

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 11th / 12th July 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Frank Murray, Winnie Deighan, George Cowan 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: Annie Johnstone (Requiem Mass Monday 10.00am, Private Funeral thereafter, body departs St. Conval's from Bridge of Weir Road at 11.00am), Bobby McColgan and Joe Martin.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Margaret Deighan, Annie Veronica Deveney and for the month's mind of Angela Adams, Roberta Scullion (Nee McFarlane), Michael Deighan, John and Mary McGrory, Jack Main and David Jannocks.

Bobby McColgan's Family would like to sincerely thank Canon Michael McMahon for his prayers and support during this difficult time. The family was overwhelmed and comforted to see so many friends pay their respects to Bobby on 6th July, either outside the Church or at Kilbarchan Cemetery, and truly appreciate everyone's kind words, Mass cards and donations to the Accord Hospice.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Mass Sheets, Census Forms, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Packs, Financial Statement, Paper and Pens.

Remember Fr. Michael has asked the young people of the Parish to contribute a drawing or sketch on a given topic. Paper and pens available in the house porch - help yourself! Theme for next weekend's illustration is 'Wheat and Weeds Growing Together'. Please put your name and class on the picture. Fr. Michael is offering a prize for the best one! Winners of the best illustrations from previous weeks are; 'Holy Spirit' - Mia Kidd, 'Last Supper' - James, 'Jeremiah' - Joseph, 'Peter and Paul' - Shannon, 'Jesus and the Children' - Anna McIntosh. This week 'Parable of the Sower' - ??? Nice big bar of White Chocolate in the Porch for each of you (one each!).

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.

The Announcement made by the First Minister last Thursday has made it possible to open our Churches for the Public Celebration of Mass. This phase may be quite tricky as we will have to ticket it and gather the details of those who come - so that we can track and trace should any infections ensue. SO please continue to be patient and attend Sunday Mass online.

Fr. Michael has ensured that the Church environment is suitable for the Public Health requirements - this will involve a one-way system for entering and leaving the Church, please enter by the main door sanitising hands on entering, maintaining physical distancing, etc.

Stewards will direct you down the main aisle to a seat, please stay in it for a brief period of prayer and leave by the side aisles and the side door.

We have times when the Church is open and we will require cleaning after each open period.

Thank you for volunteering to help with these tasks of stewarding and cleaning, we now require more volunteers for both tasks to allow more opening times.

The Parish has provided volunteers all the necessary supplies but if visiting please consider wearing your own face mask and gloves.

It will be important for us ALL, while we rejoice to be back in Church, to ensure that our Churches do not become a source of infection spread, so we will err on the side of caution always.

Please be patient so that we do not undo the steps we have made in these long weeks of lockdown, which have been so testing for us all in so many ways, be patient with volunteers who steward and clean also - this is a steep learning curve for us all and a stressful time!

So the schedule for this week is:

Sunday, 12th July - Mass at 10.30am

Sunday, 12th July - CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 12noon until 3.00pm

Monday, 13th July - Funeral, as noted above, at 10.00am

Wednesday, 15th July - Live Stream Mass at 10.00am

Wednesday, 15th July - CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 11.00am until 1.00pm

Thursday, 16th July - Live Stream Mass at 6.00pm

As Fr. Michael Prints The Bulletin we have no advice, as yet, from the Diocese as to our response to the possibility of Public Mass and no advice, as yet, on how the Bishop wishes us to proceed as a Diocese. Fr. Michael will try to have an Internet based booking system in place for the end of next week, you can go online to book for yourself or for someone else - with their permission, and leaving their name and contact details. The Bishops of Scotland have underlined that there is no obligation to attend Sunday Mass, most people, however, may wish to attend a Sunday Mass (Vigil or Sunday Morning), rather than a weekday. The Church can hold 38 individual people with physical distancing and family members can attend together 'as one', so we can foresee that it might be difficult to accommodate those who wish to attend when they wish to attend. It is unlikely that you will be able to attend more than once a week, though we have no way of predicting demand! Fr. Michael will continue to live stream each Mass celebrated in the Church, so if you have underlying health conditions the advice is not to attend public gatherings, please be prudent. Things being equal it is most likely to have our first celebration of Mass on Monday, 20th (best not to try to start something too new on the weekend peak!). We will have further celebrations through the week - though Fr. Michael will have to leave space to accommodate Funerals and so family members of the deceased too.

