
Sunday 17th January—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Sunday Mass Streamed from St Mary's at 10am

Bishop Vincent Logan, Bishop Emeritus 1941-2021, Bishop of Dunkeld 1981-2012

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Bishop Vincent on Thursday morning. Bishop Vincent had been resident in St Mary's Care Home, Monifieth since last February. His health had been deteriorating over the past years and had taken a significant turn for the worse over the past weeks. Bishop Vincent was ordained as Bishop of Dunkeld on 26th February 1981. Bishop Stephen wrote: "Bishop Vincent... served for 32 very energetic and innovative years both in the Diocese and in the Bishops Conference. His work was greatly appreciated at all times. Much can be said about Bishop Vincent's achievements, but these can wait for a more leisurely time once the pandemic dangers have passed and we can Celebrate Bishop Vincent's Requiem Mass more appropriately. The funeral will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Tuesday 26th January. The Mass will be limited to 20 but it is hoped to record and stream the Mass and burial, so that all who have access to the internet will be able to participate". Please pray for the happy repose of Bishop Vincent's soul.

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia 1951-2021,

Bishop of Paisley 2005-2012; Archbishop of Glasgow 1951-2021

We are also asked to pray for the happy repose of the soul of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia who died suddenly on Wednesday, the Feast of St Kentigern (Mungo) Patron of the City of Glasgow. We also pray for his family, and for the priests and people of Glasgow who mourn the death of their pastor.

We pray for those who have died recently: Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Bishop Vincent Logan, Agnes Johnson, Dione Burns, Ronald Craig, Raymond Kerr, Alexander Trasadass and Jim Reilly **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Samuele Ciantia, Vincenta Manansala, Ian McDermott, Frank Cassidy, Mary and John Black, Annie Crowe, Tom Inglis, Winnie Burns, Kathleen Petrie, Alexander Lowden, Catherine Lowden and Andrew Cord. We also remember all those mentioned in our books of remembrance. **Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Fr Jean: We said farewell to Fr Jean on Thursday as he left to travel back to Malta. The length of his stay in Malta will, in some ways, be determined by the policy of the University in terms of a return to face-to-face tuition. However, we hope to see him back with us very soon. I can only express my heartfelt thanks to Fr Jean for all that he has done for us as a community in our three areas (much of it achieved behind the scenes). He will still be able to help us with our reflections and some of the technical requirements of Facebook—which are beyond me! Please continue to keep Fr Jean in your prayers.

Newsletters: Thank you to all who have been in touch having received the newsletter through the post, especially those who have passed on their email address to receive the newsletters electronically, and those who have offered to deliver newsletters in their neighbourhood. This will help us keep in touch with a greater number of the parishioners than during the previous period of Lockdown. Please remember that we are happy to print off the newsletter here at the chapel house and get them out to people who could deliver them.

St Mary's Crib Figures: Written on the base of the crib figures are the names of the original donors. I thought some of you might be interested in who gave these (and perhaps know when they were donated). We can all remember the generosity of these good souls in our prayers. **Baby Jesus:** Members of the UCM; **Our Lady:** Mr & Mrs Burke; **St Joseph:** Stewart Family, 29 High Street; **Three Shepherds:** Jas Ferry; Mrs Alex Duff; Lynch Family, 43 Loons Road; **Wise Men:** Miss M Traynor; **Ox and Ass:** Miss MA Byrne.

Resources during Lockdown: We have another two online moments of prayer and reflection on Facebook during the week. On Tuesdays at 7pm we will have reflections on prayer. These talks will last for about 20 minutes. After each of the talks we would welcome feedback, questions, etc., so that we can tailor the following weeks' talks to answer the questions and include the feedback. The second moment of prayer will be the rosary prayed together on Thursday evenings at 7pm. The rosary is recoded, but each week we will try to include different intentions for our prayer together.

An Excerpt from Pope Francis' Catechesis "Healing the world": 2. Faith and human dignity

The pandemic has highlighted how vulnerable and interconnected everyone is. If we do not take care of one another, starting with the least, with those who are most impacted, including creation, we cannot heal the world.

Commendable is the effort of so many people who have been offering evidence of human and Christian love for neighbour, dedicating themselves to the sick even at the risk of their own health. They are heroes! However, the coronavirus is not the only disease to be fought, but rather, the pandemic has shed light on broader social ills. One of these is a distorted view of the person, a perspective that ignores the dignity and relational nature of the person. At times we look at others as objects, to be used and discarded. In reality this type of perspective blinds and fosters an individualistic and aggressive throw-away culture, which transforms the human being into a consumer good (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 53; Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, [LS], 22).

In the light of faith we know, instead, that God looks at a man and a woman in another manner. He created us not as objects but as people loved and capable of loving; He has created us in His image and likeness (see *Gen* 1:27). In this way He has given us a unique dignity, calling us to live in communion with Him, in communion with our sisters and our brothers, with respect for all creation. In communion, in harmony, we might say. Creation is the harmony in which we are called to live. And in this communion, in this harmony that is communion, God gives us the ability to procreate and safeguard life (see *Gen* 1:28-29), to till and keep the land (see *Gen* 2:15; *LS*, 67). It is clear that one cannot procreate and safeguard life without harmony; it will be destroyed.

We have an example of that individualistic perspective, that which is not harmony, in the Gospels, in the request made to Jesus by the mother of the disciples James and John (cf. *Mt* 20:20-38). She wanted her sons to sit at the right and the left of the new king. But Jesus proposes another type of vision: that of service and of giving one's life for others, and He confirms it by immediately restoring sight to two blind men and making them His disciples (see *Mt* 20:29-34). Seeking to climb in life, to be superior to others, destroys harmony. It is the logic of dominion, of dominating others. Harmony is something else: it is service.

Therefore, let us ask the Lord to give us eyes attentive to our brothers and sisters, especially those who are suffering. As Jesus's disciples we do not want to be indifferent or individualistic. These are the two unpleasant attitudes that run counter to harmony. Indifferent: I look the other way. Individualist: looking out only for one's own interest. The harmony created by God asks that we look at others, the needs of others, the problems of others, in communion. We want to recognise the human dignity in every person, whatever his or her race, language or condition might be. Harmony leads you to recognise human dignity, that harmony created by God, with humanity at the centre.