

At the heart of this renewed vision is the call to **listen together to the Holy Spirit**. The church explains that pastoral councils are not meant to function like business meetings or political forums. Instead, they should be prayerful gatherings where people listen deeply—to God, to one another, and to the needs of the parish and wider community. This way of working reflects the Church’s synodal journey, where all the baptised share responsibility for the mission of the Church.

To support parishes practically, the Church provides clear and usable tools. It offers guidance on choosing council members who bring different gifts: “heads” who think and plan, “hearts” who care and listen, and “hands” who act and get things done. It also suggests ways of structuring meetings around prayer, silence, Scripture, and respectful conversation, especially through a method called “Conversation in the Spirit.”

The church also emphasises that listening must lead to action. Pastoral councils are encouraged to move carefully from prayer and discussion to concrete steps that respond to real parish needs. Tools are provided to help councils develop a parish vision, review progress, and communicate clearly with the wider parish community. This ensures that councils remain connected to parish life and do not become isolated groups.

Overall, *Reimagining Pastoral Councils* presents a hopeful and practical vision for parish leadership. It encourages councils to become prayerful, welcoming, and mission-focused groups that support the parish priest and strengthen the whole community. By grounding decision-making in faith and shared discernment, pastoral councils can help parishes grow in unity, purpose, and mission.

### The meeting key priorities

- Willingness to give of their time
- Significant time given for prayer
- Annual Retreat Day
- Annual Harvest Day Celebration
- Hold on to the **Vision** and hand on tasks to those who can best carry them out
- Length and number of meetings to be agreed -
- Work to develop sacramental and catechetical life of the parish and reaching out should top the agendas
- Meetings should be joy-filled.
- Service is for 2/3 yrs with staggered changes

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We will be celebrating our brothers and sisters born in the month of February next Sunday. Come let us celebrate the love of God in you

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses: St Ninian - 9.30am

St Joseph- 10.30am

St Ninian primary school - 11.30am

St Joseph Primart School- 1.30pm

### ST JOSEPH -

OFFERTORY COLLECTION – SUNDAY 01/02/26

Loose Plate £101 Gift Aid Envelopes £203 Standing Orders £353 Maintenance Fund £20 Additional Offertories £15 TOTAL OFFERTORIES £692  
**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Please try to give a little more each week to help St Jo’s.

**THERE IS A 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY FOR**

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS FUND – please give your support – thanks.**

### ST JOSEPH’S – HOME BAKING – SOCIAL GROUP

The amount raised at our event last Sunday was £78. Many thanks for your support – *Margaret Sinclair*.

### ST JOSEPH’S – CHILDRENS LITURGY

There is a separate liturgy group for young children today, meeting at the Sacred Heart altar for 11.00am, but there is NO meeting next Sunday – 15 February – due to half term holiday.

### ST NINIAN

**200 CLUB WINNER 25/1/2026 No 30 B Lonie**

**01/02/2026 No 19 E. Milton**

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

**Off: £288.30, GA: £267.50, Candles: £93.31 Total: £649.11**

### Vision Group

The St Ninian’s Vision Group will meet in the hall on Wednesday 11 February at 7pm to consider and decide how best to consult all parishioners about their ‘dreams’ for the parish as we journey to become a synodal parish. Where everyone’s voice is heard and listened to.

### Cake and Candy Stall

Everyone is welcome to contribute home baking for our next Cake and Candy stall on 21/22 February. Remember to label and price each item. Thank you for your kindness and support.

### Update on Church Hall Refurbishment

All steel, sleeper walls have been fitted and boiler house door bricked over. Joists and floor to be fitted next week, followed by plasterboard on ceiling and walls and electrics to provide lighting and sockets.



### Our Sunday Masses:

**Vigil Mass:** 5.00pm in St Ninian’s RC Church

### Sunday Mass:

9.30am in St. Ninian’s RC Church

11am in St Joseph’s RC Church

### Daily Masses

#### St Ninian’s RC Church:

Tuesday; 6pm

Wednesday; 10am

Friday; 10am.

