

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**

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY 6TH MARCH/SUNDAY 7TH MARCH 2021

Parish Services this Week

Funeral Mass - Friday 12th March, 10am – *Mary M^cGarvey 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

Fr Hennessy will lead Friday's Stations of the Cross

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 and Mass Bouquets for various occasions, including Easter, 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.

CHURCH REOPENING – MESSAGE FROM FR MOURNIAN

Despite there being no final arrangements from the Scottish Government on exiting lockdown, we are hopeful that our churches will be open again in time for the celebration of Holy Week. The last year has highlighted for many of us how important our faith and our parish community are to our health and wellbeing, both spiritually and physically. Throughout this time our parish has remained active, in particular our parish groups, who have adapted to the circumstances admirably, finding new and innovative ways to serve those in need in our local area. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and support during what has been, and will continue to be, a difficult time for many of us. If you would like to join any of our groups please see our website for further information about the groups which operate within our parish, or feel free to get in touch through the Church Office.

Our Parish Mission and Action Group are having a meeting this week to discuss the practicalities involved in re-opening our church. We are making an appeal for more stewards to assist us once we re-open; without our stewards we simply can't open. We already have a fantastic bunch of committed stewards but the more stewards we have, the more people we can accommodate in church, extra masses etc. If you can help us, please get in touch with our Stewarding Coordinator Miriam McKernan (miriam.mckernan@googlemail.com). Full training will be given.

REFLECTIONS AT THE QUAY – BBC ONE SCOTLAND

Our very own Fr Stephen Reilly, in his capacity as the Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation for Catholic schoolteachers, will be appearing on the programme 'Reflections at the Quay' on BBC One Scotland this Sunday, **7th March at 11.30am**...a date for your diary!

SCHOLA GROUP – SOLEMN EVENING PRAYER

Another date for your diary! Please join us for a Lenten oasis of prayer and sacred music live from our Church on **Sunday 14th March (Laetáre Sunday) at 5pm.**

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We had a fantastic response to our recent 'Sponsor a Vestment' project and we realise many people were disappointed to find that all the vestments had been sponsored. We understand how important it can be for us to be able to mark a loved one's passing with a lasting legacy in their name. It can also be a unique present idea for a special occasion, Mother's Day, anniversary, birthday etc. With this in mind we have identified a number of small projects suitable for sponsoring. These include:-

- Replanting the trees at the front of the church
- A veil for the inside of the tabernacle
- Refurbishment of the Paschal candle stand
- Sponsoring a specific SVDP project

For more information, please contact us at the Church Office. Gift certificates are available.

ABILITY HEALTH AND FITNESS – SVDP FUNDRAISER

One of our parishioners, Rose McBride, who runs Ability Health and Fitness from the Church Hall set her members a challenge to run/walk/cycle 100mile/km to raise funds for our SVDP conference. Together they raised the fantastic amount of £2385, which will be used to help out those in need in our local community. On behalf of SVDP and the parish thank you very much to everyone who took part.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

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

EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION FOR LENT

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

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

It's not too late to join Fr Paul Denney for his Online Bible Study Group, Tuesdays at 7pm. If you are interested, please email him at stjames@rcdom.org.uk

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

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**.

300 CLUB

February Draw Winners

1st Prize (£100) - No. 63 Andrew Coyle

2nd Prize (£50) - No. 133 Martha McLaren

3rd Prize (£30) -No. 16 Betty Bain

Collectors:- Next Draw Sunday 28th March

New Members required:- Anyone wishing to join the Club please contact Rosaleen Anderson (647 2301) or get in touch via the Church Office.

Please pray for the following:-

Sick: - Esther Brady, Christopher Browne, Donna-Marie McGurk, 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 McLachlan, Eric O'Neil (5), Bea van der Linden, Margaret Gray, Margaret Malone.

Recently deceased:- Terence Bell, Owen McFadden, Kathleen Hanratty, Hugh Coyle, Patrick McHugh, Francesca Gudenzi, Dennis Campbell

Anniversaries:- James Dillon, Bernadette Renehan, Cissie Allison, Kate Martin, Mary Carey, Joe Ruth, Mary (Polly) Gray, Herbert Gorman

6 Month's Mind:- Eilish McKaveney

BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND – RETURN TO WORSHIP IN TIME FOR EASTER

Responding to last week's statement on the reopening of Places of Worship by the First Minister, the Catholic Bishops of Scotland have issued a statement welcoming the move and calling for a removal of the cap, which limits the number of people who can attend. Instead, the bishops maintain congregation size should be calculated in accordance with the size of each church, a system similar to that used in the retail sector, which still maintains social distancing regulations. The full statement is below.

