



St Ninian's Parish House

12 Marionville Drive, Edinburgh, EH7 6BW

Parish Administrator: Father Syriac Palakudiyl OFM Cap

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Sunday 16th August 2020 – 20th Sunday In Ordinary Time – Year A

Regular updates on what is happening in the parish due to the coronavirus are being emailed to those who are on the Parish Distribution List (these emails come from Admin St Ninians).

Because they are a group email some email providers block them or class them as spam so please check your junk folder if you have not received them.

If you wish to receive the updates you will need to be on the Parish Distribution List, and you can join by emailing:

stniantriduana1@gmail.com

With Gratitude and Love...

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is with gratitude and love that I write this letter to you. We have been travelling together for the last four years. At last my time has come to say 'goodbye' to you all. Certainly, I know that it is not at all a right time for a shepherd to leave his flock, especially at this moment of anxieties and worries. But our Lord has always a better plan for each one of us. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all for your support, friendship, and kindness during these past years. I have been very blessed, and I am very thankful. As a token of my gratitude, I will be offering a Thanksgiving mass for all of you on Sunday 30th August, and that afternoon I will move to St Teresa's Craigmillar where I am going to be until I fly off to Kerala, India.

I assure you of my continued prayers for all of you and please do the same for me and my future missions.

Hearty welcome to Rev Fr Ephraim Ezulike

"The man who will come after me is much greater than I am" (Mk1:7). I think this may be an apt Bible quote to denote Rev Fr Ephraim Ezulike the new shepherd for St Ninian's. He will be officially introduced to the parish on Sunday 23rd August 2020. Let us keep him in our prayers and extend a very warm welcome to him. Fr Ephraim will move into the parish house on Sunday 30th afternoon.

Once again thanking you all,

yours in Christ,

Fr Syriac OFM Cap

Reopening the Church for the Celebration of Mass

Our church is now open for Mass. However, we need to ensure everyone is safe and physical distancing maintained at all times. We are also aware that some may prefer to continue to shield at home for health reasons.

We are limited to **50 people in total** who can attend Mass and we usually have a Sunday attendance of 120.

Thus, there are fewer spaces available than is normal. Obviously, not everyone can attend at the same time and so we have **4 options for you to choose from**.

This is what attendance at Mass will be like for the foreseeable future:

- You will be asked to wear a mask at all times and sanitise your hands when you arrive.
- You will be allocated a seat by the Pass keepers.

The services will also be different from what you are used to:

- Mass will be shorter.
- There will be a shorter sermon.
- There will be no singing and no altar servers.
- Communion. The Sacred Host will be distributed at the end of the Mass so that you will be directed to leave your seat, receive Communion, and then be guided to leave the Church.
- There will be no teas and coffees in the hall after Sunday Masses.

Parish Pastoral Council

Booking for Mass

Our booking system for weekend Mass is working well overall and many thanks to everyone for their cooperation. Please remember that if you do not attend one weekend it is **essential** that you phone to book when next you wish to come to Mass otherwise your 'place' will be allocated to someone else. Also ensure that you make clear if your booking is for more than one person. To book text/phone to 07710 720 774 or email des@mercattours.com

Help to clean the pews after each Mass is also appreciated. It only takes a few minutes if a fair number are involved in the task.

One World Group

In these difficult times, the One World Group members continue to pray the Rosary (Joyous Mysteries) in their homes at 7.30 pm each Monday evening. Please join us. If you have any prayer intentions you would like us to pray for, please let us know. You can contact me as below in the 'newsletter' section.

Parish Garden

The **Eco-garden** will be open every Sunday after the 10.15 mass until 11.30 (weather permitting). There is limited seating due to social distancing, though a household can sit together. You are welcome to bring a flask/soft drink or just to enjoy some company.

The gardeners will be working on **Tuesday** mornings (rather than Wed) over the summer period. Again you are welcome to come and enjoy the peace of the garden between 11am and 12noon. Carole Herbstritt 07757352433 Cath Norman 07849924232

Lockdown ditty

(to tune of The 12 days of Christmas backwards and a bit of poetic licence)

In 20 weeks of lockdown this is what we've found:

Twelve rusty cans
Lots of stinging nettles
140 bottles
Juicy wriggling worms
Stones by the million
Purple bird feeder
6 hanging baskets
5 bags of rubble
4 broken buckets
3 prickly brambles
2 water hydrants
And an upended shopping trolley.

Update on Kuba

You will remember Kuba who we have been praying for and fund raised for? Karina, Kuba's mum informed the Polish parishioners that they finally managed to fly to Poland on Sunday, 5th of July. Next week they will have medical consultations in Warsaw, and Kuba must have a current examination which is needed for the surgery possibly by the end of that week. Doctor Paley from America is planning to be in Poland from 22 of August and then after visiting him, he will set the date for Kuba's surgery. Kuba feels good and he and his family thank everyone once again for all the support and help.

Please Pray for Fr Piotr

Fr Piotr has been in contact. He has had some problems with his heart but is recovering and resting in Poland. He hopes to be back in Scotland soon. Please continue to pray for his him.

Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline

(24 hours): 0800 027 1234.

Safeguarding Contacts

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/safeguarding>

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisor Emma Boothroyd

E: safeguarding.officer@staned.org.uk

National Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Tina Campbell 0141 332 7177

E: tcampbell@scottishcatholicsafeguarding.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Contact is Fiona Tracey.

Newsletter

Any items by Wednesday midday please to Carol Mulvenna, work – 672 0134, home 672 1223, mobile 07762 924916, email cmulvenna@btinternet.com

If you know of anyone who would like the newsletter emailed to you each week, please let me know by emailing me as above.

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## Fr Syriac

As announced last weekend (and above in Fr Syriac's message) Fr Syriac will be leaving the Parish at the end of August and we would like to inform you of the following arrangements.

### Presentation

The Parish Pastoral Council will make a presentation to Fr Syriac at the end of each of the Masses on Saturday 29th / Sunday 30th August.

If you wish to make a contribution to this, we would ask that you put any donation in an envelope marked 'Fr Syriac' and put it in the Offertory Collection Box when you enter the church.

If you do not have an envelope there will also be a box available as you leave the church.

### Novena to St Francis

In addition, we invite all parishioners to say a Novena of Prayer to St Francis in thanks for the gift and ministry of Fr Syriac. The Novena will be from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. We will present the Novena to Fr Syriac at his final masses and the booklet will contain the name of all parishioners who have said the Novena. If you are, for whatever reason, unable to say the Novena please let us know.

A booklet with the Novena will be issued to all parishioners.

### Cards

Finally, any cards with any personal messages you may like to include may be left at the church when you come for Mass over the next few weeks.

*The Parish Pastoral Council*

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Gospel, Matthew 15:21-28 – Women, you have great faith

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, "Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil." But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him, "Give her what she wants" they said, "because she is shouting after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel." But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. "Lord." She said "help me." He replied, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs." She retorted, "Ah yes, sir; but even the house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted." And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection – All Are Welcome

Adults: The woman in this story was persistent in prayer. For what do you pray insistently?

Children: What do you ask God to give you most often?