

# St John the Baptist's, Perth



**SUNDAY HOLY MASS**  
6.30pm (*anticipated Sunday Mass*)  
& on Sunday  
9am, 11am, 6.30pm

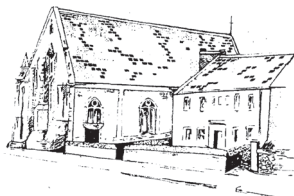
**WEEKDAY HOLY MASS**  
Monday-Saturday  
at 10am, Tuesday 7pm  
or as announced

**MSZA ŚW.  
PO POLSKU**  
Niedziela 5pm  
Pojednania 4.15pm

**SACRAMENT of  
CONFESSION**  
Saturday  
5-6pm

Priests: Very Rev. Steven Canon Mulholland MA STL VE, St John's Presbytery, 20 Melville Street, Perth, PH1 5PY (01738 259371)  
and Rev. Bogdan Palka SDS 16 Melville Street Perth PH1 5PY (01738 564182)

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Len Moir (01738 451677) and Rev. Krzysztof Jablonski (07851 735590)



## Gaudete Third Sunday of Advent Year C 16th December 2018

# The O Antiphons

*My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ*

If you have ever entertained guests, or even made the slightest effort to get ready for any company, you will see how those experiences lend themselves well to your own groundwork this Advent to invite Christ to dwell within your heart—and thus truly be ready for His second coming.

The Advent liturgical readings powerfully remind us every year of the passions of the great Hebrew prophets, of the furore of their messianic desires and hopes – remind us that their passions and desires hold as true for us today as they did for Israel then. Isaiah excels in articulating the tension in Israel's experience of seesawing between balm and trauma – between God's mercy and God's justice. All of this – the complex and dynamic relationship between God and the recited story of Israel and us as listeners to that story; the lyricism and passion of the prophet Isaiah; and that yearning for radical change from dire reali-

## A Holy Pause

Mondays in Advent at 6pm

Monday 17th December

*followed by  
hot chocolate in the hall*

ALL ARE WELCOME - COME AND REST

6pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6pm-6.30pm - Confessions

*before*

**7pm Candlelit Rorate Mass**

PLEASE PICK UP



*Extra newsletter  
regarding Advent Rorate Masses*

**O Sapientia**

O Wisdom

**O Adonai**

O Leader of the  
House of Israel

**O Radix Jesse**

O Root of Jesse

**O Clavis David**

O Key of David

**O Oriens**

O Radiant Dawn

**O Rex Gentium**

O King of the Gentiles

**O Emmanuel**

ties that spans across all times and cultures – all of this contributes to the beautiful form and content of that most ancient of Advent texts, the O Antiphons.

The Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the

Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah.

Please use the coming days prayerfully to prepare for the birth of our Saviour.

May your heart be made ready for Christ and may your Advent season be a blessed one!

*With every blessing*  
**Canon Mulholland**



Teas after the  
11am Mass  
on Sunday  
and 10am Mass  
on Tuesdays

## HYMNS

**575**

Gospel  
Acclamation  
**8**

Come, Lord Jesus,  
born of Mary

**72**

**375**

## Parish Shop

Open after Mass  
on Sunday

In stock now  
Advent Calendars  
Christmas Cards  
and gifts

## Prayers

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

**Recently dead:** Taghd O'Rorke and Patricia Collins

**Anniversaries:** Pat Joyce and John Small.

**Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen**

# Radość i pokora

„Radujcie się zawsze w Panu”. Trzecia niedziela Adwentu w tradycji liturgicznej nazywana jest „Gaudete”, to znaczy „radujcie się”. Bo czymże tak naprawdę jest Adwent, jeśli nie radosnym oczekiwaniem na przyście Pan? On już jest przecież blisko. Tak woła święty Paweł w Liście do Filipian: „Pan jest blisko”. „Radość i nadzieja, smutek i trwoga ludzi współczesnych, zwłaszcza ubogich i wszystkich cierpiących, są też radością i nadzieją, smutkiem i trwogą uczniów Chrystusowych” – my możemy powiedzieć dobitniej, że całego Kościoła. Czas przygotowania duchowego do Bożego Narodzenia jest trudem, który uczy nas przyjmowania wszelkich doświadczeń jako daru od Pana Boga. W każdej sytuacji życiowej, gdy jestem radosny, czy gdy się smucę, mogę postawić sobie pytanie: czego Pan Bóg chce mnie nauczyć poprzez tego rodzaju doświadczenie? Radość chrześcijan, w najgłębszym tego słowa znaczeniu, jest związana ze świadomością obecności Boga w moim życiu. „Ciesz się i wesel z całego serca, Córo Jeru-

