

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear Friends, if there is any question most of us may be tempted to ask after these dreadful months of the heat of the pandemic, it is the question of Who and why? Who caused this evil -Covid-19 - ? and why did God allow the virus to besiege the world? The question of the existence of evil in the world created by a good God has been an aged long question and many scholars and philosophers like Epicurus, Immanuel Kant, David Hume have proffered certain answers to it. It is a problem that seems to challenge our belief in an omnipotent, omnibenevolent, and omniscient God. This problem may be described either experientially or theoretically but the Lord gives us a simple answer through the readings of today. Today's readings tell us about a very patient and compassionate God Who is hopeful that the so-called "weeds" among us will be converted. They warn us that we should not be in a hurry to eliminate such elements from the Church or society or the family based on unwarranted and hasty judgment.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom shows us a merciful and patient God, rather than the disciplining and punishing God presented in the book of Genesis. The second reading from Romans reminds us that the Spirit of God constantly empowers us in our prayers and in our weakness. So, we should be patient with ourselves and with others. Finally, in the Gospel *parable of the wheat and the weeds*, Jesus presents a wise and patient God who allows the good and the evil to coexist in the world and blesses the evil ones for the little good they may have done, so that they may come to conversion before their time ends. "Let the wheat and the weeds [darnel] grow together till the harvest time." In other words, God awaits repentant sinners, giving them the strength and goodwill to get reconciled with Him. God calmly recognizes that there is evil in the world, but He sees that evil is no excuse for the good people not to do good with the power of God at their disposal. Through the parable of the wheat and the weeds in today's Gospel, Jesus calls us to be patient with those who fail to meet the high ethical standard expected of a Christian.

So, friends, let us learn to practice patience and show mercy for what the Lord wants is mercy and not sacrifice (Matt 9:13). Let us patiently and lovingly treat the "weeds" in our society as our brothers and sisters and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to Heaven, especially by our good example, encouragement, and our fervent prayer for their conversion. May we grow up as healthy wheat in God's field, leaving the "weeds" for God to take care of. The Good News is that growth and maturity are probably the most effective forms of weed control. Our acts of charity, kindness, mercy, encouragement, loving correction, and selfless service can prompt the "weeds" in our society to reassess their lives, modify them and become useful members of society. God bless you.

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

Let Fr Jude know if you will like to lead any online prayer in the Parish.

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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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

19th July 2020

16th 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: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalm Response: "O Lord, You are good and forgiving"

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-27

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-43

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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 or Carol Wright. Special thanks to Alan & Carol for keeping this meeting on and for the great work they are doing.

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

Message of Thanks from Mary McKinney and Family:

Mary would like to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness for Henry who died recently and who funeral was held a week ago. Henry's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated on Saturday at 4pm. This special intention will be joined with our communal intention for the vigil next weekend. 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 per week and that Mass you attend fulfils your Obligation Please remember to assist those who do not have social media or do not use social media to book. 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	John Henry McKinney Patrick Omeje Fr Bernard Canning Rebeeca Nadd Sam Hannah Tommy Hallan Ronnie Scobby	Anne Crawford Cesidio Serapiglia Fr Charles Kane Charles Burns Heaton & Bisland Family Margaret Bisland Catherine Crawford Peter McGarry Agnes Tracey Desmond Higgins Laura Anne Donnelly