASSIDY (R.I.P) Sunday 22nd, 11am at St Kessog's

SANDRA CARR (R.I.P) Tuesday 24th, 6pm at St Anthony's

ISOBEL FORREST (R.I.P) Tuesday 24th, 7.30pm at St Kessog's

JOHN FRIEL (R.I.P) Wednesday 25th, 9.30am at St Anthony's

KENNETH FITZPATRICK (R.I.P) Wednesday 25th, 11am at St Kessog's





CHRISTMAS

SERVICES

	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Confession
St. Anthony's Balfour	Carol singing at 5.30pm followed by Mass at 6pm	9.30am	Dec 22 after 9.30am Mass
St. Kessog's Blanefield	Carol singing at 7pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm	11am	Dec 22 after 11am Mass

22 December – 29 December 2024

	Sun 22	Mon	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thur Fri	Sat 28	Sun 29
Saint Anthony's	9.30am		5.30pm Carols 6pm Mass	9.30am			9.30am
Saint Kessog's	11am		7pm Carols 7.30pm Mass	11am		10am	11am
Feast/Event	38th Sun B		Christmas Eve	Christmas		The Holy Innocents	Holy Family

For a full list of forthcoming events in the Archdiocese visit
<https://archedinburgh.org/news-events/>



PARISH CENSUS

In order, to function well as a Parish it is important that we have up to date contact details for all our parishioners. Please take a few minutes to complete the registration form on the website:

www.parishofstkessog.org

see the 'Connect' section, under 'Welcome'.

St Kessog's is a Parish of the Catholic Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh, a registered Scottish charity (No. SCO085)

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