

# Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (B) 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



**Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick:** Frances Reid, Pauline Garvie, Marie Murphy, Tracy Gallagher, Eleanor McMahon and Margaret McIlvennie 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:** Janet Cullinane (Family Funeral Service on Wednesday at 11.15am) and Ian MacLean.

**Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now:** Kathleen McMillan, Kate and Felix McGeown, James McGeown, Catherine and Jock Haney, Helen McMillan, Willie McKenna, Davie Dunnion, James O'Shea and for the month's mind of Josephine Gray, Mary Ferguson, Annie Muggins, Robert and Helen Graham, Tommy Fulton, Tommy Hanley, Alex Williamson and Jim Clark.

**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.

**Advent Giving:** Many thanks indeed for your most generous donations of Gift Cards - Fr. Michael was able to deliver 64 Gift Cards which will make a massive difference to a lot of families, so you have done a great act of kindness again this year ... thank you very much.

**As A Thanks** for your Support for Malawi, there is a Christmas Card / Calendar to say thank you in the Side Porch of the Church and in the Porch of Fr. Michael's House.

**Many Thanks** to those who got back to Fr. Michael about the proposals for Christmas Mass and for the broad understanding and support you offered of having Christmas Eve Mass Live Streamed only. That we can have a Christmas Vigil with Music and Singing is a very powerful (and rare!) thing - many of you tell me how much you miss singing hymns and Carols at the moment. It also allows everyone to attend virtually and enjoy Christmas Vigil and also to book a Mass in the Octave of Christmas - when every day is a Christmas Day. Additionally over the past months many Stewards, Cleaners, Sacristans, Readers, Technical Support for the Live Stream and Sanitisers have worked exceptionally hard to enable us to celebrate frequently and safely in a dignified manner. Fr. Michael was keen not to ask them to work late into Christmas Eve and again on Christmas Day and in the subsequent days without time to be with their own families. Fr. Michael himself, having tried to provide additional support and encouragement to our stressed and anxious Young People and their Teachers has been in our Schools virtually every day without any chance of a day off or down time for the past six months, he has also had lots and lots of Funerals and so he now finds himself rather exhausted. The sudden serious illness of his mother now gives him additional family cares and responsibilities, so the school holidays will perhaps allow some breathing space for all. Please book Mass thoughtful of others and Mass can be added on additional days of the Christmas Octave if Masses are oversubscribed by different people, perhaps book only once in the Christmas Octave at first to allow others spaces and if spaces then remain available Fr. Michael will let you know. Please remember that we are encouraged to travel sparingly and mix only very occasionally.

### **Schedule For Masses:**

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> December: Vigil Mass at 5.30pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Mass at 10.00am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December: Funeral, as noted above, with 20 members of the family ONLY allowed to attend  
Christmas Eve: 7.30pm - This Mass will be Live Streamed *ONLY* (all other Masses can be booked in the usual way)  
Christmas Day: Mass at 10.30am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Feast Of The Holy Family: Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> December Vigil Mass at 5.30pm and Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December Mass at 10.30am. Both Masses celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December: Mass at 10.00am celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Solemnity Of Mary Mother Of God: Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> December Vigil Mass at 6.00pm celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed  
Solemnity Of The Epiphany: Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January Vigil Mass at 5.30pm and Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January Mass at 10.30am. Both Masses celebrated with Congregation and Live Streamed.

**Christmas Dinner Appeal:** Latest is that we have all the cash we need and more - thank you very much for your generosity. Fr. Michael has been able to add to the Three Course Turkey Dinners a Chocolate Santa, some Christmas Crackers, Homemade bar of Fudge or Tablet, Colouring Books and Pens, Large pouch of 'Celebrations' and a Board Game for every family and a Lucky Bag for every child. We will also be able to add some fresh fruit to every parcel. Special thanks to Stephanie and Chris for the Tablet and Fudge, Smiths Toys for the donation of some Board Games, Gowanlea Nursery for Potatoes and Vegetables, and Tesco for the Fresh Fruit. The project will feed 99 (the number fluctuates slightly week to week...!) people for Christmas Day AND give them a snack for Boxing Day. Your generosity has been overwhelming and most humbling...! Yet again the Parish Community proves it looks outward, rather than inward, is sensitive to the needs of others and is generous in its response - the true spirit of Christmas at work in you. As man that tries to draw it together and put those who can give in touch with those in need, Fr. Michael is so grateful to you all.

**Western Catholic Calendars** are available in the Church Porch - the cost is £3.20. Please put the money in the bag which is in the box.

**The Covid-19 Pandemic:** 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. 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.

### **Bishop's Christmas Message And Blessing**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I want to assure you of my closeness to you in prayers and daily Masses in these days, and to wish you all the peace and joy of the Infant King of Bethlehem in this Christmas which is like no other. I pray in hope for you to enjoy a blessed Christmas filled with the consolations of faith and the affection of family and loved ones all around. May the angels, who watched over the Holy Family of Jesus, Our Lady and Saint Joseph as they gathered around the manger, keep you safe in mind and body. May the New Year beckon fresh optimism for the virus to be checked and sure hope in the LORD to deliver our world from all evils. May Our Lady's prayers fill you with the wonder of the season and may the Year of Saint Joseph bring you growing confidence in Our Heavenly Father's good providence to restore to us in abundance the human touch we have lost a while and now more than ever cherish. With prayers and blessings always, +John

*A blessed and peaceful Christmas season  
to everyone and my prayers and best  
wishes for health and happiness in the New Year*