



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B

Dear friends in Christ, we are no strangers to the two prevalent words in the world today: "isolation" and "quarantine". These have been prescribed by many virologists as the safest means of curtailing the spread of this deadly virus COVID-19. But surprisingly, it is not a novel practice as it has been in use in the past as could be seen in the biblical regulations in the book of Leviticus for the infectious disease 'leprosy' (Lev. 13:1-44-46). Leprosy in its medical sense (Mycobacterium leprae) is a devastating disease, leading to the loss of fingers, and then even whole hands and feet. It is contagious and spreads through human contact. So, to curb the spread, lepers were cut off from all human society and were under no circumstance be in contact with healthy people - they have to isolate or quarantine. They have to announce their presence by saying "I'm unclean" (Lev. 13:45,46). previewing this, the first reading sets the stage for the miraculous healing of the leper by Jesus in our Gospel reading, thus showing that Jesus has come to heal, reunite and bring back what was lost.

The three readings today teach us that we are called to become pure and holy. But we don't become holy by some ritual observances. We become holy by confessing our sins to God and offering our lives for God's glory and by sharing God's love with everyone around us without discriminating against anyone based on color, race, culture, religion, life-style, wealth, or social status. By touching the leper Jesus shows the warmth and concern humanity should have. We should allow anything to come between and the love we should show to one another. The leper had no right even to approach Jesus but must have felt that he would get a favorable response and not words of reproach. 'Jesus felt sorry for him' and showed him mercy. Revivifying his body, bring it back to health. Despite being contaminated Jesus touched him, risking being infected but that singular act shows he has come to give life and give it in full (Jn. 10:10).

Dear beloved, In Jesus, we will meet God who calls to us and who offers us forgiveness, life, and hope. He helps us, and heals us, in the ways that He knows are best for us - and these may be different from the ways we are looking for. He invites us to reach out to the deprived and outcast of society. People who experience isolation in nursing homes and hospitals, and people who have no one to care for. Jesus guarantees reward for whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters (Matt. 25:). If we place our trust in Jesus, we can be sure that He will embrace us with the same compassion, the same understanding, and the same generous love with which He embraced the leper. All we have to do is come to Him - with honesty, with humility, and with hope. As we prepare to begin the season of lent this week, may our Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving bring us true repentance... Amen.

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 dire 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

14th February 2021

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalm Response: "You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation"

SECOND READING: 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:40-45

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 65

PARISH NOTICE

NEW HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT APPEAL

Our Church New Heating System is now fully installed and is working 100%. We still appeal for more donations to clear the cost. At present, we have raised £8450 with the interest free loan of £5000 from a parishioner, we have a total of £13,450. We appeal for more support as the total sum 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. We thank our parishioners who recently set up a monthly direct debit of £20.

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



Wedding Congratulations: to Paul & Danielle McFarlane joined in the Holy Matrimony yesterday. We wish them God's blessings

SPRED Special Second Collection - 14 February 2021

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



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday will be different for all of us this year. The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has asked every family to celebrate Ash Wednesday at home. You can burn your old Palms or get some ash from a fireplace. Check our facebook page and website for the prayers.

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/>

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

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.

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 Mary Johnston Joseph McEnhill

Those who are recently deceased

Julia Daley Frank Barrett Okoko Obasi Ogonne Okorie
Alberto Puddinu (Funeral on Friday 19th will be live-streamed by Santa Familia on Youtube)

Those whose anniversaries occur

Jeanie Farrell Mary Campbell Garry Willock
Brendan Bradley Jimmy McAleer