

St. Mary's, Inverness

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The Parish Bulletin

29 March 2020
 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass Readings: Page No: 170

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm: 129

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Date	Details	Private Mass	Time
Sunday 29 March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Offered for the Parishioners of St. Mary's	12.00
Monday 30 March	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Tuesday 31 March	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Wednesday 1 April	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Thursday 2 April	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Friday 3 April	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Saturday 4 April	Fifth Week of Lent	Private Mass	09.30
Sunday 5 April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord	Offered for the Parishioners of St. Mary's	12.00

~~FOR YOUR PRAYERS~~

+ Sick +

+ Christopher Brown + Mary Cumming + Kate Fraser + George Taylor + Maureen Rattray + Florian Alvaran +
 + Ian Cameron + Leslie Allan + Evelyn Farry + Catherine Stewart + Louise Hendry + Hilary Smith +
 + Mary Grant + Leslie Murray + Sabrina MacAllen + James Connelly + Ruth & John Huggett + Louise Bestau +
 + Emmy MacNicol + Claude & Hilary Hayward + Patrick Daniel Finnerty + Joyce Connelly + Margaret Carr +
 + Margaret Dow + Ann Cameron + Rita Regan + Margaret & Stewart MacLennan + Cecilia Bottomley +
 + Winifred Kelly + Margaret Harrison + Roddy Corbett + Tommy Robertson + Brian & Margaret Lamond +
 + Hazel Collins + Lynne Williams + Tom Gillan + Marjory Trace + Ian Mackenzie + Rena Mackintosh +
 + Marion MacRae + John Daniel Peteranna + Mary Macdonald + Anthony Grady + Marvia McCulloch +

+ Anniversaries +

+ James Kelly + Jessie Forbes + Annie MacDonald + Alice Rasche + George MacLennan + Alexander Sharp +
 + Margaret Cumming + Thomas Robertson + Elizabeth Chisholm + Laurence Hasson + Thomas MacMaster +
 + Jack Kearns + James McKendry + William Byrne + John Watt + Sarah Fraser + Alexander Shewan +
 + James MacDonald + Helen Hasson + Thomasina Murray + Stuart Stocks + Colin Stocks + Thomas Stewart +
 + Alan Fraser +

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Updated 27 March 2020**

Greetings and peace to you, and I hope, a message of practical and spiritual support to you in our present circumstances.

Following recent orders from the Government to close all places of Worship, along with the instructions from the Scottish Catholic Bishops' Conference, Masses will not be celebrated in public with effect from Fri 20 March 20. There will be no further Sunday Masses, week-day Masses nor Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Dominic will hear Confession if required. This will be heard in the Presbytery Garden at the Shrine of Our Lady, to enable him to keep himself and you a safe distance apart.

Should you require Confession please contact Fr. Dominic on the Parish number: 01463 233519

Although this is an involuntary 'eucharistic fast' this can be an opportunity for further self-scrutiny, a time to deepen our obedience to the will of the Father, and to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Churches. It will be fruitful if we share our insights with each other, by whatever means. Please make acts of 'Spiritual Communion', when listening to Mass on radio, or watching & listening to it on television, or your smart 'phone or computer.

You may find these links helpful: The Eternal Word Television Network has a daily Mass on the homepage of its website. It can be accessed directly at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/daily-readings>. Some Scottish Churches are offering televised Masses including our own Diocese from St. Joseph Parish Aberdeen, this can be accessed through the Diocesan website rcda.scot Other sites such as 'MCN Media' offer live streamed Daily Mass from St Francis Xavier's Parish in Falkirk, and from the Catholic Cathedral in Glasgow, as well as other venues at home and abroad. Similarly, you could explore 'Daily Mass Today' on 'google', where you should find several possibilities.

