

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

6th Sunday of Easter (A) 16th / 17th 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: Mary Donnelly (Family Funeral on Thursday at 2.00pm, leaving from Church at 1.45pm), Joseph Toner and Giuseppe Frangapane.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Gillian McGouldrick, William Duffy, Charles McKendrick, Bill Coote, William and Margaret McGuire, Charles Pringle, William Gourlay and for the month's mind of Madge Lowe, James Lowe, John and Mary McGrory, John Anderson and Davie 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>

Thursday Of This Week Is Ascension Thursday - A HolyDay! It also signals the start of the Novena (9 days of particular Prayer) for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day (Sunday, 31st May 2020).

May Devotions: 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.

Financial Support: Fr. Michael is well aware that many of you have been 'furloughed', not currently working, on reduced hours or perhaps even made redundant in the last few weeks, or are perhaps facing the prospect of one of these in the near future, so when thinking of your continued support for the Parish, please do not neglect your other important responsibilities.

Online Parish Offertory Portal: The Diocese is keen that Parishes manage a form of fund raising in these challenging days. Bearing in mind the cautions noted above about family responsibilities, they have designed a pathway for more casual donations for those without gift aid and not wishing to commit to a standing order. You can now pay any amount to the Parish and make a donation with your debit or credit card using the portal via the link on the Diocesan website homepage, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y9r2dlcc> and thus make a donation to the Parish without obligation and in that sort of form for which we are able to do for all types of cases and causes.

Gift Aid: Unfortunately, we are presently unable to safely distribute the boxes of envelopes for 2020-2021. However, if you are able to post your donation at the House, please write your existing number or your name and gift aid on the envelope. You may wish to consider making your donation by Standing Order and our Parish's Standing Order Form can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone> If any parishioners would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, Gift Aid Declaration (GAD) Forms are available in the House Porch or can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone> Please complete and sign the GAD Form and post it in the Parish House. Thank you for your continued support of the Gift Aid Scheme.

Weekly Parish Bulletin: Any items for inclusion in the bulletin (including names for the sick, month's mind and anniversary lists) should be put through the letter box of the Parish House or sent by email: stconval@rcdop.org.uk by **12noon on the Thursday** before publication. Copies of the Bulletin will be available in the House Porch each week as well as online.

This Was The Morning Homily From Pope Francis (Remember you can watch his Morning Mass daily - live at 7.00am (UK time) or online, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y8vonq97>)

In the story of Jonah, though all the details we don't know, there was "some pandemic" in the city of Nineveh, a "moral pandemic, perhaps, the city was about to be destroyed (Cf. Jonah 3:1-10). And God sends Jonah to preach: prayer and penance, prayer and fasting (Cf. vv. 7-8). In face of that pandemic, Jonah himself got scared and fled (Cf. Jonah 1:1-3). Then the Lord called him a second time and he agreed to go and preach this message (Cf. Jonah 3:1-2). Today all of us, brothers and sisters of all religious traditions, let us pray, let us make it a Global Day of Prayer and Fasting, of Penance. Each one of us prays, communities pray, Religious Confessions pray, they pray to God: all brothers and sisters, united in our humanity, which brings us together in this moment of sorrow and tragedy.

We weren't expecting this pandemic. It came without our expecting it, but now it exists. And so many people are dying. So many people are dying alone and so many people are dying without being able to do anything. The thought can often come: "It doesn't touch me; thank God, I've been spared." But think of others! Think of the human tragedy and also of the economic consequences, the consequences on education, the consequences on the health of those in poorer countries - what will happen after? And, therefore, today all brothers and sisters, of whatever Religious Confession, let us pray to God. Perhaps there'll be someone who'll say: "This is 'religious relativism' and it can't be done." But why can't it be done to pray to the Father of all? Each one prays as he knows how, as he can, as he has received from his culture. We are not praying against one another, this religious Tradition against that 'other one'? No - we are all united as human beings, as brothers and sisters, praying to God according to our own culture, according to our own Tradition, according to our own beliefs, but as brothers and sisters praying to God - and, I think this is important too, fasting too, asking God's pardon for our sins, so that the Lord will have mercy on us, so that the Lord will forgive us, so that the Lord will stop this pandemic. Today is a day of fraternity, looking to the one Father, brothers and sisters and of his paternity as Father of us all.

Last year, in November, we didn't know what a pandemic was: it came as a deluge, it came suddenly. Now we are waking up a bit. However, there are so many other pandemics that make people die and we don't realize it, we look elsewhere. We are somewhat unaware in face of the tragedies that are happening in the world at this time. I only want to mention to you an official statistic of the first four months of this year, which does not refer to the coronavirus pandemic but another. In the first four months of this year, 3.7 million people died of hunger. There is the pandemic of hunger. In four months, almost four million people died. Today's prayer to ask the Lord to stop this pandemic, must make us think of the other pandemics in the world. There are so many - the pandemic of war, of hunger, and so many others! However, what is important is that today we are invited to pray, each one according to his own Tradition and to observe a day of penance and fasting and also of charity, of help to others. We heard in the Book of Jonah that the Lord, when He saw how the people reacted and converted, the Lord halted, He halted what He was about to do.

May God stop this tragedy, may He stop this pandemic. May God have mercy on us and also halt the many other awful pandemics: that of hunger, of war, of children without education. And we ask this as brothers and sisters, all together. May God bless us all and have mercy on us all.

The Pope Invited the Faithful to Make a Spiritual Communion, with this Prayer:

My Jesus, I believe You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As if You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Do not permit me to be ever separated from You.

Before leaving the Chapel, the Pope prayed for the Intercession of Our Lady:

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

(Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
Christ, whom you bore in your womb, alleluia,
Is Risen as He promised, alleluia.
Pray for us to the Lord, alleluia).