

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B



Dear friends in Christ, Advent begins the Church's new year. It is a season of hopeful preparation for the coming Messiah. A time of Preparation extending over four Sundays before Christmas. The word ADVENT comes from the Latin *ad venio* "to come to" and *adventus*, "coming" or "arrival". So, we prepare for the *Adventus Domini*, the "coming of the Lord" which we will celebrate at Christmas (His incarnation), waiting for His second coming (Parousia), as we daily encounter Him in our day to day living.

The central theme of today's readings is Jesus' warning in today's gospel to be watchful, and prepared. "*Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come*" (Mk 13:33). There is no time to waste for no one knows when the Master of the house will return. The prophet Isaiah in our first reading prays for God's active presence so that the post-exilic Israelites may be ready at all times. This reading is taken from the latest part of the Book of Isaiah. After the return to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, the Jews passionately waited for the coming of the Messiah. They were conscious that they had sinned and deserved their punishment, but still longed for the liberation from foreign interference which the Messiah would bring. St Paul in the second reading exalts the young community of Christians at Corinth to keep aglow their faith so that they will not be "*without any of the gifts of the spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed*" (1Cor. 1:5).

So, as we begin this holy season of hopeful preparation, we must put into practice in our lives, these maxims of Christ 'stay awake' 'be on your guard' 'stay at alert'. They should be our advent projects. As people who wait for the coming of their master, we must be spiritually watchful and wakeful in our preparation. To do this, we must do the following: first, **we must watch and pray**: Our vigil for the coming of the Master must be an active-spiritual vigil as Jesus instructs us "*Pray always and never relent*" (Lk 18:1). Secondly, **we must get rid of Sin in our lives**: Sin is always a dividing factor between us and God. The prophet Isaiah says "*surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear*" (Is. 59:1-2) and lastly **we must use the gifts we have received from the spirit to serve others** (1Peter 4:10-11). This way, we actively wait in hope for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13) to the glory of God the Father; to him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. Have a great Sunday!!

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%

Missio Scotland Appeal

Missio Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Catholic Church's mission aid agency. It enables missionaries to help communities in need through grassroots projects. They build and maintain hospitals, schools and seminaries, care for people in need and act for justice in the developing world, regardless of race, stigma, religion or gender. **Texting MISSIOSCOT to 70085** will donate a default £3, while MISSIOSCOT with any number between 1-20 after it will donate your desired amount (for example MISSIOSCOT10 will donate £10).

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 to the SPUC website to sign the petition against MP's efforts to curb free speech.](#)

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.



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN
Tel: 0141-889-2602 Fax 0141-889-6756
Church Hall: 01418892602 (Answer Machine)
Email: StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk
Website: stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

29th November 2020

1st Sunday of Advent Year B

Parish Mass & Prayer Times

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

Wednesday @7:00pm

Exposition/Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:00am

Confessions: Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:00am

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 63:16-17;64:1,3-8

Psalm Response: "God of host bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved"

SECOND READING: 1 Cor. 1:3-9

GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:33-37

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 28

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

2020 Christmas Jumble Raffle

We appeal for donations for our Christmas jumble Raffle. You can drop your donations at the church porch or in the sacristy. Speak to Alan Wright or Henry Bradley

Temporary Booking System

The New restriction that came into effect last Friday has forced us to make few changes to our booking system. We appeal to everyone to always ensure you booked your ticket for any of the weekend masses you wish to attend. Remember the number has been reduced to 20 for every mass. So be considerate. You can book your ticket from our website www.stmaryrcpaisley.com or phone Henry Bradley (01413165331)

Baptism Congratulations: to **Aria Allison** christened this morning. Special thanks to her parents **Andrew Allison and Justine McLaren.**

Safeguarding 'Thought for the Month' - November 2020

The Catholic Church is committed to respecting, protecting and nurturing the dignity of all people.

Working to Eradicate Domestic Abuse

The Scottish Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse invites you to their Webinar on Wednesday 25th November 7.30pm (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women). The webinar will inform you with: insights into domestic abuse from a survivor: how COVID-19 has impacted abuse (Women's Aid and an MSP): the collaboration of all faiths against domestic abuse: the international aspect of domestic abuse from a leading charity; learning how to help. To register and receive the Zoom code go to <http://ifgoda.org.uk> You will receive an email with all the details. We can all help in the work of countering abuse.

Beware Protect Scotland App Scams

If you are contacted by NHS (test and protect) it will be by phone on a single national telephone number **0800 030 8012**. Scammers are contacting the public advising them that they have been in near contact with someone who has tested positive with Coronavirus and must get a test and self-isolate. They then ask for payments for various services. If the call is not from the above number please ignore it.

'SPREAD LOVE AT CHRISTMAS?'

We are inviting you to create a Nativity Scene to display on your window for everyone outside to see. Use bright colours to make it stand out. You could add lights to catch the attention of passers by. Take a photograph and send it to erskinecatholicchurches@gmail.com or via messenger. Find us on Facebook @Catholicerskine1 We will share all pictures submitted in our Love at Christmas Album on Facebook. Wouldn't it be great to see a Nativity in every window?

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/>

Community Circle of Prayer

Every Friday evening people gather on line at 7pm for The Community Circle of Prayer. This half hour event simply consists of a little music, some readings and the opportunity to share our prayer petitions and support others in theirs. Each week there is a different broad theme; we have explored The Call to Discipleship, Care of our Sick, Forgiveness, Guardian Angels, The Faithful Departed, The Way of the Cross to name but a few. Last week was our 6 month anniversary! Why not spend half an hour with us this Friday in community and fellowship? You would be most welcome! To join please use the Zoom link below <https://zoom.us/j/8510142970?pwd=UUtVa2ZhOFUxa2NSZmJCckZOek0rUT09> Just click and you are in! All Welcome from wherever you are.

Vocations

"I shall look after my flock myself... I myself will pasture my sheep." Is the Lord asking you to share in his pastoral love for his people, perhaps in diocesan priesthood, diaconate or religious life? Contact Fr. John Morrison phone: 0141 8895056 or email vocations@rcdop.org.uk

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 John Doherty Alan Morrison
Donna Sim Helen Mackey Ian Scott Doreen Chin Anthony Cannon
Jimmy McMenemy Jim O'Shea James Feeley Brian McLaughlin
Eleanor Gibson Joan Kelly

Those who are recently deceased

Jim Brady Raymond McCue Kay Brassington
Gordian Mothersole (Funeral on Tuesday)

Those whose anniversaries occur

Margaret Gallagher Richard Strong William Stewart
Peter Hanlin James Corrigan Patricia Macpherson

Those in our November List