



St Ninian's Parish House

12 Marionville Drive, Edinburgh, EH7 6BW

Parish Administrator: Father Syriac Palakudiyl OFM Cap

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Sunday 23rd August 2020 – 21st 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:

stniniantriduaana1@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 today 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

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

Please continue to pray that Fr Piotr will make a full recovery following his heart problems.

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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# Masses

## Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August

This weekend Fr Syriac will introduce **Fr Ephraim Ezulike** who will be our new Parish Administrator when Fr Syriac leaves.

### Presentation

Thank you to all those who have made a contribution to our presentation for Fr Syriac. This weekend will be the last opportunity to do so and 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.

### Cards

Finally, any cards with any personal messages you may like to include may be left at the church when you come for Mass this weekend.

## Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August

These will be Fr Syriac's leaving masses.

### Booking Information

As you know we are restricted to a maximum of 50 people at each mass and we are using a booking system.

However several of our masses over the next two weekends are now full and if you have booked a place but can no longer make it please let Des know as soon as possible.

If you have not booked and wish to attend please send your request to Des Brogan on his email at [des@mercattours.com](mailto:des@mercattours.com) and he will either confirm a place for you or add you to the reserve list.

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.

## **Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20 – You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he put this question to his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But you”, he said, “who do you say I am?” Then Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So, I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.” Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

### **Reflection – Representatives of Christ**

*Adults:* If you were asked, how would you explain Jesus to a person who had not heard of him??

*Children:* Who do you tell people Jesus is?