

# 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 McMillan

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY/SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

### Parish Services this Week

#### Funerals

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1pm – *Margaret (Margo) Carmichael R.I.P.*

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10am – *Margaret Angus Graham R. I. P.*

**Funerals will be live streamed**

**DUE TO LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC MASS.**

**MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED DAILY**

**Monday to Friday at 1pm; Saturday at 10am; Sunday at 12 Noon.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH AND OUR COUNTRY THAT PUBLIC  
MASSES WILL BE RESUMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**Christmas Day collection - £3341 Christmas collection - £4150**

**Total raised - £7491**

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

## WEEKLY DONATIONS

During this latest lockdown we would encourage you, where possible, to continue to support your parish through the weekly collection. The parish income relies solely on the donations of our parishioners. Contributions can be made in the form of a standing order or online donation through our website, using the bank details below. Or, if you are in a position to do so, collection money can be posted through the door of the church house.

**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 on our website.

### **MASS CARDS**

There will be a plentiful supply of signed Mass Cards and envelopes for your offering in the porch of the Church House.

### **300 CLUB**

Dues for this year are £20. New and returning members can pay them by putting them through the door of the Church House in an envelope marked clearly with your name, address and membership number (if you have one). Alternatively, you can pay your dues by bank transfer to the Church. Please email us to let us know so we can watch for payment. If you require more information about the 300 Club please contact Rosaleen Anderson on 647-2301. Collectors can pick up their books when the Church reopens in February.

### **SCHOLA GROUP**

Online meetings for our Schola Group will take place on Saturday 23rd January and 27th February at 12 noon. Anyone wishing to join the group should contact the Schola Master Alan Tavener [alan.cappella-nova@strath.ac.uk](mailto:alan.cappella-nova@strath.ac.uk)

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the task of taking down the Christmas decorations. Special thanks are due to Ken Ross who has been so generous with the amount of time he has donated to our parish of late and the amount of work he has carried out for us. In addition to all the work on the cleaning of the brickwork and slabs in the Church grounds he built and donated our new crib, as well as putting up and taking down the huge advent wreaths that adorned the outside of the Church, which would otherwise have required us to hire specialist equipment. May God bless him for his goodness. Ken's number for anyone in need of a handy man - 07920 729624 - we can vouch for him being very handy!

### **40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

40 Days for Life are looking for volunteers to join them in their 2021 Vigil at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow. The Vigil commences at 8am on Ash Wednesday 17th of February 2021 and closes at 8pm on Palm Sunday 28th March 2021. 40 Days for Life is an internationally co-ordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion businesses. For more information please visit their website <https://www.40daysforlife.com/> Rose Docherty is the co-ordinator for the Glasgow 40 Days for Life group. She can be contacted by emailing her at [ogilvie1615@outlook.com](mailto:ogilvie1615@outlook.com) or her phone number is 07928 314 189

### **Please pray for the following:-**

#### **Sick**

Mark Cowan, Christopher Coleman, 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 McLachlan, Eric O'Neil (5), Bea van der Linden, Margaret Gray, Margaret Malone

#### **Recently deceased**

Erin McKinley (19), Pat McNulty (Parkhill Dr), Annie Cannon, Gerry Mc Ginlay, James McGhee, May Cheney, Jean Balmer.

#### **Anniversaries**

Jean Duffy, Sadie Boyle, Denise Barron, Margaret Ann Gibbons, Mary Harvie Millar, Catherine Moore, Daniel Moore, James Devlin, Mary Devlin, Rev Father Joseph Brannigan, Pat Foley, Kathleen MacGuire, Agnes Brown Anne McGuire, Mags Morahan, Daniel Broadley, Jack Harvie.

#### **Month's Mind**

Catherine Broadley

## **Scottish Bishops respond to announcement of closure of churches**

Following the First Minister's statement that all places of worship will close from Friday 8 January until Monday 1 February 2021, Scotland's Catholic Bishops have issued the following statement:

"Recognising the dangers posed by the new faster-spreading variant of COVID-19, we note the Scottish Government's decision to close all places of worship from Friday 8 January 2021.

The Scottish Government believes that such measures are necessary to curtail the spread of this new strain during the roll-out of the vaccine. We appreciate the difficult choices facing the Scottish Government at this time and we have shown ourselves ready both to cooperate with and to support its efforts in protecting the common good. This has included curtailing public worship in extreme circumstances and for a limited period.

However, we are also perplexed by the decision, given that the stringent measures taken since last March to ensure public safety in our churches have been effective. No evidence has been forthcoming to justify the inclusion of places of worship as sources of infection. Without such scientific evidence these restrictions will appear to Catholics to be arbitrary and unfair. Moreover, significant number of other sectors similarly restricted last March alongside public worship – such as construction, manufacturing and elite sports - have now been left free to continue in operation.

