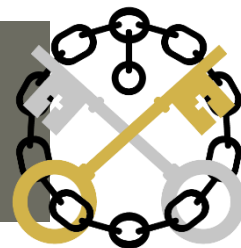


ST PETER IN CHAINS



2nd Sunday of Easter (A) - Divine Mercy Sunday

19th April 2020

Parish Liturgy



SUNDAY MASS

Suspended until further notice.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By appointment.

Public Mass, Public Liturgy, Sacraments and Parish gatherings in the Diocese of Galloway have been suspended until further notice.

Contact Details



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St Peter's in Chains, Ardrossan is a Parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 010576



PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF THE PARISH BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

A Reading from the First Letter of St Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Second Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

| April 2020 | St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i> | Thought for the Day <i>Taken from the "Urbi et Orbi" Blessing of Pope Francis on Easter Sunday - "for the city and for the world".</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sunday 19 th April | Divine Mercy Sunday - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish. "Like a new flame this Good News springs up in the night: the night of a world already faced with epochal challenges and now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our whole human family. In this night, the Church's voice rings out: "Christ, my hope, is risen!" (Easter Sequence). This is a different "contagion," a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope: "Christ, my hope, is risen!" The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One, not someone else. In his glorious body he bears indelible wounds: wounds that have become windows of hope. Let us turn our gaze to him that he may heal the wounds of an afflicted humanity." <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Monday 20 th April | Second Week of Easter - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Francis McEvoy Jnr. (A) "May Jesus, our Passover, grant strength and hope to doctors and nurses, who everywhere offer a witness of care and love for our neighbours, to the point of exhaustion and not infrequently at the expense of their own health. Our gratitude and affection go to them, to all who work diligently to guarantee the essential services necessary for civil society, and to the law enforcement and military personnel who in many countries have helped ease people's difficulties and sufferings." <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Tuesday 21 st April | Second Week of Easter - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, Duncan Lyon (A) and Janie Aitken (A) "This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. In light of the present circumstances, may international sanctions be relaxed, since these make it difficult for countries on which they have been imposed to provide adequate support to their citizens, and may all nations be put in a position to meet the greatest needs of the moment through the reduction, if not the forgiveness, of the debt burdening the balance sheets of the poorest nations." <i>"Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Wednesday 22 nd April | Second Week of Easter - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, Francis Smith (A) and John McLaughlin (RD) "This is not a time for self-centredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons. Among the many areas of the world affected by the coronavirus, I think in a special way of Europe. After the Second World War, this beloved continent was able to rise again, thanks to a concrete spirit of solidarity that enabled it to overcome the rivalries of the past. It is more urgent than ever, especially in the present circumstances, that these rivalries do not regain force, but that all recognize themselves as part of a single-family and support one another." <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Thursday 23 rd April | Second Week of Easter - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, Archie McFarlane (A) and Jane McFarlane (A) "This is not a time for division. May Christ our peace enlighten all who have responsibility in conflicts, that they may have the courage to support the appeal for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. This is not a time for continuing to manufacture and deal in arms, spending vast amounts of money that ought to be used to care for others and save lives. Rather, may this be a time for finally ending the long war that has caused such great bloodshed in Syria, the conflict in Yemen and the hostilities in Iraq and in Lebanon. May this be the time when Israelis and Palestinians resume dialogue in order to find a stable and lasting solution that will allow both to live in peace. May the sufferings of the people who live in the eastern regions of Ukraine come to an end. May the terrorist attacks carried out against so many innocent people in different African countries come to an end." <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Friday 24 th April | Second Week of Easter - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, Agnes Ward (A) and Alice Lynn (A) "This is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people. May he warm the hearts of the many refugees displaced because of wars, drought and famine. May he grant protection to migrants and refugees, many of them children, who are living in unbearable conditions, especially in Libya and on the border between Greece and Turkey, and I don't want to forget the island of Lesbos." <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |
| Saturday 25 th April | Feast of St. Mark Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, John Mullen (RD) and Anthony Raymond Downes [A] "Dear brothers and sisters, indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words for ever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end. I wish you all a happy Easter!" <i>Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your family. Father Duncan</i> | |

► **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOHN MULLEN** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of John Mullen, who died on 30th March 2020. His Funeral Service will be at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium on Tuesday, 21st April at 9.30am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

► **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR JOHN McLAUGHLIN** Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of John McLaughlin, who died on 15th April 2020. His Graveside Service was at West Kilbride Cemetery on Saturday, 18th April at 11am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

► **PARISH WEBSITES UPDATE** In our difficult situation, please have a look at our Parish Websites to keep up-to-date and informed. We have two at the moment:

Our original website: www.saintpeterinchains.net and now we have our new website where information, updates and resources are being added every day: www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk So please have a look and let us know what you think. The weekly Bulletin will be posted on both websites.

