

Parish Sunday Bulletin / 14th March 2021

Resumption of Communal Worship

Dear parishioners,

Last Tuesday, the First Minister announced the Scottish Government's intention to allow the reopening of churches in time for Holy Week and Easter, assuming no deterioration in the virus.

- Places of worship are to re-open to the public on [Friday 26 March](#).
- The maximum attendance will be 50 for those churches that can accommodate two metre physical distancing (smaller churches may have reduced capacity).

Here is the full transcript of what the First Minister said [today](#) in parliament:

“The other careful change we feel able to make at this stage relates to places of worship. I can confirm that, assuming no deterioration in the situation with the virus between now and then, we intend to allow communal worship to restart [from Friday 26 March](#). This is in time for Passover, Easter, Ramadan and the Vaisakhi. In addition, the limit on attendance at communal services will be increased from 20, which was the limit in place before lockdown, to 50 – assuming of course that a place of worship is spacious enough to accommodate that many people with two metre physical distancing. Now I know that the restrictions of communal worship have been really difficult for many people despite the quite exceptional efforts made by faith groups to reach out to their communities. This change, again, is relatively minor, it is proportionate and we believe that it can be achieved relatively safely but it will hopefully enable more people to draw strength, comfort and inspiration from acts of collective worship.”

We will be in touch with you and let you know if attending Easter Vigil Masses would require a booking system.

Sacraments Celebration

Hi kids. Best wishes for the Resumption of the physical schooling on this coming Monday 15th March. To parents and grandparents who have kids at the age of receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First holy communion, we entreat to prepare them so that, by the end of May and middle of June, they may be ready to receive these sacraments. There may be only two or three encounters with our parish Catechists (I could take in one of them), before the celebration of each sacrament. So, a helping hand from families is earnestly needed.

Lent Event 1: INSPIRE - Lent Talks

Register now for the Archdiocese's INSPIRE talk series for Lent. Guest speakers will guide you prayerfully through the season. All talks on Zoom, 7-8pm. If you miss a talk you can find it at bit.ly/ArchYouTube

Talk 3: 7pm, Tue 16 March: *Prayer as a Relationship Reflected in St Teresa of Avila*, with Sr Sally Rollo. Register: bit.ly/LentRollo

Talk 4: 7pm, Tue 23 March: *Praying the Passion according to St Mark*, with Archbishop Leo Cushley. Register: bit.ly/LentCushley

Lent Event 2: Pro-Life 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 now on Eventbrite: <http://standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com>

Healing Service

New Dawn in Scotland is hosting a Lenten Healing Service at 7:30pm-9:00pm on Friday 12 March on Zoom. The theme is 'Repent and believe the good news' and the event is led by Fr Stefan Park. Visit <https://newdawninscotland.com/> for the link to join the service.

Lent Resources

The Archdiocesan Catechetics Commission has produced a range of resources for Lent that will assist adults and children to deepen their understanding of this holy season and aid them in their prayer life. Find them in the resources section at: <https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/catechetics/>.

International development/child benefit

The Catholic Parliamentary Office has asked us to share two links which you may wish to pass on to parishioners.

1. [Write to your MP to challenge proposed reduction in international development budget – Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](#)
2. [Scottish Child Payment has now started – Catholic Parliamentary Office \(rcpolitics.org\)](#)

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), 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: 07866 683172 or e-mail: 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 (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.