

St Columbkille's Rutherglen

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CLERGY

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Mournian

In Residence: Fr Pat Hennessy

In Residence: Fr Stephen Reilly

Deacon: Rev Bill M^cMillan

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER/SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2020

Parish Services this Week

Mass:- Monday-Friday 10am; 1pm

Funeral masses: Wed 30th Dec, 10am – *Diane Leggat R.I.P.*

(Mourners only) Thurs 31st Dec, 10am – *Anne Duggan R.I.P.*

Saturday 10am; 4pm (Vigil) and 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9am; 10.30am; 12pm & 4pm

Live Streamed Masses: Sunday 12 noon; Mon-Fri 1pm; Sat 10am

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday-Saturday 9.30-10am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Before 10am mass, in Our Lady's side chapel or by arrangement

Baptisms/Weddings: Please speak to a member of the clergy to make an appointment.

LIVESTREAMING PRIVACY NOTICE

During live streaming, our camera is focussed on the area of the sanctuary. Please note that you may be seen on camera when going to Communion. If this causes you concern, please speak to the Clergy.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUNDAY MASSES

Places at Sunday Mass MUST be booked through our online booking system

<https://st-columbkilles-sunday-mass.eventbrite.co.uk> or by **PHONE** or **TEXT** 07783 340539.

Last week's collection - £1517 - Thank you for your generosity

WEEKLY DONATIONS

Please consider making a regular donation to the parish. The easiest way to do this is to set up a standing order with your bank using our bank details:-

Sort Code: 83-26-24

Account No: 00255006

Filling out our Gift Aid form will allow us to claim an extra 20% of your donation from the taxman, at no cost to yourself!

Standing order and Gift Aid forms are at the back of the church or on our website.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Envelopes for this important annual collection have been posted out to all parishioners on our database, accompanied with a Christmas greeting card with all the services and Masses occurring over the festive period. If you didn't receive one there are some at the back of the Church. To be added to our database to receive future communications please email the office. The Christmas collection is an important source of income for the parish but please only give what you can afford, we appreciate this is a difficult time for many. Envelopes can be returned to the box at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM FR MOURNIAN

On behalf of all the clergy of St Columbkille's; Fr Pat, Fr Stephen, Deacon Bill and myself, we would like to wish everyone a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas filled with the joy of Our Saviour's birth.

CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

This year, in particular, it is important to note that Christmas is not just a single day. The Feast of Christmas lasts for eight days – the Octave of Christmas. Mass on each of these days is a 'Christmas Mass'.

'Why is it important to celebrate Christmas during the Octave? Because Christmas is just too important to limit to a single day's celebration! We spend four weeks of Advent preparing for the Christ child to be born. We therefore need time to simply enjoy the great mystery once arrived.' – **Leeds Diocese website.**

Those who were unable to get booked for Christmas Day will have priority to book Masses during the Christmas Octave. Mass times are as follows:-

Sat. 26th - 10am, 4pm, 5.30pm;
Sun. 27th - 9, 10.30, 12 Noon & 4pm
Mon 28th to Wed. 30th - 10am & 1pm
Thu. 31st - 10am, 1pm & 7pm
Fri. 1st Jan - 10am & 1pm.

Please speak to a steward to book one of these Masses or book for Sunday Mass in the usual way. **Note:- As of St Stephen's Day (26th) numbers will be reduced to 20 again)**

THANK YOU – FR CROMBIE

We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to Fr Crombie for all that he has done for our parish in these difficult times, he is an invaluable source of help and support. Please remember him and all of our clergy in your prayers.

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like a loved one's death, anniversary or birthday to be mentioned at Mass please speak to the priest in the sacristy before the start of Mass. Please provide the priest with a note with your loved one's name on it.

WESTERN CATHOLIC CALENDARS

For sale at the back of the Church priced £3.20. Please place money in the box marked 'stall'.

300 CLUB

December 2020 – Christmas Draw Winners

1st Prize (£500) – No. 15 M. McGrath
2nd Prize (£250) – No. 138 A.M. McEwan
3rd Prize (£100) – No. 43 L Carson

A big **THANK YOU** to all Members and Collectors who contributed so well at the beginning of the year. Once things become clearer the collectors will be contacted.

Dues for 2021 (£20) can be handed in to any of the boxes at the back of the Church.

New members required:- Anyone wishing to join please contact Rosaleen Anderson (647-2301) or leave your name with one of the priests.

Please pray for the following:-

Sick

Mary and Niall Greenan, Baby Ronan Jackson, Mary (Molly) Gray, Patricia Fay, Marie Murphy, Helen McAllister, Fraser McAllister, Isabel McEwan, Sophia Walker (9), Jim Ferguson, Joe Doherty, Trudi Hewitt, Mark M^cLachlan, Eric O'Neil (5), Bea van der Linden, Margaret Gray, Margaret Malone

Recently deceased

Diane Leggate, John Docherty, Mrs Freedman, Claire Hamilton, Catherine Harte, Ian McLeod, Fr Walsh, Anne Duggan, Anne Rae Henry

Anniversaries

James Marr, Edward Foley, Maureen Dunn, Mary Boyle, Frank Welsh, Matthew Gordon, Christy Murphy, Sean Heraghty, Gerry Haughey, Dan Anne Tonner, Edward Carbry, Ellen Kennedy, Charles Callaghan, Liam Kavanagh, Jim and Marianne Halferty, Nino Delgado Rubio, Marie Hughes.

