

## 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Dear brothers and sisters, one of the principles of care and support planning is the principle of "assume capacity unless there is evidence otherwise". This states that: "A person who has capacity has a right to make their own decisions without interference from others. Assuming capacity, therefore, means starting from the premise that a person has the capacity to make their own decisions about their care and support. It should never be assumed that a person lacks capacity solely because of their age or medical condition." The readings this Sunday seem to apply this principle but at the same time, the Church encourages us to always remain with Christ, the Holy One and the true God - True God from true God.

In our first reading, having almost come to the end of his mission, Joshua reminded Israel of how faithful and good the Lord has been to them. Finally, he challenged them: "If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve..." (Joshua 24:15) Their response was quite rapid and positive: "We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God..." This Shechem great assembly of all the tribes gave the people the opportunity to renew the covenant, with promises of loyalty to the Lord. This was necessary because in the course of their desert wandering a number of various tribes had joined Moses' original group of escaped slaves, and not all of them had been present at the original covenant. This scene at Shechem is put in parallel to today's gospel reading because Joshua challenged them to make up their minds whether or not they intended to remain loyal to the Lord, in the same way as Jesus challenges the disciples at the end of the Bread of Life discourse in John's gospel (Jn 6:60-69). The similarity is not only a challenge to loyalty but specifically to covenant loyalty since the Eucharistic context of the discourse puts the failure of some of the disciples and the acceptance by Peter and the others into the context of refusing or accepting the New Covenant made by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Dear friends, we live in a disintegrating society controlled by many idols which often throw us into confusion, thus the need to make a choice. The integrated Christian life is tough for it demands total fidelity, a fundamental option that entails total allegiance to the true God. So, just as the assembly at Shechem and the disciples of Jesus in today's gospel reading, we are challenged today to make a choice of the God we will serve. Our present-day idols are much less obvious, but they are also less distant and more ingrained within us. Idols begin with ideas. From there, we shape them in the psyche, grow them in the ego, and then engage with them intimately, throughout our lives, in our families, our culture, our entertainments, and our political discourse. We create idols out of our norms of behaviour, our material possessions, and social status. We even create them out of our faith. So, we must make a choice, either to follow Christ or not, there is no midpoint. The choice for Christ is fundamental, there is no compromise - it is Christ, God or nothing. The choice is yours, choose for yourself!!

### **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%

### **Diocesan Marriage preparation course September**

Our final marriage preparation course for 2021 takes place in September. Two Zoom sessions will be held at 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September, followed by a Relationship skills workshop in the Diocesan centre on 18<sup>th</sup> September from 12 until 3pm. Couples should attend all three sessions. Cost per couple is £30, including lunch at the workshop and information/resources pack. Booking is open via the Marriage and Family page on the Diocesan website, <https://rcdop.org.uk/marriage-preparation-day-registration-form>

### **Faith in Change and Conflict**

We know conflict is part of life and can be both creative and destructive. We notice that many people - including those in faith communities - can struggle to find helpful ways to respond to change, transition, tension and difference. Some structures, cultures, systems and habits can make it difficult for people to hear each other well and relationships may break down. We also know that there is much transformational potential in conflict. **Faith in Change and Conflict** is a training course running in September and January for individuals or parish representative their parish or diocese. (<https://www.placeforhope.org.uk/training/course/faith-in-change-and-conflict>).



## **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

22nd August 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 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,  
Sunday @ 11:00am & 12:00noon



**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:** Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

**Psalm Response:** "Taste and see that the Lord is good"

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:21-32

**GOSPEL READING:** John 6:60-69

**Mass Book:** YEAR B Part:2 Page: 63

## PARISH NOTICE

### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS' GROTTO/ MEMORIAL WALL

You can now order Bricks for your loved ones. As was done earlier, financing this will be through sponsorship, on which, hopefully, we will be able to claim gift-aid from the government for any UK taxpayer. However, if you are not a Taxpayer, you can still purchase.

The bricks are available:

- \* Single brick with two lines containing 16 characters per line maximum: E.g. In Loving memory (16) of John Smith (13)
- \* Double brick with 4 lines of 16 characters per line maximum.

Suggested contribution/Sponsorship

£20 for Single Brick

£30 for double brick

Please contact Gerry McCourt if you wish to order.

### Appreciation



We wish to thank all parishioners and friends of our parish that attended our Parish light lunch and get together last Sunday. Special thanks to **Domino's Pizza** that offered us 10 large pizzas, to **Silvana Puddinu & Emmanuel Umeorah "Mrs Whippy Ice Cream"** who provided Ice Cream for all, **Kathy Maciver** our great Baker, **Carol Wright** for Sandwiches, **Cecilia Farrell** and others that served. May God bless you all.

