

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

Solemnity of Christ the King (A) 21st / 22nd November 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Frances Reid, Pauline Garvie, Theresa Jones, Anne Kerr, Alan Kerr 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: Charles Shields, Cathie Thom (Family Funeral on Tuesday) and Charles Lapsley (Family Funeral on Monday, 7th December 2020).

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Josephine Gray, Franciszek Tretkowski, Jack Dooley, Daniel Fleming, Jim Clark and for the month's mind of Alex Williamson, Tommy Fulton, Annie Muggins, Angela Adams, Madge Lowe, James Lowe, Charles Pringle, John Anderson and William Gourlay.

Second Collection: This weekend's special second collection is to support the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) which promotes and protects our Catholic Schools in issues of national significance and supports our Schools, Parishes and Dioceses.

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.

As You Know we had prepared to celebrate the Confirmation of our young people at three services on Saturday morning. However, Level 4 restrictions require no more than 20 at Mass (rather than Level 3 which allows 50) which would have required another lengthy postponement. Fr. Michael decided to try to celebrate them before the more stringent restrictions came into force. We therefore celebrated Confirmations together on Thursday evening at three services. Fr. Michael would like to thank the Young People, their Parents and Sponsors for showing such flexibility and generous willingness to change their plans at short notice. Further he would like to thank very much the members of the Parish Community who prepared the Church, stewarded, served, sanitised and provided technical support - also at short notice. He is most grateful to all - a real Community for our Young People who have missed out on so much because of the Pandemic! Let's continue to support and pray for each other! The Services will be available on our Live Stream YouTube Channel.

Schedule This Week For Masses And Private Prayer:

Saturday, 21st November: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 22nd November: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 9.30am until 12noon

Tuesday, 24th November: Funeral, as noted above, with 20 members of the family ONLY allowed to attend

Thursday, 26th November: Mass at 6.00pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Saturday, 28th November: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 29th November: 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.

Malawi Christmas Parcel Appeal: Thank you for your most generous response to this Appeal. We now have a room at St. Benedict's which looks like Santa's Grotto - including the elves who are busy packing! Pictures are available on the St. Benedict's Twitter feed - [@stbenedictsren](https://twitter.com/stbenedictsren). As they are now being packed and shipped, we don't require any further gifts - thank you!

Advent Giving: Thanks for your suggestions for our Advent Giving this year - the consensus seems to be that, as we cannot give physical gifts, Gift Cards are the obvious alternative. Depending on where you buy them there will perhaps be the option for families to buy gifts, toys or food - depending on what they need more. If it's not written on the card / receipt if you can put a note which tells the amount on the card, this will ensure a fairer distribution. We will begin that collection this weekend - 21st / 22nd November and continue for the next few weeks to allow time to distribute them and people to shop using them before Christmas. Please put the Gift Cards in the receptacles on the Church Sanctuary or in Fr. Michael's Porch.

Meal Service Christmas Dinner: Also beginning this weekend we will start fund-raising for our meal service Christmas Dinner. You may recall that for the past few months we have been giving 5 meals a fortnight (both fresh and frozen) to 50 people and a fairly sophisticated distribution network has grown up. We used our schools to help us identify the families most in need and asked if they would be willing to accept this - luckily most of those in greatest need accepted and we have managed to stay on top of it. We have a plan now to give 100 people a full Christmas Dinner (Choice of two Soups, Turkey Roast with Potatoes, Stuffing, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots and Boiled Potatoes then a choice of Cheese Cake or Christmas Pudding). We have been able to price that at £6 per person. So, as the arithmetical geniuses among you will have already worked out, we need to raise £600. Fr. Michael is already some way to raising that with donations already made from Parishioners - thank you! If we raise more than £600 and only require 100 meals, we will add treats as best we can - Christmas Crackers, Chocolates etc, etc but the initial priority is a Festive Lunch for the families. Please put the cash / cheque in an envelope and leave it in the receptacles on the Church Sanctuary or in Fr. Michael's Porch - envelopes are available in the side porch of the Church as well as in Fr. Michael's Porch - if you remember to mark the envelope 'Christmas Lunch Appeal' that would be helpful but we will know if the envelope does not contain a Gift Card, this is what the donation is for. Running totals will be posted weekly. Thank you as ever for your generosity.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has presented the Church with unprecedented challenges. It has brought about the temporary closure of parish churches and, following the resumption of public worship, the introduction of rigorous health and safety measures to prevent transmission of the virus. 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. We are now at a fragile point. The rate of Covid-19 infections appears to be on the rise and public anxiety is increasing. At this critical moment, Scotland's Bishops have written to all our parishes urging that they redouble their efforts to reduce the risk of transmission and ensure that we all adhere to the infection control measures that we have put in place. Our discussions with the Scottish Government assure us that they are aware of our excellent protocols and trust us to see to our public worship and parish life with the discretion of good citizens and partners. 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.

Online Rosary And Stations Of The Cross: You are invited to join us, Catholic Erskine, to pray the Rosary online, Monday to Thursday and Saturday at 12noon each day. You are also invited to join us on Friday at 12noon when we pray the Stations of the Cross. At present we are using "Mary's Way of the Cross" - a series of prayers, reflections and meditations as we accompany Mary as she follows her Son on his road to Calvary. To join any of these ventures, please visit: catholicerskine.website and click onto the Rosary link. All welcome.