We will increase our opening hours and public celebrations of Mass in the subsequent weeks when we have volunteers to steward and to clean afterwards, times in next week's Bulletin, Website, Facebook, etc.

You May Well Recall that in March last year (2019) Fr. Michael had a bleak financial picture to point out as in 2018 our Expenditure exceeded our income, we had large Utility Bills, a large debt to the Diocese. Every Parish also pays a Diocesan Levy, which is to pay for the support of the Bishop and the Diocesan Offices, Administration and Functions - such as safeguarding this had risen too - to 18% of our Offertory Income. There were only two ways in which we could put this right - lower Expenditure and raise Income - we sought to do both, Fr. Michael, you may recall, asked you to consider increasing your generosity week to week, consider taking out Gift Aid and recognising that costs tend to increase year to year. He also undertook to lower spending. The good news he can give this year is we have succeeded in doing both - so thank you very much for your generosity and special thanks to Deirdre and Mena for boosting the stall income, to Bridie for boosting the Hall income, to Christine for lowering the house costs and to you all for your generosity weekly, the Parish really needed your help and you have been generous. Those with Gift Aid will receive a full statement in the post, copies of it are available for everyone who wishes in the Porch. The headlines are we raised income by just over £10,000 and lowered costs by £4,000 effectively turning an annual loss of £10,000 (2018) to a surplus of £5,000 (2019). Please continue to support the Parish financially and thank you again for your generosity!

Leader Of Vatican's Commission For Covid-19 - Cardinal Peter Turkson

As we all know, we are facing one of the worst humanitarian crises since World War II. As the world takes emergency measures to address a global pandemic and a global economic recession, both underpinned by a global climate emergency, we must also consider the implications for peace of these interconnected crises. The Vatican COVID-19 Commission, especially through the Task Forces on Security and Economics, has been analyzing some of these implications. Let me highlight the following.

While today unprecedented sums are devoted to military expenditure (including the largest nuclear modernization programmes), the sick, the poor, the marginalized, and victims of conflict are being disproportionately affected by the present crisis. Until now, the interconnected crises (health, socio-economics, and ecology) are widening the gap not only between the rich and the poor but also between zones of peace, prosperity, and environmental justice and zones of conflict, deprivation, and ecological devastation. There can be no healing without peace. Reducing conflicts is the only chance for reducing injustices and inequalities. Armed violence and conflict and poverty are indeed linked in a cycle that prevents peace, furthers human rights abuses, and hampers development.

I welcome the UN Security Council's recent endorsement of a global cease-fire. We can't fight the pandemic if we are fighting or preparing to fight, each other. I also welcome the endorsement by 170 countries to the UN call to silence the guns! But one thing is to call or endorse a cease-fire statement, another thing is to implement it. In order to do so, we need to freeze weapons production and dealing. The current interconnected crises (health, socio-economics, and ecologically) demonstrate the urgent need for a globalization of solidarity to reflect our global interdependence. In the last two decades, international stability and security have deteriorated. It seems that political friendship and international concord increasingly cease to be the supreme good that nations desire and are ready to commit to.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the economic recession, and climate change make ever clearer the need to give priority to positive peace over narrow notions of national security. Pope John XXIII already signalled the need for this transformation by re-defining peace in terms of the recognition, respect, safeguarding, and promotion of the rights of the human person (*Pacem in Terris*, para.139). Now, more than ever is the time for nations of the world to shift from national security by military means to human security as the primary concern of policy and international relations. Now is the time for the international community and the Church to develop bold and imaginative plans for collective action commensurate with the magnitude of this crisis. Now is the time to build a world that better reflects a truly integral approach to peace, human development, and ecology. The press conference was broadcast in live streaming on the Vatican News YouTube Channel, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/c/VaticanNews>