

St. Mary's, Inverness

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The Parish Bulletin

5 April 2020
Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday

Mass Readings: Page No: 182

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm: 21

2nd Reading: Phillipians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Date	Details	Private Mass	Time
Sunday 5 April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord	Offered for the Parishioners of St. Mary's	11.00 12.00
Monday 6 April	Monday of Holy Week	Private Mass	09.30 18.00
Tuesday 7 April	Tuesday of Holy week	Private Mass	09.30 12.30
Wednesday 8 April	Wednesday of Holy Week	Private Mass	09.30 12.30
Thursday 9 April	THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	Private Mass	09.30 12.30
Friday 3 April	FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	Private Mass	09.30 12.30
Saturday 4 April	HOLY SATURDAY AT THE TOMB OF CHRIST	Private Mass	09.30 10.00
Sunday 5 April	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Offered for the Parishioners of St. Mary's	11.00 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 +

+ Thomas Stewart + Alan Fraser + Alan Ogilvie + Elizabeth McMillan + John Doyle + James Morrison + Frances Swanson + George Spence + Anabella Ross + Margaret MacKenzie + Francis Black + Mary Macrae + Dorothy Sutherland + Frances Welsh + Bishop Ephraim Silas Obot +

Dear parishioners and friends of St Mary's, Inverness

Palm Sunday, Holy Week, The Three Holy Days [Triduum] and Easter

This year we are deprived in a physical sense from participating in the preparation for the great Paschal celebrations of God's liberating work, bringing the People of God out of the darkness of captivity, from Exodus to Easter, and into the promised land of his Kingdom. We stand within that realm, where we acknowledge that God is in Christ and he continues to reconcile us to each other and to Himself.

At home, in our little churches [ecclesiola in ecclesia], we can use every means at our disposal, reading, radio, television and the internet to help us to participate really, if virtually, in the common worship of God's people throughout the world. We share in the Common Life of the Body of Christ. Each one of us linked with cords of affection to the Community of Faith. We strengthen these links by our devout personal prayer, naming one another before God, and by seeking ways of being in touch- a distant wave, a phone call, a text message, an email or a card or letter. Think of the great good that will be done as we 'sanctify the airways'; good and wholesome thoughts, encouraging remarks, as we, if we dare, 'gossip the Gospel'. We

can all do that, finding some thing 'bright and beautiful' to share with others.

Yes, some will say, but what about the "Easter Duties"- confession during this period?

It is not permitted for the Churches, nor Presbyteries, to be open for this purpose. No doubt some will seek ingenious methods to bring people the opportunity for confession. The short response is that the Government and Health authorities are telling us Not To Travel. To that end there will be no means available for the Sacrament of Confession, except '*in periculo mortis*', I.E. '*In danger of death*'. Even in such emergency circumstances the priests are constrained by the restrictions imposed by the relevant Health professionals.

We all need to realise that *the desire* to go to confession, is a real sign of God's grace, and will be efficacious in finding the Divine Compassion, especially if we have prepared for Confession and made a sincere Act of Contrition {sorrow for sin}.

We can be thankful that God knows us better than we know ourselves, and that every good impulse, every desire to act honourably, every motive of integrity are fruits of his life in us. Yes, we are all too aware of the separating selfishness, the prideful self assertion, and the indulgence of our appetites, and we know too that taken to God in humility he will pardon us, heal us, and give us peace. The powerful words of the Absolution,

may these be echoes in our imaginative hearts to give us the assurance that he ‘forgives us our trespasses’. And with that, of course, is the obligation to love our neighbour, and just as God in Christ forgives us, so we pray for all ‘Father, forgive’.

We are at the heart of the Gospel here, and perhaps the deprivation of the Outward and Visible Signs of the Sacraments will give us a greater interior understanding of the ‘inward and spiritual grace’.

If we all see this as a period of purgation, of deep, spiritual cleansing by serious reflection and prayer, then we will truly emerge from our seclusion into a Community of Faith enlightened by the insights of the Life and Teaching of Jesus.

If anyone would like the consolation of a spiritual conversation with either Fr Dominic or myself, then please feel free to call us. If you can text, or email beforehand we can arrange a time. But, if spontaneity moves you, then let it be.

