

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

Dear friends, as the great feast of the Lord's Nativity draws near, the liturgy of the word this Sunday, reveals to us the wonderful surprises and their accompanied joys that supervene this feast - birth of Christ. We can only experience these if we just like Mary or King David allow the will of God to be done in our lives.

We see in our first reading, King David who lived about 1000 years before Christ, wanted to build a worthy dwelling place for God because God had already done so many surprising things in his life. But for this generosity of David, God surprised David with an unimaginable promise. God tells him, that instead of David building a house for Him, He would build a house for David, a dynasty and a kingdom that would last forever. The Messiah, the Son of God would be his descendant and therefore his dynasty and his kingdom would last forever. Mary in today's Gospel gave herself to God when she received the message at the annunciation. With her fiat, she entered into a partnership with God, in God's salvific mission. Thus, St Luke in today's Gospel reminds us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like David, but rather in humble souls like Mary who trusted in God's promise. Ruminating on these special promises St Paul glorifies God for fulfilling these mysteries in Christ. Explaining further St Paul affirms that the unveiling of God's plan for human salvation has been done through Jesus.

So dear friends, as we conclude this season of Advent, may we keep to mind that the spirit of advent consists largely in living close to our blessed mother Mary who during this time is carrying the child Jesus in her womb. We can think of the whole of our life as somewhat longer advent, a time of waiting for that definitive moment when we will at last find ourselves with God forever. There is no better way of preparing for Christmas, than by keeping company with Mary - the handmaid of the Lord, getting to know her and deepening our love and trust in her. Mary imparts joy to our souls as we await in faith and hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we learn true obedience from Mary who entrusts herself unconditionally to God and through her may we learn that God has a plan for every one of us. So, like Mary, may we co-operate to this plan by entrusting to Him our whole life. May we make Mary's prayer ours and recite it daily, Fiat! "I am the handmaid of the Lord... let what you have said be done to me" (Lk.1:38) Have an awesome Sunday as we await the birth of Christ.



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

20th December 2020

4th Sunday of Advent Year B

### Parish Mass & Prayer Times

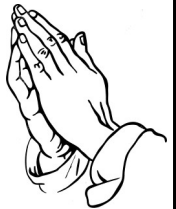
**Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am

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](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: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16

Psalm Response: "I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord"

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 34

## PARISH NOTICE

### Bishop's Christmas Message and Blessing

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to assure you of my closeness to you in prayers and daily Masses in these days, and to wish you all the peace and joy of the Infant King of Bethlehem in this Christmas which is like no other. I pray in hope for you to enjoy a blessed Christmas filled with the consolations of faith and the affection of family and loved ones all around. May the angels, who watched over the Holy Family of Jesus, Our Lady and Saint Joseph as they gathered around the manger, keep you safe in mind and body.



May the New Year beckon fresh optimism for the virus to be checked and sure

hope in the LORD to deliver our world from all evils. May Our Lady's prayers fill you with the wonder of the season, and may the Year of Saint Joseph bring you growing confidence in Our Heavenly Father's good providence to restore to us in abundance the human touch we have lost a while and now more than ever cherish. With prayers and blessings always, +John

### Diocesan Virtual Carol Service

You are invited to join Bishop John in a virtual carol service on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm**. There will be readings and Christmas carols to sing along to. Words for the carols will be provided for download. Sing along together and celebrate Christmas week. The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/7247466974>. All welcome to join us for the celebration of Christmas.

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### 2020 Christmas Jumble Raffle

Our sincere thanks to you for your kind support and donations. We raised £2100 which will help towards the cost of our new Air to Air heating system. Special thanks to the organizers and Congratulations to our lucky winners.

### 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](http://www.stmaryrcpaisley.com)**

### 2020 Parish Christmas Confessions:

**will hold on Monday and Tuesday before Mass**

### 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/>

### Diocesan Virtual Carol Service

You are invited to join Bishop John in a virtual carol service on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm**. There will be readings and Christmas carols to sing along to. Words for the carols will be provided for download. Sing along together and celebrate Christmas week. The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/7247466974>. All welcome to join us for the celebration of Christmas.

### '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](mailto: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?

### Vocations

*Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary.* Are you open to God's plan for your life? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, deacon sister, contact Fr. John Morrison

### Safeguarding 'Thought for the Month' - December 2020

Our Safeguarding approaches led by the Bishop are designed to protect, heal, safeguard and nurture everyone who has contact with the Catholic Church.

### Celebrating Christmas Day over the Christmas Octave

For Catholics Christmas is not just 25 December but the Church's liturgy extends it over an Octave of eight days that prolong the solemnity of Christmas Day. The Christmas Octave lasts from Christmas Day until 1 January when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Every day within the octave is treated the same as the original feast day of the Nativity of our Lord with the *Gloria* repeated. This is because the great feasts of our redemption cannot be grasped in a single celebration and need a full week to consider the mystery. In Scriptures the number eight represents perfection and rest. So, we would encourage you during Covid restrictions to book to come to Mass on any of those days, knowing that you are truly still celebrating Christmas Day.

### Postponement of Diocesan Lourdes and Youth to Lourdes Pilgrimages to 2022

Unfortunately, due to present circumstances and the uncertainty facing us all over the next few months, it is with deep regret that we must inform you that the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Youth to Lourdes has now been postponed to June-July 2022. We are fully aware that the shrine of Lourdes means so much to so many in our Diocese and understand and how disappointing this news will be. However, we know that we will all work together and look forward to being welcomed back in 2022. If you already have a place on the Pilgrimage carried over from this year on Joe Walsh tours, their representatives will be contacting you in writing in the New Year to confirm our decision to reschedule and to explain how your booking can be carried forward.

### **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

#### **Those who are recently deceased**

Eileen Geraldine Carroll Kay Brassington Harry McCulla  
Jean Balmer Mary Brown Mary Harkins Angela Wright  
James Feeley (Funeral on Wednesday)

#### **Those whose anniversaries occur**

Geraldine McGinlay Bridget McCaffery Hugh Boyle  
John Henry McKinney James Boyle Tommy Walker  
Michael & Ellen Barrett Carmina Serapiglia