

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Dear Friends in Christ, we celebrate today the "Gaudete Sunday" which takes its name from the original Latin text of the opening antiphon "Gaudete in Domino Semper" meaning "Rejoice in the Lord always". Everything about today is special. The third Advent candle, the priest's vestment, and the readings. All point to the euphoria of today's celebration - Reminding us that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus. Today's readings invite us to make the preparations required as we await the king who will be born in the little Nazareth manger.

The first reading resonates this joy as the prophet Isaiah encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice for the Lord is their Guide, Provider and Protector. Thus, Isaiah exclaims "the spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor and to bind up hearts that are broken to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord" (Isaiah 61:1-2). Assured of this, St Paul in the second reading advises the Thessalonian Christians and us to "Be happy at all times" (1Thes. 5:16) by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, for it is this way that we can bear faithful witness to Christ as John the Baptist did. Today's Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptistizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world.

So dear friends, what is the underlining reason for the joy of today? It is as St Paul said "the Lord is near" (Phil.4:4). "For as long as the bridegroom is with them, they will not mourn" (Matt. 9:15). We will be full of joy for he will not allow our eyes to be clouded with tepidity or lack of generosity. We will be joyful as long as we keep close contact with Jesus. As St Paul said, pray constantly but this does not mean that we have to spend all day on our knees. Though it does mean that we have to spend quality time alone with God every day. So, we need to simply shut the door to life's hustle and bustle for ten or fifteen minutes. We need to speak heart-to-heart with our Creator and Lord and then, throughout the day, we have to keep that conversation going in our hearts. When the task seems beyond us, let us remember that we are working for a future that is rooted in God. And let us learn from the Baptist that the effectiveness of our life and mission will depend upon the selfless commitment we have made to accomplish God's plans in our individual lives. Rejoice!! Again, I say rejoice ... Have a joy-filled 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%

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



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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

13th December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent Year B

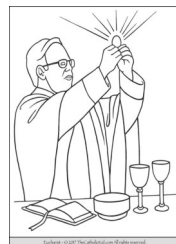
Parish Mass & Prayer Times

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 61:1-2,10-11

Psalm Response: "My Soul rejoices in my God"

SECOND READING: 1 Thess. 5:16-24

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 32

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

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

**Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00pm, 5:00pm
& 9:00pm**

Christmas Day: 11:00am

Tickets are available on our parish website: www.stmaryrcpaisley.com

WE ARE BACK TO TIER 3

The First Minister on Tuesday announced changes in the "Tier" status of our local authorities which came into effect on Friday 11th December. These changes put back East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire to Tier 3. This is a great news as we look ahead for better days. With us in Tier 3, we now have extra 30 spaces for mass as we move from 20 to 50 participants for Sunday and Weekday Mass, subject to social distancing. We are permitted. 20 participants for Funerals; 50 participants for Baptisms and 20 participants for Weddings. You can book your ticket from our website

www.stmaryrcpaisley.com but if you have booked with Henry Bradley, you don't need to book.

Online Rosary and Stations of the Cross

You are invited to join us, Catholic Erskine, to pray the Rosary, online, **Monday - Thursday and Saturday at 12 noon each day**. You are also invited to join us on **Friday at 12 noon**, when we pray the **Stations of the Cross**. At present we are using "Mary's Way of the Cross" - a series of prayers, reflections and meditations as we accompany Mary as she follows her Son on his road to Calvary. To join any of these ventures please visit our website; catholicerskine.website and click onto the Rosary link. All welcome.

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/>

Safeguarding 'Thought for the Month' - November 2020

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

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.

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 Brian McLaughlin Joan Kelly
Angela Wright

Those who are recently deceased

Eleanor Gibson Piercy Janet Toal James Feeley
Jean Balmer Kay Brassington Bill Arnott
Eileen Carroll (Funeral on Tuesday)
Harry McCulla (Funeral on Tuesday)

Those whose anniversaries occur

George McEwan Kathleen Bradley Pat Lavelle Bridget McCaffery Garry Willock Tommy Walker
Michael & Ellen Barrett John Henry McKinney