



# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

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Diocesan Safeguarding: <https://www.rcda.scot/safeguarding>

Safeguarding Policy, *In God's Image*: <http://www.bcos.org.uk/safeguarding>

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Website: <https://banff.rcda.scot>

The parish is part of the RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC005122

## 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 – THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Monday – Friday**  
No public Mass

**Saturday Morning**  
9:30am Mass

**Saturday Evening**  
6pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday, Polish)

**Sunday**  
9:30am

### CONFESSION

**Saturday 10:00-11:30** (when there's a Sat. a.m. Mass; please ring on Presbytery doorbell); **Saturday 5:00-5:30pm**; before/after any Mass; or on request

### Pope Leo's Message for Lent 2026

Here's an extract from our Holy Fathers [message for Lent 2026](#):

"Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled. ...

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to **greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us**. Let us ask for **the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language**, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to **make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome**, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey."

### LITURGICAL DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
**Weekday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent** - Commemoration of St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February  
**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February  
**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February  
**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent** – Commemoration of St. Gregory of Narek, Monk, Doctor of the Church

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February  
**1<sup>st</sup> Week of Lent**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

### Watoto Children's Choir

River Church Banff (Castle Street, AB45 1DH) are hosting the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda on the **27<sup>th</sup> of Feb at 7pm**. They will be performing their powerful production, Better Days, which celebrates faith, courage, and the promise of brighter tomorrows. Don't miss this inspiring night that will move your heart and leave you full of hope. Free, but [reservation recommended here](#). For more info, see <https://www.watoto.com/choir/>

### Stations of the Cross during Lent will be held

- in English, at **7:00pm on Wednesdays**
- in Polish at **5:30pm on Saturdays** 🙏

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting of OLMC Pastoral Parish Council will take place **THIS THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> Feb**, at 7pm in the Parish Room. 🙏

### Youth 2000 Pilgrimage to Medjugorje!

The Youth 2000 Trustees and Staff Team believe that God is inviting Youth 2000 to 'Return to the Source'. They're delighted to announce that, for the first time in a generation, the Summer Festival this year will be in Medjugorje, the place Youth 2000 began, for the Mladifest Youth Festival, 30.07-06.08.26. Young people are invited to join them on this pilgrimage. It'll give you a unique opportunity to experience the original festival together with young people from all over the world. More info [here](#) or at [www.youth200.org](http://www.youth200.org)

"This is man's glory: to remain steadfast in the service of God" (St. Irenaeus of Lyon)

### Recent Offertory Collections

15<sup>th</sup> Feb: Cash £281.80; Gift Aid Envelopes £25.

Next weekend there's a special collection for **Missio Scotland**, in favour of the Church's missionary activity.

Thank you for your support!

**'Why Should We Believe in God?'** The Thomistic Institute Chapter at the University of Aberdeen is hosting a lecture by Professor Gaven Kerr of St Patrick's Pontifical University entitled *Why Should We Believe in God?* Thursday, 19th March at 6:30 pm in the Taylor Building Room TA21 of the University of Aberdeen. This is a great opportunity for Catholics and non-Catholics alike to explore the rationality of belief in God. This lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. All welcome.