

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Traditionally, this day is known as *Laetare* Sunday, from the Latin word for the command "rejoice". The first word in the introductory antiphon for today's Liturgy, (based on the words of Isaiah 66:10). The antiphon and the readings both express the Church's joy in anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection. Today's readings both remind us that it is God who gives us proper vision in body as well as in soul and instruct us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

By describing the anointing of David as the second king of Israel, the first reading, taken from the First Book of Samuel, illustrates how blind we are in our judgments and how much we need God's help. In today's Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 23), we celebrate the care of God, our Good Shepherd, singing, "*even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil; for You are at my side with Your rod and Your staff that give me courage.*" In the second reading, Paul reminds the Ephesians of their new responsibility as children of light: "*You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of the light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.*"



Jesus' giving of sight to a blind man, reported in today's Gospel, teaches us the necessity of opening the eyes of our mind by Faith and warns us that those who assume they see the truth are often blind, while those who acknowledge their blindness

are given clear vision. In this episode, the most unlikely person, namely the beggar born blind, receives the light of Faith in Jesus, while the religion-oriented, law-educated Pharisees remain spiritually blind. "*There are none so blind, as those who will not see.*"

To live as a Christian is to see, to have clear vision about God, about ourselves and about others. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are to live as children of the light, seeking what is good and right and true. Our Lenten prayers and sacrifices should serve to heal our blindness so that we can look at others, see them as children of God and love them as our own brothers and sisters saved by the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Fr Anthony Kadavil

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%

Government Consultation on Changing Legal Gender: The Scottish Government is consulting on new legislation around the ability to legally change gender. Consultation closes on **17th March**. The Catholic Parliamentary Office has prepared a four page briefing to help people engage with the consultation process. The briefing can be accessed via <https://rcpolitics.org/briefing-gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/> Please consider responding to the consultation. Anyone can access and respond to the consultation at <https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/>.

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

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: The Pilgrimage takes place from 26 June -2 July 2020. For more information please contact Fr Gerry McNellis stninan@rcdop.org.uk

Ignatian Online Lent Retreat: The Ignatian Spirituality Centre is offering a retreat in daily life this Lent. The retreat, based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, has prayers for every day with a daily Scripture passage, a picture and helpful suggestions for praying. It is available online (<http://iscglasgow.co.uk/index.html>) or as a book from the ISC in Glasgow (email: admin@iscglasgow.co.uk or tel: 0141 354 0077) There are groups available in Paisley Diocese meeting in weekly support groups.



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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Email: StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk
Website: stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

22nd March 2020

4th Sunday of Lent 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

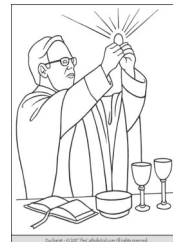
Divine Mercy Devotion: Friday after Mass

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: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7, 10-13

Psalm Response: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want"

SECOND READING: Ephesian 5:8-14

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1,6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 80

PARISH NOTICE

Legion of Mary: the New presidium "Our Lady Help of Christians" appeals for members.

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

Children Liturgy: We are in need of volunteers to assist. Please speak to Rosemary, Angela or Kay.

2020 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 October 2020 please speak to Fr Jude.

National Day of Prayer

This Sunday, 22nd March has been dedicated as a National Day of Prayer by many Christian Churches, asking for God's protection against the virus, for healing for the sick, for carers and for who are working for a cure. Bishop John encourages every Catholic to pray the Rosary at 12noon as we appeal to God for his protection.

200 Club: 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.

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Scrutiny for the Elects 22/03/2020

Third Scrutiny & Presentation of the Lord's Prayer 29/03/2020

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £ 351.50 Non Gift Aid £ 218.24= £ 569.74
building fund: Gift Aid: £51.50 Non Gift Aid: £91.54= £ 143.04 **Grand Total £712.78**

RCIA : Rite of the Second Scrutiny will hold this Sunday. Do you know anyone interested in becoming a catholic or an adult wishing to receive the sacraments of initiation . Contact Alan or Carol Wright.

