

## 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Today's readings speak to us once more of forgiveness. We remember, last week Jesus gave us the three-step style to effect fraternal reconciliation. These three-step style of effecting corrective reconciliation: (a) going privately between you two selves, (b) taking two or three other people and finally (c) involving the believing community; were emphasized by Christ as a *sine qua non* in every believing community. This Sunday's gospel shows Jesus responds to Peter's question on the quantitative cum mathematical demand for forgiveness. "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" (Matt 18:21) Jesus' response shows that "forgiveness is the attribute of the strong" as Mahatma Gandhi said. Can anyone be able to forgive as much as demanded... seventy-seven times? Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant, makes clearer the message. "we have been forgiven much as such must forgive others".

The first reading of today focuses on forgiveness. First, it reminds us that for our prayer to be answered, we must forgive others. Second, it presupposes that we are all sinners, in need of God's forgiveness. So, for us to be forgiven, first, we must forgive others. Therefore, Sirach urges us: "Forgive your neighbor the hurt he does to you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven." This is a call to liberate others, in order to liberate and heal ourselves too. St Paul in the second reading, reminds us of something very important. "The life and death of each of us has its influence on the other." Also, our ability to forgive has a great influence on the other, as well as, on ourselves. Hence, it is important to note that, forgiveness has a double effect. It is a single dose medicine that cures one or many persons at the same time. It liberates the one who is forgiven, as well as, heals the one who forgives.

So dear friends, we must learn these three facts about forgiveness. First, "forgiveness presupposes the nature of human beings to be in relationship with others". Human beings are created to live in good relationship with one another and with the whole universe. Our every attempt go against this divine plan will result in a miserable, unbearable and unproductive life. And forgiveness is indispensable part of human relationship. secondly, "forgiveness presupposes human weakness", that is, we easily get hurt and we hurt others. Sometimes we hurt others intentionally. At times, we are careless about the bitter thoughts and feelings we create in others. At other times, despite the care and precautions, our certain words, actions and responses hurt them. In the same way, we too are hurt by others. It is therefore necessary to forgive and seek forgiveness. Thirdly, "forgiveness, presupposes our sensitive nature". We are not merely people of reason, but also people of feelings and emotions. These feelings and emotions make us more attractive and at the same time vulnerable. When one of the feelings is disturbed, we are hurt. Similarly, we hurt the feelings of others. Let us examine our conscience today to see if we are holding on to any resentment real or imaginary. May we make frantic efforts to forgive others "as our heavenly father forgives us" (Matt. 6:14-15)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

Food parcels will now be given out every 1st Sunday of the Month. Do not hesitate to let us know if there is anyone or families in dare need of food or clothing.

**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%

### Urgent Appeal from The Scottish Catholic Observer:

The SCO team are committed to doing everything they can to keep our national Catholic newspaper alive but they need our help. In this time of existential crisis as they have lost their distribution outlet and businesses are withdrawing their advertisements. The SCO are forced to urgently remodel their approach. Please consider taking out a six-week subscription for £10 by going to [www.sconews.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.sconews.co.uk/subscribe). or tel: 0141 241 4956.

### SAVE THE RIGHT TO SAVE LIVES

The right to gather peacefully and offer help to pregnant women approaching an abortion clinic is under attack again.

**Pro-life vigils outside abortion clinics can save unborn lives.**

**The offer of help from a caring pro-life person is a lifeline for many women, who feel abortion is their only choice.**

**Pro-life citizens have a right to gather peacefully, and women have a right to receive the information they offer.**

**Abortion clinic buffer zones would set a dangerous precedent for freedom of speech in the UK [Go the SPUC website to sign the petition against MP's efforts to curb free speech.](#)**



## ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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Email: [StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk)  
Website: [stmaryrcpaisley.com](http://stmaryrcpaisley.com)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

13th September 2020

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

### Parish Mass & Prayer Times

**Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am

Wednesday @7:00pm

**Confessions:** Tuesday & Wednesday 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](http://www.stmaryrcpaisley.com) to book a ticket for the weekend mass you wish to attend.

**Baptism:** Arrange with the priest

**Marriage:** Give at least six months notice (see Fr Jude)

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS

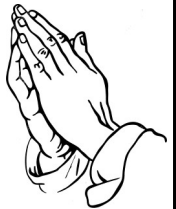
**FIRST READING:** Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

**Psalm Response:** "The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy"

**SECOND READING:** Romans 14:7-9

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 18:21-35

**Mass Book:** YEAR A Part:2 Page: 64



## PARISH NOTICE

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' GROTTO/ MEMORIAL WALL

It is the intention of the Parish to create a Memorial Wall containing the names of deceased relatives and friends of our parishioners. The wall will flank the newly acquired beautiful statue of Our Lady at the rear garden area of the Church. The names of our loved ones will be etched onto terracotta red brick tiles and applied to the existing wall.

