



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am & 11.30am

Daily Mass at 10am

Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am

Saturday 9am

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10am & 4.30pm

Mon & Wed 6.30pm; Fri 8.30am

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**Sunday 23rd August—Twenty-First Sunday of the Year (A)**

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**We pray for those who have died recently:** Helen Johnson, Bridget McKendrick and Margaret Munro **also for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mary J Brown, Agnes Blyth, Bernard & Kate Gallacher, Christina Cassidy, Joseph Murphy and Mary Low

**Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

**Our Journey of Faith—Enquirers:** As we continue to journey with our three newest members as they seek to deepen their understanding of the faith, we would also welcome others who are wanting to enquire about becoming Catholics and joining any of our three communities. Could I ask anyone who is thinking of becoming a Catholic to approach myself or Fr Alexander and we will chat through how the journey into the Church might proceed.

**Requirements for visits to the church and for Mass:**

- \* You will need to wear a face covering (mask or scarf) at all times when you are in the church.
- \* There are sanitisers at the entrance and exit to the church and you are asked to make use of these when entering and leaving the church.
- \* Stewards will help you identify a space for prayer: there will be spaces for couples / family groups and for individuals.
- \* You will be asked to use a one-way system in the churches so please follow the directions of the stewards.
- \* If you wish to light a candle, please use the disposable tapers provided and after use (and making sure that the taper is extinguished), please place the used taper in the bin provided.

**Limited Attendance at Mass: Change of Preference / Booking**

The only space we have for people wishing to return to Sunday Mass is at 10am in St Mary's and 4.30pm in St Leonard and St Fergus'. I still need volunteers to change their preference for Mass at St Mary's from 11.30am to 10am. As you enter for the 11.30am Mass this week we will ask you if there is the possibility that you might be able to change Mass time.

**More Help—Please:** We are still relying on the faithful few to help with stewarding and cleaning, so please step forward if you can help even in a limited way.

**St Mary's Repairs:** We have discovered a touch of dry rot in St Mary's (if dry rot can be described in such terms): it's in the church this time rather than the house. It is actually visible to the naked eye in the arches of one of the high windows on the right hand side as you look towards the altar. This will be dealt with in the coming weeks. It will require scaffolding which I think will probably limit our capacity in the church to even less than 50. If it does, we will prepare the hall for Mass while the work takes place. I realise that using the upper hall will limit access due to the stairs. I am hopeful that if we do need to decant, it will not be for too long.

**Collections:** Monies handed in up to 16th August amounted to: St Mary's £1288 | St Columba's £492 | St Leonard & St Fergus' £862. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

**Offertory Collection:** During our Masses the 'plate' will not be passed round the congregation so all collections should be placed directly in the boxes / baskets at the back of the churches. There will also be containers for the deposit of any SCIAF boxes that you might wish to hand in.

**Restoration Fund for St Mary's:** To reassure you all that our restoration fund has still been growing during lockdown, so far this year we have raised over £7,900. Our events have included the Burns' Night; a virtual race night, our Giving Day and various individual donations—one gift being the proceeds from the money saved on trips to the hairdresser during Lockdown! We will probably have to innovate with our fundraising over the next while, but we will find ways!

**Streaming of Mass from St Mary's:** I now have 6 early bird volunteers so far to help at 8.30am streamed Mass. I knew that I wouldn't be disappointed. If there is anyone else **from our three communities** who would be happy to read and lead the responses at this Mass, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Sign of Peace:** Many parishioners have expressed their dismay that there is no opportunity to exchange a sign of peace. Although it is advised that we no longer shake hands, perhaps at the moment in the Mass when we customarily offer each other the sign of peace, we might turn and offer each other a slight bow, a nod of the head to acknowledge one another and to acknowledge the desire to be at peace with everyone as we approach the moment of Holy Communion.

### Charities

**Macmillan Coffee Morning:** The community at St Leonard and St Fergus' will be hosting the annual Macmillan Support Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September 2020—even if it means hosting it as an outdoor/ drive-in event in the car park! Please put the date in your diary and give your support in any way you feel able to. Details to follow.

**SCIAF Coronavirus Appeal:** Over the next weeks in our communities, there will be the opportunity to respond to this appeal from SCIAF. One suggestion is that we 'recycle' our unused Lent SCIAF Boxes for this appeal. In the poorest countries of the world there will be no 'furlough' scheme for workers and many survive by working for their daily bread—if they do not work then they, and their families, do not eat. It is possible that poverty will kill more people in these countries than the virus. You will find boxes in St Mary's this week and we will look to provide ways of giving in St Columba's and St Leonard and St Fergus' over the coming weeks.

**St Leonard & St Fergus' 100 Club for SCIAF:** The 100 club will RESUME in September. Change of payment arrangements will be needed. Members are asked to pay monthly and pay £5 per number per month. Please put your payment in an envelope with your 100 numbers (or name) clearly marked. Please place the envelope in the general collection box at the back of the church. Payments will still work out as £1 per week. There will be a free month in the year to balance out the payments. Prizes will remain as before. If you had paid in advance prior to lockdown you will still be in credit! If anyone requires envelopes there will be some available at the entrance to the church.

**Mary's Meals:** The second Mary's Meals Family Hour takes place at 7pm on Thursday, 27th August on their [YouTube](#) channel. They will have a whole host of wonderful speakers lined up, including: 10-year-old Zac, who ran 100 miles in 50 days to raise funds for Mary's Meals; their country director for Zambia, Panji Kajani, who will discuss how Mary's Meals are reaching hungry children through the pandemic; founder of Mary's Meals Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, who will answer questions about Mary's Meals; and the supporter engagement officer Caoimhe McCann, who will join in from Belfast to share stories about what supporters are doing in Northern Ireland. This should be an hour of inspiration and celebration with the Mary's Meals family!

**SVDP:** Many of you give generously to the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society for the relief of the poor. In St Columba's and St Leonard and St Fergus' there will be basket at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to continue their donations to the SVDP and in St Mary's the wall box as you leave the church has been re-designated for this purpose.