As well as all the splendid modern high-tech gizmos there is however another system, 'wonderfully made' – your mind! Your own imagination and memory are powerful tools for recollecting Masses and imagining the sights and symbols of faith. When accompanied by careful attention to the weekday and Sunday Mass readings we can find nourishing spiritual food. This is a time to extend our knowledge, strengthen our will, and deepen our understanding- let the desert flourish. All of us should say The Lord's Prayer more frequently, and the petition 'Give us today our daily bread' might be pondered and reflected upon, indeed 'marked, learned and inwardly digested'.

Please encourage one another in prayer, and in offering acts of kindness. If we cherish and encourage each other, day by day, we will gain from our present bewildering and uncertain circumstances.

To ensure better communications with you, please would you inform Fr Dominic of your contact details, telephone numbers, emails and addresses. And, do not forget your names, both or indeed all of them!

I know that you will naturally look out for your neighbours. If there is an emergency please contact the Parish Office immediately, and we will do our best to respond as soon as possible. Routine visiting has stopped, both by the clergy and Eucharistic ministers, and also by the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society. We will try to adopt a telephone ministry and where possible by Skype, if you are into that kind of thing. Where there is any acute need for shopping or necessities please access the Parish Office and SVP Society. SVP will be remaining in contact with those whom they have been visiting regularly.

It would be good if younger parishioners [under forty perhaps?] would let Fr Dominic/Parish Office know of their willingness to be 'volunteers' for assisting in the practical care of the house-bound, for example, making deliveries of food and necessities, and perhaps with some small garden tasks, putting out the bins, or even dog-walking

It will be a disappointment to many that First Holy Communions, and Confirmations will be postponed, but everyone will understand the need for protection, as all large gatherings are to be avoided. For some this will mean a smaller, and much more intimate wedding. This can, of course, bring its own rewards as greater emphasis is on the actuality of the Sacrament and less on the Reception and festivities. Perhaps a later Anniversary could be the occasion for thanksgiving and rejoicing.

We have the opportunity to persevere in Faith, with an unwavering Hope in God's providential care, and with Love in our hearts and minds reflecting the Love of Christ, sharing as we do a Common life with Him.

God be with you all: Jesus, mercy; Mary, pray

Pray for us, as we pray for you.

May St Joseph sustain you in your prayers, and ever be our protector.

Every Blessing

Fr James

Dear Friends,

The Coronavirus is sweeping away many of our accustomed securities. We trust and hope that the Government and the NHS will take care of us as we continue to protect each other as well as ourselves.

Although we are now closed for public celebrations of Mass and other services the life of the Diocese, the Deanery and the Parish still goes on. We have buildings to maintain, keep-open, and administer with all the costs involved and with much diminished regular giving.

We had a Finance Committee Meeting at St Mary's last week and we submitted our Budget to the Diocese for the coming year with a projected deficit of £7,000. At the end of the last financial year we had managed to avoid the predicted deficit by increased giving and additional donations. However, now our annual collections have fallen by £5,000. This is caused by falling numbers as families have relocated for many reasons.

The main expenses are heating and lighting, and the maintenance of our buildings. The good news is that some of these costs have lowered due to expenditure on our boilers, and heat distribution. The buildings seem to be in reasonable repair, but on-going maintenance is essential to keep them that way.

We rely on the dividend from our Investment Funds in the Endowment Trust of the Diocese. This is very well managed by our asset managers, however the recent slump in share prices has caused a total drop of about 16%. This could have a knock-on effect on our dividend income.

The parish is fortunate in enjoying seasonal income from the many tourists who visit the Highlands. It is widely recognised that this will be hit hard by the effects of the measures to contain and stop the spread of the coronavirus.

In writing this general letter about finance I readily acknowledge that some of you already give by Standing Order,

Direct Debit or other planned giving which is Gift Aided. We are all grateful for that, and I thank you.

We now need to take some different approaches to our income generation, as at the same time we will endeavour to reduce our overheads. Yet we acknowledge that we will have to meet our financial obligations to the Diocese which are considerable. Every month we pay just over £4,000 in levies and clergy support [from which we benefit].

