

# St Columbkille's Rutherglen

2 Kirkwood St, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 2SL

Tel: 0141 647 6034

Website: [www.stcolumbkille.org.uk](http://www.stcolumbkille.org.uk)

Email: [stcolumbkille@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stcolumbkille@rcdom.org.uk)

Parish Hall: [hall.stcolumbkille@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:hall.stcolumbkille@rcdom.org.uk) (07860 640915)



## CLERGY

Parish Priest: **Fr Bernard Mournian**

In Residence: **Fr Pat Hennessy**

In Residence: **Fr Stephen Reilly**

Deacon: **Rev Bill McMillan**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY/SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

### Parish Services this Week

**Funeral:** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 10am – *Ellen Carr R.I.P.*

**HOLY MASS – Monday-Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 10am, Sunday: 12noon**

**DAILY ANGELUS – 12noon, 6pm**

**DAILY ROSARY – 12.15pm**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Monday and Friday, 7pm**

**DIVINE MERCY – Friday, 3pm**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY – Available from Sunday, 9am**

You can access Daily Mass, Angelus, Daily Rosary, Stations of the Cross and Divine Mercy on the parish Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stcolumbkillesrutherglen>

**There is a plentiful supply of signed Mass Cards in the porch of the Church House.**

## 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.

## LENTEN RESOURCES

Our Lenten packs have now all been delivered. We hope that you will find these to be a good resource to help you in your Lenten journey. If you haven't received a pack and would like to be added to our database please get in touch with the Church Office.

**Thank you to those who have returned their extraordinary collection envelopes already - these can be returned anytime during Lent.**

## SCIAF 2021 - WEE BOX BIG CHANGE

SCIAF boxes are available to collect from the porch of the church house. For more information on SCIAF's 2021 Lenten Campaign visit [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk) **From 12<sup>th</sup> February to 11<sup>th</sup> May, all public donations will be doubled by the UK government.**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the volunteers who have helped with the cleaning of the slabs at the front of the church and cutting down the rotten cherry trees - these will be removed this week.

## SVDP

Our foodbank is still open to anyone who needs it at this difficult time (**Saturday's 10am-11.30am**). Although we have stopped our furniture deliveries and collections just now, we are still available to help in an emergency-please contact **James on 07973823546**.

## BEREAVEMENT BUDDIES

Our Bereavement Support Group are still active just now. They are here to listen and support anyone who is suffering from a bereavement, recent or otherwise. If you would like to talk to them please get in touch via the Church Office.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUP

It's not too late to join Fr Paul Denney for his Online Bible Study Group, **Tuesdays at 7pm** - more people are joining every week! If you are interested, please email him at [stjames@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stjames@rcdom.org.uk)

## YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

Our series of talks, which usually run throughout Lent, have been postponed because of the lockdown. These will now take place after Easter, starting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April and, God willing, will take place in the Church!

## GROUP FOR MEN

We are keen to set up a fraternity group for men in the parish, under the patronage of St Joseph. We are open to suggestions as to what format this would take but the idea would be for it to have a social as well as spiritual theme. If this is something that would interest you or someone you know please get in touch with us so we can gauge interest.

## Please pray for the following:-

### Sick

Christopher Browne, Donna-Marie M<sup>c</sup>Gurk, John Hanlon, David Milligan, Patricia Ferguson, 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 M<sup>c</sup>Lachlan, Eric O'Neil (5), Bea van der Linden, Margaret Gray, Margaret Malone.

### Recently deceased

George Scott, Eileen Carroll, Dominic M<sup>c</sup>Cabe, George Logue, Julianne Cruickshank, Kathleen Greenwell, Pauline Graham, Gerald Harmon, Bridie Maguire, Annie Cannon, Mr Docherty, Marion Regan, Mary Jane Gillen, Stephen Thornton.

### Anniversaries

Baby Christopher Scott Law, Anna Kavanagh, Mary O'Neill, Edward Gallagher, Mary M<sup>c</sup>Dougal, Mary O'Neill, Jim Haley, Frank Chambers, Mary Whitting, Jim McKeown, John McLaughlin, Rose Folan, Elizabeth (Bessie) Hannah, Mary Milne

## **LETTER TO THE FAITHFUL FROM BISHOP TOAL**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you and your family and friends well.

I heard someone remark in recent days that it has been a year-long Lent since last February. We have indeed come through an extraordinary period, marked for all of us by some deprivation and anxiety; an extended communal penance inflicted upon us by the coronavirus. For some the suffering has been more acute, because of personal illness, the illness of others, or the death of a loved one. We continue to hold each other in prayer, even when separated by the lockdowns, and we reach out to God for protection and healing. As we begin therefore the liturgical season of Lent and accompany the Lord in his suffering and death, we look forward to Easter and the hope of new life promised by his Resurrection.

