

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent is a holy season when we are called to renounce our sinful ways and come back to God our Father who is full of compassion and love. It brings to our mind the forty days of fasting and prayer undertaken by Jesus Christ before embarking on his public ministry. Christ during this time calls everyone to repentance "repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). We began this holy season on Ash Wednesday by marking ourselves with ashes - a penitential sign by which we show sincere renunciation of our sins and make a proper commitment to conversion of heart "metanoia" - the core message of Christ. In its true sense, Lent is the special time to intensify our commitment to Christ as his true disciple. To assess our habitual perceptions, attitudes and actions in the light of Christ. The Church during this holy season leads us step by step through the preparation for the supreme event of Easter, the resurrection of Christ.

In the first reading this Sunday, God shows His unconditional love to man by making a covenant with Noah and his sons after the great flood caused by man's weakness and sinfulness. Thus, God says "I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again" (Gen. 9:11) - This is a covenant to save every living creature and it is for every generation. This covenant though enacted in the Old Testament was fulfilled in Christ, the hope of our glory (Col 1:27). St Peter reminds us that Christ died for us all; the upright one gave his life for the sake of the guilty (1 Pet 3:18). He died that we may have life and have it in abundance (Jn. 10:10)

Traditionally, every first Sunday of Lent, the gospel reading focuses on the temptation of Jesus, to show us how to overcome temptations. By being tempted, the Son of God shows humanity how gullible Satan is and how superfluous his promises are. By overcoming the tempter, Jesus demonstrates his faithfulness to the father and paves the way to overcome temptations for every Christian. We must be faithful to God and be careful because the devil prowls around like a hungry lion looking for someone to eat (1Pet. 5:8). To do this, we must imitate Jesus who flawed the devil's tricks by prayer, penance (fasting), and timely use of God's word (Bible). During this holy season, may we develop a profound love for the word of God, pray always and express our faith in works of charity (almsgiving). May we learn from Jesus to be faithful to the covenant and so resist the glamorous attraction to earthly things. May this Lenten season bring us spiritual renewal in our lives and bring us closer to Christ. Happy Lenten season!!



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).

Act now and stop 'DIY' abortions being made permanent

As you are likely already aware, the UK Government has temporarily allowed home abortions. Since home abortions were temporarily allowed, as has been reported extensively in the media, a number of significant problems have put the lives and health of many women in danger.

The UK Government has launched a consultation on whether to make permanent the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions. The consequences of this measure would be devastating to the care and protection of both unborn babies and their mothers. It is vital that as many people as possible take part to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable are heard.

Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission.. If you would like to take part and make a submission to this consultation before it closes at 11:59pm on 26 February 2021, you can do so by visiting the link below. It only takes 2 minutes! <https://righttolife.org.uk/ukconsultation>

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.



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

21st February 2021

1st Sunday of Lent 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: Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm Response: "Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant"

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:12-15

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 75

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 £8,810 with the interest free loan of £5000 from a parishioner, we have a total of £13,810. 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: 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.

SCIAF Box: are available in the Chapel house. You can uplift some and return them asap.

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

St. Benedict's School Cluster: Food, Toiletries and Cash: A great Way to give Alms in Lent

Saint Conval's Parish Linwood is providing 100 meals to local families every fortnight through their Hall kitchen and generous volunteer caterers. They are now embarking on a Lenten Alms Project to provide dinners for local families. They have already collected enough to get them half way through Lent and hope your donations get them all the way. You can leave your parcels in the parish house porch or post donations through the doorway.

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

Online Marriage Counselling available during Covid 19 Crisis

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence counselling@rcdop.org.uk

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

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 Margaret McCool Alberto Puddinu
Gregg Thomas McMaster Patricia Stewart Laura Stewart
Joseph Malcher
Agnis Cattigan (Funeral on Saturday)

Those whose anniversaries occur

James McLaughlin John Heldan Garry Willock
Desmond Moore Tommy Leckie William Crawford
Lilian Crawford Veronica McFadden Elsie Gallacher