

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Dear brothers and sisters, this Sunday's readings bring assurance to our wane spirits that our God is great and his power outwits the purported powers of the world. God is ever close to us even as we are still passing through this difficult time. He is the teacher of the Law (Ex4:15, Ps.25:12, Is. 28:26), the God who works wonders (Ps 77:14), and he is always with us. In the first reading taken from the book of Deuteronomy, which is the last book of the Pentateuch (the book of the law), God assures the people of Israel that he will raise prophets among them like his worthy servant Moses (Deut.18:15). We must underline here the role Moses played in the formation of the people of God - Israel. Moses was the messenger who gave the Law to Israel on Mount Sinai. In their difficult and lonely journey of forty years through the desert, he was their leader. It was his legal decisions on cases presented to him which formed Israel. His prayers gave them manna in the desert, water from the rock and protection from their enemies. Israel remembered him ever afterwards as the founder of their people. Now, Moses is coming to the end of his mission, thus the reason for this great promise.



Our God is ever faithful; thus, we see the fulfilment of His promise in Jesus. we read in the Gospel reading that Jesus taught the people with authority and demonstrated this authority through his miracles (Mk1:21-28). His teaching made great impression on the people because unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority (Mk1:21). We see in Christ a certain similitude with Moses although Christ is God. Christ as presented by the synoptic gospel accounts of his preaching and live situation were in similitude with Moses. St Matthew always represents Jesus as the new Moses (Matt chapters 3,4,5), he was persecuted at birth (Matt.1:16-18), he taught his sermon on the mount (Matt 5), gave bread in the desert (Matt. 13:14). So, we see his teaching in the Synagogue as acting like Moses, the great teacher of the law.

Since we have Christ, the great teacher, what are we to do? St Paul in the second reading says that we should look unto him and not let the things of the world distract us. We must do all we can to free ourselves from all worry (1Cor 7:32). obviously, Paul's teaching on celibacy is strictly tailored to address this - total dedication to Christ. So, this Sunday, we move a step further in our mission as Christ faithful. Christ has called us as he called his disciples. May we learn to focus on him whose power is able to do far beyond all the we ask or think (Eph. 3:20). As we listen to his teachings, may we internalize them in our hearts and express them through our actions. May our faith be strengthened and our hope assured that God in Christ Jesus, will grant us every heavenly blessings, protection and grace. Have a wonderful 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

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Website: www.stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

31st January 2021

4th Sunday in Ordinary Timed 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: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm Response: "o that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts"

SECOND READING: 1 Cor. 7:32-35

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:21-28

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 61

PARISH NOTICE

NEW HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT APPEAL

Our Church **New Heating System project** is on its third phase and at present the total amount raised is £5,800 with the free interest loan of £5000 from a parishioner, we have a total £10,800. we appeal for more support as the sum total of the project is £29,000. You can send your donation to the chapel house with your name or send a cheque payable to St Mary's Parish. If you wish to make bank transfer here is our Parish Account details: **Sort Code:80-09-29 Acc.No.00783824**

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: approval@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

Beware Phone Scam about Vaccines

If you receive the following message on your phone it is a scam. We advise you to delete it. NHS: *We identify that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here: uk-application-form.com* If you click on the link mentioned it then asks for your bank account number, sort code and your bank card number. This is a scam.



DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

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.

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.

Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain

A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion

Urgent - Make your submission to the consultation on 'DIY' home abortion

The Scottish Government's consultation on whether to make the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions to take place in Scotland permanent closes at 11:59 pm on January 5, 2020. It is vital that as many people as possible make a submission to the consultation. Right To Life UK have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to make your submission. Make your submission using the tool which can be accessed by visiting the link below: www.righttolife.org.uk/ScotlandConsultation

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

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 Ian Gallacher

Those who are recently deceased

Catherine Duncan Julia Daley Angel Wright
Johannes Edvaldsson Madge McLaughlin
Thomas Corrigan (funeral on Thursday)

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.

Alpha Course in the Catholic Context - Diocese of Paisley Evangelisation Commission

Dear friends of Paisley diocese

The mission of the Church is to "Go, make disciples of all nations..." Matt 28. Alpha's mission is like it - we equip and serve the Church in its mission to help people discover and develop a relationship with Jesus. Jesus calls us to faithfulness to his mission regardless of the time and place we live. We know that 2020 has been a particularly challenging year due to the Covid-19 pandemic: lots of parishes are struggling financially; limitations on Mass attendance; parish ministries have had to reduce or stop altogether; continued social distancing has left priests and parishioners feeling disconnected and isolated; many priests feel overwhelmed and under resourced at this time. The idea of doing anything new can feel daunting, if not impossible. That's why, at Alpha, we want to help lighten that burden and equip parishes to raise leaders, share the good news of Jesus, connect people with each other and with God, and create community with other parishes. The team at Alpha - Catholic Context UK have developed new training for parishes in your diocese. This is a unique opportunity to be trained directly by the Alpha UK team to get up and running with Alpha Online. To register for training please click here. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Roche at michael.roche@alpha.org.

Those whose anniversaries occur

Okechi Nwachi Oscar Anwaegbu