

St. Joseph's Helensburgh

Parish Priest: Mgr. John A. Hughes

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Seventh Sunday of Easter, 16th May 2021

NUMBERS AT MASS

Some further lifting of restrictions on attendance at church services has made recently.

The number able to be present for Mass in St. Joseph's will not change greatly, as we still must observe current social distancing.

CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

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

and at 9am and 11am on Sunday.

FIRST SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Once again, our Catholic Primary School has shown the importance that it gives to the life of faith of our young people. Following on from earlier discussions, First Communions are now taking place. Confirmations will follow in June.

As was the case last year, all of these will be celebrated under the very tight restrictions that the government rightly still has in place to keep us safe.

We thank Miss Collins and the Teaching Staff of the school for the sterling work that they do in this area.

FABRIC ISSUES

As everyone will be aware, while the life of the church and parish community might have been very restricted over past months, nevertheless, important work has been on-going. Specialist surveyors carried out a detailed examination of the fabric of the church and indicated quite a number of aspects of refurbishment which are deemed necessary or highly desirable. The costings for the work outlined amount to something in excess of £970,000. While some of the 'highly desirable' elements may be phased over some time, other aspects require fairly urgent attention (e.g. the re-roofing of the church).

In tandem with this survey, another report was sought (from a different firm) by the Estates Department of the Archdiocese on the status of the fabric of the halls. Once again, the report issued in December makes challenging reading. The costings for the repairs and upgrading of the halls are estimated to be in the region of £330,000.

Recent meetings (Zoom) of the *Halls Committee* and the *Parish Pastoral Council* came to the conclusion that our priority must be the necessary work on the church. **It would seem now impossible to continue to finance the church halls**, especially given the minimal use that the parish has had in recent times. Current maintenance of the halls is proving quite expensive, even with the halls closed for COVID regulations. Hard decisions await.

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 Hempen

For all who have Died Recently: John O'Hare, Hugh Costello and John Beattie

For all whose Month's Mind occurs about now: Bridie McCann

Anniversaries: Joseph Scullion, Hughie Walsh, Patricia Cairney, Helen and John McQueen, Terence Neil, Anne Gaughan, Margaret Nicol, John Harbison, Jonathan Smith, Michael Walsh, Isabella Brabender

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