



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, BANFF

Sandyhill Road, Banff, AB45 1BE

Parish Phone: 01261 815405

Email: catholicchurchbanff@gmail.com

NEW Website: www.banff.rcda.scot

Parish Priest: Fr Piotr Rytel

### PARISH NEWSLETTER - SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

DATE	DETAILS	SERVICE	TIME
<b>Sunday 20 December</b>	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish)	<b>09.00</b> <b>10.30</b> <b>13.00</b>
Monday 21 December	Advent feria by date	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
Tuesday 22 December	Advent feria by date	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
Wednesday 23 December	Advent feria by date	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
<b>Thursday 24 December</b>	Advent feria by date <b>CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL AND MIDNIGHT MASS Collection for Mary's Meal</b>	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass <b>VIGIL MASS VIGIL MASS (POLISH)</b>	09.00 09.30 <b>22.00</b> <b>24.00</b>
<b>Friday 25 December</b>	The Nativity of the Lord <b>CHRISTMAS DAY Collection for Mary's Meal</b>	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish)	<b>09.00</b> <b>10.30</b> <b>13.00</b>
<b>Saturday 26 December</b>	<b>St. Stephen Feast</b>	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish) Vigil Mass	<b>09.00</b> <b>10.30</b> <b>13.00</b> <b>18.00</b>
<b>Sunday 27 December</b>	<b>HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY</b>	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish)	<b>09.00</b> <b>10.30</b> <b>13.00</b>
28 – 30 December	<i>Christmas Octave</i>	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
Thursday 31 December	St. Sylvester	Morning Mass Vigil Mass	09.30 <b>18.00</b>
<b>FRIDAY 1 JANUARY</b>	<b>Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God NEW YEARS DAY 2021</b>	Mass Mass (Polish) Mass (Polish)	<b>10.30</b> <b>13.00</b> <b>17.00</b>

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

**2Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-11, 16; Psalm 88; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38**

The theme of the readings for today is the fulfilment of the promises God made so long ago.

In our first reading from the second book of Samuel, we read of how King David lamented the fact that he was living in a fortified house while the Ark of the Covenant – which had been with the people since they left Egypt – was still housed in a tent. He resolved to build a permanent structure for the ark but the Lord sent word to him that he was to hold back from doing so. Instead, the Lord was to bless David and give him a house in the form of a line of descendants, and from this line would come one whose sovereignty would last forever. The Psalm celebrates the abiding care and faithful love of God who honours the promise he made to ensure the survival of David's house and line: *'I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord'*.

In the second reading the author of the letter to the Romans was exhorting the people to greater faith. He called on them to strengthen their own faith and then to pass that faith on to others. The key message he was putting forward was the mystery of God which lay hidden for generations, but which had now been revealed in Jesus Christ, who was the wisdom of God.

The gospel describes the unexpected way in which the promise made to David was fulfilled through the birth of the 'Son of the Most High' from Mary, who was betrothed to a man from the house of David and, hence, legally herself of that house. This annunciation is tied in closely with that to Zechariah and straightaway the contrasts are clear: John will be born to aged parents, but Jesus to a virgin; John will be great before the Lord, but Jesus is Lord. Through Mary's consent, *'I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me'*, God has come to live permanently in our human nature, building a house for himself in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The Ark for the Covenant, which David wished to build of wood, took flesh in Mary who became the living Ark which carried Jesus because she had faith in God and placed her trust in him to guide her life. We too are called to have greater faith and trust in God and to be arks to carry the Good News of salvation wherever we go.

*Patrick J. Breen, O.Carm.*

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP OF ABERDEEN

At this time of year, the thoughts of Christians turn to Bethlehem, to the first Christmas and the birth of Jesus. This isn't nostalgia or escapism. It's a going back together to the source. It's a return to the roots, be it by ourselves, in our families, with friends, and in church despite the limits. The Child in the manger is always a new beginning, a great Hope in a tiny body, Eternity in time. Just as it is now, Government then was affecting lives: Caesar Augustus was ordering a census. Just as now, doors were closed: there was no room at the inn. But Christ was born. He is unstoppable and now he is risen from the dead. May we all draw from this unusual Christmas the faith, hope and love to help us carry on, to beat the muddle we are in and move together to a brighter year. May Christ be born afresh in us!

