

2ND SECOND OF ADVENT YEAR B

Dear friends, every second Sunday of advent, the Church presents to us an important figure – John the Baptist, the last of the prophets – who leads us on pilgrimage to the Jordan River, so that we might be made ready for Christ. John as St Mark describes in today's gospel is "the voice that cries in the wilderness" (Mk 1:3), "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Mk 1:4). One special thing we must point out here about the Gospel of St Mark is that the author already knows who Jesus is: "The son of God" (Mk. 1:1). Thus, he tells us that "the story of Jesus did not begin with his birth on earth but began in the mind of God from the beginning of times. This shows us that the advent of Jesus must be understood as a part of God's saving plan. God fulfilled the plan He had for us when creation began. He raised us to the dignity of divine son-ship by the incarnation and made us inherit the Kingdom of God". So, today's periscope could be seen as a well-researched and properly documented account, as he merges Exodus 23:20, Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3 in his presentation of the ingress of the precursor of Christ and his role in relation to Jesus.

Arrayed in the proper order, the first reading from the prophesy of Isaiah is the joyful song which opens the second part of Isaiah-Deutero-Isaiah. After the 70 years of the Exile Israel is looking forward to the return to Jerusalem, aware that they are soon to be released from their captivity. They have 'served their sentence' in Babylon and their sin has been forgiven. The Lord will lead them in joy across the great desert as he led them across the desert at the Exodus, and will manifest his glory again. St Peter in the second reading explains why the expected second coming of Christ has not yet occurred "but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways" (2Peter 3:).

What then must we do in order to be ready for Christ? John preached that the appropriate behavior for those preparing "the way of the Lord" was to be baptized "as they confessed their sins." He wanted the Jews to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, leveling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality. May we harken to these as we wait in hope for the coming of Christ. We need to become both preachers and doers of the good news following the example of St John the Baptist; imitating him in his humility and simplicity. This season of advent should be a time of introspective reflection and preparation in order to that Jesus will be reborn in us. Something new must be seen in our lives by those around us by our sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, compassion and merciful. May we accept the challenge of St John the Baptist to turn this advent season into a real spiritual "homecoming" by making our heart a worthy Manger for 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 to the SPUC website to sign the petition against MP's efforts to curb free speech.](#)



ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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Website: www.stmaryrcpailsey.com

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

6th December 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent Year B

Parish Mass & Prayer Times

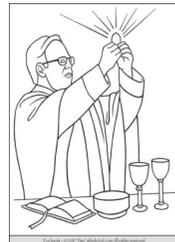
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am

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.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: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Psalm Response: "Let us see, O Lord, Your mercy and give us your saving help"

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:1-8

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 30

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

With the new restriction still in place, 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 **Julia Stanislawa Laskowska** baptised this morning. Thanks to her Parents **Milosz & Sabina**, her Godparents and friends that were present

Safeguarding 'Thought for the Month' - November 2020

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

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/>

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	Those who are recently deceased	Those whose anniversaries occur
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	Jim Brady Gordian Mothersole Eileen Carroll Harry McCulla	George McEwan John Muir Cersidio Serapiglia Jean Hendren Eddie Canning (Months Mind)