

Saint Michael's Parish, Dalreoch

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Sunday 5th June 2022 - PENTECOST

Mass: Monday to Friday at 10am; Sacrament of Confirmation: Thursday 7pm
Feasts: 6th–Mary, Mother of the Church; 9th–St Columba; 11th–St Barnabas

Carmel Funeral

The Funeral Mass for **Sister Mary of the Holy Spirit** will be offered in the chapel at Carmel on Tuesday 7th June at 12.30pm with Archbishop Nolan presiding. Space is very limited, but you may gather outside for the Mass or attend the burial at Dumbarton old cemetery around 2pm. The Sisters are most appreciative of the prayers offered and many kindnesses shown.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Around 30 young people will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation here in St Michael's this **Thursday, 9th June, at 7pm**. Archbishop Nolan has granted Fr Toal the faculty to confer the Sacrament in his place. Pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our parish!

St Michael's School Fete

All are welcome to get along to St Michael's Primary summer fete this **Saturday, 11th June, 11am-1pm**. Donations of home-baking, bottles, bric-a-brac, games, teddies would be appreciated – hand in to the school office or place in church library.

Mary's Meals Appeal

The charity which feeds over two million children worldwide will make an appeal for funds in St Michael's **next weekend, 11-12 June**. In the three years since they last visited, the plight of the world's poorest people has become more acute and their need more critical.

Corpus Christi

Sunday 19th June is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi when we honour in a particular way Christ's real presence in the Eucharist – the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. To celebrate this great festival, we will have a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at the conclusion of the 11am Mass – from the church and round the perimeter of St Michael's school.

We hope to follow this with a barbecue as a way of building up the bonds of communion within the parish – offers of help would be appreciated.

Clergy Appointments

A few clergy within the archdiocese have been asked by Archbishop Nolan to take up new parish appointments, effective beginning September: **Canon Andrew McKenzie**, who cut his teeth as a priest here in St Michael's, is appointed Administrator of St Andrew's Cathedral. **Canon Gerald Sharkey** moves from the Cathedral to Our Holy Redeemer and St Margaret's, Clydebank. **Canon Gerard Tartaglia** moves from Clydebank to Holy Family & St Ninian's and St Flannan's, Kirkintilloch. **Fr Stephen Hannah** moves from Kirkintilloch to St Joseph's, Tollcross, and St Joachim's, Carmyle, replacing Fr McKenzie.

Platinum Prayers

On this joyful occasion of your Majesty's birthday, and as you celebrate this Platinum Jubilee year, I send cordial greetings and good wishes, together with the renewed assurance of my prayers that Almighty God will bestow upon you, the Royal Family and all the people of the nation blessings of unity, prosperity and peace.

Pope Francis' message to Queen Elizabeth

Day for Life – Caring for the Older Person

*From the Bishops' Conferences of Scotland, England & Wales, and Ireland
Joint Bioethics Committee*

The covid pandemic highlighted the desperate plight of many older people, especially those in care homes and those struggling with long-term chronic conditions such as dementia.

They carried the highest burden of prolonged isolation, the distress for families unable to visit, delayed medical interventions and isolated deaths. Families and friends continue to bear the wound of deep grief which is still in need of healing.

As society, we face many challenges: the way we provide care for older persons; its cost and the means of payment; the shortage of staff in care homes; the time and energy needed to help older people feel valued and wanted.

Many feel they have become a burden or can feel treated as a burden, a 'bed-blocker', or a nuisance because they move more slowly, struggle with more physical challenges and live a different rhythm of life. They often feel vulnerable and worry when they hear talk about and even concrete proposals for assisted suicide and euthanasia.

We share their concerns and, in better valuing older persons, need to find new ways of building bridges by our actions.

Pope Francis has recently offered a different, more positive perspective in his *Catechesis on Old Age*.

He said: "The alliance between generations, which restores all ages of life to the human, is our lost gift and we have to get it back. It must be found, in this throwaway culture and in the culture of productivity."

The Pope invites us to listen to the dreams of older people and to learn from their wisdom. They have a different rhythm to life from which we can learn. "The arrogance of the time on the clock must be converted into the beauty of the rhythms of life," he suggests.

We invite people to think again about the value and worth of older persons in families, in society, and to make practical choices to build bridges between the generations. We call for people and parishes to devote quality time, energy and creativity in caring for the older persons in our communities.

We invite engagement in political debate on providing adequately resourced care of the older person so that no-one feels like a burden in our society.

We challenge our politicians and healthcare system to provide accessible palliative care for all the dying.

We encourage people to learn, from a closer accompaniment of the elderly, that there is a real richness in the journey through old age, which offers a deeper meaning and a new rhythm to the whole of life; something which can be celebrated and lived with hope in eternal life.

St Joachim and St Anne, pray for us!