

Our Lady and St Aidan & St Bernadette's Parish Communities

Parish Priest Fr John McElhone

Resident Priest Fr Pat O'Connell

www.staidanschurch.uk or www.stbernadetteschurch.uk

16th SUNDAY YEAR A

19TH JULY 2020

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STEWARDS NEEDED

Last week I informed you that in order for our churches to re-open we must have a team of Stewards in place. Two Stewards MUST be present at each act of public worship. (including weekday Masses) In order to protect those deemed most at risk Stewards must be under 70 years of age and should not be drawn from those instructed to shield. To date we have had 3 volunteers from St Bernadette's and 13 from St Aidan's. **WITHOUT STEWARDS OUR CHURCHES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO OPEN.** Please telephone or e mail Fr John if you can help.

Several weeks ago I promised a financial update at the end of the first quarter. While our churches remain close there are still fixed costs which must be covered.

St Aidan's planned giving income has fallen by 45% when compared with the first quarter last year. The current level of income is covering 65% of costs. This is largely due to the 53 parishioners who either donate by standing order or ensure that their envelopes are delivered to church.

St Bernadette's planned giving income has fallen by 50% when compared to the same period last year and is covering 65% of costs.

Again this is largely due to the 35 parishioners who either donated by standing order or ensure that their envelopes are delivered to church.

The long term impact of our financial position is yet to be felt as our Gift Aid income and income from the Gift Aid Small Donation scheme will decline. We are in the fortunate position where for now we can live off our savings.

I would like to thank most warmly all of our parishioners who have ensured that they have continued their generous support of our parishes throughout this pandemic.

The Disasters and Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a nationwide Corona virus appeal on Tuesday 14th July. CAFOD, a partner within the DEC, is already working across 26 countries, to prevent the virus' spread, and limit food shortages it has caused in the poorest communities. The needs in these communities are immense, long term, complex, and evolving, and so the response needs to be large scale, and multi-faceted. So this month, as the DEC raises awareness of the global situation, CAFOD are asking the Catholic community to keep those worst affected in their thoughts, prayers and where possible, their alms giving. If you would like to make a donation to this appeal please place in an envelope marked CAFOD and drop off at St Aidan's church.

Catholic Bishops and other representatives from the UK's faith communities have written to the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to urge him to push for debt cancellation at a G20 finance summit taking place on 18-19 July. Faith leaders argue that the move will help millions of at-risk people in some of the world's poorest countries as the coronavirus pandemic is brought under control. The signatories – 77 bishops, rabbis, imams and others, including the director of CAFOD – are also calling on the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and private creditors to cancel debt payments owed in 2020 and 2021 by these countries. The World Bank estimates that between 71-100 million people risk falling into extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic. The World Food Programme forecasts that around 270 million people around the world will face acute food insecurity by the end of this year.

You can read or download the letter :
[Faith Leaders' Letter on Debt Cancellation](#)[Download](#)

Visit CAFOD's site for more on debt cancellation
www.cafod.org.uk

SUNDAY HALF HOUR This Sunday at 10.00am celebrate alongside others within the parish community by using the Sunday half hour which is available on our website. Spend some time in the virtual company of others! For those who are unable to access resources on line we have provided the reflections on the readings so that you can join us too at 10am! We hope that you find this useful!