

Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St. Drostan

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St. Mary's

64 St Peter Street
Peterhead
AB42 1QB

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St. Drostan Church, Fraserburgh, and St. Mary's Church, Peterhead, are currently closed due to Government regulations in connection with action taken to combat the spread of the Covid 19 coronavirus, but re-open on 26th March 2021.

Sun 21 st Mar	5th Sunday of Lent		
Mon 22 nd Mar	Monday in the 5 th Week of Lent		
Tue 23 rd Mar	Tuesday in the 5 th Week of Lent		
Wed 24 th Mar	Wednesday in the 5 th Week of Lent		
Thur 25 th Mar	The Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity		
Fri 26 th Mar	Mass: Friday of the 5 th Week of lent	–	Peterhead 9.30am
	Mass: Saturday of the 5 th Week of Lent	Fraserburgh 9.30am	–
Sat 27 th Mar	Confessions:	Fraserb. 11.30am - 12.15pm	Pete. 5.45pm - 6.15pm
	Vigil Mass: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	–	Peterhead 6.30pm
Sun 28 th Mar	Mass: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	Fraserburgh 9.30am	Peterhead 11.30am



"I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest."

St. Joseph, a father and friend to all

The Church's rhythm of prayer and devotion, enshrined in the liturgical year, has quite a few interesting quirks. And one of them is the occasional occurrence, as this year, of the solemnities of St. Joseph and the Annunciation just before we enter the drama of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. This brings the mysteries of Christ's Incarnation, birth and infancy into close relation to those of His Passion and death. But there's something very healthy about that. It reminds us that the happiness and joy of Christ's coming among us as a child was set against the backdrop of the sorrow that the work of our Redemption would entail; and it suggests also that the sufferings of the Messiah and those most intimately associated with Him are not without a silver lining of heavenly joy. We experience something similar in our following of the Lord. Christian life does involve facing the cross. But there's a deep joy too that not infrequently bubbles over in good ol' mirth.

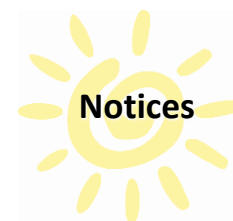
I remember hearing someone once joke that St. Joseph's lot in the Holy Family must have been a difficult one, because if anything ever went wrong – like, someone forgot to put out the bins on a Tuesday evening – who are you gonna blame? Almighty, all-knowing God (Jesus)? Unthinkable. The sinless one, full of heavenly grace (Mary)? Hardly. Oh, well... better just own up, Joseph. 😊

In this vein, I like to refer to St. Joseph the words of the prophet Isaiah, when he asks, "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?" (33:14). Consuming fires and everlasting burnings were and are the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Having been formed by the power of the Holy Spirit, these



Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682), "Walk of St. Joseph and the Child of Christ". Courtesy of [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walk_of_St._Joseph_and_the_Child_of_Christ.jpg)

two Hearts never ceased to burn with holy love. St. Catherine of Siena famously saw the Heart of Jesus so greatly enkindled with the fire of divine love that it seemed to be like a raging furnace, spreading torrents of divine flames over the whole earth. It takes a special person to dwell with such a fire. The light radiating from



this sort of fire shows up any imperfection (just as a beam of sunlight from a window shows up dust on a shelf you haven't dusted for a few days...); and its heat declares war on them as it draws the soul to prefer God and His Will to absolutely anything else (just as a furnace will consume any dross in iron put in it for refining, precisely by heating the iron till it becomes almost like fire itself...).

St. Joseph did dwell with them, without a sense-of-humour failure, without backing off downheartedly, and certainly without any sense of superiority over other people. Such was his purity, his love, his human maturity, his courage.

And so he became in every sense a member of the *Holy Family*. This is one of the most basic lessons we can learn from St. Joseph and from the hidden life of our Lord, from those years of more or less silent domestic life that made up the greater part of our Incarnate God's life on earth. It is this: **draw close to Jesus and Mary, draw close to those furnaces of love, spend time with them, open your heart to them, and you will be warmed by them** – transformed day by day into an ever-increasing likeness of their glory.

Here is a prayer we can say to St. Joseph which can help us, with him as our friend and guide, to share in that blessed experience of the love of Jesus and Mary. Pope Francis has recommended that we pray it often in this "[Year of St. Joseph](#)":

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.¹

For more about St. Joseph, have a look at Pope Francis' recent Letter, "[With a father's heart](#)", written to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Joseph's being proclaimed Patron of the Universal Church.

¹ This prayer was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, [Quamquam pluries](#). It especially recommended to be prayed at the end of the Rosary.

St. Mary's, Peterhead **Vigil Mass, Saturday 27th March**

Reader: Francesca Meehan

Mass, Sunday 28th March

Stewards: Cheryl Murray & Majella Morrison

Reader: Eileen Fretwell

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St. Drostan, Fraserburgh **Mass, Sunday 28th March**

Stewards: Anne Reilly & Bob Watson

Reader: Clare McMahon

Re-opening our churches

Thanks be to God, we will re-open our churches this coming Friday. Please see the [parish website](#) for details and booking of Holy Week and Easter services.

The services of the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday afternoon, and the Easter Vigil) will take place this year at Fraserburgh. They will be somewhat simplified as a result of continuing virus-related restrictions. The maximum permitted number of persons in church will be 50 (note, though, that funerals, baptisms and weddings have specific restrictions).

It is very important that we continue to observe all the virus-precautions that were in place before Christmas, since the virus is still out there (in fact, the number of people with the virus in [Scotland](#) went up in the week to 13th March...), and it's likely to be a more-transmissible variant. Also, in some places in Europe, the South African, more vaccine-resistant, variant [is on the up](#). So, let's all be careful and stay safe.

Catechism classes

We plan to resume our classes shortly after Easter. In particular, it would be good, I think, after a single "warm-up class", for last year's cohort of first holy Communion children at **St. Mary's** to make their Communion. Mrs Margaret Wyness and I will be in contact with the families shortly to discuss this.

If any children are already registered, and would like a free copy of (the **super-fantastic, awesome**) **YouCat for Kids** (first holy Communion candidates) or **YouCat** (Confirmation candidates) books, please [let me know](#).

Station Mass

The last Lenten Station Mass will be [streamed online](#) on 26th March from St. Peter's Aberdeen at 6:30pm (Stations) for 7pm (Mass).

SCIAF

SCIAF Wee Boxes are now available at the back of the church. There will also be a special collection for SCIAF this coming weekend.

Canon Ray Coyle's requiem Mass will be at Ellon on Wednesday 24th at 10:00am. It is by invitation only (because restricted numbers), but will be [streamed online](#).

For any safeguarding questions or concerns, our parish safeguarding coordinator at Fraserburgh is Mrs. Anne Reilly (01171 623029); or contact the Diocesan Office on 01224 319154.