

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 13th / 14th February 2021

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Tracy Gallagher 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 McGowan (Family Funeral on Monday, 15th February at 10.00am) and Kieren O'Hagan.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Karen Busby, Margaret Rae, Jean McDade, Alexander Barr and for the month's mind of Maria Devlin, Gillian McGourlick, John and Mary McGrory, Peter and Robert Gray, Angela Adams and Jim Clark.

Tuesday, 16th February marks the one month's mind of Canon Brendan Healy. Bishop John Keenan will celebrate Mass for the repose of Canon Healy's soul at 10.00am in St. Mirin's Cathedral. You are warmly invited to participate spiritually in this Mass by watching the Live Stream, which can be found on the Cathedral's Facebook page or via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKesnTNWowA>

Second Collection: This weekend's special second collection is for SPRED.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Census Forms, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Packs and Financial Statements. If you would like a copy of the Bulletin or any of these forms, but cannot get out to collect them, please email the Parish with your address and you can have them delivered by email or by hand. New sets of weekly Gift Aid Collection Envelopes will be delivered around 4th April.

Fr. Michael is attempting to compile a database of the Parish to help us stay in touch with one another - there were no records kept by previous Parish Priests. Please take a Census Form from the Porch or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/1bo24gvv> to download the Form for printing. Completed Forms should be returned to the House (outside door of House Porch accessible). All data held in accordance with GDPR.

Following The First Minister's Announcement extending lockdown to mid-February, we will continue to Live Stream Mass without a Congregation on Tuesday at 10.00am, Thursday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 10.30am. Fr. Michael can continue to celebrate Funerals (with a maximum of 20 Mourners) and Weddings (similarly restricted). No Congregations are otherwise permitted and Churches are to remain closed, so please do return - or continue - to celebrate virtually online. Our Live Stream is easily accessed on any electronic device with internet compatibility simply Google 'St. Conval's Church Linwood YouTube' or paste the following link into your search engine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyfCJEhpKW4> Please continue to pray for the other members of the Parish Community as we go through another period of enforced isolation from one another, especially for those who find these periods of isolation so difficult.

Lent Begins Next Sunday with the First Sunday of Lent, and so the Church gives us a few extra days to reflect on how we might use the Season fruitfully with Ash Wednesday this coming week. As we are not allowed to gather in Church, clearly there is no opportunity for the public Distribution of Ashes. There is a Service for Parishioners at Home on our Website / Facebook page and the Prayer is printed overleaf.

Distribution of Blessed Ashes

Ashes will not be available this year. You may wish to use some soil from your garden - dry it out for a few days before use, or ground up barbecue charcoal, or even some ash if you have an open fire at home. Your own Parish Priest may extend the blessing of ashes to all homes from the Mass he celebrates on Ash Wednesday. You may wish to create a small altar or focus for your prayer. Perhaps you could use a small table with a cloth, place a crucifix on the table and a candle if you have one.

Prayer

May these ashes remind us of God's invitation to us to repent from sin and to follow him. We are reminded of the words of the prophet Daniel:

Daniel turned to the Lord God, pleasing in earnest prayer,
With fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

O Lord, we are shamefaced, like our kinds, our princes,
and our fathers, for having sinned against you.

But yours, O Lord, our God are compassion and forgiveness! (Dan 9:3,8-9)

The ashes are placed on the crown of the head of each person. This is to reduce the risk of transmission and has been ordered by the Vatican for this year. If you are giving yourself ashes, then you may wish to place them on your forehead as per tradition. If you are placing the ashes on your own head, you may wish to say: "May I turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" or sprinkling the ashes on top of someone else's head: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel".

Blessed Fr. Michael will celebrate Mass in St. Conval's on Wednesday at 10.00am which will be Live Streamed and he will say the Prayers for the Blessing of Ashes. If you have Ashes at home, you might join him in the Prayer and for Mass.

Our Outreach To Those In Need to provide 100 Christmas Dinners was a great success, very much appreciated and very well supported by so many thank you. It also revealed a surprising level of need, want and hunger. Normally we embark - as part of our Lenten Observance and Almsgiving - on some act of generosity as a Parish so Fr. Michael thought to put both of those things together. We have been continuing to provide meals and food parcels to those in need but have just about run out of money that was generously given for Christmas. Fr. Michael has given the Hall Kitchen over to the Caterers who are giving generously of their time and talent and they will now operate from St. Conval's, we are feeding about 30 families per week at the moment (around 100 meals) as well as distributing food parcels with some generous financial support from St. Benedict's High School (Thanks to the Head Teacher Mr. Taylor!) but it would be great if the Parish could also support this as a Project. So we will collect Food, Toiletries and Cash for these meals and parcels in the next few weeks, we have a Budget of around £300 per month so that's the kind of ball-park figure we are looking at. We have resources to get through February and into March but then things are beginning to look a little thin on the ground... The outer door of Fr. Michael's Porch is open (the inner one is locked), so donations can be safely left in that Porch - it is monitored by CCTV. We will use the cash to buy food and use any donations of food we receive for the meals and parcels and distribute these with the toiletries you donate. Many thanks for your generosity as ever!

Various Lenten Resources From SCIAF (including a 'Wee Box') for everyone are available in Fr. Michael's Porch, they are inside an illustrated envelope with various other communications from SCIAF. These are to aid our Lenten Observances of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Please come and help yourself. If you would like any of these but cannot get out to collect them, please email the Parish (with your address!) and Fr. Michael will deliver them to you. The Day of Prayer for SCIAF and their work will be held on Friday, 12th March and the Special Second Collection for the work of SCIAF will be, as usual, on the 4th Sunday of Lent (14th March). As previously, the UK Government will match with a £1 every £1 we give to SCIAF before 11th May, so please let Fr. Michael have all your Donations (Wee Boxes and other Donations) by the end of April to allow him to count them and send the money to SCIAF.

Adult Education Talks: You are invited to our next talk on Monday, 15th February 2021 at 6.30pm on The Dignity of the Human Person by Fr. Matthew Carlin. Please use this link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/93728594532?pwd=RXFvNzRHOHlxhZzZb1VtTXJjUUNvUT09> Passcode: 886983.