

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 20th / 21st June 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: Betty Dundas (Funeral Mass at 11.00am on Thursday, Private Family Burial thereafter), David Hannah and Maria Devlin.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Madge Lowe, Annie Muggins, Alex Williamson, Tommy Fulton, Michael Muggins and for the month's mind of Charles Pringle, John Anderson, William Gourlay, Fr. James Lowe, Willie McKenna and Jim Clark.

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

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.

Remember Fr. Michael has asked the young people of the Parish to contribute a drawing or sketch on a given topic. Fr. Michael realises that he asked you to do this as if you would have easy access to paper and coloured pens, but as you are not in school, perhaps you don't! So paper and pens now available in the porch of the house - help yourself! Theme for the Children to illustrate this weekend is 'The Prophet Jeremiah' (last week's 'The Last Supper' still accepted!). Next weekend (Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul) the theme to illustrate is 'St. Peter and / or St. Paul'. Please put your name and class on the picture. Now that you are in this habit, Fr. Michael is offering a prize for the best one!

The Announcement made by the First Minister on Thursday has made it possible to open our Churches for Personal Prayer on Sunday, 28th June (and then again on Sunday, 5th July - not on the weekdays in between) though not yet for the Public Celebration of Mass. Fr. Michael is ensuring that the Church environment is suitable for the Public Health requirements - this will involve a one-way system for entering and leaving the Church, sanitising hands on entering, maintaining physical distancing, etc. We have times when the Church is open and cleaning after each open period. Fr. Michael is therefore seeking volunteers to undertake these cleaning and sanitising tasks. The Parish will provide all the necessary supplies - these are all ordered already. 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.

So the schedule for this week is:

Sunday, 21st June - Sunday Mass at 10.30am

Tuesday, 23rd June - St. Benedict's Closing Mass at 10.00am

Thursday, 25th June - Funeral Mass for Betty Dundas at 11.00am

Saturday, 27th June - Sunday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm

Sunday, 28th June - CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 11.00am until 2.00pm

Sunday, 28th June - Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

We will increase our opening hours on Sunday, 5th July and the subsequent weekdays when we have more volunteers to steward and to clean afterwards.

St. Conval's customarily hosts the end of the year Mass for St. Benedict's High School. We will do so again online this year. This will be celebrated on Tuesday 23rd at 10.00am. Please join us to pray for the School Community as the Education of our Children and Young People is challenging for them and their Teachers in these days.

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.

Afternoon Of Reflection For Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: A Zoom session will take place on Saturday, 27th June 2020 from 1.00-2.30pm. Talks by Fr. Matthew Carlin, Fr. Jonathan Whitworth and Mgr. Denis Carlin on the Spirituality of Adoration, there will be Adoration and Benediction at the end of the meeting. All are welcome to join. How to access Zoom - download the App onto your tablet or computer. Click on the link and type in the meeting ID in red. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/98109408120> Meeting ID: 981 0940 8120

Throughout The Diocese all parishioners are invited to contribute to a Spiritual Bouquet the Diocese hopes to present to our two hospitals. The link below takes people to the web page where they can indicate their spiritual contribution i.e. rosaries, prayers, acts of charity. These will be added together and a presentation made to the hospitals. Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ffcunp>

Responses To Our Question...

What are you looking forward to most after things open up?

- I'm looking forward to going back to Church to pray and then, soon, to Mass as a family; both for the grace of the Eucharist and to undo any bad habits we have developed while trying to participate from home. The hardest part, so far, about being on lockdown has been trying to attend Mass as a family. Because we are watching from home, it has been very hard to engage our children in the Mass when their toys are in the next room.
- Having some normality. Going to Church and having the freedom to go to places.
- Going to Mass has lost some reverence and "otherworldliness" since there isn't anything special about opening up the computer and trying to participate from home, so to get that back will be powerful.
- Having an ice-cream cone!
- Return to regular Mass mostly. And hoping to see the continuing decline in new COVID cases and deaths - i.e. less suffering. I thought the pandemic lockdown did have side-benefits of reducing some of the harmful activities that are now part of everyday public life - and I am not looking forward to that part of society resuming.
- Seeing my nephews and nieces.

Fr. Michael was listening to an interview with a Catholic Hospital Chaplain. He spoke of the immense changes that took place, as the hospitals geared up in preparation for the expected surge in patients suffering from coronavirus. Many of you will be able to identify first hand with aspects of his experience, whether you work in hospitals or care homes, or have had loved ones' resident there, or you work in other important and stressful frontline situations during this time of lockdown. For the rest of us, I think it provides a helpful insight into the work, and the heavy personal costs on so many, of those who provide these key services. He spoke of the dramatic changes in the hospital as some staff were told that they couldn't come into work because they needed to shield themselves; of others being rapidly redeployed to work in new and unfamiliar areas of the hospital where they were urgently needed, and of some others being re-skilled to return to clinical practice; whole teams of people learning to work together in unfamiliar settings.

As the country got used to the daily government briefings, so too did the hospitals, where it often seemed that new rules and procedures were being introduced on a daily basis. In an environment where staff are usually distinguishable by their uniforms, all of a sudden everyone was wearing scrubs, even the chaplains! In the ward areas everyone was wearing face masks; staff and patients alike - so a whole new way of communicating, without the usual non-verbal facial cues, needed to be quickly learned.

The chaplaincy team had to adapt and learn new ways of responding to the increased need for spiritual support. For the patients who were often feeling isolated, vulnerable and afraid, with no visitors able to come into the hospital, the chaplains set up, from scratch, a Family Liaison Team made up of volunteers who wanted to help out while furloughed or unable to study; iPads were used for Skype and Facetime calls to help keep patients in touch with family, who were naturally worried but comforted to know that the chaplain had spent time with their loved one in the hospital. As the daily pressure on staff increased and began to take its inevitable toll, a listening ear, a safe space to come and talk, words of encouragement and appreciation became increasingly important. In response to what the chaplain has shared with me, so typical of the very professional, generous, and selfless commitment as NHS Staff care and other key workers, I think they deserve a heartfelt 'Thank you' from all of us.

So I wonder if we can see our work, no matter where or when we do so, as your way not only of serving Christ but of being the presence of Christ; to see your workplace as the environment where God is at work, and where He wants you to be, and be generous channels of Christ's love, care, and compassion. In a prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila, this is expressed well: "Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks Compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good; Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands. Yours are the feet. Yours are the eyes. You are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."