

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

3rd Sunday of Advent (B) 12th / 13th December 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: Frances Reid, Pauline Garvie, Marie Murphy, 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: Eileen Carroll (Family Funeral on Monday) and Sophie Geddes.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: James McGourlick, Mary Barr, Stuart Lindsay, Brian and Edward Garrity, James Tutti, Gordon Spence, William Irvin, Mary Donnelly Harkins (Australia), Peggy McKendrick, Danny Drummond and for the month's mind of John and Mary McGrory, Robert Gray, Angela Adams, Maria Devlin and Gillian McGourlick.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Census Forms, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Packs and Financial Statements.

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 and complete it, returning it to the House (outside door of House Porch accessible). All data held in accordance with GDPR.

Schedule This Week For Masses And Private Prayer:

Saturday, 12th December: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 13th December: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 9.30am until 12noon

Monday, 14th December: Funeral, as noted above, with 20 members of the family ONLY allowed to attend

Tuesday, 15th December: Mass at 10.00am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Thursday, 17th December: Mass at 6.00pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Saturday, 19th December: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 20th December: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 9.30am until 12noon

More volunteers for stewarding and sanitising would be most welcome.

Masses For Christmas: Various Parishes are adopting various methods for the safe Celebration of Masses over Christmas with anticipated huge demand over the period, so difficult decisions are to be made. Now, clearly Fr. Michael cannot accommodate all those who would wish to attend Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Mass and doubtless everyone who customarily attends each week will want to come, and people who come only at Christmas will doubtless desire to make their annual appearance. Fr. Michael does not want to allow them to displace the people who come week to week and are generous in their support of the Parish. So, what to do? Fr. Michael suggests that he will not have Public Mass on Christmas Eve but rather will Live Stream it *only*, with Music and Singing of Hymns and Carols to make it as Special as we can (this is not permitted if there is a Congregation present) and then - as the Church foresees and as we do every year - each Mass in the Octave of Christmas ('Christmas Week') will be celebrated as Christmas Day Mass. This will clearly not suit everyone but it will give everyone a chance to 'attend' Christmas Eve Mass and a Christmas Day Mass as the Octave continues. It will also mean he is not spending the last few days of Advent (which has been extremely taxing and tiring with numerous Funerals) telling large numbers of people that they cannot come to Mass at Christmas. If you book thoughtfully - not for every day of the Octave - it is possible as the week progresses that you MAY be able to attend Mass more than once in the week of Christmas. If anyone can think of another method that has all these same positive effects, while minimising the negative for the largest number - please tell him! Our normal protocols apply - Internet Booking from 7 days until 24 hours before Mass with spaces held for some telephone bookings from 24 hours to 2 hours before Mass and the outside chance of a place on 'Stand By' if you just turn up without a booking. This has worked well and accommodated everyone most weeks when we were in Level Three restrictions (Level Four for the past three weeks reduced our capacity to 20 at each Mass so each week some people did not get a place). There is still no Obligation to attend Mass in Scotland at the moment - and there are many other things that are important and that we would wish to do, but cannot - and Mass at Christmas may need to go onto that sorry list.

Advent Giving: Renewed thanks to everyone for their generosity - we have 56 Cards as we go to Press. Sunday lunch time is the deadline for the donation of Gift Cards - this will give us the chance to distribute them through the schools in time for Parents to go shopping for what they require for Christmas.

Christmas Dinner Appeal: We have all the cash we need and more - thank you very much for your generosity. Fr. Michael has been able to add to the Three Course Turkey Dinners a Chocolate Santa, some Christmas Crackers, Homemade bar of Fudge or Tablet, Colouring Books and Pens, Large pouch of 'Celebrations' and a Board Game for every family and a Lucky Bag for every child. Special thanks to Smiths Toys for the donation of some Board Games and Gowanlea Nursery for Potatoes and Vegetables. The project will feed 99 (the number fluctuates slightly week to week...!) people for Christmas Day AND give them a snack for Boxing Day. Your generosity has been overwhelming and most humbling... Thank You!

