

### 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

Dear brothers and sisters, one of the sole purposes of this season of lent is to enable all Christians to reexamine our lives and cleanse our faults. This is important because "an unexamined life is not worth living". Observing this in this holy season, the readings of this Sunday give us the road map for proper spiritual cleansing. In the first reading, we read the moral code – the commandment – given by God to Moses for his people. This was given to enable harmony in the society and for the personal well-being of God's holy people. The law – decalogue – formed the foundation of the nation of Israel fulfilling the three essentials of any nation which are: a common land, a common people, and common law or constitution. Observing the commandment was an essential obligation for every Jew. So, the law as St Paul said has become "our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith" (Gal. 3:24).

Jesus in the gospel reading enters and cleanses the temple (Jn. 2:13-25). His action simply demonstrates that He is God's wisdom and the fullness of the Law. His zeal distinguishes Him, from the authorities. Instead of representing God's interest, they represented their selfish economic and social interests. It also distinguishes Him from temple pilgrims who simply visited the temple without real devotion to God. Jesus' action was questioned by the people who saw it as being foolish or daft (John 2:13). But St Paul in the second reading makes it evident that "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength" (1Cor 1:25) and the psalmist in today's responsorial psalm attests that the law of the Lord is perfect, the precepts of the Lord are right and the decrees of the Lord are truth (Ps 18)

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

So dear friends, what does the Lord our God wants from us? First, to get rid of sin in our lives. We must aspire within this holy season of lent to cleanse ourselves of our sinful practices. Our body is the temple of the holy spirit (1Cor. 6:19) and so we have no right to desecrate God's temple by our filthy practices of impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, or jealousy. May we ask for God's forgiveness through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Second, we must worship God in spirit and in truth. May we recognize the love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children (1Jn.3:1) and resolve to live in mutual love. May we respect and desire for the betterment of everyone with no thought of personal loss or gain. May we come back to the Lord our God with true penitential intents: fasting, weeping, and mourning (Joel 2:12). May our Lenten observances bring us true repentance and prepare us to rise to a new life with Christ on Easter...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

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Email: [StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:StMaryPaisley@rcdop.org.uk)  
Website: [www.stmaryrcpaisley.com](http://www.stmaryrcpaisley.com)  
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

7th March 2021

3rd 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](http://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:** Exodus 20:1-17

**Psalm Response:** "You, Lord, have the message of eternal life"

**SECOND READING:** 1 Cor. 1: 22-25

**GOSPEL READING:** John 2: 13-25

**Mass Book:** YEAR B Part:1 Page: 80

## 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 £9,420 with the interest free loan of £5000 from a parishioner, we have a total of £14,420. 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.**

### Solemnity of St Joseph Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Bishop John has asked parishes to pray for all those who have died due to the Covid pandemic, on the Solemnity of St Joseph. This was the day when churches closed for the first-time last year. Parishioners are invited to send names of those who have died due to Covid to their parishes. These names will be remembered on St Joseph's Feast Day.

### 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 num-

### Special Appeal from the Parish Finance Office

We appeal to parishioners with envelope numbers from 95 to 120 to send their names to the parish house or write it on their envelopes.  
New envelopes will be available soon.

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Novena to St Joseph

We invite you to join in a Novena to St Joseph beginning on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March until 18<sup>th</sup> March**, in time to celebrate the Solemnity of St Joseph on the 19<sup>th</sup>. **Daily from 10<sup>th</sup> March- 18<sup>th</sup> March**

**Bishop John Keenan** will lead the Novena immediately following the 9.00pm Rosary at approx. 9.20pm on his Facebook page. <https://fb.watch/40sZJnbtSS/>

**Christ the King, Howwood** at 4.00pm

<https://www.facebook.com/Christ-the-King-Howwood-Our-Lady-of-Fatima-Lochwinnoch-739797886170950/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t69NL3N92xI>

**St Margaret's, Johnstone** will offer the Novena at 6.00pm each evening from 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March. It will also be recorded after each liturgy to be used as and when people can manage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWbJXXMFM8U>

### 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](http://catholicerskine.website) and click onto the Rosary link. All welcome.

### **SCIAF & Papal & Episcopal & St. Mirin's Fund - 14 March 2021**

The proceeds of this collection are divided 75% to SCIAF and 25% to our new St Mirin's Fund

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

### **Legislation & Liturgy:**

A webinar for clergy on Church-State relationships in the light of the pandemic, led by Alliance Defending Freedom International. Bishop John Keenan will offer an introduction. Takes place at 4pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March. For info and registration: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/pastoral-practice-today/>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:michael.roche@alpha.org).

### 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/>

### **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 Philip McKenna  
Alphonsus Jewell

#### **Those whose anniversaries occur**

Garry Willock  
Month mind of Alberto Puddinu