



5th Sunday of Lent Year B

Dear Brothers and Sisters, as the holy week gradually draws near, the readings this Sunday sets the stage for the gruesome events that await our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we have come to understand the saying that "the way to victory and glory is paved with struggle, suffering, and sacrifice". Today's readings focus on the approaching death of Jesus which Paul considers a priestly sacrifice and for St John, the moment of Jesus' "exaltation" and "glorification." Jesus reassures those looking for him in today's gospel reading that "when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself" (Jn. 12:20-33). The readings offer us a challenge. Just as Jesus became the "Promised Messiah of Glory" and the "Conquering Son of Man" by offering his life for others, we, too, must be ready to die to self by loving obedience, spending our lives in sacrificial service for the salvation our souls and those of others.

The first reading from the prophecy of Jeremiah could be seen as the climax of the Old Testament as it speaks of the establishment of the New Covenant with the House of Israel. (Jer. 31:31). This is certainly the climax of the history of the unfaithful people of Israel who despite their transgression have been offered a new alliance with a faithful God who promised salvation to Abraham and their other patriarchs. The new covenant will not be dependent on institutions, law, and cult but will be written in the heart of everyone thus, it will demand individual commitment as it poised to touch the deepest part of the human soul. Can this be possible? If yes how? The Gospel reading offers us the answers, we read about the inner struggle of Jesus in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant, bringing about the fulfillment of the promised New covenant which will be written in the heart of everyone. Jesus accepts the cross as his "hour," meaning the stepping-stone to his passion, death, resurrection, and exaltation. He considers his "hour" as the way of first uniting all to himself - the Lamb for the New and eternal covenant - thus glorifying his Heavenly Father and of being glorified by his Father. This in its real sense will bring the assurance of our own exaltation and glorification provided we accept our crosses.

Dear friends, this new covenant etched in our hearts is sealed in the blood of Christ, who gave himself so that we all may have eternal life (Jn10:10). We renew this daily on the altar at the Holy Eucharist, thus in our second reading, it is made obvious that by His suffering and death, Jesus becomes the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. Jesus' being "lifted up" on the cross to glorify his Father reminds us that we too can glorify God by wholeheartedly accepting the crosses and crisis of our lives. There is no crown without the cross, no rose without a thorn, and no victory without a prize. So, our earthly life and its struggles will end in futility if we fail to embrace joyfully the cross of Jesus. We pray that we may accept our daily crosses with great faith and devotion. Our new and eternal life is only possible by our dying to self through obedience, suffering, and service as Jesus did. Jesus did not die for himself but for us, so we must be ready to offer our lives for others; for it is only a life spent for others that will be glorified. Remember, it is better to burn out than to rust out!! May we prepare to give Jesus our whole selves as we journey with him this penultima week of Lent. Have a lovely Sunday.

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).

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

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 March 2021

5th Sunday of Lent Year B

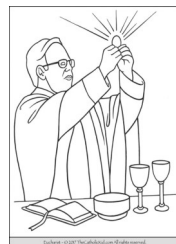
Parish Mass & Prayer Times

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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm Response: "A pure heart create for me, O God"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9




GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-30

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:1 Page: 85

PARISH NOTICE

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

As announced on the 23rd of March by the Scottish government, public masses will resume on Friday 26th March. We appeal to all our parishioners to keep to the guidelines and be sure you follow the instructions of the stewards. Below is our **Holy Week service schedule**. Remember you need to book for our Sunday and Triduum services. Take notice of the change on Easter Sunday as 10am mass will be in St Paul's. So we have 11:00 am and 12:00noon Masses. You can book your tickets from our Website or call Henry Bradley 01413165331

Day	Time	Activity
 Palm Sunday	4:00pm 5:00pm	Saturday Vigil Mass Saturday Vigil Mass
	10:00am 11:00am	Sunday Mass Sunday Mass
Monday	9:30am	Morning Mass
Tuesday	9:10am 9:30am	Exposition/Rosary/Confession Mass
Wednesday	9:10am 9:30am	Exposition/Rosary/Confession Mass
 Holy Thursday	9:30am	Morning Prayer
	6:00pm 7:00pm 9:00pm	Confession Mass of the Lord's Last Supper Night Prayer
	 Good Friday	9:30am 3:00pm
4:00pm		Veneration of the Cross
Holy Saturday	9:30am 9:00pm	Morning Prayer Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday	11:00am	Easter Mass
	12:00pm	Easter Mass

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

NEW HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT APPEAL

So far, 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 your wish to make bank transfer kindly use 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**.

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

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/>

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.

St. Benedict's School Cluster Providing Food and Toiletries -Almsgiving in Lent

Saint Conval's Parish Linwood now has its meals project up to full speed and is now providing 200 meals to local families every week through their Hall kitchen and generous volunteer chefs, caterers and drivers. They are now continuing their a Lenten Alms Project to provide cooked meals and food parcels for local families. They have already collected enough to get the through Lent and hope your donations will help them continue. You can leave your food for parcels in the parish house porch or post donations through the doorway. Thanks to all who have given of their time, their talent or their treasure!

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

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

Helena Sagnella Alphonsus Jewell Malcolm Heaton
John Gary Barry Mason Breige McGee
Shiela McCormack James McNall Anthony Okon
Ursula McCormick (Funeral on Thursday 25th March)

Those whose anniversaries occur

Garry Willock
Carmina Serapiglia