I was touched again by some words from Psalm 50 [51] in the Divine Office today: they are familiar enough, but at times like these they have a special resonance and can become the repetitive refrains of our praying hearts :

Have mercy on me, God in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt

And cleanse me from my sin.....

***....Indeed you love truth in the heart;
Then in the secret of my heart***

Teach me wisdom.

***O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me I shall be whiter
than snow.***

This short excerpt from the Psalm might encourage you to explore the whole Psalm, indeed so also the other psalms. The Psalms can be a great source of hope for us, and I recall the words of St Ambrose :

“In the psalms I learn to avoid sin, and I forget the shame of sins now repented”.

“In the psalm teaching is combined with charm; for it is sung for pleasure, but learnt for instruction’

I commend this Ambrosian method to you, and particularly as you would perhaps reflect on Psalm 50 [above] and Psalm 22[23], The Lord is my Shepherd.

Palm Sunday : Not quite the same [reuse your old Palm branches, or get some pussy willow from the garden], and wherever you are watching the Mass of Palm Sunday, or reflecting on it, may these be your special symbols of faith.

When we come to Holy Thursday, recall the advice to wash our hands-

cleansing is at the heart of our human health care. When Jesus washed the Feet of the Disciples, it was not simply hygiene, but it was the awareness that simple everyday tasks, undertaken for others signify tender love and the humble spirit. When we wash our hands may we remember Jesus in all his healing love, and pray for all those who care for our fragile bodies when we are sick or in need of care.

Good Friday at 3.00 pm, wherever we are, we can identify with the Cross, when Jesus ‘lifted up draws all people to himself’. We are drawn to Jesus, perhaps step by step, by praying the Stations of the Cross, and then in our own homes, venerating the Cross. We all have crucifixes, and crosses in our homes, not as ornaments, but as vivid signs of the Faith. It is our personal and humble opportunity to say or sing:

“Behold the wood of the Cross, On which hung the salvation of the world, Come let us adore”

You can get this on YouTube -it is rather well sung, so we can join in at home perhaps?

Holy Saturday : This can be for us all a day, akin to All Souls Day, when we can join together in praying for all the departed, especially our own loved ones, and those who have died recently. Jesus died, and was buried and so this Saturday is a day of waiting throughout the darkness of bereavement and the anguish of grief.

We can recall Our Lady, stricken, and the shaken and bewildered disciples. These human emotions are familiar to us all, and we await the new dawn, the awakening, the promised hope that Easter brings. That is a story told and retold, yet ever new, as it will be to us next week, even and perhaps especially in our perplexing times.

So, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, may we all find the means of grace and the hope of glory, as we do everything in our lives and in our worship, to the Greater Glory of God.

Every Blessing and assurance of prayers
Aye
Fr James

As Father James remains at home in Edderton, 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

EWTN Global Catholic Network – Holy Week Highlights: www.ewtn.com

Palm Sunday: Solemn Mass live from St. Peter's Basilica Rome at 9.00.

Holy Thursday: Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper live from Rome at 16.00.

Good Friday: Live Celebration of the Lord's Passion from Rome at 16.00.

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil Mass live from Rome at 19.30.

Easter Sunday: Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday live from Rome followed by Pope Francis' "Urbi et Orbi" Easter message.

~~PARISH FINANCES~~

3 April 2020

CURRENT BALANCE:

£2,078.07

LAST WEEKS

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Offertory envelopes	£95
Direct Debits and Standing Orders	£712
Funeral Fee	£100

TOTAL INCOME: £907

EXPENDITURE:

Fr. Bell - Travel expense June-March	£309.15
Fr. Dominic – expenses	£93.20
Housekeeper& Hallkeeper wages	£929.88
Spa Coaches – Travel to Station	
Masses -	£450
Council Tax	£283.31
TV Licence	£13.50
Office Expense	£7.50
Insurance	£3

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE:
 £2089.54**

Our Expenditure was increased this week due to Payments having to be made before the end of the Financial year.

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

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.



There are some who are already thinking about after the epidemic, and all the problems that will arise regarding

poverty, work, hunger. Let us pray together for all the people who are helping today, but are also thinking about how to help all of us tomorrow.

Pope Francis Twitter Pontifex

~~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

Sacrament of Baptism

Weddings

Due to Government restrictions at present, we are unable to participate in these Sacraments at Present.

~~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
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

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

**Malachy Eze, Christopher Doig
Aidan Matheson**