

# Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (A) 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



**Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick:** Maria Devlin and for those who are working so hard to care for the sick especially those who work in our hospitals.

**Please Pray For Those Who Have Died Recently:** Marie Houston (Family Funeral on Monday 4<sup>th</sup>), Nancy [Agnes] Docherty (Family Funeral on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>), Giuseppe Frangipane (Family Funeral on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>), Kathleen Anne Ravey, Mary McGrory, George Pearson and Moira Johnson.

**Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now:** Irene Carroll, Toni Cassidy and for the month's mind of Alex Williamson and Betty Dunnion.

**In The House Porch** there are copies of the Bulletin, Mass Sheets, Standing Order Forms and Gift Aid Declaration Forms.

**Fr. Michael Will Celebrate Mass Alone Each Day** praying for the members of the Parish Community and their intentions. Fr. Michael is still available in emergencies but is observing the Government's advice on social distancing.

**Fr. Michael Will Take Several Minutes Each Day** to reflect on the Scriptures and his Reflections will be available on "St. Conval's Church Linwood" You Tube Channel.

**St. Mirin's Cathedral And Local Parishes** are livestreaming their privately celebrated Masses:

St. Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv7uqhl>

St. Charles', Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/r2gww7a>

St. Margaret's, Johnstone - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv5wde5>

**SCIAF:** We have transferred electronically to SCIAF from our Account the sum of £1,315.52. This is the total of our contributions for Lent - £900 Collection (Fr. Michael made the amount up from Parish Funds to match what we would normally have given at our Special Collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent [this year £287.29] there were no Public Sunday Masses that day. He judged that those whom SCIAF Support - the poorest in our world - should not suffer because we are living in challenging times at the moment, as they do always!) and £415.52 Wee Box Appeal. We counted all this to enable this transfer before 20<sup>th</sup> May - the deadline for the Scottish Government to match our contributions Pound for Pound. Contributions to SCIAF can be made through the Parish at any time! Pope Francis has especially praised the generosity of people through their Lenten Contributions to charity - in our own need we must not forget those whose needs are greater! Millions, amid this pandemic worldwide, are being put to a harsh test, and the fragile risk paying the greatest price... Pope Francis has said; "The life of millions of people in our world, already struggling with so many difficult challenges to address and oppressed by the pandemic," Francis lamented, "is changed and is put to a harsh test." "The most fragile people, the invisible, the homeless," the Argentinian Pontiff lamented, "risk paying the highest price." The Holy Father went on to praise all the charitable acts that continue to take place, made possible through charities and organizations, such as Caritas (SCIAF in Scotland), with their initiatives to help the most vulnerable.

**Collections:** We were also able to count all the Collections for the past five weeks, they are as follows: 23<sup>rd</sup> March £73 loose and £474 Gift Aid, 30<sup>th</sup> March £308 loose and £91 Gift Aid, 5<sup>th</sup> April £288 and £125 Gift Aid, 12<sup>th</sup> April £190 loose and £150 Gift Aid, 19<sup>th</sup> April £125 loose and £297 Gift Aid, 26<sup>th</sup> April £142 loose and £168 Gift Aid. This amounts to a total of £2,431 for five weekends - that amounts to about 50% of our usual Collection. It does not include Standing Orders, Gift Aid Donations are ultimately worth an additional 25%. So thank you for your continued Financial Support - the Parish depends on it for the Survival of St. Conval's as a Parish.

**Small Donations Scheme:** Each week a tally is kept of the loose plate offering and as over the year it is in excess of a certain amount, the Government (through HMRC) repays a maximum of £2,000 in the assumption that many of those who put their collection in the plate are tax payers (this is separate from the enveloped Gift Aid Scheme).

**May Devotions:** Friday marked the beginning of the traditional period for devotion to Our Lady. If we are not in the habit of saying a daily rosary then perhaps we can start the devotion, even praying one decade a day. We ask Our Lady as Help of the Sick, to pray for us and with us in our present need.

## **Letter Of His Holiness Pope Francis To The Faithful For The Month Of May 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me.

I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

### ***First Prayer***

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith.

“Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

### ***Second Prayer***

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need.

Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.