An uplifting and comforting Christmas to all.

Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB



**And yet He was born.  
Yet He came to save the world.  
In a poor stable.  
In a distant land.  
Helpless and all-powerful.  
Baby - God.  
There was no place for Him.  
Around the war and the vast sky.  
The hustle and bustle  
of everyday affairs.  
Yet he came to save the world.  
Merry Christmas and happy  
moments in the New 2021 Year**

**FR PIOTR – PARISH PRIEST**

## **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:**

- **Sick:** Sandra Cameron, Kenneth Darnell, Kate Hamilton, Marion Newton

## **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

For spiritual preparation for Christmas confession will be available on:

- Tuesday 22 Dec 2020 – from 18.00

## **MARY'S MEALS**

OUR CHRISTMAS RETIRING COLLECTION: MARY'S MEALS – during Christmas period, we support the initiative of our 'local' charity, Mary's Meals, with it's 'Big Family Christmas' campaign. This year, the cost of a typical Christmas dinner could be up to £20 per person. But by setting a place at Mary's Meals virtual table, for just £15.90 you can help feed a child at a place of education in some of the world's poorest communities for an entire school year. And it gets even better! Give until 31 January 2021 and your donation will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million – meaning that Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals.

## **PRZYGOTOWANIE KOŚCIOŁA DO ŚWIĄT**

Zapraszam chętne osoby w poniedziałek na godz. 18.00 do przygotowania naszej świątyni do świąt: ubranie choinek, przygotowanie żłóbka i posprzątanie kościoła.

## **SPOWIEDŹ PRZEDŚWIĄTECZNA**

Spowiedź przed świętami:

- Wtorek 22 grudnia 2020 – od 18.00

## **MARY'S MEAL**

Organizacja charytatywna MARY'S MEAL w swojej świątecznej kampanii „WIELKI ŚWIĄTECZNY OBIAD” prosi o wsparcie na rzecz zapewnienia posiłków ubogim dzieciom z Liberii. Ofiary złożone na ten cel i przekazane do 31 Stycznia 2020 będą podwojone przez rząd. Ofiary można składać do koszyka przy wyjściu z kościoła. Bóg zapłać.

## **ŻYCZENIA ŚWIĄTECZNE BISKUPA ABERDEEN**

*O tej porze roku myśli chrześcijan kierują się ku Betlejem, do pierwszego Bożego Narodzenia i narodziny Jezusa. To nie jest nostalgia. To powrót razem do źródła. To powrót do korzeni, czy to samemu, czy w naszych rodzinach, z przyjaciółmi, czy w kościele pomimo ograniczeń. Dziecko w żłobie to zawsze nowy początek, wielka Nadzieja w malutkim ciele, Wieczność w czasie. Tak jak jest teraz, rząd miał wtedy wpływ na życie: Cezar August zarządzał spis ludności. Tak jak teraz, drzwi były zamknięte: w gospodzie nie było miejsca. Ale narodził się Chrystus. Jest nie do powstrzymania, a teraz powstał z martwych. Obyśmy wszyscy czerpali z tego niezwykłego Bożego Narodzenia wiarę, nadzieję i miłość, które pomogą nam każdego dnia pokonać chaos, w jakim się znajdujemy i razem przejść do jaśniejszego roku. Niech Chrystus narodzi się w nas na nowo!*

*Umacniających i pocieszających Świąt Bożego Narodzenia dla wszystkich.*

*Biskup Hugh Gilbert OSB*



**A jednak się narodził.  
A jednak przyszedł, aby zbawić świat.  
W lichej stajence.  
W odległej ziemi.  
Bezbronny i wszechmocny.  
Dzieciątko - Bóg.  
Nie było dla Niego miejsca.  
Wokół wojny i rozległe niebo.  
Gwar i natłok codziennych spraw.  
A jednak przyszedł, aby zbawić świat.**

**Radosnych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia  
oraz samych szczęśliwych chwil w  
Nowym 2021 Roku**

**Ks. Piotr - proboszcz**