As A Thanks for your Support for Malawi, there is a Christmas Card / Calendar to say thank you in the Side Porch of the Church and in the Porch of Fr. Michael's House.

The Covid-19 Pandemic: Since the resumption of public worship our parishes have been meticulous in controlling infection to ensure the safety of all those who cross the threshold of a Catholic church. The tireless work and co-operation of priests, parishioners and volunteers whose extraordinary efforts have ensured that Catholic Churches are among the safest places for people to attend in the midst of this Pandemic has been commendable. Although no evidence has emerged of cases or clusters connected to our churches, we are not blasé and continue to assure the Government that we employ discretion and caution in full co-operation with the intentions of their advice. On that basis, we have every confidence that, if parishes continue their high standards of infection control, then public worship and parish life can carry on and we will continue to be able to attend to the spiritual welfare of the nation. Thank you for your co-operation, please be careful to respect our protocols for the safety of yourselves and your fellow Parishioners.

In St. Conval's we will continue to use an internet Booking Form to request a place at Mass in the coming week. Please use this link rather than emailing the Parish, we seem to have evolved a useful method and timings for booking, so on the link that follows, requests for a place at Mass are available from 7 days until 24 hours before the celebration of Mass on the Internet, from 24 hours until 2 hours before the celebration of Mass telephone bookings to the Parish can be requested. Fr. Michael will send you an email or call you back to confirm you have a place, you can come on spec if you wish and if there is space, we will be delighted to welcome you but cannot guarantee a place! Our link for Internet booking is

<https://forms.gle/ZU2pJCq3s2GyFHnA8>

this will centralise and manage booking for us in a way that will avoid errors and misunderstandings - we hope! If there is a place available, you will receive an email (normally 24 hours prior to the Mass) confirming your booking request. There is no Obligation to attend Sunday Mass at the moment. If you are assigned a place, please arrive in good time (as places still vacant at the time Mass is due to begin will be given to those not able to book in advance), please tell the Stewards who you are - to indicate your presence on the sheet that lists those attending. Please wear a face covering. Please follow the direction of the Stewards and occupy only the seat you are given. Please do not wander around the Church. At the end of Mass please leave by the side door following the direction of the Stewards, so that we can keep our distance as we leave. The Church will remain open after Mass for prayer. We will try to evolve our plans to accommodate the demand in the weeks ahead. The reason why there is not Mass daily at the moment is that we require to clean the Church between each Celebration and, as Fr. Michael has had two Funerals a week during lockdown, this will leave a couple of days in the week when Funerals can be celebrated with the family without having to call people who have booked to tell them they may not attend. If you have booked ahead and then discover you cannot attend, please call to inform us, and someone else can take your place. This has worked well through our first few weeks - so thank you for your co-operation, for your patience and understanding.

Adult Education Talks: You are invited to our next talk on Monday, 21st December at 6.30pm on The New Testament by Canon Michael McMahon. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/93318263028?pwd=dzNaSkhHcUjYdkwrB09ydlRYdzh0dz09> Passcode: 741595

The Education and Formation Commission wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas, and look forward to you joining our talks in the New Year.

Administrative Changes To Teacher Approval In The Diocese Of Paisley: Fr. Joe Burke, Vicar General, now has the role of overseeing the Approval process. Applications and references for posts in the three Local Authorities within our Diocese should be returned to: Rev. Joseph Burke, Teacher Approval, Diocesan Centre, Cathedral Precincts, Inle Street, Paisley PA1 1HR or email: approvals@rcdop.org.uk Please note that applications for posts in Our Lady of the Missions Primary School and St. Ninian's High School should be sent to the Archdiocese of Glasgow in whose territory they are located: Archdiocese of Glasgow, Teacher Approval, 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JY or email: approval@rcag.org.uk Arrangements for the pastoral care of staff and pupils in these schools will continue to be the responsibility of the Diocese of Paisley.

Vocations: "I shall look after my flock myself... I myself will pasture my sheep." Is the Lord asking you to share in his pastoral love for his people, perhaps in diocesan priesthood, diaconate or religious life? Contact Fr. John Morrison, email: vocations@rcdop.org.uk or tel. 0141 889 5056.