

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



We celebrate today the feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is an interesting feast because it serves as a bridge that links the Christmas festive time with the ordinary time.

It is one of the epiphany feasts through which Christ manifests himself or is manifested by the father to the world. We recall at Christ's baptism, the spirit descended on him in the form of a dove and the voice of the father thundered down "this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased listen to Him" (Matthew 3:17). This so to say is the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Blessed Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Christ the sinless one, joins the queue of sinners and submitted himself to John the Baptist for the rite of Baptism in order to fulfil all righteousness – to free us from the power of sin. This is the greatest act of humility.

The prophet Isaiah in the first reading gives a portrait of a true servant of God who is humble, gentle, kind, and true to his mission (to bring true justice to the nations). We know that the justice of God is shown in his mercy, thus God has no favorite as St Peter attests in the second reading. Rather "anyone who welcomes him is accepted by him" (Act 10:34). This is seen in the effects of the Sacrament of Baptism as the church teaches "Makes us neophyte, a new creature, an adopted son of God" (CCC n.1265). Baptism is the gateway sacrament through which we receive adoption as sons and daughters of God. To let us understand this better, Christ submits himself to John for Baptism in the river Jordan and through which he makes holy the water of baptism.

Dear friends, before beginning his public ministry, Christ received baptism from John, in the same way we were baptized at the start of our Christian life. So, Christ's baptism is illustrative and instructive to all. First, it reminds us of our identity as sons and daughters of God and members of the church. This implies that one cannot be a Christian without being baptized nor presume to be a member of the church without it. Baptism is a necessity for through it we receive our identity (an active identity) as children of God. Secondly, being made children of God and members of the church, we are given a mission which is Christ's mission to the world to bring true justice, thus becoming "the light of the world and the salt of the earth" (Matthew 6:1). By leading a holy life and growing intensely day by day our intimate connection or relationship with Christ, we become truly Christ's faithful disciples. Today, we thank God for the graces we have received in Baptism and we renew our Baptismal promises, to preach Christ's 'Good News' by our transparent Christian lives of love and mercy. May we listen to Christ and allow him to guide us always.

### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL ST MARY'S CONFERENCE**

Please let us know if you know anyone in need of food or families in need. Food parcels are given out only on Sundays after Mass. Please be there if you need one.

**Legacies:** when making your Will have you thought of leaving a legacy to the Parish or diocese?

**Gift Aid:** If you pay tax as for a Gift Aid form and your one-off signature we get an extra 25%

**Dinner/Dance to raise funds for the Diocese of Paisley Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, Greenock Town Hall, 7pm (for 7.30pm). Tickets cost £35 (includes 3 course meal, fizz on arrival and live band). Dress formal. For tickets and further information please email [lourdes.rcdop@gmail.com](mailto:lourdes.rcdop@gmail.com) or phone 07950483042. Includes return bus from Renfrewshire/East Renfrewshire. Donations of raffle prizes and auction items greatly appreciated

**Diocesan Priesthood:** Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2020? The Catholic Church in Scotland is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr. John Morrison email: [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Training, Induction Part 2:** The new Safeguarding Part 2 Training session, is for volunteers who have previously attended Safeguarding Training Part One, or Safeguarding Training Level one, more than 18 months ago. If you attended Safeguarding Training Level One in 2017 or early 2018, you should put your name forward for Safeguarding Training Part 2. The next sessions will be on: **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 7pm St. Joseph's Parish Hall, Clarkston, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm St. Mary's Parish Hall, Greenock, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am in Diocesan Offices, Ince Street, Paisley, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm St. Ninian's Parish Hall, Gourrock, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm St. Joseph's & St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Wemyss Bay.** Please contact Sarah Jane at the Diocesan Safeguarding office [safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk) or **0141 847 6138** to register.

**Mass at UWS:** weekday and Sunday Mass are now on, all are welcome



## ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN  
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Church Hall: 01505810370 (Answer Machine)  
Email: [StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk)  
Website: [stmaryrcpaisley.com](http://stmaryrcpaisley.com)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

12th January 2020

Feast of The Baptism of the Lord Year A

### Parish Mass & Prayer Times

Rosary & Morning Prayer: 9:10 before 9:30am Mass

Weekday Mass: 9:30am daily (except Wednesday)

Wednesday Evening Mass: 7pm

Exposition: Tuesday & Thursday 9am

Saturday 9:00am after 9:30am Mass

Divine Mercy Devotion: Friday after Mass

Sunday Masses: 4:30pm (Saturday Vigil)  
10:30am Mass & Children's Liturgy

Confessions: Saturday 10:00am - 10:30am & 4 - 4:30pm

Baptism: Arrange with the priest

Marriage: Give at least six months notice (see Fr Jude)



### **SUNDAY HOLY MASS**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Psalm Response: "The Lord will bless the people with peace"

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-38

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 50

## PARISH NOTICE

**Legion of Mary:** the New presidium "Our Lady Help of Christians" will start this month. Mary Farren & Jim Lacey will make an appeal for more members next weekend and will meet those who have registered after mass

**Parish Piety Store:** we have in stock Mass Cards and other seasonal gifts. Copies of **The Western Catholic Calendar 2020** which contains contact details of every parish and mass times, Please contact Angela.

**Parish Youth & Children Choir (Band):** we appeal to parents to encourage the kids to join. Speak to **Silvana Puddinu and Adele Redhead**

### Important Notice

Fr Jude will be away on holiday for few weeks. Thanks to the Priests who have accepted to help.

**Morning Masses @ 9:00am** By Fr Joe Balmar

Saturday Vigil Mass 4.30pm by Fr John Morrison

Sunday Mass 10:30am By Msgr. Tom Monaghan & Fr Ambrose Ohene(23/02/2020).

