

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



Dear brothers and sisters, this Sunday's liturgical readings exult us to have faith in Jesus our healer, defender and saviour. In the narration of his miracle "the healing of the blind and dumb man" in today's Gospel reading from the account of St Mark; the evangelist Mark shows Jesus, not just an ordinary prophet but as truly the saviour, the Messiah whose coming brings liberation and healing as Isaiah prophesied in our first reading "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared" (Isaiah 35:5). The location -Decapolis (a gentile region), where the miracle was wrought is symbolic in the sense that it shows Jesus as the saviour of the whole human race. It shows that Jesus intended to proclaim his message not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles thus St Paul's said "the gentiles have become co-heirs with the Jews" (Ephesians 3:6).

The healing miracle of Jesus in today's gospel confirms the prophecy of Isaiah of the day of the Lord as the day of salvation, liberation and vindication. When that day comes "then the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing," (Isaiah 35:5-6). This was first spoken by Isaiah of Jerusalem; the immediate reference was the hoped-for return and restoration of Israel after the Babylonian Exile. By the time of Jesus, those words were understood as pointing to the further restoration of Israel in the messianic age. This day will be the day of liberation, restoration and vindication. St James in the second reading encourages equal treatment (James 2:1-5). He speaks more of equality as the basis for social justice.

Dear friends, God is already among us in Jesus. He has come to be with us in his son Jesus to share his kingdom with all. All he wants us is to be open and treat all equally. There should be no class distinction or preferential treatment. As we call God our Father, we must learn to see one another as brothers and sisters. As Christ said to the man he healed 'ephphatha' meaning open, may we open our minds and hearts to listen to his word and act following his intention and teachings. May we open the eyes, minds, and hearts of our time to the needs in the world and demonstrate our faith through our good works. May Jesus our saviour, liberator, and vindicator grant us his healing, grace and peace ... 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%

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 1st and 8th September, followed by a Relationship skills workshop in the Diocesan centre on 18th 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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Website: www.stmaryrcpaisley.com
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

5th September 2021

23rd 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 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: Isaiah 35:4-7

Psalm Response: "My Soul, give praise to the Lord"

SECOND READING: James 2:1-5

GOSPEL READING: Mark 7:31-37

Mass Book: YEAR B Part:2 Page: 67

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 from Susan Sludden

Susan and her family will like to thank all parishioners for their prayers, messages, care and help for Charlie when he was in the hospital. She is happy to let everyone know that Charlie is back home from the hospital. Thank God!!!

Summer Raffle Draw

We are grateful to all our parishioners that took part in this draw. Congratulations to the winners. Fr Jude and the organisers are grateful to all as over £2,400.00 was raised.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Thank You Message from Fr Jude

As I prepare to begin a new phase in my ministry with the **British Royal Navy**, I wish to thank all the faithful of the diocese of Paisley where I have been working and loved these past 7 years. It's been wonderful being with you and more especially experiencing the most treasured Scottish Welcome and smiles. Scotland is a very beautiful place and the Scottish people within all ratings are one of the most hospitable people in the world.

I wish to thank Bishop John Keenan for his care and love, the Vicar General Msgr. Joe Burke, all the priests, deacons, and religious of the diocese. I never felt a stranger here and till I die I will ever be appreciative of your love. I wish to thank all I've come across, my families, friends, and the parishioners of the parishes I served: **St Joseph's Clarkston, St John's Barrhead, Holy Family Port Glasgow, St Fergus Ferguslie & St James Paisley, and finally St Mary's Paisley and St Paul's Foxbar.**

Working in this diocese accorded me the opportunity to experience virtually ALL and I am super proud of it. To my dear parishioners of St Mary's Paisley where I have served for almost 4 years, I am ever grateful for your love, support, and care, and to the parishioners of St Paul's Foxbar, I am also grateful for your love and support, though I only spent one year with you, it seemed like forever. You will forever be in my heart and I entrust you to the maternal care of Our Blessed Mother Mary. Keep me in your prayers and I promise to always remember you all in mine.

Although my ministry in the diocese will officially end on Monday 13th September when I will leave for Dartmouth for my initial training and this Sunday 5th September will be my last Sunday mass in St Mary's and St Paul, I promise to always keep in touch. I must reiterate that I have been touched by many priests, families, persons that making a list will be exhausting. Thank you from my whole heart and God bless!!!



Hate Crime and Anit-Catholic Incidents

Police Scotland's 'Hate Crime' team for Renfrewshire and Inverclyde invite you to contact them with any information on community tension, anti-Catholic behaviour/ incidents etc to ensure their occurrence is accurately reported. To report any anti-Catholic behaviour or community tension within Renfrewshire or Inverclyde please contact Constable Mary Connelly at renfrewshireinverclydedcusafercommunities@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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 or call Mary Shields at +44 7720 969390.

Think Vocation

"Who do you say I am?" Jesus invites his disciples about their response to him. What do you say? Where is he leading you? Why not consider the call to priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life? Speak to our diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. John Morrison email vocations@rcdop.org.uk or tel: 01418895056.

Walsingham Pro-Life Pilgrimage

Saturday 23rd October. 'The Courage to Proclaim the Gospel of Life on Post-Pandemic Britain' A Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life. The Pilgrimage commences with midday Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation celebrated by Bishop Mark Davies of Shrewsbury. Details of the day's programme can be found on our website at <http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org> To watch livestream go to the Shrine livestream ([Watch Livestream - Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady](#))

Year of Saint Joseph Afternoon for Families

Families are warmly invited to come together to mark the Year of St Joseph on **Sunday 19th September from 2.00pm** in St Mirin's Cathedral Hall. The event will include an opportunity to reflect in prayer as families in faith and join together for some light refreshments. Bishop John will conclude the gathering with the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral at 4.00pm.

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

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 Brian McLaughlin Ian Gallacher Mary Johnston
Joseph McEnhill Charlene Wheelan Sophia Young David Milravey
Bobby Muir Anna McCartin Ged Farrell Joe Burns James McNulty
Baby Jude Baker Peter Ritchie

Those who are recently deceased

Margaret Rose Bolland Isabella Young Mary Teresa Brannigan
Gordon Gallagher Jean Devenney
Tommy McShane Peter Okorie
Kevin Markey

Those whose anniversaries occur

RoseAnn Harkins Joan Lacey
Margaret McGregor Alex McGregor
Robert Fleming