An Ocean of Divine Mercy for all of us

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognise that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:



A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This is a very old prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes, which seems very appropriate in the light of our present situation. Thanks to Bernard McCormick.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O Holy Virgin,
in the midst of your days of glory,
do not forget the sorrows of this earth.
Cast a merciful glance upon those who are suffering,
struggling against difficulties,
with their lips constantly pressed against life's bitter cup.
Have pity on those who love each other and are separated.
Have pity on our rebellious hearts.
Have pity on our weak faith.
Have pity on those who weep,
on those who pray,
on those who fear.
Grant hope and peace to all. Amen.
Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!



[written by Abbe Perreyve]

Mustard Seeds

✠ Satan's Car Boot Sale

Once upon a time, Satan was having a car boot sale. There, standing in little groups were all of his bright, shiny trinkets. Here were tools that make it easy to tear others down for use as stepping stones. And over there were some lenses for magnifying ones own importance, which if you looked through them the other way, you could also use to belittle others, or even ones self. Against the wall was the usual assortment of gardening implements guaranteed to help your pride grow by leaps and bounds: the rake of scorn, the shovel of jealousy for digging a pit for your neighbour, the tools of gossip and backbiting, of selfishness and apathy. All of these were pleasing to the eye and came complete with fabulous promises and guarantees of prosperity. Prices, of course were steep; but not to worry! Free credit was extended to one and all. "Take it home, use it, and you won't have to pay until later!" old Satan cried, as he hawked his wares. Business was brisk. One visitor, as he browsed, noticed two well worn, and very plain tools standing in one corner - practically unnoticed. Not being nearly as tempting as the other items, he found it curious that these two tool had price tags higher than any other. When he asked why, Satan just laughed and said, "Well, that's because I use them so much. if they weren't so plain looking, people might see them for what they were." Satan pointed to the two tools, saying, "You see, that one's Doubt and that one's Discouragement - and those will work when nothing else will - believe me!"

✠ Pope Francis Surprises Host with a call on Live TV

"I am close, I am close to you all," Pope Francis said on Good Friday, making a surprise call-in to a live Italian television programme. "Good evening, Lorena. How are you?" the pope said to the visibly surprised host of a religious show called "A sua immagine" (in His image"), on Italy's Rai 1 channel. The pope called the show during the airing of a special for Good Friday. He has been celebrating the Holy week liturgies in St. Peter's Basilica without the presence of the public due to the coronavirus pandemic. On the TV program, Pope Francis said that during Holy Week he was thinking about Christ's crucifixion and the many sacrifices men and women were making during the global health emergency caused by COVID-19. "In these days, I am thinking about our crucified Lord. And the stories of the many crucified people, those of history and those of today, [in] this pandemic: the doctors, nurses, religious sisters, priests, who have died at the 'frontlines' like soldiers," he said. These men and women, he continued, "have given their lives for love." They are resistant, like Mary, under their crosses, they and their communities, in hospitals, taking care of the sick." He said that today there are people "who die for love. This is the thought which comes to me in this moment."

Just for a Laugh

In Ardrossan a Protestant man married a Catholic woman at St Peter's. After their marriage he decided to convert to the Catholic Church. So he went to the priest and took instructions and was later baptised Catholic. He had one problem however. He couldn't get it into his skull that he was a Catholic man, and no longer a Protestant. This became such a problem that he returned to the priest and asked for some advice. The priest told him that if he was to repeat the phrase "I'm a Catholic, not a Protestant" enough times the idea might penetrate his skull. The man left mumbling to himself, "I'm a Catholic, not a Protestant. I'm a Catholic, not a Protestant." The next Friday the priest decided to visit the newlyweds. He knocked on the door and was greeted by the wife. When he stepped in, he smelled something that should not be in a Catholic's home on a Friday. He asked the wife where her husband was, and she replied that he was in the kitchen. The priest walked into the kitchen and saw the man pouring thick brown gravy on a thick hunk of roast beef. Aghast, the priest was about to explode when he heard the man mumble, "You're a trout, not a cow. You're a trout, not a cow."

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