zalem! Pan oddalił wyroki na ciebie, usunął twego nieprzyjaciela: król Izraela, Pan, jest pośród ciebie, już nie będziesz bała się złego” – wykrzykuje prorok Sofoniasz. Nasze życie codzienne, wszystko co robimy i czym jesteśmy, jest rozpięte pomiędzy pierwszym przyjściem Chrystusa, tym w ciele dwa tysiące lat temu w Palestynie, a drugim przyjściem Jezusa na końcu świata, przyjściem, którego oczekujemy. Za to pierwsze przyjście możemy już dziękować Bogu, drugie jest przedmiotem naszych modlitw i pragnieniem naszych serc. „Idźcie mocniejszy ode mnie...”. Te słowa Jana Chrzciciela są potwierdzeniem jego wiary, a zarazem jego misji i posłannictwa. Jan był głosem zapowiadającym i tym, który wskazał na Jezusa jako na Mesjasza, „Oto Baranek Boży, który gładzi grzech świata” (J 2,29). Ileż miłości do Jezusa jest w tych prostych i znanych słowach Jana, które słyszymy w dzisiejszej Ewangelii: „Ja was chrzczę wodą, lecz idźcie mocniejszy ode mnie, któremu nie jestem godzien rozwiązać rzemyka u sandałów. On

chrzcic was będzie Duchem Świętym i ogniem...”. Rozwiązywanie rzemyka u sandałów, przejaw pokory i uniżenia, jest jedyną postawą wobec Boga, który pojawia się na drodze naszego życia. To, że jest ktoś większy i mocniejszy ode mnie to dobrze, bo uświadamiając to sobie lepiej mogę zrozumieć swoje miejsce w świecie i zarazem swoją bezradność w stosunku do wielu spraw i wydarzeń. Człowiek nie jest Bogiem, choć mu się to czasami wydaje. To, że Bóg stał się człowiekiem, nie oznacza, iż teraz człowiek zajmie Boże miejsce. Starożytna formuła „Bóg stał się człowiekiem, po to aby człowiek stał się dzieckiem Bożym” jasno określa miejsce człowieka i uczy nas pokory. Pokusa zajęcia nie swojego miejsca w świecie jest na ziemi obecna od Adama i Ewy, ale musi być przez nas stale przekraczana, inaczej sami doprowadzimy do swojej zagłady. Świadomość, że „przychodzi mocniejszy ode mnie” jest nam po prostu potrzebna abyśmy znali swoje miejsce wśród Bożych stworzeń. Tajemnica wcielenia uczy nas prawdy, że Bóg stał się nam bliski i że ta bliskość jest dla nas darem niepojętym.

Sunday Reflection

## Wtedy jest Boże Narodzenie



Wtedy jest Boże Narodzenie  
Zawsze, ilekroć uśmiechasz się do swojego brata i wyciągasz do niego ręce,  
jest Boże Narodzenie.  
Zawsze, kiedy milkniesz, aby wysłuchać,  
jest Boże Narodzenie.  
Zawsze, kiedy rezygnujesz z zasad,  
które jak żelazna obręcz uciskają ludzi w ich samotności,  
jest Boże Narodzenie.  
Zawsze, kiedy dajesz odrobinę nadziei “więźniom”,  
tym, którzy są przytłoczeni ciężarem fizycznego,  
moralnego i duchowego ubóstwa,  
jest Boże Narodzenie.  
Zawsze, kiedy rozpoznajesz w pokorze,  
jak bardzo znikome są twoje możliwości  
i jak wielka jest twoja słabość,  
jest Boże Narodzenie.  
Zawsze, ilekroć pozwolił by Bóg  
pokochał innych przez ciebie,