We truly appreciate your support.

## DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

### Summer Raffle Draw

As announced, tickets are on sale for our Summer raffle. You can purchase one from **Anne Bradley** or **Kay Steel**. We also have special cards for sale

### CARFIN DAY

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Carfin, led by Bishop John Keenan, will take place on **Sunday 29th August 2021**. Mass of Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated at 3pm followed by the Rosary Procession which will take place at 5:30pm. Catering facilities are available at the shrine.

#### THE TIMETABLE FOR THE DAY:

- 1:00 pm Arrival for Personal Prayer and visit to the Shop and Tea Room.
- 2:30 pm Preparation for Mass.
- 3:00 pm Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. Followed by a break for Tea, Toilets etc
- 5:30 pm Marian Procession
- 6:00 pm Departure of Buses.

### Think Vocation

"Lord, to whom shall we go?" Jesus is the only answer to our seeking. Could you be on to help people find him, as a priest, a deacon or a religious brother or sister? Speak to our Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. John Morrison email [vocations@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk) or phone 0141 8895056

### Faith & Reason: A Catholic Integration

A short, residential summer course exploring the relationship of faith with philosophy, science and culture. Particularly helpful for catechists and teachers fielding commonly-asked questions around Catholicism, besides anyone wanting to deepen their understanding of the Faith. Runs 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> August. For more info and registration, <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/faith-and-reason/>

### NET Ministries

This September NET Ministries Scotland will bring over 10 young people from the USA and Wales for 10 months to minister in our schools and parishes and encourage our young people in their faith and belonging to the Church. 'Host Homes' are essential for these young missionaries to rest, pray, eat and participate in home life. In return, they provide a strong Christian witness in the host homes. Could you provide a (bed/couch/sleeping bag) for a one-week time frame for a minimum of 2 people, with breakfast, packed lunch and dinner? They usually leave in the morning and return at dinner time. Please email [maryshields@netscotland.org](mailto:maryshields@netscotland.org) or call Mary Shields at +44 7720 969390.

### Marriage and family webpage

The Diocese has a dedicated page on the website for Marriage and Family life. It contains a wealth of information, support and resources for many aspects of this important vocation. For more information please visit <https://rcdop.org.uk/marriage-family-life-2>

### March for Life UK

This will take place on **Saturday 4th September** in Central London from approx. 10.00am - 4.30pm. The Diocese of Paisley together with SPUC Glasgow are organising an overnight coach which will leave from St. Mirins' Cathedral at midnight on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September picking up at St Andrew's Cathedral and Gretna Green. The coach will return from parliament square at approx. 5.30pm with an ETA of midnight. The cost per person will be £30. To book a seat please use our Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/march-for-life-september-2021-coach-tickets-163611601705> We recently had the highest ever annual abortion figures in the UK. Let's do our part in turning the tide in our nation. More information on the days' event is available at [Home - March for Life UK](#) For all other enquiries please contact Marianne by email at [curia@rcdop.org.uk](mailto:curia@rcdop.org.uk) or Louise at [lgrant@spucscotland.org](mailto:lgrant@spucscotland.org) thank you.

### 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)

### The Year of St. Joseph

Our fourth and fifth St Joseph evenings will take place on **Wednesday 25th August at 4.00pm** in St Mirin's Cathedral, and on **Thursday 26th August at 4.00pm** in St Mary's, Greenock. Mass will be celebrated at both evenings for all those involved in Education, asking the intercession of St Joseph on the new academic year. All are welcome to attend and pray for our young people, the teaching and support staff involved in all levels of education. Please use the Eventbrite link to book your tickets. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/diocese-of-paisley-33712912941>. Alternatively call Angela to book a place on 01412373584. Alternatively, bring your name and contact

### As a parish Community we pray especially for

#### Those who are sick

Christine McAllister John Allison Sarah Jessiman Sarah McCann  
Martin Rogers John Kerr Ella Craig Winifred Kidd Declan Healy  
John Doherty Donna Sim Helen Markey Ian Scott Doreen Chin  
Anthony Cannon Jimmy McMenemy Brian McLaughlin Ian Gallacher  
Mary Johnston Joseph McEnhill Charlene Wheelan Sophia Young  
David Milravey Bobby Muir Anna McCartin Ged Farrell Joe Burns  
James McNulty

#### Those who are recently deceased

Fausto Mascia Jim McMenemy Peter Okorie  
Patricia Coleman Anne Grady Nan O'Neil  
Kevin Markey (Funeral on Wednesday)

#### Those whose anniversaries occur

John Pitt Jack Donaghey Alberto Puddinu  
Josephine Joseph