

# St. Joseph's Helensburgh

Parish Priest: Mgr. John A. Hughes

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## Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

### CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

We continue to celebrate Eucharist on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am.

and at 9am and 11am on Sunday. Bookings (only for Sunday Mass) can be arranged *preferably by email*: [backpew50@gmail.com](mailto:backpew50@gmail.com), or Text: 07396 642594 (No voice-messages, as they may not be picked up.)

You will receive confirmation of your reservation of a place at Holy Mass.

### RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

As you will be aware from frequent announcements / news bulletins, the Scottish Government has indicated that Scotland was placed on COVID 'Level Zero' and that quite a range of restrictions have been withdrawn. There can be no doubt that, after well over a year of living with hitherto unimaginable constraints on our daily existence, this can only be welcome.

That said, unfortunately, we are also very well aware that the COVID statistics have been rising in Scotland in general and even here in Helensburgh - where for many months we had been spared any great prevalence of the virus. There is no room for complacency or letting down our guard.

In the light of this latter situation, it has been decided that, at least for a short time, we will continue in the church to try to keep everyone as safe as possible. That means that we are not going to impose closer seating arrangements and increasing numbers at Mass, just because it is a legal possibility to do so. Thanks to a huge amount of work on the part of Alan Morris and the COVID stewards, we have had the very highest standards of safety over these many months. While assuring them of your gratitude for this, I am also asking them and you now to retain the *status quo* in church until we have a sense that it is actually safe to dispense with the measures which have served us so well.

Following the decision to maintain the status quo for, hopefully, a short period, we are reviewing how best to move forward and when to do so. It is unlikely that we will return to pre-COVID behaviours any time soon, and we will certainly be expected to have measures in place which will mitigate any new / further spread of the virus. We will keep a close watch on developments and keep all informed as we do so.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Many congratulations to Mary McGinley on being given the award for '*Volunteer of the Year*' for Argyll and Bute. Her work in SVDP, the Foodbank and for the Community Hub (and as a COVID Steward!) more than evidence the fact that the award is indeed very well deserved.

### COLLECTIONS

During these weeks, if you would like to contribute to the support of the parish, you can set up a Standing Order or give a cheque made out to the Parish. The Parish account is held in the Bank of Scotland; A/C no. 00821691; Sort Code: 80 08 31; St Joseph's RC Church, Helensburgh, Archdiocese of Glasgow. It goes without saying that parish overheads continue, even during a period such as this. Your generosity is as always most appreciated.

## Our Prayers are Requested

For Parishioners who are Sick: Susan Hempink

For all who have Died Recently: Janet Kilmurry, Anthony Dynowski, Kathleen Watt, Helen Fairlamb, John Neeson

For all whose Month's Mind occurs about now.

Anniversaries: Eddie Symon, Ken and Irene McLean, Jack McGavigan

*Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*