## Zawsze wtedy, jest Boże Narodzenie.

Św. Teresa z Kalkuty

### Święta i Nowy Rok 2019 – Msze św. po polsku

24 grudnia 2018 r. „Pasterka” o godz. 9pm

25 grudnia 2018 r. Boże Narodzenie  
Msza św. o godz. 1pm

26 grudnia 2018 Święto św. Szczepana  
Msza św. o godz. 12pm

1 Stycznia Nowy Rok 2018  
– Msza św. o godz. 12pm

### Odnowienie przyrzeczeń i błogosławieństwo małżonków

W niedzielę św. Rodziny 30 grudnia 2018 w naszej polskiej wspólnoty Szanowni Małżonkowie odnowią swoje przyrzeczenia małżeńskie i przez wstawiennictwo Świętej Rodziny z Nazaretu udzielę wszystkim parom małżeńskim obecnym na Eucharystii specjalnego błogosławieństwa na Nowy 2019 Rok. Dlatego już dzisiaj zapraszam do udziału we Mszy św. w tym dniu wszystkie dostojne pary małżeńskie.

A blessing for newly married couples

### Oplatki na stół wigilijny

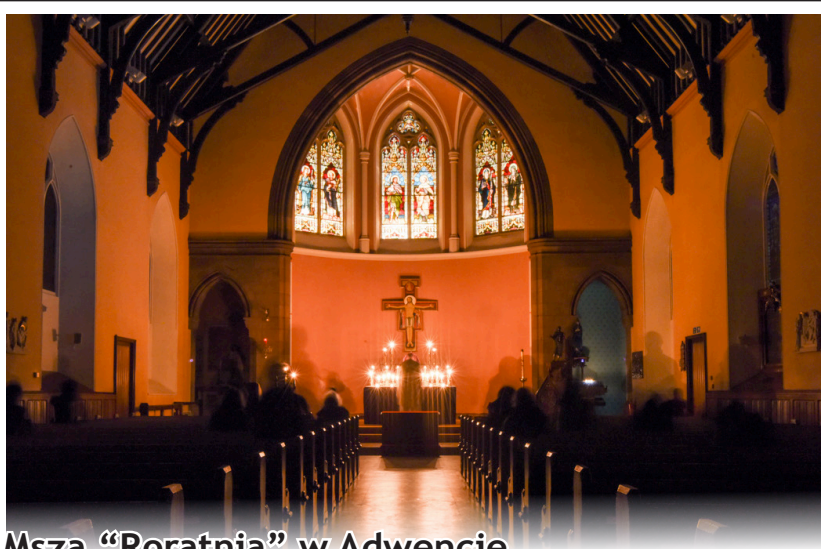
W dalszym ciągu można zaopatrywać się w polskie opłatki na stół wigilijny. Oplatki święcimy podczas każdej Mszy św. adwentowej i tak poświęcone będzie można przygotować na stół wigilijny.

Christmas wafers

### Liturgia dziecięca

W każdą pierwszą niedzielę miesiąca jest liturgia Mszy św. dla dzieci. Najbliższa Msza św. dla dzieci będzie 6-go stycznia 2019 r. o godz. 5pm. Serdecznie zapraszamy wszystkie dzieci!

Childrens' Liturgy



### Msza “Roratnia” w Adwencie

Zapraszam na ostatnią już polską Mszę Roratnią w najbliższy czwartek o godz. 7pm. W sposób szczególny zapraszam wszystkie dzieci. Zakończymy nasze czuwanie adwentowe, wraz z Maryją, która towarzyszy nam podczas tych Roratnich spotkań, oraz z naszymi polskimi świętymi: św. Stanisławem Kostką, św. Wojciechem i św. Andrzejem Bobolą. Na zakończenie Rorat rozlosujemy też specjalne nagrody dla naszych dzieci i jeszcze coś więcej... ale to już niespodzianka!

Rorate Masses in Advent

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

IN ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PERTH

**St John's Academy Carols, 6pm Wednesday 19th**  
in St John's RC Church

**PACT Carol Service - 7pm, Friday 21st**  
*Joint Church Choirs conducted by Michael Ellacott*  
Address given by Canon Steven  
in St John's RC Church

**Saturday 22nd December**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
5-6pm - Sacrament of Confession  
6.30pm - Anticipated Holy Mass for Sunday

**4th Sunday of Advent - Sunday 23rd**  
Sunday 9am, and 11am, 5pm (in Polish) and 6.30pm

**Christmas Eve - Monday 24th**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
Holy Mass in Polish, 9pm  
Holy Mass in English - 12 Midnight  
preceded by Carols from 11.40pm

**Christmas Day - Tuesday 25th**  
**Nativity of the Lord**  
*Holy Day of Obligation*  
9am & 11am - Holy Mass in English  
1pm - Holy Mass in Polish

**Feast of St Stephen - Wednesday 26th**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
12 noon - Holy Mass in Polish

**Feast of St John the Apostle - Thursday 27th**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
4.30pm - Syro-Malabar Mass

**Feast of the Holy Innocents - Friday 28th**  
10am - Holy Mass in English

**Feast of the St Thomas Becket - Saturday 29th**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
5-6pm - Sacrament of Confession  
6.30pm - Anticipated Holy Mass for Sunday

**The Holy Family - Sunday 30th**  
9am, 11am, 5pm (in Polish) and 6.30pm

**New Year Holy Masses - Tuesday 1st January**  
10am - Holy Mass in English  
12.30pm - Holy Mass in Polish

## Collections

Last Sunday's income was: St John's - £1442.27; Votive Candles - £65.35; Catholic Papers - £3.20 and the Church Shop.

## Christmas Card Drop off and collection

There is a stand outside the Church Shop for you to leave your cards and to check those which have been left for collection. Please fully address the envelopes with the person's full name and address recognisable.

## Thank you

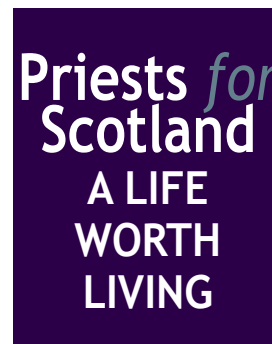
Mgr Martin Drysdale sends his grateful thanks to all for their great generosity and kind messages of goodwill at his presentation earlier this week.

"It was great to be with you all again," says Mgr Martin, "I wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Good New Year."

Thanks to all who came along to the Mass and contributed to the presentation buffet.

## Indian Mass

A Syro-Malabar Rite Mass will be celebrated in St John's on Thursday 27th December, at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments in the Church Hall



## Lunch Club

Our Lunch Club continues on Mondays at 12 noon - soup and a roll - just £2 - all welcome.

## Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy continues today at 9am Mass on Sunday. Please ask you children to bring back their Stained Glass Windows with their Christmas preparations.

After next Sunday we will take a break until Sunday 13th January. Thanks to all who help support this important work.

## Union of Catholic Mothers



Tuesday 18th Christmas Party Night. Please meet at the George Hotel at 6pm.

## New Rota

The new rota for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist is now available from the sacristy.

## The Outside Crib

The Keep In Touch Group wish to thank, John Blyth and Frank McGarrie without whose advice, help and generosity our little idea would never have become a reality.

To Wilson and Andrew Bruce for their electrical expertise and support and to the Church Choir for their generous donation from their September Concert.

We are delighted to join with the other City Centre Churches to focus on the meaning of Christmas and bring it to the people in Perth.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?

There are Hospital Visit Request Cards available at the back of the church - and pens.

Please complete the card and hand it to a Pass Keeper

# Bishop Stephen Robson's Advent Pastoral Letter

Curial Office, 24-28 Lawside Rd.  
DUNDEE. DD3 6XY  
email: [bishop@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:bishop@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

## My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**I write to you on this Third Sunday of Advent when the theme of JOY is central to the Liturgy: Gaudete!, Rejoice! Today we are encouraged to be joyful at the coming of the Lord! We are to welcome his presence and to share that closeness of the Lord with others. But who are the 'others' we are speaking about?**

First of all, of course, we think of our families and the sacred duty they have to pass on their faith in Jesus Christ. Alongside our children and teenagers, we think also of our young people, our young married couples and our elderly relatives. Then further afield there is also our extended families and neighbours, and especially those who have ceased walking along the Road of Faith with us, for all sorts of reasons. Further, our diocesan family now has fellow Catholics from many different cultures. They also enrich and complement our Diocese. How do we reach out especially to them?

Our parishes and families and Catholic schools do so much to pass on the Faith; yet, we are still a very lapsed family. A good number still go to Mass regularly, but these active Catholics represent less than a fifth of our total Catholic population in the diocese. Further, though going to Mass isn't the only way of demonstrating and witnessing to our Catholic Faith, it is the minimum we can do to show our love for the Lord! So such a statistic does matter, and we need to ask

ourselves very seriously what has gone wrong? Why is the Gospel no longer Good News for so many?

Perhaps the reasons for this are many and we can speculate about a few of them. But one big reason why our people lapse could be due to the fact that we, as a Catholic People, have lost, or are losing, our sense of mission. If we really believe in our Catholic Faith, and really seek to love the Lord above all things, then what is stopping us from telling others about Jesus, our Lord?

Rather than agonising for ever as to the reasons why, I am writing to invite you today, on this day dedicated to Joy in the Lord, to join me in an initiative to strengthen and confirm us all in the way we share our Faith.

As you know, I deeply value the commitment and devotion to be found everywhere in our Diocese. But since becoming your Bishop I have been thinking about more effective ways we can build on our existing strengths and respond to the challenges of our busy and confusing world. And if we are to be authentic

teachers of faith we must renew and deepen our understanding of what it means for us to be disciples – and even apostles – of Jesus.

It seems to me that one effective and practical way to do this is to establish a School of Catechists where some among us can be properly trained to become persuasive and authentic 'echoes' of Our Lord who commands us to "Go Out and Make Disciples". Our goal would be to have, in every parish of the diocese, a team of properly trained catechists who would be able to animate others to spread and live the Faith more fully. Our journey of Faith, after all, never comes to an end!

We live in challenging times and in these days our communities and parishes need kind, loving and generous witnesses to Faith. First, we need to treasure our Catholic Schools and build upon their strengths, but we also need to develop and enthuse not only our fellow active parishioners, but also reach out to the people who have lost confidence in the Church and bring them back to the full embrace of our Community. We all have friends and family members who have drifted from practice of their Faith and who may simply be in need of encouragement, welcome or healing, in order to 'Come Home' to the Church.

The recent Ad Limina visit of the Scottish Bishops to Rome, to the 'threshold of the

Apostles', was an opportunity to consider and converse with Pope Francis and others about how best to nurture, encourage and respond to the challenges that face our Catholic faithful in Scotland. Pope Francis is passionate about having Missionary Disciples in every parish and in fact he calls all Catholics to take seriously the promises of their baptism and confirmation.

As a beginning, after prayer and reflection, in collaboration with my brother priests and lay people I have decided to convene a Conference on Catechesis on Saturday, 12th January 2019, where we can gather to pray, discern and plan how to renew and grow in our Christian life together. I ask you to support this endeavour, for it is only by all working together – lay people, sisters, priests, deacons and Bishop – that we can grow in service of The Kingdom of God.

This Conference, held at our Diocesan Centre, will involve existing Catechists in our parishes and those who might aspire to become trained as Catechists. It is my hope that each Parish will nominate at least two attendees and that all of us will gather in openness and generosity of spirit. Further, we pray that this Conference will be a springboard to developing more consistent faith formation opportunities that will support a lived and lively approach to Christian life, an ongoing faithful support for families and young people negotiating and respond-

ing to the challenges of modern living, and also an approach to welcome and outreach to our families and friends who for a variety of reasons may have become distanced, hurt or disillusioned with an active commitment to our diocesan family. Let us begin this new work with a spirit of hope and optimism, welcome and forgiveness, trusting that God will bless our efforts and intentions.

Finally, next year will be a Year of re-Evangelisation in our local Church. Two special events will form book-ends, as it were, to the Year. In Eastertide there will be a mini three-day Eucharistic Congress centred on the Cathedral in Dundee, but with celebrations and adoration of the Blessed Eucharist around the diocese. In the Month of October we shall celebrate a special Month of Mission. This month will be marked by a visit to our Diocese of the Holy Relics of St Therese of Lisieux, the 'Little Flower' and Patroness of the Missions, over several days. We pray that the month of October next year will be a great time of renewal and Mission.

There will be much more news about all these initiatives in the months to come. In the meantime, may the remainder of Advent be for you a time of anticipation and joy and may you all have a most Blessed Christmas.

Yours devotedly in  
Christ

+ **Stephen Robson**  
Bishop of Dunkeld

Discover us @StJohnRCPerth