

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Dear Friends, Lent is a time to look at our temptations, sin and the consequences. It is a time that reminds us of the human journey of fall and redemption. Like Adam and Eve, and Jesus, we all face temptations. Originally, Lent was the season when those about to be baptized repented of their sins and sought to know the Lord Jesus more intimately. Then it became a season for the baptized to do the same. We are challenged to die to sin so that we may rise again to the new life in Christ. Since the Church begins the season with a reflection on the origins of sin among us, the main themes in today's readings are temptation, sin, guilt, and forgiveness. We are also told of the temptations offered to our Lord, submission to which would have destroyed his mission.

Today's readings give us the notion that testing comes to us by an agency apart from and in opposition to God. The story of the first fall of man in the first reading (Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7) describes the original Temptation "You will be like gods, knowing what is good and what is evil." This is the story of the first sin, symbolized by the eating of the forbidden fruit. It tells us that Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice. The fundamental choice was to live for God, dependent upon and obedient to His will, or to say no to God. St Paul in the second reading (Rom 5:12-19) describes how the disobedience of Adam who fell to Satan's Original Temptation brought him and us death and a broken relationship with God. The better picture of all is shown in the Gospel reading (Matthew 4:1-11) which is the account of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. It shows that temptation is a necessary evil in our journey of life but the extraordinary magic for overcoming it is first recognizing it and rejecting its lures by repeating the words of Jesus "Be gone Satan.." (Matthew 4:10).

The truth is that, while testing comes from the outside, temptation comes from within us. However, the good news is that, though we are tempted and often succumb, God's grace provides the way of salvation for us. The ultimate temptations in life are NOT those that only push us to "do" things we aren't supposed to "do"; rather they are the ones that push us to "be" persons we weren't made to "be." Let us then during this Lenten season very earnestly pray, as Jesus has taught us to pray to Our Father in heaven - "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." The dual action plan for Lent: we must take notes of are (1) We should confront our temptations and conquer them as Jesus did, by fasting, prayer and the Word of God. (2) We should renew our lives by true repentance and live the Good News of God's love, mercy and forgiveness. May this Lenten season bring a true change in our lives.

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%

Taize Evening: The Diocese of Paisley will be facilitating a 'Taize evening' for our youth (s1 upwards) at St. Fergus, Paisley on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm. Led by Bishop John and two volunteers from the Taize community in France. The evening will be modelled on the practices of the Taize community in France, the evening will consist of communal prayer, song, silence, personal reflection and sharing. Under 16s should bring a completed consent form. These can be obtained from your parish or by e-mailing Fr. John Morrison - vocations@rcdop.org.uk.

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 stninian@rcdop.org.uk

Thursday 5th March at 7pm St. Mary's Parish Hall, Greenock, 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. Please contact Sarah Jane at the Diocesan Safeguarding office safeguardingadmin@rcdop.org.uk or 0141 847 6138 to register.

Adult Formation: All are invited to the remaining two Scripture talks (of a series of three) in St. Conval's, Linwood, starting with tea/coffee at 6.30pm, talk from 7.00-8.30pm.



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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

1st March 2020

1st 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: Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7

Psalm Response: "Have Mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:1 Page: 73

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**

Important Notice

We thank everyone who helped in the day to day running of the Parish when Fr Jude was on Holiday. Special thanks to all the priests that assisted.

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, Incle Street, Paisley on: **Monday 9th March at 7pm, 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:

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

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Station Mass with Bishop John 11/03/2020
St Patrick's Day Dance 20/03/2020

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

16 Feb Week's Collections

Thanks for last week's **Offertory collections:** Gift Aid: £ 413.50 Non Gift Aid £ 261.46= £ 674.96
Building fund: Gift Aid: £50 Non Gift Aid: £121= £ 171.97 **Grand Total £846.93**

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 There will be mass of election of Catechumens today with the Bishop at the Cathedral. Those preparing for the Sacraments of initiation must attend this mass

Do you know anyone interested in becoming a catholic or an adult wishing to receive the sacraments of initiation. Contact Alan or Carol Wright.