#### St Joseph’s RC Church:

Wednesday; 6pm

Thursday; 10am

Saturday; 10am

### Holy Days of Obligation:

**Vigil Mass:** 5.00pm in St Ninian’s RC Church

### Day Masses:

Morning: As announced.

### EXPOSITION;

Saturday; 10.30am to 11am in St Joseph’s Church

Friday; 10.30am to 11am in St. Ninian’s Church

**Birthday Celebrations;** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

### Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession

St Ninian; Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm.

St. Joseph; Saturday 10.30am.

# May I ask?

“Is the offering of Mass restricted to the dead, or can it also be offered for the living?”

No, **Masses are not offered only for the dead**. The Church teaches that Mass may be offered **for both the living and the deceased**. Masses are celebrated for intentions such as thanksgiving, healing, guidance, repentance, vocations, peace, and special needs of individuals or communities.

Offering Mass for the dead expresses prayer for their purification and eternal rest, while offering Mass for the living seeks God’s grace and help in their present lives.

### Read:

– *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §1414, §1032

– *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* §79

– *Code of Canon Law* canon 901

### Sunday 8 February 2026

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time ■**

**Liturgical Colour: Green. Year: A(II).**

**Readings at Mass**

### First reading

**Isaiah 58:6-10**

**‘Your light shall break forth like the dawn.’**

Thus says the Lord:

Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up speedily;

your righteousness shall go before you;

the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’

If you take away the yoke from your midst,

the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

if you pour yourself out for the hungry

and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,

then shall your light rise in the darkness

and your gloom be as the noonday.

### Responsorial Psalm

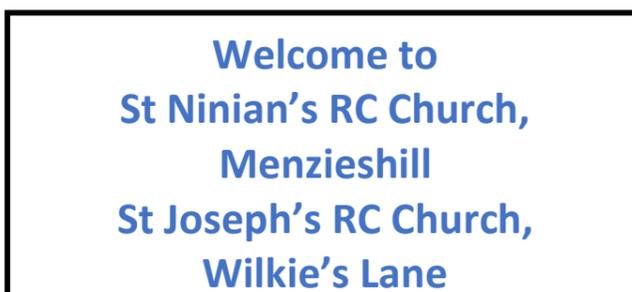
Ps 112(111):4-5. 6-7. 8a, 9. R4a

**A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

or: Alleluia.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright;

he is generous, merciful, and righteous.



It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends,  
who conducts his affairs with justice.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***  
*or: Alleluia.*

He will never be moved;  
for ever shall the upright be remembered.  
He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart, he trusts in the LORD.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***  
*or: Alleluia.*

With a steadfast heart he will not fear.  
Open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His might shall be exalted in glory.

***A light rises in the darkness for the upright.***  
*or: Alleluia.*

### Second reading

#### 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

**‘I proclaimed to you the mystery of Christ crucified.’**

I, when I came to you, brothers and sisters, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

### Gospel Acclamation

#### John 8:12

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

**Alleluia.**

### Gospel

#### Matthew 5:13-16

**‘You are the light of the world.’**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

‘You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.’

### BIDDING PRAYERS

#### Priest:

Brothers and sisters, called to be salt of the earth and light of the world, let us bring our needs and the needs of the whole world before God our Father.

#### 1. For the Church:

That the Church may shine with the light of Christ through lives of justice, compassion, and humble service, especially to the poor and forgotten.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 2. For leaders of nations:

That those entrusted with authority may work to loosen the bonds of injustice, protect human dignity, and promote peace among peoples.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 3. For the suffering and the poor:

For the hungry, the homeless, the oppressed, and all who feel trapped in darkness, that our generosity may bring them hope and healing.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 4. For our community:

That our faith may not rest on words alone, but be made visible in acts of kindness, integrity, and mercy.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 5. For the sick and the grieving:

That God’s healing light may break forth in their lives and strengthen all who care for them.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 6. For Creation:

For a deeper respect for creation, that we may care responsibly for the earth, share its resources justly, and allow

God’s light to shine through our stewardship of the world He has entrusted to us.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### 7. For the faithful departed:

That they may share fully in the eternal light of God’s kingdom.