Birthday Remembrance

Mary Boyle

In Memoriam of Father John Sweeney (1930-2020)

Fr John Sweeney was a well-known, well-loved son of our parish who sadly passed away in April of this year. He was always a most welcome addition to the parish when he came home for a visit and he will be sadly missed. Please remember him in your prayers. Mill Hill Missionary Fr Paul Mooney, another son of our parish, prepared this Obituary for Fr Sweeney who died on Holy Thursday 2020. May he rest in peace.



Fr. John Sweeney was born in the Royal Burgh of Rutherglen in the south east of Glasgow on the 24th of December 1930. His parents were Martin Sweeney, a labourer, and Catherine Sweeney nee McKenna. John had only two siblings, Martin and his sister, Roma. Both John and Martin became Mill Hill Missionary priests, Roma never married but supported her brothers throughout her life. John was fiercely proud of his family, his place of birth and his local parish of St. Columbkille's in Rutherglen, within walking distance to Celtic Park Football Club, known locally as "Paradise". (Both Martin and John were life-long supporters of Celtic.)

John completed his primary education at St. Columbkille's Parochial School, and his secondary education at St. Mary's High School in Motherwell, where he received a Senior Leaving Certificate, Scotland in 1947. John was blessed with an excellent intellect and ability to study.

Feeling called to the priesthood, John followed his brother, Martin, to the Mill Hill Missionaries' seminaries, first at Roosendaal, to study Philosophy 1947-1949, then to St. Joseph's College, Mill Hill, to study Theology 1949-1953. With special ecclesial permission, since he was not yet the "Ordainable age", John took the Perpetual Oath as a Mill Hill Missionary at Mill Hill on 1st of May, 1952. He was consequently ordained priest in St. Joseph's College chapel by Cardinal Griffen of the Archdiocese of Westminster on the 12th of July 1953. John always delighted in being ordained on the 12th of July, since his celebration had nothing to do with King "Billy" and his victory in 1690!

Immediately after ordination, John was appointed to Further Studies, to achieve an MA in French and Economics (1956) at the University of Glasgow. Recognising John's education talents, John was appointed to teach at St. Peter's College, Freshfield, Merseyside also in 1956. 1965 brought the realisation of John's dream, when he was appointed to Uganda, to work as a teacher and chaplain at Namilyango College. From 1980, he added prison chaplain to his pastoral work, and work on the National Justice and Peace Commission of Uganda. In 1984 John was elected Society Representative for Uganda. In 1989 he transferred his prison chaplaincy work to the Diocese of Jinja, Uganda, where he was serving as Vicar for Religious. By 1993 John enjoyed a rare "Home-leave", after which he returned to his beloved Uganda, this time to serve in Namasagali College. He continued his prison chaplaincy too.

By 2007 it was time for John to return to his home-land. Blessed with good health and much stamina, he worked as chaplain at Nazareth House near Edinburgh. In 2013, mainly to accompany his brother Martin who was experiencing ill-health, John retired to Herbert House, Freshfield, Merseyside. The Sweeney brothers were together again after a life of love and service in East Africa! John was a great help and comfort to Martin in his final years. Sadly, John fell victim to COVID-19 recently at Herbert House, and died at 11.45.am today, Holy Thursday, the 9th of April 2020. May John's soul rest in peace in the real Paradise





BISHOP TOAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2020

In recent days, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a Year in honour of St Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of St Joseph's proclamation as *Patron of the Universal Church* by Blessed Pius IX. In doing so Our Holy Father has written a beautiful Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, offering some personal reflections on St Joseph, "*this extraordinary figure so close to our own human experience*". In extolling his greatness as spouse of Mary and legal father of Jesus, he acknowledged how St Joseph placed the whole of his life in God's hands and at the service of God's plan of salvation in a quiet, discreet way, unnoticed almost, but vitally important in caring for and protecting Mary and Jesus through the years he shared with them in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth. His figure in our Christmas cribs portrays this quiet reassuring presence who lovingly looks down on the infant Jesus, accepting the vocation as father and guardian which God has asked of him.

Pope Francis encourages us to discover in St Joseph an intercessor, a support, and a guide in time of trouble, and reminds us that it is often those who appear hidden or in the shadows who play an incomparable role in God's plan for our salvation. Indeed he makes a comparison between St Joseph and the many wonderful people who have assisted us through the present time of pandemic, remarking that "*our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper or magazine headlines, or in the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history.*" We have certainly become very aware through recent times of how much we depend on the "*essential*" workers and volunteers in our society, and, in recognising in them a reflection of the generous and self-giving qualities of St Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis offers a word of recognition and gratitude to them all. I am sure we echo these sentiments as we hope and pray for the health and well-being of all who continue to suffer in our present situation.

As we ponder with Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and wise-men, the child in the manger, we place our hope in him as Our Lord and Saviour, and renew our desire to serve and love him in the fullest way possible with the help of his grace. He is indeed "*the loving kindness of the heart of our God, who visits us like the dawn from on high*" as proclaimed in the lovely prayer of Zechariah, the Benedictus, in St Luke's Gospel.

The Benedictus concludes "*He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace*". May these words dwell in our hearts as we implore the Lord's blessing on all our loved ones, and indeed the whole of humanity. May the Lord grant us his peace this Christmas.

+ Joseph Toal
December 2020.