

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Today's gospel reading brings to light a hidden truth about the kingdom of God. It shows that God offers His kingdom as a gift, "unmerited gift" which is the unique and uniform reward of those who respond to the invitation of God to work in his vineyard. Eternal life is a gift, not something anyone can earn. To teach his disciples this, Jesus tells them this parable "the parable of the workers" which violates their sense of "earning". From the standpoint of justice, we can judge that the landowner's action is unfair and so unjust, but the first reading makes it evident that "my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). In reality, this "injustice" or "unfairness" of the owner serves to provoke in those listening to the parable a qualitative leap because here Jesus does not want to speak about the issue of work or a fair wage, but about the Kingdom of God!

To put things in the right perspective, we must understand that in this parable, no one is lazy, or lazing about. Rather, every one of the laborers was ready to work and they were at the places they could be seen and hired. So, they could only work if they are hired to work. So those hired early as well as the late workers should consider themselves fortunate to have found something to do for the day. In the real-life situation, we could say that they harkened to the call of Isaiah "seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near" (Isaiah 55:6). But, how can we interpret this parable?

Jesus's parables as Pope Benedict XVI said are like a mirror that shows us who and how we are before God. We must try to place ourselves in them and assume the characters in them. Thus, in today's parable, the landowner is the Lord, and we are the laborers. God calls us to work in his vineyard and so we have to work. The invitation is a gift of God and He calls at his free will. We do not earn the invitation to be in the right relationship with God or to work but it is all by "Grace". Whether we are early or late birds, we all aspire to get that one great gift - eternal life. So, the message today is: "there are no unemployed people in the Kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end - not from human [justice], but the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but donated - salvation is free". God calls everyone "and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified" (Romans 8:30). Have a wonderful Sunday!

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. 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.](http://www.spuc.org.uk)



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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

20th September 2020

25th 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 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

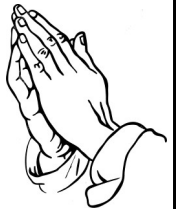
FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm Response: "The Lord is close to all who call him"

SECOND READING: Phil 1:20-24,27

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16

Mass Book: YEAR A Part:2 Page: 67



PARISH NOTICE

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' GROTTTO/ 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 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.

200 Club Late Year Payment:

Second half Payment of £12 is due. Members who are yet to pay are encouraged to do so. We welcome new members. Remember is a way you support our parish. Please put payment in an envelope with 200 Club with your name on the outside and put it in the offer-tory box. Speak to Gerry or Kay. New Members are welcome.

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 to register. Contact Jonathan McAveety, Senior Campaigns Officer at SCIAF, on 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

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ezekiel 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.

Hour of Mercy 2020

Bishop John Keenan and The Friends of Divine Mercy Scotland invite YOU to an Hour of Mercy and Reconciliation on **Tuesday 29th September 2020**, at **The Diocesan Divine Mercy Shrine St Mary's Parish Paisley, 163 George Street, PA1 2UN. Time: 6:00pm**

This is a wonderful opportunity for those who have not gone for confession since the lockdown. Priests will be available for confession. To book your ticket following this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2020-hour-of-mercy-tickets-121449513765> or call the chapel house 01418892602 or email StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk

Marriage Matters (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Isaiah 55:6-9 Phil 1:20-24, 27 Matt 20:1-16) *'My thoughts are not your thoughts'* God can put thoughts into our minds, but how can we ensure these make a difference to our lives? St Paul says, "Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ": for example, the need to measure what we contribute within the relationship. Our Sacrament isn't a 50/50 arrangement but a 100%/100% unconditional commitment.

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

James McGeoch James Donnelly

Those whose anniversaries occur

Andrew Crawford Joe Macfarlane
Mary Campbell Garry Willock
Frank & Anne Cassidy