

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

4th Sunday of Advent (C) 18th / 19th December 2021

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Masses

Sunday: 5.30pm Vigil (Saturday) and 10.30am.
Monday: 11.00am Our Lady of Peace Primary School.
Tuesday: 10.00am St. Conval's.
Thursday: 6.00pm St. Conval's followed by Exposition and Benediction at 6.50pm.
Friday: 10.00am St. Conval's.
12.25pm St. Benedict's High School.

Confessions

Thursday: 6.30pm Available in the Meeting Room during Exposition as required.
Saturday: 5.00pm Available in the Meeting Room before Vigil Mass.

Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Andrew Irvine, Elizabeth Kelly, Gary Danks, Betty Kerr, Nellie McNamara, Janice Mackin, John and Isabella Gilmartin, Terry Porter, Eileen McKenna, Helen Gallagher 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: Thomas McGourlick (Funeral on Tuesday, 21st December at 10.00am).

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: James Delaney, Frances Reid, Stuart Lindsay, Brian and Edward Garrity, James Tutty, Gordon Spence, William Irvine, Willie McKenna, Tommy Haney, Maggie Haney, Mary Haney, Catherine and Felix McGowan, Fr. Mathew Dillon, Davie Dunnion, Helen McMillan and for the month's mind of Alex Williamson, Tommy Fulton, Robert Graham, Gillian McGourlick and Josephine Gray.

Post COVID-19 we continue our journey to what will be our new normality with care for ourselves and each other. Accordingly, we will not pass the Collection Basket from hand to hand during Mass at the Preparation of the Gifts (and for Second Collections to avoid interrupting everyone's Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion). So the Basket for the Main Offertory Collection will be in the Porch as you enter and the Basket for the various Second Collections - which will be named - will be on the Altar Rail as you leave. Many of you now support the Parish by Standing Order or Electronically (for which Fr. Michael is most grateful) though for many causes the physical collection is their only opportunity for you to offer your financial support. Please continue to offer these causes your support. (If you forget the Offertory Collection on the way in, please leave your donation *beside* the Second Collection Basket as you leave). Thank you!

Sunday Mass Obligation: A letter has been published from the Bishops' Conference regarding Sunday Mass Obligation. Please take a copy from the Church Porch or the House Porch. Thank you.

The Scottish Catholic Calendar is now available priced £3.20.

The Scottish Catholic Magazine is also now available priced £2.00.

Please Note: There will be no Tuesday Tea during the festive season.

Poinsettias: Would you help us decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias? Please leave your donations in the Church Porch or House Porch during the week - and thank you!

Christmas Food Appeal: Many thanks to all who contributed to our Christmas Food Appeal. Your generosity was tremendous and very much appreciated. Many thanks also to Smyths Toy Store who matched us pound for pound spent in their shop and also to Gowanlea Nursery who supplied potatoes and vegetables.

RCIA: Together with other local Parishes we are going to begin this year's experience of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) the way in which the Church receives new adult members whether Baptised in another Christian Tradition or Unbaptised. If you have been thinking about becoming a Catholic this is the moment to have a word with Fr. Michael to begin the process (which leads to Easter!).

Christmas Mass Times

Thank you to those who shared their thoughts on Christmas Mass times with Fr. Michael - you were most helpful and understanding! So at the moment - aware that the Public Health and Government Advice is subject to change - we are planning as follows...

Week beginning Monday, 20th December - all weekday Masses as usual until:

Friday, 24 th December	No Morning Mass	8.00pm Christmas Vigil (Midnight) Mass
Saturday, 25 th December	10.30am Christmas Morning Mass	No Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday, 26 th December	10.30am Sunday Morning Mass	6.00pm Evening Mass in St. Aidan's

Week beginning Monday, 27th December to Friday, 31st December - all weekday Masses as usual then:

Saturday, 1 st January	Midday Mass for the Feast Day	5.30pm Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday, 2 nd January	10.30am Sunday Morning Mass	

All Masses are Live Streamed and can be viewed on our YouTube Channel. Weekday Masses are available for up to 12 hours after they are finished "live". The Christmas Vigil, Christmas Morning and Weekend Masses will also be uploaded to view later. Please feel free to stay at home if you are anxious about mixing with others. There is still no obligation to attend Mass and our own safety and that of others is paramount.

Collection Envelopes: If any parishioners would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, sealed sterile Gift Aid Packs - which are all the same - containing a box of envelopes, a Gift Aid Declaration (GAD) Form, a Standing Order Form, a Thank You Letter and Statement of Account are available in the House Porch. Please take the sealed sterile pack home with you. The Gift Aid Declaration (GAD) Form should then be completed and the signed GAD Form posted in the Parish House.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Census Forms and Standing Order Forms. If you would like a copy of the Bulletin or any of these forms, but cannot get out to collect them, please email the Parish with your address and you can have them delivered by email or by hand.

The Diocese has been advised that we should maintain our Covid safety restrictions and you will now notice that many other venues have reintroduced the restrictions which we had been maintaining. Please continue to sanitise on entry and exit, please wear a face-covering indoors and please continue to observe the 'One Way System'. Social distancing rules have been relaxed to one metre and we have no restrictions to numbers at Mass apart from that. We are still required to have a record of who is present for the 'Track and Trace' System to contact us if someone else present tests positive.

For entering and leaving the Church, please remember that it is important to maintain social distance of at least one metre so bunching up coming in or going out is unwise. Please follow the directions of the Stewards. The Stewards have been brave and generous with their time for many months now and it is appropriate that they should be allowed to attend Mass as well as everyone else. It would be generous of you to come in good time to register allowing us to begin Mass on schedule.

We are using the same sign up lists for Masses week to week. If you were at Mass any time last week you will be on the list for that day this week, next week and so on, so there is no need to sign up every week. If your name is not on the sign up list for a specific Mass, you can either book in as normal, OR scan our unique QR Code on your phone as you enter - laminated posters with the QR Code are in the Entrance Porch - please let the Stewards know your preferred method of registration. Please also pass the word that we are now fully open and able to welcome all who wish to come!

We will continue to ventilate the Church well. The Procession for Holy Communion will be directed by the Stewards and we will come forward to receive Holy Communion row by row as they direct, please come forward by the middle aisle and return to your seat by the side aisles. Please bear in mind that the current strain of the virus is highly contagious and very easily transmissible and act with generosity and consideration to those around you. Our link for Internet booking is:

<https://forms.gle/ZU2pJCq3s2GyFHnA8>

Catholic Erskine: We will be launching a new Alpha Experience on Wednesday, 19th January online from 7.00pm. What is Alpha some of you may be asking. Alpha is a course used for bringing people to a deeper understanding of God in their life. Alpha is a series of 14 sessions carried out over a 10 week period. The format of each session is always the same. Part 1: informal get together; Part 2: watch a video; Part 3: short period of discussion. The topics covered in Alpha are: Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I have faith? Why and how can I pray? Why and how should I read the Bible? How does God guide us? Who is the Holy Spirit? Does Jesus heal today? If you are interested in taking part in the Alpha Experience, please register on our website: www.catholicerskine.website or email: alpha@catholicerskine.info