

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Dear Brothers and Sisters, after the celebration of the feast of the nativity of Christ, the Church presents to us this Sunday the feast of the holy family – the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - to shows us clearly the importance of the human family which is the sanctuary of life. God calls us as family. We begin our life in our family. We form families, either biological or in other ways. Sociologically defined, a family is the microcosm of the macrocosm, the basic unit of life in society. And theologically upheld as the domestic Church and the cradle of life. The family is the bedrock of society. It is a place you could laugh aloud, play, fight, cry, and depend on without any formality. Each Family is willed, planned, and ordained by God as was the Holy Family of Nazareth. The Holy Family as Pope Francis said is the mirror of the relationship of the Trinity where love bears fruit and life is given meaning.



Our readings this Sunday present the different facets of family life. Abram in our first reading from the book of Genesis is assured of the promise made to him “*your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood*” (Gen 15:21). Thus, the psalmist assures us that the Lord remembers his covenant forever (Ps.105). In an incredibly short space, the Letter to the Colossians gives a whole series of instructions on living in the community: compassion, forgiveness, love, and peace – not to mention gratitude. Love is a sort of overcoat, holding all the other qualities together. If we reflect on these and put them into practice there can be no rivalry or hostility in the Christian community – even within a family, where the strains of Christmas often make love grow thin. However, a loving family is a model for the different relationships of a loving Christian community. God’s fatherhood and motherhood is the model for human parentage, and Christ’s devotion to his body the Church is the model for the devotion of spouses to one another. The reading begins with an inspiring reminder that we form the chosen people of God; God’s choice leaves us the little alternative to the attempt to behave as God’s people. The paragraph ends with the admonition to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus; Christians are those over whom the name of the Lord Jesus has been called, making us members of his company and putting us under his power. We see in the gospel, the blessings and challenges the Holy family will bear.

Dear friends, as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, may we examine our relations and actions in our families. We are all products of our family and no one has control over it. We are born into our family as such we have enormous responsibilities. Let us take as our model the Holy family of Nazareth. For it is through them that every family on earth is elevated to a divine status (cf *Amoris Laetitia*). May we sow the seed of Love, which sown will bear fruits of Peace, Devotion, Protection, Sacrifice, Obedience, and Fidelity. For the couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon, capable of revealing God. May our family be an abode that cultivates faith, raise Hope, and live out charity.

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

27th December 2020

Feast of the Holy Family Year B

### Parish Mass & Prayer Times

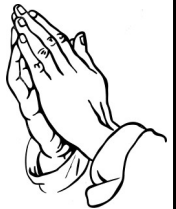
**Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am

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.stmaryrcpailsey.com](http://www.stmaryrcpailsey.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:** Genesis 15:1-6;21:1-3

**Psalm Response:** “He, the Lord is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever”

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 3:12-21

**GOSPEL READING:** Luke 2:22-40

**Mass Book:** YEAR B Part:1 Page: 43

## PARISH NOTICE

### New Year Mass Schedule

**St Mary's at 9:30 am**

**St Paul's at 10:30am**

### 2020 Christmas Jumble Raffle

**Our sincere thanks to you for your kind support and donations. We raised £2134 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.**

### 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.

### 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.

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Administrative Changes to Teacher Approval in the Diocese of Paisley

Father Joe Burke, Vicar General, now has the role of overseeing the Approval process. Applications and references for posts in the three local authorities within our Diocese should be returned to: Rev Joseph Burke, Teacher Approval, Diocesan Centre, Cathedral Precincts, Inle Street, Paisley PA1 1HR or email: [approvals@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:approvals@rcdop.org.uk)

Please note that applications for posts in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School and St Ninian's High School should be sent to the Archdiocese of Glasgow in whose territory they are located: Archdiocese of Glasgow, Teacher Approval, 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JY. Email: [approval@rcag.org.uk](mailto:approval@rcag.org.uk)

Arrangements for the pastoral care of staff and pupils in these schools will continue to be the responsibility of the Diocese of Paisley.

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### '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 01418895056 or [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk)

### 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.

### 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/>

### **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  
Sophia Young

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

Mary Dalrymple James Feeley John Kelly Jean Balmer  
Mary Brown Angela Wright Ian Bruce John & Eileen Carroll  
Michael Walsh  
Annie Harkins (Funeral on Wednesday 30th Dec.)  
Margaret McCluskey (Funeral on Thursday 31st Dec.)

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

Laura Anne Donnelly John Henry McKinney  
Margaret Laird Malcolm Laird Gemma Laird  
Cesidio Serapiglia Giovanni Puddinu  
Carmina Serapiglia Gavina Cossa Silvia Marletta  
Riccardo Puddinu Walter Puddinu Mary Kerr  
John McNena Noel Kidd