For the Attention of All Church Volunteers with PVG Certificates Or Pending PVG Certificates: volunteers doing or planning to do regulated work with children and vulnerable adults or both, should complete the Safeguarding Training, **Induction Part 1.** These sessions will be held in the Diocesan offices, Inle Street, Paisley on: **Tuesday 5th May at 10.30am, Tuesday 25th August at 7pm.** Please contact Sarah Jane at the Diocesan Safeguarding office safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk or 0141 847 6138 to register.

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: **Monday 30th March at 10.30am in Diocesan Offices, Inle Street, Paisley, Tuesday 12th May at 7pm St. Ninian's Parish Hall, Gourrock, Monday 8th June at 7pm St. Joseph's & St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Wemyss Bay, Tuesday 1st September at 7pm St. Mirins Parish Hall, Tuesday 6th October at 7pm St. John's Parish Hall, Port Glasgow, Thursday 12th November at 10.30am St. Mirin's Parish Hall.**

Prayer Group: due to the Pandemic we announce the cancellation of all St Francis and St Clare Program both in Glasgow and Paisley. We invite all to keep praying for one another. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM FR JUDE

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them (Coronavirus), for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Dear brothers and Sisters,

I know it's a difficult moment now and the Bishops have taken a wise step to suspend all public masses. This is to save lives as you know that Christ has come to give us life and in full (John 10:10). It is obvious that this epidemic Covid-19 that has turned pandemic has brought changes to every aspect of our lives. Our daily activities have been put on hold, the system has totally changed, Jobs, schools, church activities, social gatherings, even friendly visits have been suspended. There is fear everywhere and many are now wondering what the future holds. This is a sad and precarious moment which ordinarily breeds fear but let's not forget that our God is bigger than the situation. He is always with us and will never desert us for he is God "Emmanuel" and will always remain with us until the end of time (Matt. 28: 18). So be assured that with God we will survive these trying times.

I wish to inform you that though public masses have been put on hold, the church still remains open for your private use. Feel free to call the chapel house anytime you wish for any spiritual need and take care of yourself and your family. The suspension of Public Masses is just a temporary measure to curb the spread of the virus but we all need to pray more this time as a community to God for mercy and protection.

Following the guidelines given by the diocese, I wish to inform you of the following:

Church Opening Times: St Mary's Church will be open every day from 9am to 11am. There will be exposition of the Blessed sacrament for private prayers and devotions

Confession: This will hold every Saturday at 10am but I will be available anytime if anyone is in need. All you need to do is call the Chapel house 01418892602

RCIA: The Bishop has granted us permission to receive the catechumens on Easter Vigil Mass and so preparation for the sacraments of initiation will continue. I therefore invite the elects to attend my private Sunday Mass on Sunday at 10am for their second rite of scrutiny and subsequently for other preparations.

Baptism, Weddings and Funerals

The diocese has permitted the priests to hold these only in the presence of close family members and friends which I will plead to not exceed fifty. May we be more courteous to remain at home if you are not feeling well or have symptoms of the virus.

Visiting the Sick and Anointing of the Sick

As you know, I normally visit parishioners who are sick and the elderly on Thursday, but this time, I will leave it to those who have asked for it and do not display any symptom of Covid-19. Feel free to call the chapel house if you need a visit as I am here to serve you.

Nevertheless, this period allows us time to reflect on the essence of life and to learn that nothing is indispensable, that life is the highest value and that everything in life can be put on hold just to save it. So, let us make the best of this moment by taking the necessary precautions we need to remain healthy and making our stay at home more promising through mutual sharing of love.

I keep remembering you in my private prayers and masses, as I request you pray for me and for one another.

Keep safe and never forget "Do not be afraid" (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Fr Jude

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

As a parish Community we pray especially for

Those who are sick

Agnes Cattigan Ben Chamness Christine McAllister
John Allison Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann Martin Rogers
John Kerr Margaret Ella Craig Noel & Winifred Kidd Sam Hannah
Declan Healy Kay Brassington John Black John Doherty
Alan Morrison Ella Craig

Those who are recently deceased

Berth Anderson

Those whose anniversaries occur

John & Sarah Boland Gerry Gallagher
Margaret Waddell Charlie McNeil
Garry Willock Cesidio Serapiglia