



# Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay  
Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St,  
Tayport



**Parish Priest: Very Rev. Monsignor Patrick McNally**

20 King Street, Newport DD6 8BN. Tel: 01334 209867/01382 540494 Website: <http://www.stfillans.org/>  
Email: [canonpatmcnally@gmail.com](mailto:canonpatmcnally@gmail.com) and [stfillannewport@gmail.com](mailto:stfillannewport@gmail.com)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Year: A (II) Psalm Week: 1 Liturgical colour: violet

*Alleluia, alleluia! Show us, O Lord. Your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!*

**First reading:** *Isaiah 2: 1-3* The highest of the mountains.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *122 (121)* Let us go rejoicing to the House of the Lord.

**Second reading:** *Romans 13: 11-14a.* The time has come to wake.

**Gospel:** *Matthew 24: 37- 44.* You also must be ready.

### HOLY MASS TIMES

*Our Lady Star of the Sea:* Saturday Vigil 5pm  
Eucharistic Service: Monday and Friday 10am

*St Fillan's:* Sunday Mass 10.15am

Days on which Bishop Andrew will be sharing Mass at St Fillan's can be found on the special Whatsapp Group set up by Sam Morton. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/COZWXsnfWEZ6ZKK3IUBZLP>. Days vary with diocesan duties.

## Mgr Pat's Corner

### Stay Awake - Prepared for Christ's Coming

The word 'advent' means 'coming' or 'arrival'. It is about keeping watch, and staying vigilant, because we do not know the day or the hour when Christ will come again. It will come upon us with the suddenness of a rainstorm out of a blue sky.

Noah prepared himself in the calm weather before the flood, so that when it did come he was ready, while the rest of humanity was lost in 'eating and drinking and merrymaking' and were swept away, completely unaware.

These verses are a warning to us not to become so absorbed in time that we forget all about eternity, which is our final destiny.

However, we must remember that our watching for Christ's coming should not be in fear or apprehension, rather, eager expectation for the coming of glory and joy.

**Mgr Pat**

**Special Prayers** Please pray for those who are sick and the dead, particularly those whose anniversaries fall around this time. Pray for those who have lost their lives in conflicts, natural disasters and tragic accidents caused by thoughtless or deliberate action or inaction. Pray for those risking their own lives to save others. Pray for all those facing a changed future as a result of disasters, thinking particularly of the terrible fires in Hong Kong. Pray for those preparing for exams and new starts.

To request prayers or Priestly assistance Mgr Pat may be emailed.

30<sup>th</sup> November is the first Sunday of Advent but it also marks the start of the new liturgical year, during which we shall be hearing Matthew's voice in the Gospels, presented to us through the new translation of the lectionary.

Question: St Francis was responsible for cribs, Christmas trees and singing Carols. True or False?  
The first candle on the Advent wreath represents: OPEH.

## Feasts & Solemnities

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>St Andrew</b>	Apostle	<i>red</i>
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Saint Nicholas</b>	Bishop	<i>white</i>

St Andrew the Apostle was one of the 12 chosen by Jesus. He was a fisherman who was a disciple of John the Baptist, the Voice crying in the wilderness to prepare a way for the Lord. It was he who introduced his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. When the place where his bones were kept was invaded, it is said that St Regulus, (known as St Rule - his name may be familiar from the tall tower in St Andrews) was guided (in a dream) to take them on board a ship and found a church to house them wherever he landed. The ship was caught in a storm, which cast St Rule and the holy relics on a Fife shore. The town surrounding the chapel he built for the saint, became an important pilgrimage centre. St Andrew's special connection with Scotland led to him becoming the nation's patron.

When Christ our Lord to Andrew cried,  
    'Come thou and follow me,'  
The fisher left his net beside the Sea of Galilee.  
    To teach the truth his Master taught,  
    To tread the path he trod  
Was all his will, and thus he brought  
    Unnumbered souls to God.

St Nicholas was Bishop in what is now a region in Turkey. He died in the 4<sup>th</sup> century but is remembered for his generous good works. It is said that he dropped purses of gold down a chimney to give the three daughters of a poor man dowries that allowed them to marry, rather than be put to work disreputably. Though the Bishop made his gifts secretly with no strings attached, the three purses of gold are recalled in the three golden balls that appear outside pawnbrokers' shops.

The Bishop is patron of sailors (recalling how prayers rescued mariners), merchants, archers, children, brewers and toymakers as well as pawnbrokers and unmarried people. Saint Nick's secret gifts gained him an image that led to stories of Santa Claus. In Holland clogs were left next to the fireplace, filled with hay and food for the donkey that helped St Nick deliver gifts. In return the saint, or his helpers, left fruit or cake. From this tradition comes the leaving of a mince pie for Santa and a carrot for his reindeer present bearers.

False! It was actually Martin Luther who encouraged followers to light a *tree* in their homes to bring in the 'night sky' as the starry candles would remind of Christ's heavenly home and help them contemplate and draw nearer. This year the Vatican tree in St Peter's Square, lit on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, is an 88 foot tall spruce tree sent as a gift from the Italian Alps.

True! St Francis advocated singing *Christmas songs* and, back in 1223, it was he who first made a *crib* scene to bring alive the good news story of the nativity. He asked his farmer friend to set up a real manger with a real ox and donkey on an Italian hillside. Why? So his fellow brothers and townsfolk could share the experience by torchlight before sharing communion. He wanted people to feel the poverty and hardship suffered by Mary and Joseph and to sense the holiness of the birth. As Pope Francis put it, 'With Christ, joy is constantly born anew.'

The first candle of Advent represents *Hope*, anticipating the arrival of the Messiah.

The Pope's December Prayer Intention is 'that Christians living in the midst of war may be seeds of peace.'

---

Thank you for continuing to support the Food Bank. Remember also to keep an eye out for double wool. Help with the Café is welcomed. And please do consider joining those who perform important service through cleaning our churches.

Parish WhatsApp group: 07484 170812    <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Newport-on-Tay-and-Tayport-Catholic-Parish-114980280046954/> Duty Chaplain for Nine Wells, Victoria and. Roxburghe House: 07821 624124

**Taizé Service - 7<sup>th</sup> December in Our Lady Star of the Sea, Tayport at 6.30pm.**

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December - 2-3pm St Mary's Christmas Concert in Broughty Ferry, with music by musicians from Dundee Symphony Orchestra, mince pies and donations for Mary's Meals.**

**Information on getting your greetings into the Christmas Newsletter next week!**