*Lord, hear us.*

#### Priest

Heavenly Father, you call us to be light for the world. Hear the prayers we make in faith and grant them according to your will, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Reflection on the Readings

Today’s readings unite around one strong image: **light**, not as a theory, not as an idea, but as a way of life that transforms how we live, speak, and treat others. Through Isaiah, God corrects false religion. Fasting, prayer, and sacrifice mean little if they do not lead us to justice, compassion, and responsibility for one another. True worship is to loosen the bonds of oppression, to share bread with the hungry, to welcome the poor, to protect the vulnerable, and to refuse indifference. God makes it clear: ritual without mercy is empty. But when faith becomes action, when love becomes visible in daily choices, God promises something beautiful: your light will break forth like the dawn, bringing healing and hope to a darkened world.

Saint Paul deepens this message. He reminds us that Christian faith is not built on eloquence, status, or clever arguments, but on Christ crucified; God’s power revealed through humility, sacrifice, and love. Faith that rests on God’s power, not human pride, transforms lives quietly but deeply, from the inside out, reshaping hearts before it changes structures.

In the Gospel, Jesus makes it personal: **“You are the light of the world.”** Not tomorrow, not later, now. Light does not argue; it does not boast; it does not force itself; it simply shines. When our faith leads to mercy, integrity, courage, generosity, and compassion, others encounter God through us.

May our prayer lead to justice, our faith to humility, and our lives to a light that truly heals, guides, and renews the world.

#### Pray for the Sick

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital – Stuart Findlay, Sally Helen Hamm and Dominic Roberts-Brown, Bill Buttars, Bishop Stephen Robson, May McGeary, Catherine Reid, Lusia, Brian Murphy, Lizzie Ward, Monsignor Basil O’Sullivan, Betty Saunders Pamela Herron, Maureen Walker, Kevin Veal, Margaret Mackie, Elinor Crighton,

Fletcher Ditchburn, Margaret Forsyth, Bill Martin, Fr Malcolm Hutchison, Mary Clark, Bella Shaw, Angela Keith, Cecilia McCarten, Alan Newell, Albert Soave, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Saul Sangster, Rena Samson, Gillian Donnelly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday and Margaret McDonagh.. **May they feel the healing power of Christ, in body and in spirit.**

**Pray for the Dead: Please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith** - for the souls of Peter Welsh, who has died recently, and for the souls of Tessa Clark, Jack Ferrie, May Sinclair, Frank Coyle, Rita Knapp, John Patrick Mulligan, Elizabeth Murphy, Bruce Pennycook, Martha Black, Chris Breen, May Grieve, Sarah Leiper, Dave Chalmers and our foundress. Marie Bell Dewar, Joseph Maguire whose anniversaries occur around this time, **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**



#### Announcements

#### OUTCOME OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PPC OF ST NINIAN AND ST JOSEPH

The meeting which was started at 7pm was graced by 28 members. The group was privileged to have one of her own in the core Diocesan Synodal group,

**Maureen**, talk about Reimagining Pastoral Councils. The highlights of her teaching titled, *Reimagining Pastoral Councils*, are as follows: The church invites parishes to rediscover the true purpose of pastoral councils in the life of the Church. The church in her wisdom, reminds us that pastoral councils are not optional or merely administrative groups, but essential spaces where priests and parishioners work together for the good of the parish. Inspired by the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and Pope Francis, the church recognises that many councils struggle due to lack of clarity, low engagement, or changes in leadership. She therefore calls for a fresh, renewed approach rooted in faith, prayer, and shared responsibility.