

# Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (B) 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



**Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick:** Frances Reid, Pauline Garvie, Anne Kerr, Alan Kerr, Eileen Carroll, Marie Murphy 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 Lapsley (Family Funeral on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December), Michael Conway (Family Funeral on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> December) and Bernadette Gray.

**Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now:** Mary and Patrick McGourlick, David Hunter, Danny McMahon, Isobel Sheerin, Michael Quinn Snr, Michael Quinn Jnr, Cathy McColgan and for the month's mind of Ann and William McAdam, George and Maureen O'Sullivan and Bobby McColgan.

**Next Weekend** there will be a second collection for the Building Fund which is to pay off the debt to the Diocese.

**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.

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> November** is the Feast of St. Andrew our National Patron. Mass will be Live Streamed at Midday as Fr. Michael will celebrate Mass alone in the Church.

### **Schedule This Week For Masses And Private Prayer:**

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

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 9.30am until 12noon

Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December: Mass at 10.00am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Mass at 6.00pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Malawi Christmas Parcels Appeal:** Many thanks indeed for your generosity to our appeal! 175 Christmas Parcels were made up by the Young Men and Women of St. Benedict's S6 and were packed and posted on Friday. Each parcel contained a letter and a Christmas Card, toothbrush and toothpaste, pens and pencils in a pencil case with coloured pens and crayons, stationery, socks and sundry other goodies. Photographs of the process are available on the school's Twitter Feed and the final step photograph is also available on our Facebook Page and Website.

**Advent Giving And Christmas Dinner Appeal:** Many thanks also for your ongoing generosity to both the 'Advent Gift Cards Appeal' and donations of cash for Christmas Dinners. Thanks to those also who have offered to make additions for the Parcels (Tablet and Fudge). Enough monies are coming in to add a Chocolate Santa to every Festive Feast! Special thanks also this week to Gowanlea Nursery who have offered to donate Potatoes and Vegetables to keep our costs low. The menu has been finalised for 102 recipients as follows: Starters (choose one from) Winter Vegetable and Lentil Soup or Carrot and Parsnip Soup. Main Course is home cooked traditional Roast Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings. Dessert (choose one from) Raspberry and White Chocolate Cheesecake or Chocolate Gateau both served with pouring cream. My mouth is watering as I type this! It is a season of great generosity from you all - many thanks indeed.

**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

*Continued Overleaf*

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: [www.catholicerskine.website](http://www.catholicerskine.website) and click onto the Rosary link. All welcome.

**Spread Love At Christmas?** We are inviting you to create a Nativity Scene to display on your window for everyone outside to see. Use bright colours to make it stand out. You could add lights to catch the attention of passersby. Take a photograph and send it to: [erskinecatholicchurches@gmail.com](mailto:erskinecatholicchurches@gmail.com) or via Messenger. Find us on Facebook @Catholicerskine1. We will share all pictures submitted in our Love at Christmas Album on Facebook. Wouldn't it be great to see a Nativity in every window?

**St. Margaret's Children And Family Care Society - Virtual Crib:** The Catholic Adoption Agency, St. Margaret's Children and Family Care Society, which supports some of Scotland's most vulnerable children, is hosting a 'Virtual Crib' this Advent. Due to congregation sizes being limited due to Covid19 restrictions, the charity could lose out on up to £100k in donations made each year by the Catholic community to its Crib Appeal collection boxes. St. Margaret's Virtual Crib is a peaceful animated crib scene accompanied by a full Christmas Carol Concert from the St. Andrew's Cathedral Choir. St. Margaret's Virtual Crib will be live until the Feast of the Epiphany on their website, visit: [stmargaretsadoption.org.uk](http://stmargaretsadoption.org.uk) Donations can be made via the St. Margaret's website or by cheque posted to the charity's office at 26 Newton Place, Glasgow G3 7PY.

**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](mailto:vocations@rcdop.org.uk) or tel. 0141 889 5056.

**Research On The Wellbeing Benefits Of Being Religious - University of Glasgow:** Researchers at the University of Glasgow are interested in the wellbeing benefits of being religious. Catholics across the Diocese are being invited to take part in this 10 minute anonymous online study. You will be asked to answer some questions about your faith, your mental wellbeing and to complete a short experiment in which you will identify emotion in voices. Here is the link to the anonymous study: <https://tinyurl.com/yxopzj4u>