**There will be no bulletin after next Sunday till March. You can check for weekly information and notices from the diocese on our parish website [www.stmaryrcpaisley.com](http://www.stmaryrcpaisley.com) and our facebook page.**

**Contact Fr Joe Balmer for Funerals and for Baptism speak to the priest after Sunday Mass.**

**SSVP- Appreciation:** we thank all parishioners for their generosity. The total of £1242 was collected for **St Vincent's Hospice Special Works** over the Christmas Period.

### PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

13/01/2020 Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm  
2/02/2020 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
8/02/2020 Burns Supper

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Last Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £419.50 Non Gift Aid £280.45= £699.95  
**Justice & Peace fund:** Gift Aid: £ 223.00 Non Gift Aid: £183.59= £406.59 **Grand Total £1,106.54**

**Christmas Crib:** You can visit the crib and receive blessings for the new born King. There is a box for donations to **St Margaret Children & family Care**

**200 Club Appeal:** Payment for the coming period can be made from now. Membership costs £12 for 6 months or £24 for a year. Please put payment in an envelope with 200 Club with your name on the outside and give to Gerry or kay. New members are welcome for 2020.

**RCIA** will resume on Tuesday 14th of January 2020. if you are considering becoming a catholic or an adult wishing to receive the sacraments of initiation. Contact Alan or Carol Wright.

**2020 September (2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> September) and October Pilgrimage to Medjugorje:** This is a fully escorted pilgrimage and great places to visit. If you are interested in joining the group from St Mary's Parish Paisley to Medjugorje in September or October 2020 please fill the form attached and send your deposit to Fr Jude.

**Burns Supper:** will hold on Saturday 8th February 2020. this is our first parish social function this Year and we invite every one to participate. Tickets will be available from Sunday 12th January. Please save this date. See Jim or Caroline Kerr for more information.

**Baptism Congratulations:** to David & Mary Odigie whose sons **Don-David and Lucas** will be christened after Saturday vigil Mass

**SPUC - Volunteer Speakers Required:** SPUC (Scotland) has a network of local volunteers who work hard pro-actively raising awareness of the pro-life movement across parish communities in Scotland. Our local speakers motivate and inspire other parishioners to support SPUC's work, playing an active part in building a culture of life in Scotland. Would you like to be a part of our volunteer team, helping to spread the Gospel of Life? If so, email [info@spucs.cotland.org](mailto:info@spucs.cotland.org) TODAY!

**Centenary Recruitment Drive -Knights of St. Columba:** 'Serving God by serving others'. If you are over 16 and a practicing Catholic and wish to join an organization to promote the Catholic Faith and help others in need, please contact: John O'Donnell on 07854886425 or [john.odonnell1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.odonnell1@hotmail.co.uk)

**Maranatha Prayer Group:** Please, join us for an evening of prayer and praise in St Mirin's hall at 7:30pm. We meet weekly to pray. Sing and reflect on the scriptures. There will be tea and coffee afterwards. All are welcome

**Pro-Life Mass:** This month's Pro-Life Mass is on Wednesday, **15<sup>th</sup> January** in Blessed John Duns Scotus, 270 Ballater St, Gorbals G5 0YT. There will be Adoration at 6pm, followed by Rosary at 7pm and Mass at 7.30pm. All welcome. The celebrant will be Fr Joseph McAuley.

**Prayer Group:** Are you aged between 18-35 years old? St Francis and St Clare welcomes you to an evening of prayer, intercessions and a wee something to eat together on **Thursday 16th of January at 7-9pm** in the Diocesan offices, Incle Street, Paisley.

### Annual Safeguarding Report - Sunday 12 January 2020

The annual diocesan safeguarding report will be read out by our parish safeguarding co-ordinator at Masses this weekend 11/12 January 2020. Paisley diocese and our parish welcome the special responsibility we have for all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

In our Church there are two posters. The first reaches out to survivors of abuse in the Church and invites them to contact our safeguarding team confidentially if they feel able. The Church has confidential and independent professional counselling services available to survivors of abuse within the Church. We are also organizing a presentation on **Saturday 9 May 2020** by Fr Dominic Allain about the 'Grief to Grace' retreat. 'Grief to Grace' has helped many abuse survivors to find help and healing, as the testimonies on their website report. <https://www.griefftoGraceuk.org/>

The second poster highlights our Safeguarding Manual with the contact details of your Parish Co-ordinator and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. Please contact your parish safeguarding co-ordinator or the Parish Priest if you have any concerns regarding the abuse or harm of any child, young person or vulnerable adult.

Last year the Scottish Bishops published a new and improved safeguarding manual called 'In God's Image' which includes developments in best practice and implements the recommendations of the McLellan Commission. Our diocesan trainers deliver ongoing training to volunteers, parish safeguarding co-ordinators (PSCs) and clergy. Since October 2016 they have trained 1,314 volunteers, as well as PSCs and clergy. Training promotes vigilance and ensures those working with children and vulnerable adults know the Church's system for reporting disclosures or concerns they

### As a parish Community we pray especially for

#### Those who are sick

Agnes Cattigan Ben Chamness Christine McAllister  
John Allison Russell Smith Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann  
Martin Rogers John Kerr Margaret Moses Shambira  
Noel & Winifred Kidd Sam Hannah Declan Healy  
Kay Brassington John Black John Doherty

#### Those who are recently deceased

Grace Gallen Francis Graham Jean Matthew  
Kathryn Devlin Michael Curley  
Seamus Curley

#### Those whose anniversaries occur

Benny Cosgrove Olaf Blance  
Baby Reilly Kennedy  
Msgr. Francis Magauran