

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

2nd Sunday of Easter (A) 18th / 19th April 2020

Parish of Saint Conval, Greenfarm Road, Linwood PA3 3HB
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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Winnie Deighan, Margaret McDonald, Giuseppe Frangipane 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: George Pearson (Private Funeral to be arranged).

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Margaret Reynolds, Davie Dunnion and for the month's mind of Tommy Fulton, Willie McKenna, Gillian McGourlick, Charles Pringle, John Anderson, William Gourlay, Madge Lowe and James Lowe.

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> ⁽¹⁾

St. Charles', Paisley - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/r2gww7a> ⁽²⁾

St. Margaret's, Johnstone - Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/qv5wde5> ⁽³⁾

Financial Support: The Parish still requires your financial support to pay our bills so please continue to be generous. Electronic donations can be made to St. Conval's RC Parish Church at The Bank of Scotland, Johnstone Branch Sort Code 80-16-53, Account Number 00356472. Standing Order Forms for each Parish can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/wj3bone> ⁽⁴⁾ Please complete the Form, post it in the Parish House and Fr. Michael will forward it to the Bank. Forms also available in the House Porch. Many thanks indeed to those who have already signed up for a Standing Order and those who have posted their envelopes and contributions through the door. Very much appreciated and thanks for your thoughtfulness - prayers for all at this time!

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> ⁽⁵⁾ 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.

The First Word Spoken By The Risen Lord? – ‘REJOICE!’

While governments at all levels contemplate how to return to “normal” after the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis is preparing for his own resurrection from quarantine. He offered thoughts on the topic in a reflection that appeared on April 17, 2020, on the website of the Spanish-language periodical *Vida Nueva*. In the reflection, the Holy Father draws comparisons between the experience of people today during the pandemic and the resurrection of Jesus.

“Rejoice” is the first word spoken by the Risen Lord, the Pope pointed out, as reported in the *Vatican News* analysis of the reflection. He recalled that it was the word Jesus used it to greet “Mary Magdalene and the other Mary after they had discovered that the tomb was empty.... He is the Risen One and wants to raise these women to new life, and with them, all of humanity”.

We, like them, “live surrounded by an atmosphere of pain and uncertainty...” and are asking “Who will roll away the stone?” (Mk 16:3). He describes the tombstone as one that “threatens to bury all hope” and enumerates the consequences so many are living: the elderly forced into complete isolation, families who can no longer put food on the table, front-liners who are “exhausted and overwhelmed”. It’s a “heaviness” he says, “that seems to have the last word”.

It’s the women who did not allow the events of Christ’s Passion to paralyze them, Pope Francis said. “Out of love for the Master, and with their typical, irreplaceable and blessed feminine genius, they were able to confront life as it came”. While the Apostles first fled, denied Him, then hid out of fear, the woman found ways to overcome every obstacle in their path. They did it by simply “being and accompanying”. “God always begins with women, always, they open ways. They don’t doubt: they know; they have seen Him; they have touched Him. They have also seen the empty sepulchre.

“It’s true that the disciples couldn’t believe it and said: ‘But these women, perhaps, are a little too imaginative’ . . . I don’t know; they had their doubts. However, they were sure and in the end, they pursued this path until today: Jesus is risen; He is alive among us (Cf. *Matthew* 28:9-10).”

“Today also, in face of the coming — let’s hope it’s soon —the coming end of this pandemic, there is the same option: either our bet will be for life, for the resurrection of the peoples, or it will be for the god money: to return to the sepulchre of hunger, of slavery, of wars, of the arms factories, of children without education . . . the sepulchre is there.” We will choose Life!