

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR B

We celebrate today the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. It is a special feast that relates the manifestation of God (Christ) to the world represented by the visit of the Magi, guided by the star. This ancient feast celebrates the fact that Israel's Messiah is also the savior of the entire world. This is of immense wonder (a mystery) and gratitude for the non-Jews (Gentiles) that the expected messiah is the savior of the whole world. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek *Epiphaneia* which means striking appearance, apparition or show-forth, revelation or manifestation. With this significant event, God shows or manifests that He is the God of both Jews and Gentiles (Gal.3:28), God of the universe.

The first reading today uses the image of "the break of dawn" the prophet Isaiah calls out Jerusalem to "arise and shine for your light has come" (Is 60:1). This time in Israel's history was a thrilling moment when the people had returned from exile in Babylon and were beginning to have a globalized idea of the world but with specific pride of place of Jerusalem as the hub where Carmel and exotic nations throng to. St Paul in our second reading explicitly speaks of this revelation or manifestation (*Epiphaneia*) as the mystery that was hidden (unknown) to men in the past but has been revealed through the spirit "that Pagans now share the same inheritance... they are part of the same body .. same promise in Jesus Christ through the gospel" (Eph3:2-3). This great secret "mystery" has been revealed in Christ. The gospel reading presents three important facts about this great event. First, it relates how it happened and then highlights the bitter reaction of Herod who resolutely schemed to exterminate the newly born king. Second, it shows forth the wisdom of God through His guidance and revelation to the Magi the wicked intent of Herod and He warned them not to go back to Him, but to return home through a different way (Matt. 2:12). And lastly the symbolic gifts the Magi offered to Christ- Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

So, what are the lessons today? First, that salvation is a free gift of God to all "to all who received him - those who believe in his name - he has given the right to become God's children" (Jn. 1:12). Second, the light of Christ has come to illumine the darkness in our world. Christ is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12) and whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (Jn. 8:12) but he that rejects Him is already condemned (Jn. 3:18). Lastly, we must act like the Magi, following Christ's light, though there may be moments of obscurity, doubts, and tribulations. But "let not your hearts be troubled" (Jn. 14:1). So dear friends, let us follow Christ in this New Year, and with joy offer him ourselves. May we be drawn closer to the author of love and learn from him to live and work together in love as brothers and sisters. Seeing the star today, may we set out with our gifts and give freely in love (Matt 10:8). Happy New Year!!!



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

3rd January 2020

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord 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 6:1-6

Psalm Response: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, o Lord"

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 50

PARISH NOTICE

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, Ince Street, Paisley PA1 1HR or email: 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

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

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.

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

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

'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?

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

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.

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/>

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

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

James Brogan Mary Brown Margaret McCluskey Annie Harkins John Carroll Michael Walsh Mary Toye Lydia Nwaonu Ejimozor

Those whose anniversaries occur

Molly & Pat McCarroll John McNena Hannah Elezue Okorie Peter Tierney David Graham