

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Dear friends, the theme uniting the readings this week is clearly that of the **boundless generosity of God**: God gives freely and gives in extravagant measure. This note is struck in the First Reading taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3. Here, the prophet holds out a vision of the messianic age to the Israelites, who have known such a miserable existence during the exile. While the corn, wine and milk that is freely offered may refer in first instance to these foods in a material sense, the invitation to 'come to the water' echoes language associated in other parts of scripture with divine Wisdom (Proverbs 3; 8; Sirach 4; John 7:37-39). This suggests that what is really on offer is a divine enhancement of life for which, in the depths of their being, most people thirst. All forms of spirituality, all techniques of prayer, seek to tap this source of life, which is the gift of God alone and which, like a perpetual spring of water, is freely given.

Jesus demonstrates this in concrete form by his feeding of the five thousand. We must underline the emotional burden the news of the death of John the Baptist his cousin gave him which made Our Lord to opt to go to a lonely place with his disciples. Not minding how upset he might be with this horrific cum traumatic news, He sets out when he saw the people, caring for them, preaching and healing those who with all kinds of diseases. Jesus demonstrates God's caring love for us by feeding the people, spiritually by his preaching and physically by the miraculous multiplication of five loaves and two fish. This miracle shows the Divinity of Jesus, the providing care of God and the compassion of Jesus for the crowd. It is a Messianic sign, presenting Jesus as the new Moses who fed the Israelites in the desert and the new Elisha who miraculously fed the starving people of Gilgal (2 Kings 42-44). The Eucharistic wordings used, and the promise made by Jesus on the following day, that he would give his body and blood as food and drink (John 6:25-70), make the miracle a prefiguring symbol of the Holy Eucharist.

So dear friends, in this whole incident, we see the care, the compassion of Jesus - the good shepherd who never abandons his flock. Jesus invites us all to unite with him in his mission- healing, feeding and teaching. We all have something to contribute and so, we can bring our little loaves to Jesus for service "*Leiturgia*" to humanity. The statistics from the Sunday observer in Jan 2, 1983, shows that "*there are millions of people in our world today. Every three days the number of children who die of hunger and poverty equals the total of all those who died at Hiroshima (120,000), and this is a world that has the resources to end such silent holocausts*". This is surely the outstanding moral issue of our time. **Our problem today is not that we are unable to multiply the loaves but that we seem to be unable or unwilling to share them.**

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: Saturday Vigil @ 4pm, & 5pm,
Sunday @ 10:00am & 11:00am

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 the weekend 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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Website: stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

2nd August 2020

18th 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: Isaiah 55:1-3

Psalms Response: "You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires"

SECOND READING: Romans 8:35, 37-39

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:13-21

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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.
10. Contact details must be collected whilst in the porch and it would

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Financial Support

We are grateful to everyone for the support so far and we still appeal for donations to support the parish at this crisis time. You can set up a direct debit or gift aid your donations. To do this, speak to Fr Jude or you can download the forms from our parish website following this link <http://stmaryrcpaisley.com/financial-giving/>

SOME DETAILS ABOUT MASS:

Sunday bulletin will be online and will be sent electronically to Parishioners who registered. There is no holy water as you enter the Church. There will be no altar servers, or extra-ordinary ministers of the Eucharist. There will be no offertory procession or sign of peace. Communion will take place after the Final Blessing. After you receive Communion under one form (the host), exit through the back door, via the sacristy. Do not return to your seat as we are following a one-way system. There will be a Box in the porch for your weekly contribution for the upkeep of the parish as you enter the Church and another box as you exist. The SVDP volunteers will be at the back door with a basket for donations.

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.

Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass

As there are more parishioners wishing to attend the Saturday vigil mass, we are pleased to announce that from next weekend 8th August we will have two vigil masses at 4pm and 5pm and the Sunday evening mass is cancelled. Henry Bradley will make an appeal concerning this at all masses this weekend.

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

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.



Birthday Congratulations:

To Agnes Cattigan and Fr Jude who celebrated their birthday this week.

Fr Jude will like to thank all our Parishioners for their best wishes, gifts and prayers.

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.

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 Helen Mackey	Frank O'Callaghan Ellen McCallion Linda Bisland Ann Mooney Brian Walkins Patrick Mulhern	Josephine Garcia Onofre Garcia