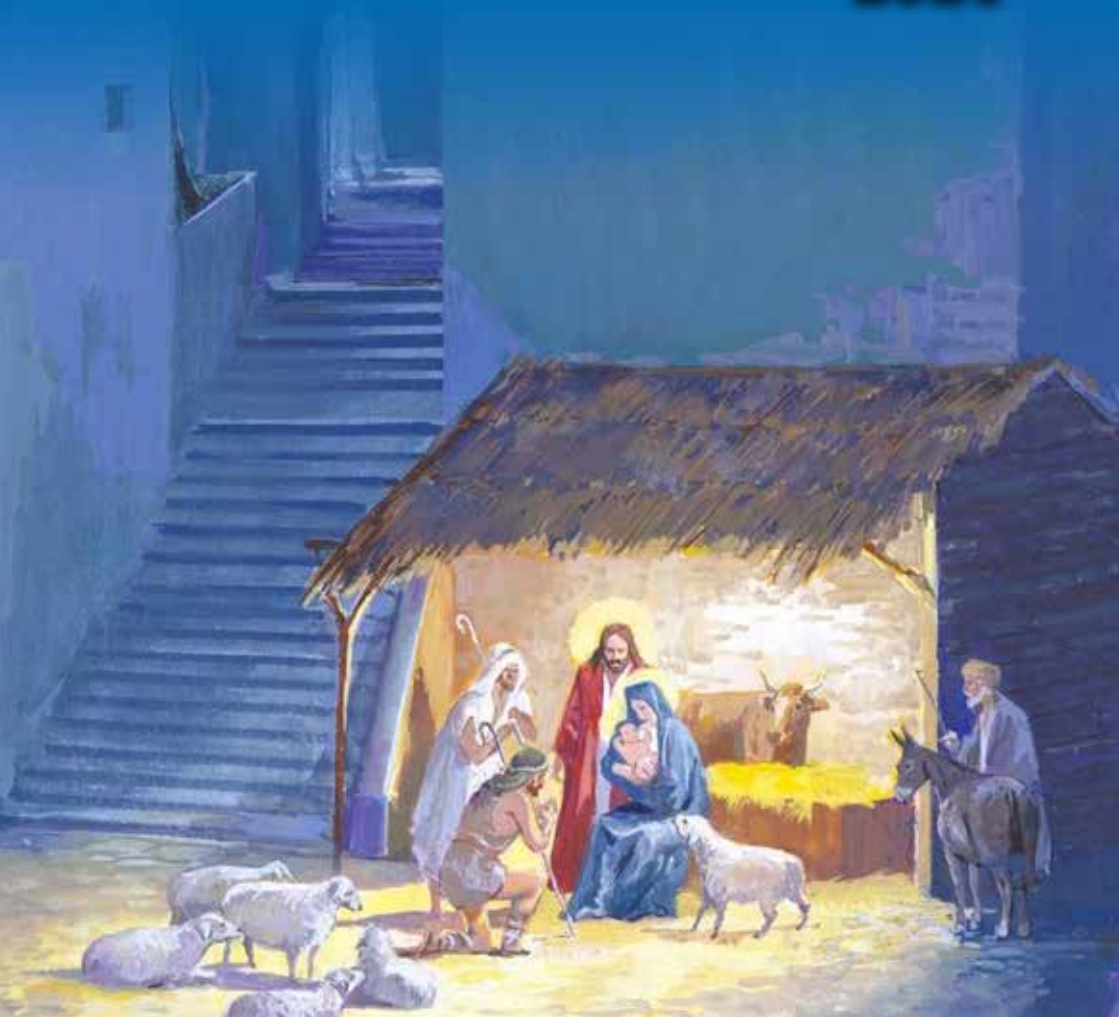


# REACHOUT


2021



# A Christmas message

from Father Mackle

We've known the pain of having to keep our distance, especially last Christmas. We've known the pain of not being able to touch. Many of us for months and months could see and speak to our loved ones without being able to hug them or shake their hand, and that was so hard.

Good that this Christmas (hopefully anyway) we are a little more free now for human touch and interaction. There's a line from sacred scripture - "...everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him". People wanted to touch Christ. To hear Christ or to see him - well, that wasn't enough for them. They needed to touch him. It was a more personal form of communication with Jesus than hearing and seeing. Just as sense of touch is important in life right from the day we're born, so too it remains important in the faith life of us all. We too can touch Christ. We can be touched by Christ, particularly in the sacraments, and especially at Mass. 