'As Scotland's Catholic bishops, we welcome the recent announcement by the First Minister foreseeing a return to our churches for the most important celebration of the liturgical year at Easter. We also welcome the recognition of the status of public worship implicit in this decision.

The Catholic Community recognises the seriousness of the pandemic and is committed to working with others to avoid the spreading of infection.

At the same time, we anticipate ongoing dialogue with the Scottish Government regarding the requirement of a numerical "cap" on the number of worshippers. As we continue to observe social distancing and the protocols on infection control and hygiene formulated by the Bishops' Conference working group under the leadership of the former Chief Medical Officer Sir Harry Burns, we maintain that it would be more appropriate for each church building to accommodate a congregation in proportion to its size rather than on the basis of an imposed number.

We echo here the timely words Pope Francis addressed to the representatives of countries to the Holy See on the 8th February 2021:

"Even as we seek ways to protect human lives from the spread of the virus, we cannot view the spiritual and moral dimension of the human person as less important than physical health.

The opening of churches is a sign that the sacrifices endured so far are bearing fruit and gives us hope and encouragement to persevere. We pray that the Risen Christ, for whom we long during this holy season of Lent, will bless and bring healing to our nation."

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST FRANCES OF ROME (1384-1440) – Feast day 9th MARCH

Patron Saint – Motorists, widows and mothers

St Frances of Rome was born into a wealthy, aristocratic family and was married off by her father at the tender age of 12. Her husband, Lorenzo Ponziani was a commander of the papal troops and was himself from an extremely wealthy family. Frances wasn't very happy at being married, as she had wanted to become a nun. Unlike most girls her age she hated the parties, banquets and general merriment that went on in the high society of Rome. She struggled so much with her new married life that she became seriously ill. As her health deteriorated, she had a vision of St Alexis, who had also been from a noble family. He had run away from his home rather than be married. St Alexis told her God was giving her a choice....did she want to recover, did she want to live? In response, Frances gave herself over to God's will, which proved a turning point in her illness and in her life. She recovered immediately and completely and devoted herself to her husband, who loved her dearly and only wanted for his wife to be happy.



During this time, she also found herself a friend and kindred spirit in her sister-in-law, Vannoza. She harboured the same desires as Frances, in that she had wanted to devote her life to God too, but like Frances had found herself married off by her family. The two girls became close friends. When Frances' mother-in-law died, she found herself having to run a large household at the age of just 16! By then she was a mother as well, and Frances and Vannoza agreed that their family obligations came first. But the two spiritual friends went to Mass together, served in hospitals and set up a secret chapel in an abandoned tower of the palace where they prayed together.

When flood brought disease and famine to Rome, Frances gave orders that no one asking for help should be turned away. Frances and Vannoza did all they could to help the poor by taking corn, oil, wine and clothes to them. When her father-in-law found out, he was furious that they were giving away their precious supplies, especially when their own supplies ran out. Frances prayed to God and the empty corn loft and wine casks were miraculously full again. Both her father-in-law and her husband converted after witnessing this miracle.

Frances experienced great sorrows in her life. She lost 2 children to the plague and her husband was wounded so badly in a battle that he never fully recovered; Frances nursed him for the rest of his life. Despite her sorrows, she was also remarkably blessed by God. She had the gift of miracles and ecstasy, as well as being able to see her own guardian angel. She had revelations concerning Purgatory and Hell. She could read the secrets of consciences and detect plots of diabolical origins. She was well known for her humility, obedience and patience.

In 1425, she founded the Olivetan Oblates of Mary, a confraternity of pious women, neither cloistered nor bound by formal vows, but following a pattern of combining a life of prayer while answering the needs of society. In 1433, she founded a monastery to allow those who wanted to live this way of life a place to call home, with like-minded individuals. When her husband died, she moved into the monastery and became the Mother Superior. She died on 9th March, 1440, a date she herself had predicted and is buried in Santa Francesca Romana in Rome.