

Parish of Saint Conval - Weekly Bulletin

3rd Sunday of Lent (B) 6th / 7th March 2021

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Parish Priest: Canon Michael McMahon



Please Pray For Those Who Are Sick: Eleanor McMahon, Tracy Gallagher, 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: Geoff Gardyne Snr (Family Funeral on Tuesday, 9th March at 10.00am), Thomas (Simmy) Simpson (Family Funeral on Wednesday, 10th March at 10.00am) and Isla MacDonald.

Please Pray For Those Whose Anniversaries Occur About Now: Edward Flood, Gus Milligan, Cathie Lawson, Marie Ward, Willie McGourlick, Edward McGourlick and for the month's mind of Elsie Muggins, David Tannock, Betty Dunnion and John Stewart.

Second Collection: There will be a special second collection next week for SCIAF and Papal and Episcopal and St. Mirin's Fund. The proceeds of this collection are divided 75% to SCIAF and 25% to our new St. Mirin's Fund. SCIAF is the official aid and international development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland. It works in sixteen countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America to help the poorest in the world, regardless of religion, to work their way out of poverty. The St. Mirin's Fund awards small grants for good causes that promote the Kingdom of God among us, with special consideration to children and young people, the elderly, those with disabilities and special needs, or suffering from poverty, mental illness, homelessness or refugees. In 2018 this collection raised £28,013, which represents 110% of our expenditure of £25,389 resulting in a small fund surplus of £2,624. The Papal and Episcopal Fund also contributed £15,000 from reserves to the SPRED Fund.

In The House Porch there are copies of the Bulletin, Census Forms, Standing Order Forms, Gift Aid Packs and Financial Statements. 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. New sets of weekly Gift Aid Collection Envelopes will be delivered around 4th April.

There are also Memorial Cards for Canon Healy, Lenten Prayer Calendars for Priests of the Diocese, 'Day by Day' Lent Prayer Books and copies of a form of the Stations of The Cross (also available on our Facebook page and website).

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 from the Porch or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/1bo24gvv> to download the Form for printing. Completed Forms should be returned to the House (outside door of House Porch accessible). All data held in accordance with GDPR.

Fr. Michael's recording of the Reflections at the Quay will be broadcast on BBC1 Scotland on Sunday at 11.30am.

The First Minister's Announcement extended lockdown for places of worship until 5th April (Easter Monday - suggesting that the 'tone deaf' approach to Faith and Church Communities is still an affliction of the Scottish Government), though there is hope that, if the 'R-Rate' falls sufficiently, the date will be brought forward. We will continue to Live Stream Mass without a Congregation on Tuesday at 10.00am, Thursday at 6.00pm and Sunday at 10.30am. Fr. Michael can continue to celebrate Funerals (with a maximum of 20 Mourners) and Weddings (similarly restricted).

Continued Overleaf

No Congregations are otherwise permitted and Churches are to remain closed, so please do return - or continue - to celebrate virtually online. Our Live Stream is easily accessed on any electronic device with internet compatibility simply Google 'St. Conval's Church Linwood YouTube' or paste the following link into your search engine: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyfCJEhpKW4>
Please continue to pray for the other members of the Parish Community as we go through another period of enforced isolation from one another, especially for those who find these periods of isolation so difficult.

Year Of St. Joseph: As you may know, this year has been designated as the Year of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Looking towards the Solemnity of St. Joseph on 19th March, we host Novenas to St. Joseph. There will be a daily Novena celebrated in the Diocese:

Christ the King, Howwood will celebrate the Novena at 4.00pm from 10th until 18th March and St. Margaret's, Johnstone will celebrate at 6.00pm on the same dates. Full details available on their websites and Facebook pages.

We will celebrate the Solemnity with a Vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Thursday, 18th with special Prayer for those who have died over the last year, as this marks the Anniversary of our going into Lockdown on 20th March 2020.

St. Benedict's School Cluster: Food, Toiletries And Cash - A Great Way To Give Alms In Lent

The Chefs were busy in the Hall Kitchen through last week and at the weekend we offered 50 people a few meals each and will do so again this week for another 50, thanks to your great generosity - a number of people sent me generous donations so we will try to get this on a secure financial footing to take it into the future weeks and months as Lockdown and Vaccines enable us to inch towards a 'new normal' - God give us patience and hope! If you are seeking an opportunity for Lenten Almsgiving, please support us as we try to support those in our own Community who are in need. As St. John Bosco, the Patron Saint of Education is quoted as saying; "It is not enough to love our children, it is essential that they know they are loved, so without confidence and love, there can be no true education". Donations of food, toiletries and cash can be safely left in the Parish House Porch as it is monitored by CCTV. The outer door is open but the inner one is locked. The link for online giving is: <https://tinyurl.com/3ro5rwzm>

The Chefs providing our Charity Meals also prepare food and meals in their own premises which are available to buy, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ktybmppa> Fr. Michael sampled the Sunday Lunch recently - delicious he says!

Fr. Michael hopes that 'Day by Day' Lent Prayer Books will help us Pray, our Meals Project will help us give Alms, and for Fasting - Pope Francis offers us this:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill you heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Various Lenten Resources From SCIAF (including a 'Wee Box') for everyone are available in Fr. Michael's Porch, they are inside an illustrated envelope with various other communications from SCIAF. These are to aid our Lenten Observances of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Please come and help yourself. If you would like any of these but cannot get out to collect them, please email the Parish (with your address!) and Fr. Michael will deliver them to you. The Day of Prayer for SCIAF and their work will be held on Friday, 12th March and the Special Second Collection for the work of SCIAF will be, as usual, on the 4th Sunday of Lent (14th March). As previously, the UK Government will match with a £1 every £1 we give to SCIAF before 11th May, so please let Fr. Michael have all your Donations (Wee Boxes and other Donations) by the end of April to allow him to count them and send the money to SCIAF.

Adult Education Talks: You are invited to our next talk on Monday, 15th March 2020 at 6.30pm on The Social Doctrine of the Church by Mgr. Gerry Gallagher. Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/98755682864?pwd=SCtzMW9QZTZ5RlJzTWdtMzJBR3RGZz09> Passcode: 435655