Financing of the bricks will be through sponsorship, on which hopefully, we will be able to claim gift-aid from the government for any UK taxpayers. However, if you are not a taxpayer, you can still purchase bricks. There are two sizes of brick available;

1. single brick with two lines containing 16 characters per line maximum E.g. in loving memory (16)  
of John Smith (13).

2. double brick with 4 lines of 16 characters per line maximum.

Please note on both types of brick, a space counts as a character.

Suggested contribution/Sponsorship  
£20 per single brick  
£30 per double brick

Examples of both sizes of brick can be found beside our lady's statue or Contact Gerry McCourt

Sponsorship forms are now available and we are hoping to place the first order at the start of September.

Please note, due to the high postage costs, it is more economical to order a large batch at the same time.

Individual orders cannot be placed and will have to wait until the next batch is ordered.

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Last Chance to hand in SCIAF WEE BOXES:

SCIAF is delighted to share with you that if you still have your WEE BOX at home, there is a second chance to hand them in or to donate your WEE BOX money direct to SCIAF during September at [www.sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/weebox) or 0141 354 5555. Thank 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.**

### 4th Sunday Collection - SCIAF

SCIAF have been in touch with us to let us know that there is a second chance to hold a postponed 4th Sunday Collection in the month of September and have the money doubled by the UK government. This also applies to handing in WEE BOXES that people may still have at home. Please support SCIAF by holding this collection in your parish this month. This will be a great benefit to SCIAF and help them continue the great work that they do.

### Monsignor James Cunningham Jubilee - 60th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Mgr. James Cunningham celebrates 60 years of priestly ordination on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. We thank God for his long and faithful service to the people of Paisley Diocese, wish him a happy day and many blessed years of retirement to come with the Little Sisters in Greenock.

### 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/>

### SEASON OF CREATION EVENTS

As a follow up to the appeal of the Holy Father in his encyclical Laudato Si urging us to take of our common home—Earth. SCIAF, justice and Peace and SCES have prepared a series of online events to engage with Catholics across Scotland on the theme of Laudato Si and Creation. Please be part of this online event. Visit [www.sciaf.org.uk/events](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/events) to register. Contact Jonathan McAveety, Senior Campaigns Officer at SCIAF, on [jmcaveety@sciaf.org.uk](mailto:jmcaveety@sciaf.org.uk) for more information or technical support.

### 2020 Medjugorje Pilgrimage Cancelled:

Our planned pilgrimage to Medjugorje this year will no longer hold. Please contact Fr Jude for details

### Second Collection - Holy Places - Sunday 13th September

The Holy Places of the Holy Land are the concrete, historical witness on earth of the story of our Biblical Faith and the sites our LORD lived among during His life, death and resurrection. From there the Good News spread throughout the world. A Christian community has remained there continually till now through trials, sacrifices and martyrdom. This Papal collection allows this community to survive as a local Church, to preserve the sacred sites of our Catholic faith and to keep the Christian message of peace and hope alive.

### Marriage Matters ([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)) Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ezek 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Matthew 18:15-20)

To listen is to Love Matthew reminds us of Jesus' promise "...where two or more meet in my name I will be with them". In all the practical ways we look after each other, we are saying; 'your concerns are my concerns'. Nothing is too small or insignificant in our marriage, and my beloved is beside me to call me back to our life together.

### Vocations Awareness Week

Sunday marks the beginning of Vocations Awareness Week, a time of prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life. Ordinarily, we would celebrate our Diocesan Vocations Mass at the Cathedral and host our Vocations Conference for S6 pupils. These events are not feasible this year. We have, however, developed out usual materials for secondary schools. Focused on the theme of 'Parable', these invite pupils to consider God's plan for their lives and include resources for prayer and reflection. The material is also designed to be augmented by a talk from the school chaplain. All our resources are on the SCES Website and have been sent to our schools. Through the week there will be plentiful material on our social media channels <https://sces.org.uk/vocations-awareness->

### As a parish Community we pray especially for

#### Those who are sick

Agnes Cattigan 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 Stuart McManus Helen Mackey Ian Scott  
Doreen Chin Anthony Cannon

#### Those who are recently deceased

Lucy Wuhicker Charles Heron  
Kathleen McDevitt (Month Mind)  
James McGeoch (Funeral on Friday)

#### Those whose anniversaries occur

Robert Lynch