

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Dear Friends, Christ within these past few Sundays has used so many parables in his teaching of the Kingdom of God. This Sunday, he equally made three more comparisons using: a treasure buried in a field, a merchant who finds a pearl of great price and a drag net cast into the sea. These miniatures show the different dynamism and the corresponding attitude (virtues) we must have in order to grasp God's actions and teachings. The first two parables show the kingdom as precious pearl which values more than any other thing in the world. So, once found, must be grasped at once without hesitation for it is of inestimable value.

King Solomon in the first reading sought for this pearl of inestimable value "Sophia" "Wisdom" in his request for prudence when God enjoined him to ask for whatever he wishes. Solomon did not ask for material wealth, or military might, but only ask for discernment of heart (Prudence) "for an understanding heart is God's gift" (Prov. 2:6). He prayed "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil (1Kings 3:5) St Paul in the second reading teaches that wisdom to perceive God's grace and use it, is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His Kingdom. He assures Rome's Christian community that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose."

So, friends, the first two parables in the Gospel reading encapsulate the essence of Christian spirituality. Christian life requires a measure of detachment. It requires freedom from being completely absorbed and immersed in the attractions, pleasures and concerns of this world. Just as Christ instructs us "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness" (Matt 6:33). Our paramount desire should not be the things of the earth for they will all pass away. Let us seek first the kingdom of God, which is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl. Possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. So then friends, the question we all must answer is, What do we value in life?

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%

PARISH PROGRAMME & MASS TIMES

Weekday Mass: Mon – Friday @ 9:30am

Confessions: Tuesday & Thursday after Mass

Weekend Masses: Vigil @ 4pm, 10:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

N/B Because of the limited number allowed, we appeal to everyone to make use of the booking system on our Parish website www.stmaryrcpaisley.com to book a ticket for every mass you wish to attend.

SCIAF Covid-19 Appeal

Help us stop the coronavirus poverty pandemic in Africa. Coronavirus is about to hit Africa, but it's the poverty the virus will unleash that will kill the world's poorest people. Every one of us felt the impact of the coronavirus pandemic when it hit Scotland. It caused pain and suffering – but it also provoked a wave of compassion and care for our neighbours and key workers. As the deadly virus sweeps across sub-Saharan Africa, please show that same care for families living in the world's poorest places as they face a new battle for survival. If you are able to, please support families during this extraordinary poverty pandemic as they recovery from the shockwaves unleashed by the coronavirus. SCIAF have launched a poverty pandemic appeal which you can give to by visiting www.sciaf.org.uk or calling 0141 354 5555. Thank you.



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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

26th July 2020

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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 Kings 3:5.7-12

Psalm Response: "Lord how I love your Law

SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:44-52

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PARISH NOTICE

GUIDELINES FOR ST. MARY'S PARISHIONERS

As St Mary's reopens for public mass following the Scottish Government's Phase Three Guidelines, we advise all parishioners to keep to the following Instructions.

1. There will be a maximum of 50 persons allowed for each mass.
2. Social distance of 2 metres must be kept from other households.
3. Face masks must be worn at all times in the church.
4. Digital thermometer readings will be taken in the porch with hand sanitising dispensers available for all to use.
5. Please keep together with your household group in the porch until you are shown to your allotted pew.
6. Please note that there will be no communal singing of hymns during church services as this is less safe. there may be a cantor and if so please do private virtual internal singing if you wish.
7. Communion will be distributed at the end of mass. please remain seated until called by the stewards.
8. There is a one-way system in operation within the church and your exit will be by the door next to the sacristy.
9. There will be no collections during mass. however, collection boxes will be placed in the porch and at the exit door.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Financial Support

I would like to thank everyone who has continued to contribute to the Parish during this time. Everyone is under a lot of pressure, many with uncertainty looming over them about the future. In these difficult circumstances you have continued to support the parish financially. That has been essential, as we, of course, continue to have responsibilities for our own running costs and also contributing to those of our Diocese. Whenever possible, please give what you can but also know that I understand that, in these days, you may not be able to support us in the way you would want to, Don 't feel bad about that. Know that you are in my prayers about any of the difficulties that you face during this time. Keep supporting our parish.

10. Contact details must be collected whilst in the porch and it would
11. You could specify which mass you would be attending the following week(s). there are four Masses: Saturday vigil 4pm, Sunday 10am, Sunday 11am, and Sunday 5pm.
12. Please vacate the church after communion to allow the volunteer cleaners to prepare for the next mass.
13. We appreciate that this is a most difficult time for all and we would ask for your patience.

We would be glad to have any feedback or suggestions for future practice.

Stay safe and God bless you.

RCIA ZOOM MEETING: holds every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:00pm. Do you know anyone interested in becoming a catholic or an adult wishing to receive the sacraments of initiation . Contact Alan & Carol Wright.

Our Parish Bulletin: Due to the restriction in place, our Parish Bulletin will be available electronically. If you know of a parishioner living nearby who does not use the Internet, please consider printing this weekly bulletin and post it through their letterbox. This would help them stay connected with our parish . Please inform Fr Jude If you will like to receive e-copy of the bulletin

Month's Mind Mass for John Henry McKinney

This Saturday Vigil Mass will be offered for the soul of **John Henry McKinney** who died on the 25th of June. We pray that God receives his Soul and grant solace to Mary, and family. Mary would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness . May his soul rests in Peace.. Amen

Booking system for attending Mass:

Because of the 2 metre social distancing numbers which reduces our Church capacity to 50 people, everyone will have to book to attend Mass. Please note that you can only book into one Weekend Mass . Please be kind to assist those who do not have access to internet or social media. To book go to www.stmaryrcpaisley.com. Let the stewards know if you want your booking to be recurring. Because we do not have as much as 50 for daily masses, you can turn up at the door and your details will be taken. Please follow always the instructions of the Stewards.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen

As a parish Community we pray especially for

Those who are sick	Those who are recently deceased	Those whose anniversaries occur
Agnes Cattigan Ben Chamness Christine McAllister John Allison Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann Martin Rogers John Kerr Margaret Ella Craig Winifred Kidd Declan Healy Kay Brassington John Doherty Alan Morrison Donna Sim	John Woods Frank O'Callaghan Patrick Mulhern John Henry McKinney (Month's Mind)	Laura Anne Donnelly