Charity Quiz Night: There will be a Charity Quiz Night in aid of Flexicare at **7.30 pm on Monday, 2nd March** in St Mary's Church Hall, Newton Street, Paisley. Flexicare provides a service for young people and adults (14+) with learning disabilities and autism, living in Renfrewshire. Entrance to the quiz is £3.00 each and there will be a raffle. BYOB and nibbles. All welcome.

Public Rosary for the Feast of Saint John Ogilvie: Glasgow Tolbooth **Sunday 8 March at 3.00pm.** Saint 'John Ogilvie' was executed at Glasgow's Tolbooth to "unteach heresy and save souls" when the Catholic Faith in Scotland was suffering greatly. Join us to ask the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John Ogilvie to protect our society, our children, the Church and restore Christian civilisation. Contact the Holy Family Apostolate (tel 0131 669 1434) or email holyfamilyapostolate@googlemail.com

Special collection: for sick and Retired clergy next Sunday 8th March. We remember our Sick & Retired Priests of the diocese with great love and affection. We have eighteen retired priests, still active in prayer and witness: one living in Rome, two in Chile, six in houses throughout the diocese, three in parish presbyteries, and six at the Residence of the Little Sisters along with Bishop John Cunningham. We thank God for the gift of these priests and keep them in our prayers. In 2019 our three special collections and Friends Campaign and rental income raised £78,985, which represents 37% of our expenditure of £211,116. i.e. a shortfall of £132,131, of which £93,359 was met by the Sick & Retired Priests Designated Fund Investment income.

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

20-40 Network Supper Club: Aged 20-40? We are hosting a supper-club networking event at The Butterfly and the Pig on **7th March at 7pm.** Tickets are £28 for a two-course meal from a fantastic menu plus coffee. Thereafter you can mingle in the bar with a live band and you have complimentary entry to the neighbouring Buff Club. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other young Catholics so please come along. Just email 2040network@gmail.com to buy a ticket.

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.

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.

Adult Formation Survey: The Diocese of Paisley is committed to Adult Formation and seeks your views. Please complete this survey on the Education Department page of <http://www.rcdop.org.uk>, indicating topics which you would like to be presented/addressed by the diocese, as well as preferred methods of presentation. Many thanks to those who have responded already - all responses will help to shape Adult Formation in the diocese

Lent Retreat: A Lenten retreat group will again meet weekly in St Columba's Oratory, Renfrew, starting on **Tuesday 25th February 2020.** Following the theme: 'Journey into Freedom: a Retreat based in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola' you are invited to meet together from **7 - 8.30 pm** each week to share reflection and prayer. A free Retreat book with readings, pictures and prayer suggestions will be available on the first evening. All welcome.

New Dawn In Scotland - Youth Day: Meet other like-minded young people, learn about your faith and the importance of having a personal relationship with Jesus and enjoy worship and praise. Lunch provided. £3 per person. 21st March 2020 10am - 5pm in Holy Ghost Fathers Hall, 17 Newarthill Road, Carfin, Motherwell, ML1 5AL. For more info and to book contact Caroline. Carolinevall31@hotmail.com. 07799 6058 399. www.newdawnscotland.com

Taize Lenten Reflections: On the Sundays of Lent Year A: St Aidan's **Tuesday 24th March at 7pm.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions available during the hour. St Mirin's Cathedral Choir will lead the singing. Teas afterwards in Hall. All welcome

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 Ella Craig Noel & Winifred Kidd
Sam Hannah Declan Healy Kay Brassington John Black
John Doherty Alan Morrison

Those who are recently deceased

John Cairmey Marrion Corrigan Irene Trainer Garry Willock
Roland Grimaldi Mary Campbell

Those whose anniversaries occur

Jack McCrorie Hugh McBride Sylvester Umeora
Elizabeth Jane McCormick William Crawford
Michael McGurn Eddie & Nessie McKim