

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear brothers and sisters, as we continue our Lenten journey with Jesus, the liturgy of the word this second Sunday ushers in another demand – the need to listen and to respond. Every day, the Lord calls us to follow him with all our hearts, soul, and strength (Deut. 6:4-7). The readings this Sunday call us to greater cooperation with God using His gifts for the betterment of the world. In our first reading, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, his only son whom he loves (Gen. 22:1-2). This demand within the divine perspective was a test but come to think of it, Abraham's son was his only son, what will you do if you are asked to do the same? This is hard but we see how Abraham's obedient and trusting faith in God's mercy transformed his life, making him the supreme model of faith. In Abraham, we see the true definition of faith as "a personal adherence of man to God... a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed" (CCC 150). Abraham's complete trust is what God demands from us

The second reading and the gospel show us the true lamb of sacrifice – Jesus, sent by the Father "who did not spare his own Son but gave him up to benefit us all" (Rom. 8:31). This is the supreme purpose of Christ's salvific mission which comes to its culminating apogee at the cross; where we are called to be with him. To give his disciples a true vision of His identity, Jesus was transfigured as we read in the gospel narrative of St Mark. Seeing this, Peter joyfully inferred: "Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here; so, let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Mk. 9:5). Obviously, no one who encounters the divine presence of Jesus will ever like to leave Him. Nevertheless, the Father's voice that thundered from the cloud refocuses the disciples and us to the needed action, "Listen to him!!" (Mk. 9:7).

So dear friends, what does the Lord our God demand of us in this second week of Lent? That we listen to Jesus and be ready to make the supreme sacrifice of renouncing all earthly pleasures. The words "loved" and "beloved" used in the first reading and the gospel reading show us what is needed "that we should be ready to give up that which we love ... that which appeases us most ... that which gives us pleasure". We must be ready to offer it up for the salvation of our souls. So, the question now is: "what are you giving up for lent?" May God enables us to give up the pleasures of this world and our worldly deadly ambitions. May we work for the betterment of our world and help to transform the dilapidated morality of our society... 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).

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 MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

163 George Street, PA12UN
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Email: StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk
Website: www.stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

28th February 2021

2nd 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 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Psalms Response: "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living"

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-34

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-10

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 78

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 Boxes: 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

Agnes Cattigan Ken Fairs
George Logue Lynette McBride

Those whose anniversaries occur

Thomas Hendren Jr
John Heaney Emma Caine