The season of Lent mirrors the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting, and these days also reflect the forty years the Jewish people spent wandering in the desert before they were able to reach the “Promised Land”. The Old Testament books tell us of the difficulties of these years – the deprivations of food and water, the tensions and conflicts, the crises of leadership, the loss of hope for the future as they looked back to their past life, and, yes, anger at God and times of apostasy and loss of faith. It was a hard, almost brutal experience, but they survived it as a people and came at last to the “land of milk and honey”. My thought as we begin this Lent is that the reality of life for us in the times ahead may be more akin to the forty years than the forty days, and it may take a long time and a lot of hardship before we fully recover from the travails of the past year. Our faith encourages us not to lose hope, and indeed we have the Lord Jesus within and among us to help us persevere, strengthening and protecting us through the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

In the reading at Mass today from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses instructed the people as they were about to enter the promised land after their long years in the desert:

*“Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of the Lord your God, obeying his voice, **clinging to him**; for in this your life consists, and on this depends your long stay in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob he would give them.”*

God wants us to cling on to him, whatever happens, and in doing so we will experience and know his love within us and the life of grace and goodness he offers us when we obey his voice and place our hope in his promises. While we seek security and consolation here in our earthly homeland, we also trust that we will share eternal life with the Lord in our heavenly homeland, and that the way there is through, with, and in the Lord himself. Through Lent then let us cling to the Lord and ask him to cleanse and purify us of all that would keep us apart from him and from showing his love to all our brothers and sisters with whom we share our time here on Earth. This is our time – “The day of salvation” as St Paul told us on Ash Wednesday - and we must make the best of it. With the Lord Jesus we can do so, without him we may lose hope and patience. Let us cling on to Him!

Wishing a you a fruitful and holy Lent, full of faith, hope and love,

Yours in Christ,

**+ Joseph Toal**

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

**ST POLYCARP (c65-155) – Feast day 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

***Patron Saint – Earache and dysentery***



St Polycarp had been a Christian from a young age, having been converted to Christianity by none other than St John the Apostle, the disciple Jesus loved! In time, St John appointed him the Bishop of Smyrna, now part of modern-day Turkey. As the apostles and friends of Jesus died, the second generation of Christians faced many challenges...how did you answer new questions about being a Christian?

How did you make sure you were still carrying on Jesus teachings? Many heresies sprang up and controversies arose over how to celebrate liturgy that Jesus never laid down rules for. St Polycarp's answer was ***"to be true to the life of Jesus and imitate that life."***

Polycarp is regarded as one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome (consecrated by St Peter) and Ignatius of Antioch (consecrated by St John). The title Apostolic Father was given to them in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to highlight their importance to early Christian theology from people who personally knew the Twelve Apostles. The only surviving manuscript of St Polycarp's is a letter he wrote to the early Christian Church in Philippi warning them against apostasy (rejection/abandonment of religion by a person). In his letter he urges them:-

***"...stand fast, therefore, in these things and follow the example of the Lord, being firm and unchangeable in the faith, loving brotherhood and being attached to one another, joined together in the truth and exhibiting the meekness of the Lord in your intercourse with one another and despising no one."***

The Romans, as we are well aware liked to persecute Christians for their own entertainment and around 155AD they blamed the Christians for bringing bad luck to the city. Polycarp, who was well known as a bishop and holy man became their target. When soldiers were sent to arrest him, Polycarp invited them in but told them they would have to wait till he had finished his prayers! The Roman governor tried to persuade Polycarp to denounce Jesus and make a sacrifice to the Roman gods in return for his freedom.

***"But that would be blasphemy"*** replied Polycarp. ***"86 years I have served Jesus and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my Lord and Redeemer?"*** The Roman Governor then threatened him with being burnt alive but still Polycarp wouldn't denounce Jesus.

***"You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and after a little is extinguished, but are ignorant of the fire of the coming judgment and of eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. But why do you tarry? Bring forth what you will."***

Polycarp was tied to a stake and, as the soldiers lit the fire, prayed to God giving thanks that He had deemed him worthy of a martyr's death. Amazingly the flames did not harm Polycarp, but instead made an arc around him leaving him untouched by the flames. The governor, in his anger, ordered a soldier to stab Polycarp with a spear. Relics of St Polycarp are guarded in Sant' Ambrogio della Massima, Rome, a church believed to be built on the site of St Ambrose's home before he became Bishop of Milan.