I am requesting several things, even while mindful that for some it will not be possible:

Please consider creating a Regular Standing Order or Direct Debit this is the easiest way of maintaining your regular contributions. Information can be obtained from Carol MacLean. Please leave a message with your contact details by contacting Fr. Dominic on the Presbytery telephone number. 01463 233519

Please consider making donations to the Fabric Maintenance account (St Mary's Inverness No 2 account}.

If any of you are in a position to make an increase in your giving, this will be welcomed.

Please ensure that all your regular weekly plate offerings are continued. This can be done by sending in a cheque to the Parish office or posting an envelope through the Internal letterbox (not the outer one as this is open during the day) of the Presbytery

Please consider Gift Aid for any other giving if you are a U K tax payer.

Thank you for your consideration as we try to maintain our ministry in St Mary's albeit in a restricted way.

With every good wish and blessings

Aye

Fr. James

~~PARISH FINANCES~~

27th March 2020

Current Balance: £2,693.83

Last weeks contributions £154

Expenditure W/C 30 March:

**Council Tax, TV Licence, BT £304
Spa Coaches for Station Masses £450**

Your ongoing gifts and donations are essential to the Parish during these difficult times. Many thanks for your generosity.

As Father James remains at home in Tain during the Government restrictions he can be contacted by;

Telephone: 07841758409 or by email: jassbell@btinternet.com

~~GENERAL NEWS~~

SCIAF SUNDAY

As we were unable to take the usual second collection for SCIAF Sunday, please consider making an individual donation to help the work of SCIAF.

Visit www.sciaf.org.uk

**Magdalena Bargiel MPsych.
Person - Centred Counsellor
MBACP. MCOSCA. MBPsS. MPPA**

I offer you a safe space to talk, to be heard and support you to build healthier relationships with self and others. I provide counselling in Polish and English I offer. Contact:
magdalenabargiel.counselling@gmail.com
or 07858129725.

St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP).
Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting Mark Jones in confidence or any **SVDP** member.

Mobile number: **07988 670 997**
Visit www.ssvpscotland.com

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Your donations help to provide emergency food and support to local people in crisis. During March and April the Highland Foodbank would be grateful for donations of the following items: Tins of Corned Beef, and Ham, Tins of Potatoes, Small packets of Weetabix and Cereal, and small bottles of Washing up liquid Please hand your donation to the parish office

**Some helpful faith resources
During this difficult time**

Daily Mass from St. Joseph's Aberdeen, also Stations of the Cross. - rcda.scot

Jesuits in Europe: A video message from Fr. General about the Covid – 19 pandemic. - Jesuits.eu

Word on Fire Bishop Barron
Daily Mass, Reflections on The Stations of the Cross and other resources. - wordonfire.org



Let us Pray Together for the many people who are concerned for others - families who don't have enough to eat, elderly people who are alone, the sick in hospital - and who pray and seek to help them We thank the Lord for stirring these sentiments in the heart of the faithful.

Pope Francis Twitter Pontifex

Please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood; and for our Seminarians

**Malachy Eze, Christopher Doig,
Aidan Matheson**

~~CONTACT DETAILS~~

Fr. James Bell	Parish Priest	01463 233519
Fr. Andrew Niski	Priest for Polish Community	01463 233519
Fr. Dominic Nwaigwe	Assistant Priest	01463 233519
Dcn. Patrick Darbyshire	Parish Deacon & Prison Chaplain	01463 233519 07484 212617
PJ Faferek	Parish Office	01463 233519
Carol MacLean	Finance & Gift Aid Organiser	01463 233519
Stephen Dunphy	Safeguarding Officer	01463 233519
Daughters of Divine Love Convent (Sr. Grace)		01463 718690
St Joseph's Primary School		01463 231837

~~SICK OR HOSPITAL VISITS~~

Please contact the parish office if you require a visit or know of anyone who is sick, and housebound or in hospital and wishes a visit and or Holy Communion

Sacrament of Reconciliation
by request, contact the Presbytery
01463 233519

Sacrament of Baptism
by arrangement with the Clergy
Weddings
By arrangement; see website