## Come back to Mass.

Especially this Christmas, come back to Mass to take the body of Christ. Come back to receive the bread of life in your hands. Come back to Mass to touch Christ and be touched again by Him, by Emmanuel, by God-with-us. At this special and sacred time of the year, with Monsignor Ryan and Deacon Tommy, I want to wish you the very best for Christmas and for the New Year ahead.



We're missing that old crowded train  
and half the stuff in Tesco.  
Should we go on the bus again?  
Could we have Mass al fresco?

We're missing strolling into Mass,  
No masks or sanitising.  
Watching TV's no great gas,  
Livestream's not appetising.

We're missing life without such fuss  
And holidays by plane.  
But God's been missing all of us,  
So come to Mass again.

*"As stewards of God's creation,  
we are called to make the earth  
a beautiful garden for the human  
family. When we destroy our  
forests, ravage our soil and  
pollute our seas, we betray that  
noble calling".*

*Pope Francis*



## Why is the COP26 climate summit so important?



Because climate change is so much more than melting ice caps, droughts and forest fires. It's about people, especially poor people. The Pope has called on every one of us to "hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

It is therefore incumbent on the politicians to deliver real action on climate justice, and also for each of us to adopt ways to care for our common home in order to protect some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world.



## Drumchapel Foodbank

Regularly your donations are dropped off at the foodbank by our parish volunteers. Thanks for continuing to give the foodbank your support.

The following items are particularly welcomed especially at Christmas:

- Rice
- Noodles
- Tinned Vegetables
- "Pasta 'n' Sauce"
- Long Life Milk
- Tinned Puddings
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Soup
- Tinned Meats
- Tinned Tuna
- Tinned Curry
- Meals in a can
- Toiletries
- Toilet Rolls



## Soup Run Volunteers

By Christmas Eve 2021, our soup run volunteers will have been delivering surplus food for more than 600 days since the start of lockdown. Rain, hail or shine, they are out for early morning pick ups followed by delivery to various Glasgow centres.

This amounts to at least 7000 crates of food delivered to those in need around Glasgow. Our thanks goes to them for their dedication.

*"All of us get broken in some way. But what really matters is how we get back up and put the pieces back together..."*

*- Michael Nulty*

*Thought for the day*



## Message from Mrs Grogan, St Nicholas' Headteacher

Here at St Nicholas' Primary, the staff, pupils and parents have worked together throughout these challenging times to ensure the safety of our whole community. In these unprecedented times our established community of faith and learning, supported by our two Parishes of St Joseph and St Andrew, has enabled us to continue to thrive and do the best for all our pupils and their families.



The pandemic has changed many of the practical aspects of our lives and school life is no exception. Many of our community and even in-house communal events have been affected. We have tried to find innovative ways to continue our whole school programme of assemblies and celebrations,

which reflect the liturgical calendar, ensuring there are opportunities for all children, staff and parents to come together safely, albeit in limited numbers or virtually.

Our focus is to help children learn and explore their faith. This is even more important in these difficult times and by using "This is our Faith" and the "God's Loving Plan" programme, based on the teachings of the Catechism and the core principles of the Church, we are ensuring that children reflect on the importance of their faith on a daily basis in everything they do and say.

We are very much looking forward to getting back to the so called normality that we all talk about. We at St Nicholas' are extremely thankful for all the support that we have received from the Parishes of St Andrew and St Joseph, as well as our parents and local community. We continue to work together ensuring our Christian values are at the heart of everything we do.

# **CHRISTMAS LITURGIES**

## **COME AND JOIN US TO CELEBRATE**

### **Christmas Eve**

**Vigil Masses: 5 p.m. & 9 p.m.**

### **Christmas Day**

**Masses: 10.00 a.m.**

**(this Mass will be live streamed)**  
**and 12 Noon**

### **Confessions:**

**20th & 21st December**  
**7 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

### **New Year's Day**

**Mass: 10 a.m.**  
**(this Mass will be live streamed)**

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**Come back to Mass. No need to book. Just come along.**

**[www.standrewsbearsden.co.uk](http://www.standrewsbearsden.co.uk)**

Charity Number SC018140