



Sunday 14th March—Fourth Sunday in Lent (B)

Sunday Mass Streamed from St Mary's at 10am

We pray for those who have died recently: Margaret (Peggy) Dailly, Joseph Golden, Teresa McGregor, Jim Casells and Theresa Muckersie; **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Thomas J Brown, Marion (Lawrence) Myles, Mgr Hugh McNally, Alan Timmons Jr, James Timmons Snr, Elizabeth (Betty) Watson, Kevan Quinn, Sandy Duncan, David & Nan Hynd, Pauline Robertson, Helen Abercrombie, Tom and Mary Brown and Thomas Rooney. 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.

Reopening of Churches: You will probably know by now that we have been given permission to reopen our churches from Friday 26th March. That means that for the weekend of Palm Sunday we will re-generate the lists that we worked with when we came out of the last Lockdown which had 50 people listed for each Mass. So, if you were on a list for a particular Mass, you will still be on that list. There will be no need to book for weekday Masses. There will be separate arrangements for Easter and we will let you know about these in due course.

Times of Masses: Masses will revert to these times:

St Mary's: Mon—Sat 10am; Sunday: Vigils 4.30pm & 6pm (Sat); Morning 8.30am (streamed); 10am & 11.30am

St Columba's: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am; Saturday 9am; Sunday 11.30am

St Leonard & St Fergus: Monday & Wednesday 6.30pm; Friday 8.30am; Sunday; Vigil 6pm; Morning 10am; 4pm

Maintenance Work in St Mary's: The work was completed on the roof truss this week and the scaffolding is in process of being dismantled. As soon as the materials were available the work progressed remarkably smoothly. My thanks to all the trades involved.

Cleaning of St Mary's: The downside of the all the work that was being carried out is that the church is covered in fine dust and we have a funeral in the church on Tuesday. The few regular cleaners we have are gathering on Monday at 1.30pm to clean the church. If anyone else is available to lend a hand, I know that you would be more than welcome. There will be arrangements made in the near future for the cleaning of all the churches prior to opening.

SVDP: Digital Connection: The SVDP is a channel for the provision of a small number of tablet devices (and support) designed to help keep people connected. The offer is open to people over 65. If you would benefit from such a device, or know of someone who would, please contact Fr Alex or me as soon as possible.

Lent 2021

Gospel Reflections: The Gospel reflection (Lectio Divina) for the following Sunday will continue this Tuesday at 7pm (Facebook). This will be the last in the season for the moment.

Stations of the Cross: There will be the opportunity to meditate together on the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 7pm (Facebook).

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

"We are God's work of art." God has crafted each of us for some unique purpose. Could yours be found in priesthood, diaconate or religious vows? Speak to Fr Mark, your Diocesan Vocations Director, contact *Priests for Scotland* or visit our website or Facebook pages (PFS or VocationNetworkScotland).

Letter for the Fourth Sunday of Lent – SCIAF Sunday

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland on this the fourth Sunday of Lent to thank you for your generous and prayerful support for SCIAF – the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund - over the past year.

In the Gospels, we hear of many occasions when Jesus heals the sick, reaching out with love and mercy to the most marginalised and the poorest, both in action and in spirit.

As Catholics we are called to follow his example, to recognise that we are our brother or sister's keeper. To reach out to the poorest with love. SCIAF is the embodiment of the love of our Church in Scotland, reaching out to our vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world. It is why during Lent, we ask you to give generously to support the vital work SCIAF does on our behalf.

This has been a difficult twelve months for all of us, but through WEE BOX and collection donations, gifts in wills and direct debits, SCIAF have continued to help the poorest people in the world.

SCIAF is extremely grateful that last year, generous parishioners raised £945,218 to help survivors of gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Victims of a devastating war which lasted more than 20 years. Where many were killed, displaced and are in need due to ongoing violence.

Through SCIAF's Church partners these vulnerable survivors, mostly women and girls, were given the medical care and trauma counselling they needed to recover, and gained new skills to build a better life. That is our faith in action.

This year, SCIAF ask us to look to another country where frequent conflict has left behind a legacy of fear, displacement and despair, making it one of the world's poorest and most fragile states. Children with disabilities were already the most vulnerable in society. Now, the coronavirus pandemic has deepened already existing issues of poverty, putting them at greater risk. When a crisis comes, be it conflict, famine or even the coronavirus, it's the poorest and most vulnerable children who suffer most.

Many children with disabilities in South Sudan are not able to go to school or, later on, to work and earn a living. They may have no access to support services or hospitals for treatment. They may face stigma and exclusion. Due to a lack of access to education and opportunities, disabled children can miss out on vital learning that helps them to break out of the cycle of poverty, unlock their potential and live life to the full.

Through SCIAF the Scottish Catholic Church can help children with disabilities in South Sudan to access the education and support they need to build a bright future. SCIAF will reach the poorest people first and put our faith into action.

With the support of parishes, SCIAF's work in South Sudan will provide a lifeline for children with disabilities and their families. Our support will help to adapt schools so that pupils with disabilities can access education. Children will be provided with aids such as wheelchairs, ramps, hearing aids and canes, as well as healthcare to help them live more independently.

For example, just £35 could buy a classroom desk so a pupil with a disability doesn't need to sit on the floor.

I am delighted to let you know that this year, all donations to SCIAF's WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal, made before 11th May, will be doubled by the UK government. Your donations will help SCIAF's life changing work around the world, while match funding from the UK government will provide a lifeline to children with disabilities, their families and communities in South Sudan, helping them to build bright futures. Thank you for your continued generosity; know that it goes towards good work.

As Lent continues and we look forward to the celebration of Christ's resurrection, please remember SCIAF and everyone they work with in your prayers.

May God bless you and your families during the holy season of Lent and throughout the year.

+Joseph Toal

Bishop President of SCIAF on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland