



DIOCESE OF PAISLEY

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Dear Parishioner,

Easter Blessings

I am writing to you as the gladness of our Easter Celebrations draws near. This year, more than ever, the uplifting Paschal Feast brings home to us the consoling words of the LORD: *In the world you will have your troubles, but be of good cheer: I have conquered the world!* (Jn 16:33).

Our joy is only increased with the wonderful news that our parishes will be open for our public worship during Holy Week and into the Easter season. This recent announcement presages days soon to come, we hope, when our family lives can return to the serenity of normality, and we can come together happily in our parishes for Sunday Eucharist. How many of us have had the words of the Psalmist ringing in our ears: *I rejoiced when I heard them say: Let us go to GOD's House!* (Ps 122). I for one, having appreciated your support in so many ways during lockdown, cannot wait to see you again face to face *and then our hearts will rejoice.* (Jn 16:22)

Parish Income Drive during Covid-19

The last twelve months have been particularly challenging throughout the world as the pandemic caused significant disruption to all our lives.

During this past year of lockdowns and ongoing restrictions on our Sunday Masses, our weekly income from parish collections naturally fell, especially in those early weeks.

Many of you, however, wanted immediately to help, and asked about online giving to defray the running costs of your parish. So we set up the *Online Giving* portal on our diocesan website, and over the last year you have given a most encouraging £66,434 to support your parishes and diocese by this means. An additional £13,462 will be raised from the proportion of this income that was gift aided.

Through our *Parish Income Drive*, in the first months of the lockdown a significant number of you set up new regular donations either *via* standing orders or recurring



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online payments through your bank accounts as well as through our *Online Giving* portal as easy alternatives to cash donations.

I am only too aware that these times have brought the same financial uncertainties to your own doors and homes as they have to our parishes. Some of you will not be in a position to make your contributions in the same way as before. Please do not worry about that and be sure of our fervent prayers for you to enjoy more secure times soon.

We still hope, however, that those who can contribute will welcome the various ways in which you can continue to support your parishes and diocese.

1. Your weekly **Collection Envelopes** for 2021/22 still allow you to make donations in the usual way. You can send them by post or deliver them to your parish house until your parish church, thank GOD, reopens on 26 March.
2. You can now make regular donations by **Standing Order** with the enclosed form. Just post or deliver it to your parish house to pass onto your bank.
3. You can also set up recurring **Online Donations** to your parish *via* your bank account. Please contact your parish priest for the parish bank details to allow you to do so.
4. You can also make easy online donations to your parishes and our diocesan *Friends Fundraising Appeal* through our **Online Giving Portal** which you will find at the top of our diocesan website
5. If you pay tax you can **Gift Aid** your contributions adding 25% extra to your donation. Please download a Gift Aid Declaration from your parish website and post it to your parish priest.

I want to thank you again for all your support in so many ways during these unprecedented times in which you have shown just what your faith, your parish and your diocese mean to you. In the big, black cloud of coronavirus this has been a precious silver lining.

To keep up to date with your parish and diocesan life and ministry online please visit your parish website and the diocesan website for regular updates at <http://www.rcdop.org.uk>.

With every blessing and my assurance of daily prayers,

God bless,

John Keenum

+John