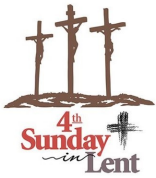


4th Sunday of Lent Year B



Dear friends, God's supreme faithfulness is seen in the gift of His own Son, to save us. He never condemns, it's we who turn away from Him. This is the core message of Christ to Nicodemus on this fourth Sunday of lent, traditionally called *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday. The Church

exults everyone to rejoice for we are closer to the feast of our salvation. We rejoice for we have made it halfway through lent but it is not yet over, the Lord continues to call us to himself not minding our sins. He exults us to grow in faithfulness and love in anticipation that we may accept His free gift of mercy and compassion.

The first reading from the Second Book of Chronicles relays the sad story of the unfaithfulness of the chosen people of God who have been called repeatedly by God to renounce their sins but to no avail. Instead, they added "infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 36:14). This brought about the destruction of the Temple and Israel's deportation to Babylon. Taken from their own land into exile in Babylonia, the chosen people of God face the repercussion of their sinful life for "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Although the story does not end there, for God is "merciful and full of compassion, slow to anger and bounding in love" (Psalm 103:8); we see the rejoicing side of this story as God used Cyrus, a pagan king as an instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon. Today's Gospel provides a theme that parallels the first reading, but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation.

So, friends, as we rejoice this Sunday, may we learn to be faithful to God by shunning our sinful ways. May we harken to the message of reconciliation preached by Christ who has come to reconcile us with the Father (2 Cor. 5:18, Col 1:19-20). For he willingly gave himself to death on the cross to show us God's boundless mercy, love and compassion. As a response to this, we need to love the cross - the symbol of God's self-giving in love for our salvation. It is a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation. May we be like Christ, by giving ourselves totally in love to others in order to reciprocate God's love. May we learn to renounce our sins daily and live in righteous when we do so, we find mercy (Proverbs 28:13). May our prayer, fasting and almsgiving bear fruits of the New Kingdom. Rejoice, again I say rejoice!! Have a lovely weekend and happy Mothering 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 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
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

14th March 2021

4th 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: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

Psalm Response: "O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not"

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:4-10

GOSPEL READING: John 3: 14-21

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 83

PARISH NOTICE

NEW HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT APPEAL

Breaking News: This week we have cross half of the target. we have raised **£11,520** with the interest free loan of **£5000** from a parishioner, making a total of **£16,520**. 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 also our parishioners who recently set up a monthly direct debit of **£20** or weekly donation of **£5**.

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

SCIAF special collection is this Sunday 14th March. Since the church is still close, you can consider donating to SCIAF via BACS transfer : Account Name: SCIAF, Sort code 83-21-08, Acc. No. 16021287 or via phone by calling 01413545555 or on SCIAF website www.sciaf.org.uk

Church Reopens : As public services resume on Friday 26th March, may we keep in mind that we are obliged to adhere strictly to the guidelines. All the other rules that we previously observed will still be in force - taking names for track & trace, cleaning pews, etc. after Mass, wearing face masks, no singing, no sign of peace, etc. We will keep to our former ticketing system. If you have no ticket please contact Fr Jude, or Henry Bradley.

We appeal to everyone to follow all the same precautions that we followed last year, although hopefully the situation will continue to improve and these will be gradually lifted.

Thanks so much for your support.

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

Inaugural Family Mass for the 'Amoris Laetitia' Family Year

Bishop John will celebrate a livestreamed Mass for families to mark the beginning of this special year proclaimed by Pope Francis. **11am on Sunday 21st March**. Families are invited to sign up for the livestream via the Marriage and Family page on the Diocesan website, where they can also download an order of service, submit petitions and contribute to a charitable offertory <https://rcdop.org.uk/marriage-family-life-2>

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

Alphonsus Jewell Ursula McCormick
Yvonne Herkes

Those whose anniversaries occur

Garry Willock Cersidio Serapiglia Giovanni Puddinu
Carmina Serapiglia Gavinna Cossa Nunziata Caira
Dora Arcari Francesca Cubeddu Giovanna
Maria Puddinu Charlie McNeil