

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 26th / 27th September 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: Vincent 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: John Mitchell.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Bill Scott, Mary and Patrick Docherty, Joe Sheerin, Jimmy Murphy, Martin Hick and for the month's mind of Isobel Sheerin and Bobby McColgan.

Please Keep In Your Prayers the Children receiving Holy Communion for the First time on Friday at 6.00pm or Saturday at 10.00am.

Praying For You: For any parishioners interested in promoting and praying for those within the Diocese who have asked for prayers, please visit: <https://rcdop.org.uk/prayingforyou>

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

'Illustrate The Sunday Gospel' Competition: This competition for the young people of the Parish will restart after the October school break.

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.

Through Our Schools And Some Very Generous Local People we have been able, in the last few months to set up a meal delivery service locally for those who have been so adversely affected by pandemic related poverty and hunger. Currently around 50 families are being supported with about 5 meals a week in a two week cycle. Fr. Michael is pursuing whether it would be helpful to establish this with the status of a Charity - so watch this space and we may soon have our own local version of 'Mary's Meals'. Anyone with expertise in Charity Law is welcome to be in touch with him!

Schedule This Week For Masses And Private Prayer:

Saturday, 26th September: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 27th September: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 9.30am until 12noon

Tuesday, 29th September: Mass at 10.00am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Thursday, 1st October: Mass at 6.00pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Saturday, 3rd October: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 4th October: 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.

The Diocese Has Advised Fr. Michael And All The Parishes As Follows:

Mass with a Congregation MAY now be celebrated in line with restricted congregation and with the necessary stewarding and sanitising measures in place. Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals may be celebrated with restricted congregation, Churches continue to be open for private prayer with the necessary stewarding and sanitising measures in place.

At Sunday or weekday Mass the maximum number of participants is 50 (we can accommodate 40 in St. Conval's)

At a celebration of Baptism the maximum number of participants is 20

At a celebration of Marriage the maximum number of participants is 20

At a Funeral the maximum number of participants is 20

Always subject to the physical distance rule of 2 metres

Face coverings must be worn at all public Masses or Liturgies

N.B. No congregational singing, no leaflets or hymn books, no Votive candles and Church buildings to be well ventilated

The offertory collection will be collected as the parishioners enter or exit the Church, placing the offerings in baskets or containers left for the purpose. (In St. Conval's, the offertory collections should be placed in the basket at the main door when entering and any second collections should be placed in the basket at the side door when leaving.)

So For Us In St. Conval's: We have set up 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.

Hour Of Mercy 2020: Bishop John Keenan and The Friends of Divine Mercy Scotland invite you to an Hour of Mercy and Reconciliation on Tuesday, 29th September 2020 at The Diocesan Divine Mercy Shrine, St. Mary's Parish, 163 George Street, Paisley PA1 2UN at 6.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who have not gone for confession since the lockdown. Priests will be available for confession. To book your ticket visit: <https://tinyurl.com/yyz9kxbd> or email: stmarypaisley@rcdop.org.uk or call the Church House, tel. 0141 889 2602.

Marriage Matters - 26th Sunday In Ordinary Time: Maintain a common purpose. Remember our courting days and the long, thrilling conversations we had about our future together. They were part of our falling in love and of establishing a common purpose in married life. St. Paul reminds us of the mark of a Christian: "Be united in your convictions and your love, with a common purpose and a common mind." (Ezekiel 18: 25-28 Philippians 2: 1-11 Matthew 21: 28-32)

Pastoral Letter
On the Recovery of Parish Life after Lockdown
September 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to write to you as lockdown relaxes and our schools return after summer holidays, and as our churches recommence public Masses and plan for the full resumption of parish life in the months ahead.

Above all, I want to commend and thank our parish priests and you, our parishioners, for coming together so marvellously and getting through the lockdown as a strong family of faith. I know how difficult life has been for you behind the scenes and yet, despite so many anxieties and upsets, your response in faith has been quite exemplary.

I want to thank our parish priests for their heroic efforts in reaching out to our sick and dying, in burying our loved ones and ensuring you were involved and comforted during their funeral rites. I thank our priests who reached out to you online and ensured you could participate in parish Masses and Devotions, or who buoyed you up in your faith with online Teachings and Reflections.

I want to thank you, too, for the equally heroic way you supported our priests and parishes by attending online Masses, or sending in your offertory collections or helping to get parish websites and bulletins up and running.

It is difficult to express our gladness as our churches opened for private prayers and public Masses, nor the joy of our first gatherings for Sunday Mass. Many of you immediately came to Mass, made possible by the generosity of our priests who put on extra Masses so that as many of you as possible could attend. I warmly encourage them to keep up this practice until the restrictions are relaxed. It was also down to the gargantuan efforts of parish volunteers who got booking systems up and running and supplied an army of volunteers to sanitise our churches.

As our schools have reopened, our parish priests and Head Teachers, both Primary and Secondary, have worked together in the most impressive way to see to First Holy Communion and Confirmations that were postponed in lockdown. I can honestly say I have never seen our parishes, schools and parents work so well together, and with one heart, to ensure our young ones experience their Big Day of receiving the Sacraments. By all accounts these celebrations have been truly beautiful occasions.

I also commend Monsignor Gerry Gallagher, Fr. Paul Brady, Canon Tom Boyle and our Office staff who kept us well advised and up to date on infection control protocols coming from the Scottish Government and the Bishops Conference. It is to their credit that, God willing, there have been no cases of infection in our churches.

Truly, I believe our parishes have grown stronger than ever during this terrible Pandemic and I thank God for this great blessing.

Now of course, allowing for the virus to be kept in check we are beginning to think of parish life getting back up and running as fully as we can.

We have been blessed to have had well-resourced online provision for Mass during lockdown but we know nothing replaces our in-church participation when it is possible. Here, I think of grandparents who told me of their comfort at seeing and chatting to their grandchildren socially through *Facetime* during the lockdown when they could not meet up in person. This online connection with their families was an unexpected blessing of new technology and, frankly, who knows how they would have coped without it. But, as soon as they were allowed to see their grandchildren in person they jumped at the opportunity, and could not express their joy at meeting them in their homes and give them a hug.

I think it is the same with our Sunday Masses, the heart and soul of our life as a Christian community. While we were not able to be in church, our online Masses have been such a godsend. Yet nothing compares to being in church for Sunday Mass with our parish family and receiving Jesus physically in Holy Communion. That is why, while for Catholics not in a condition to come to church our online Masses will be an ongoing blessing, for healthy Catholics who can come to church they can never be a substitute.

Now we look forward to some recovery of our parish life with the safe return of ministries like RCIA, parish groups and associations like SSVP and Legion of Mary, and Prayer and Devotion groups and the like.

Our own Diocesan Office has produced a Revised Calendar till the end of 2020 and our watchword is that: *The show goes on*, even if in different ways and with a new blend of online and in person ministries and gatherings. In that regard I want to commend all those parishes who have their Parish Councils meeting online to produce their own Parish Pastoral Plans till the end of the year.

All in all, we can be well satisfied with how we have risen to the challenge of the Pandemic as a Church so far. Let us keep it going through prayer and dedication to our parishes so that we can return to full parish life as soon as God wills and all the better for this unprecedented experience.

With every blessing.

Bishop John