

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (C) 8th / 9th January 2022

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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, Bernard McIlvennie, Danny Gill 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: Peter Flood.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Maria Ferns, Jadwisa Tretkowski, May Vaughan and for the month's mind of Thomas McGourlick.

Second Collection: This weekend's second collection is for the Building Fund which is to pay off the debt to the Diocese.

St. Margaret's Children And Family Care Society: Please support the Annual Crib Appeal. Many thanks for your generosity.

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!

Live Streaming: 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". Sunday Vigil and Sunday Morning 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.

The Scottish Catholic Calendar is now available priced £3.20.

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

Financial Support: Thanks to your continued generosity in December, Fr. Michael received £3,150 from the contributions to the weekly Offertory Collection which you have made with envelopes and donations. Your ongoing generous support of the Parish by envelopes, donations, standing orders or through the Diocesan debit / credit card portal is greatly appreciated as it enables us to continue to function despite all the challenges that these days bring.

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!).

At Some Point over the last few months a piece of masonry from a concrete lintel above one of the windows outside the side of the Church fell onto the roof of one of the Confessional Boxes. This caused the roof to dislodge the rattle from the side of the Church and water was allowed to enter - unfortunately as we have not been using the Confessionals this remained undiscovered for some months leading to a partial collapse of the internal ceiling. Fr. Michael had the Builders in and they have a plan to make good beginning next week - there should be minimal disruption to our weekly schedule. The work will involve replacing the damaged roof and ceiling and sealing the rattle joint between the Confessional and the Church Brickwork at a cost of approx £795. Rather more ominously a crack has appeared in another concrete lintel above the window on the Sanctuary which is a cause of concern and is less accessible - Fr. Michael will update as soon as the experts have assessed the extent of the problem.

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>

Archbishop Tartaglia RIP: On Thursday, 13th January, we will mark the first anniversary since the death of Archbishop Tartaglia, the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Paisley. The 10.00am Mass in St. Mirin's Cathedral will be celebrated by Bishop Keenan on Thursday. All are welcome to attend.

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

Think Vocation: "God, here I am! I am coming to do your will. Can you make that offer, to put yourself at the disposal of God's plan for his people and for the world? Contact our Diocesan Vocations Director, Fr. John Morrison, tel. 0141 889 5056 or email: vocations@rcdop.org.uk

Marriage And Family Webpage: The Diocese has a dedicated page on the website for Marriage and Family life. It contains a wealth of information, support and resources for many aspects of this important vocation. For more information, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/edv6spz4>