We also note that, in England, the essential contribution of public worship to the spiritual welfare of all citizens during this crisis has now been endorsed by the decision not to close places of worship while the Scottish Government has apparently retreated from this view, causing dismay and confusion.

We are very aware of the disappointment these closures will cause not only to our own Catholic community, but to many of our fellow-Christians and those of other faiths in Scotland. We wish to emphasise again the spiritual, social and psychological benefits provided by continuing public worship, and we ask for these to be taken into full account in future decisions. Public worship is a human right and is a duty humanity owes to God. More concretely, Catholics need the Eucharist and the Sacramental encounter with the LORD as necessary to their spiritual wellbeing and their ultimate salvation.

While we unequivocally share the common goal of protecting public health, we urge the Scottish Government, when the present measures are reviewed later in January, to reconsider these restrictions in the light of the above concerns."

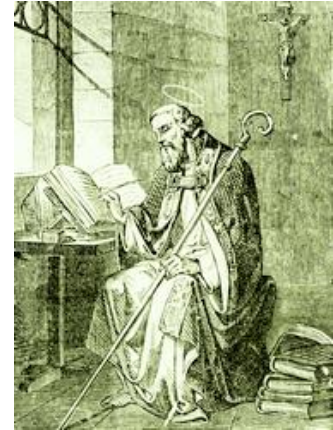
**At St Columbkille's we echo the sentiments of the Bishops and would encourage parishioners to contact their local MSP to let them know your views on the closure of our churches and these latest restrictions placed on our human right to public worship.**

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**ST. HILARY OF POITIERS (c310-c367) – Feast day 13<sup>th</sup> January**

***Patron Saint: Against snakebites***

St. Hilary of Poitiers was brought up in a pagan family who provided him with a good education and it was through his love of knowledge and learning that he came to the understanding that he was a child of a loving God. He had always felt a wonder at the gift of life and a desire to find out the meaning of that gift. So, he went in search of the 'gift giver'.



Hilary tells us, he "chanced upon" the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

When he read the verse where God tells Moses *"I AM WHO I AM"* (Exodus 3:14), Hilary said, ***"I was frankly amazed at such a clear definition of God, which expressed the incomprehensible knowledge of the divine nature in words most suited to human intelligence."*** In the Psalms and the Prophets, he found descriptions of God's power, concern, and beauty. For example, in Psalm 139, *"Where shall I go from your spirit?"*, he found confirmation that God was everywhere and omnipotent. Then he found the Gospels and learnt that Jesus was the Son of God sent to bring eternal life to those who believed. Finally, his soul was at rest. Hilary abandoned his pagan lifestyle and was baptised and received into the Church, along with his wife and daughter Abra (who herself became a nun and a saint).

Hilary was well known and widely respected in Poitiers and the people unanimously elected him to be their Bishop. At the time Arianism was threatening to destroy the Church. The priest, Arius, taught that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, created by God the Father. He didn't believe in Jesus' divine nature but that he was distinct from the Father, therefore subordinate to him. The Arians had a lot of power, at the time, including the support of the emperor Constantius. When Hilary refused to support their condemnation of Saint Athanasius, he was exiled from Poitiers to the East in 356.

Hilary used his time in exile to read and learn all he could about Arianism and the Orthodox Christians responses to their arguments. He wrote extensively on the subject of the Trinity - ***"For one to attempt to speak of God in terms more precise than he himself has used: to undertake such a thing is to embark upon the boundless, to dare the incomprehensible. He fixed the names of His nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whatever is sought over and above this is beyond the meaning of words, beyond the limits of perception, beyond the embrace of understanding."***

After 3 years in exile, St. Hilary was allowed to return to Poitiers. Instead of coming straight home he embarked on a meandering journey through Greece and Italy preaching as he went. It is during this journey that his patronage against snakebites arose. He made a short visit to Genoa and while he was there, rid the neighbouring island of Gallinara of a plague of serpents.

Although deeply committed to the leadership of his own diocese, Hilary took steps late in his life to support orthodox teaching in other regions. Most significantly, he denounced Auxentius, the Arian bishop of Milan. Subsequent opposition to Auxentius led to his succession by St. Ambrose of Milan, who, in turn, greatly influenced the conversion of St. Augustine.

St. Hilary died at Poitiers in 367, after having passed on his teachings and way of life to a number of students, including St. Martin of Tours. Long regarded and celebrated as a saint within the Church, St. Hilary was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1851.