

## St Kessog's Catholic Parish: One Parish, two churches St Anthony's Balfron & St Kessog's Blanefield

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### Parish Sunday Bulletin (31<sup>st</sup> January 2021)

**Coronavirus updates:** The latest news on the impact of Covid-19 on the Archdiocese, along with resources, can be found at <https://archedinburgh.org/update-coronavirus/>. Also at the Bishops' Conference Website: [www.bcso.org.uk/](http://www.bcso.org.uk/)

### Faith in the Time of Covid

Archbishop Cushley invites you to join a series of Sunday talks from distinguished speakers who will offer their thoughts and approach to the pandemic. Each event is free and lasts 30 mins.

**Bishop Philip Egan**, 5pm, 31 Jan. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Egan](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Egan) (SOLD OUT)

**Dr Mary Rice Hasson**, 5pm, 07 Feb. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Hasson](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Hasson)

**Professor John Haldane**, 5pm 14 Feb. Register: [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Haldane](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Haldane)

**Rt Hon Gordon Brown**, 5pm, 21 Feb. Register [bit.ly/FaithCovid-Brown](http://bit.ly/FaithCovid-Brown).

All events will be broadcast on YouTube at [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube)

### Pastoral Letter (attached)

The World Day of Consecrated Life takes place on **Tuesday 2 February** (see the attached pastoral letter). The Archdiocese is holding an online event for our Religious and there will be various activities on our social media acknowledging their work. Please, pray for them and for vocations to the religious life.

### Couples' Retreat

Married and engaged couples are invited to a Valentine's retreat. It features specially prepared video reflections from Canon John Udris, Spiritual Director at St Mary's College, Oscott (Birmingham), to help you grow together in Faith. It takes place on Zoom and last 90 mins. 3:00pm, Saturday 13 February. This is a free event organised by the Archdiocesan Marriage Commission. Register now at [bit.ly/CouplesRetreat2021](http://bit.ly/CouplesRetreat2021)

### Vocations Mass

Ahead of the World Day of Consecrated Life on Tuesday (**2 February**) please join the monthly vocations Mass from St David's Parish in Dalkeith, which will be posted on the Archdiocesan Facebook at 6:30pm on Monday 1 February. If you are interested in the priesthood or religious life, you can have a chat with one of the Archdiocese's vocation directors: Father Andrew Garden: 0131 663 4286 or [vocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:vocations@staned.org.uk). Sr Mirjam Hugens FSO: 0131 623 8902 or [religiousvocations@staned.org.uk](mailto:religiousvocations@staned.org.uk)

### Marriage courses

If you are getting married at a church in the Archdiocese you must give the parish priest at least six months' notice and you will need to attend a marriage preparation course. Here are the available dates: **March** - Friday/Saturday 26/27. **April** - Friday/Saturday 23/24. **May** - Friday/Saturday 21/22. Spaces are filling up fast so please register now in consultation with the parish priest. Download an application form from the Resources section at <https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/marriage-families/>. Alternatively, email [irene.furlong@staned.org.uk](mailto:irene.furlong@staned.org.uk) (0131 623 8900). Marriage course are currently taking place on Zoom.

## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, organised by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, will take place each Monday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. The Stations will be followed by a short reflection by one of our priests. You can register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/archdiocese-of-st-andrews-amp-edinburgh-18333988801>

## St Margaret Lecture

Sister Catherine Droste OP will give this year's St Margaret of Scotland Lecture. Archbishop Cushley will conclude the event with a reflection. It takes place online on Wednesday, 10 February, 4:00-5:30pm. Registration details at <https://events.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

## Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita

February 8<sup>th</sup> is the International Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking and the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita. There are upwards of 40 million people trafficked and held in modern slavery today. Pope Francis has said “we declare in the name of all people and of every one of our own Creed that modern slavery—in the form of human trafficking, forced labour, prostitution or the trafficking of organs—is a crime against humanity” and asked us to “work together to eradicate the terrible scourge of modern *slavery in all its forms.*”

St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of persons who are trafficked and was herself a victim of human trafficking. She was born in Darfur, Sudan in 1869, was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. She was canonised by Pope John Paul II in 2000. You can read her story here: [www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-josephine-bakhita](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-josephine-bakhita)

## Archdiocesan YouTube channel

If you miss any online event from the Archdiocese, you can find it on YouTube. The link is [bit.ly/ArchYouTube](http://bit.ly/ArchYouTube). The latest upload is ‘Fire & Water: The Power of the Sacraments’, a talk on Confirmation and Baptism by Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM, the Archdiocesan Catechetics Advisor.

**Finance:** We thank you for your financial support to our Parish. Nevertheless, we still need your support to face our regular bills or invoices. That is why, we still encourage you either to make a standing order through the Parish Bank Account provided on our Website ( [www.parishofstkessog.org](http://www.parishofstkessog.org) ), either to send a cheque to Parish Priest House in Blanefield (See the mail address in the footer).

**Gift Aid:** If you would like envelopes for Gift Aid, or have any questions regarding donating to the parish, please contact George Edwards on Tel: 07776 683172 or e-mail: [geojoedwards@yahoo.com](mailto:geojoedwards@yahoo.com)

**Parish Census:** In order, for us, to function well as a Parish it is important that we have up to date contact details for all our parishioners. Please take a few minutes to complete the registration form on the website: <https://parishofstkessog.org/> (in the ‘Connect’ section, under the ‘Welcome’ heading). Thank You.

**Parish Bulletin:** If you have any news you would like included in our Sunday Parish Bulletin, please email it to Frances: [fmdouglas61@icloud.com](mailto:fmdouglas61@icloud.com) (Mobile: 07901336305) by Thursday evening. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the bulletin by email, please let Frances know. The current bulletin and previous ones can also be seen on the parish website.

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