



# UCM

## Union of Catholic Mothers in Scotland

February 2021

### Staying in touch– a message from our outgoing National President Pauline Porter

Dear Members

It has been nearly a year since we have been able to get together as a group and what a year it has been. It is often not until you cannot do something that you appreciate what you had and attending UCM meetings is no exception to this. During the year we have had time to reflect on how much being a member of UCM means to us all. Let us pray that it will not be long before we can come together again and rekindle the friendships we have made over the years and make UCM stronger in all our dioceses.

I was due to stand down at the AGM in May 2020 but due to coronavirus restrictions the AGM had to be cancelled. Shirley Toole (National Treasurer) agreed to continue her term of office and the following ladies were voted on to the National Committee to commence their term of office at the AGM:-

President – Karen Smith (Glasgow Diocese)

Vice President – Evelyn Kierney (Motherwell Diocese)

Secretary – Marie Brady (Glasgow Diocese)

Your new national committee are getting together via video link to discuss ways in which to take UCM forward so that they are ready for when we can all meet again. The new committee take over as from now, I know you will give them your full support.

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### DIARY DATES

**UCM World Communion Day (Feast of the Annunciation) 25th March 2021**

**World Day of Prayer – Friday 5th March 2021**

## UCM PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ who, being subject to Mary thy Mother, didst consecrate domestic life at Nazareth, by thy presence, grant that by her prayers and example, we may serve thee here as faithful wives and devoted mothers, so that one day we may rejoice together in our Eternal Home.

AMEN

Mother Most Admirable, pray for us.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, help us.

St Margaret of Scotland, pray for us.

St Joseph, protector of the Family, pray for us.

## Pauline Porter cont....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who I have worked with on the National Committee over the past seven years, all the Diocesan Officers and Past Officers who gave up their time to attend the national meetings. You have all been a great support to me and I treasure your friendship. My thanks also to Bishop Stephen Robson for his patience, guidance, support and his commitment to UCM.

But most of all, I want to thank the members in all dioceses who made me very welcome when I attended your Diocesan meetings. I enjoyed getting to know you and of course the tea & cakes. It has been an honour and a privilege to be your National President. You are all truly wonderful and devoted members of a great Christian organisation. Keep up the good work, you do make a difference.

God Bless you all.

Pauline X

## Contact Details for National Committee

**Karen Smith– National President Elect**

**Tel: 07539 446763**

**Email: karensmith7979@googlemail.com**

**Evelyn Kearney– National Vice-President Elect**

**Tel: 07758 416904**

**Email: evelynkearney@yahoo.co.uk**

**Marie Brady– National Secretary Elect**

**Tel: 07595 872667**

**Email: marie561@btinternet.com**

**Shirley Toole– National Treasurer**

**Tel: 07926 812770**

**Email: tooles123@tiscali.co.uk**



## FROM THE UCM NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR Bishop Stephen Robson, Diocese of Dunkeld

Dear Ladies of the UCM

I do hope you are well! It has been so hard on us all this past year and I know we are all looking forward, please God to opening our churches soon and resume the normal pursuits of our Catholic lives before the pandemic afflicted us all.

I thought I would take the opportunity of the first edition of your new Newsletter to write a few words in your new UCM Newsletter to help us all to make a good start to Lent.

A few weeks ago, on the first Sunday in Ordinary Time, following as we are this Liturgical Year the gospel of Saint Mark, we heard the story of the Baptism of Jesus. Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John, and when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens open and the Holy Spirit descending upon him. The Gospel text speaks of a voice coming from heaven saying: *'You are my Beloved Son; with you I am well pleased!'*

Immediately afterwards, Jesus was driven into the desert by the Spirit of God and was tempted for 40 days by Satan, and the angels ministered to him. This 40-day period of course marks out for us symbolically the Christian Season of Lent. During which, from Ash Wednesday onwards, we will try to follow Jesus more closely – eventually to the Cross.

After his desert experience, St Mark tells us the first words Jesus utters in the Gospel, these are: "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel" So, the first words uttered by Jesus indicate that the first intention of his public ministry is to call the people to repentance. Of course, repentance implies a change in direction, a change of heart. So, by this change of heart, this *metanoia*, his people would begin to recognise the signs of the kingdom in their lives, in their communities and in their families.

## PRAYER FOR

## VOCATIONS

*"The harvest indeed is great but the labourers are few, Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he sends labourers into his harvest" Luke 10:2*

O God, who didst from eternity appoint thine only begotten Son to be the High Priest of the human race, our forth, we beseech thee, thy Holy Spirit upon our families, that vocations to the priesthood may be multiplied in our diocese.

O Lord, give us holy priests.

To offer up the unceasing sacrifice of the mass.

To lead the little ones to thee.

To strengthen the faith of believers.

To preach the Gospel.

To bring forgiveness to repentant sinners.

To give the Bread of Life to starving souls.

To comfort the suffering, to help the dying.

To spread the kingdom of Heaven in our midst.

O Lord, bless our homes with sons and with daughters who will serve the church in her mission for souls by taking religious vows.

AMEN

## **Bishop Robson cont.....**

Lent is our season of repentance which begins on Ash Wednesday. We are reminded by the Lord to fast, to pray, and to do penance. The call to do penance is not only because the Lord asks us to deny ourselves, but that by doing so, we can dislodge many of the attitudes and practices in our daily lives that can become obstacles, preventing us from seeing the signs of the kingdom among us. By the end of Lent then, we may be able, like the Centurion at the foot of the Cross, to look on Jesus crucified, and see him as the Son of God, who is our Saviour. Saint Mark's Gospel beautifully prepares us for Easter, leading as it does from that Baptism of Jesus, through the events of his public ministry to his Passion, Suffering and Death on the Cross. And as part of our response to the Jesus we encounter there we are called to follow him, to serve him, to love him and to spend more time with him in prayer.

On Ash Wednesday this year we will regrettably still be in 'lockdown'. This past year has been a trying and distressing time for all of us. Despite the difficulties, though, most of us have been trying to follow the Lord in our own way - especially during those periods when we have been unable to frequent our churches for Mass, for Confession, for adoration and for prayer. Many among us also have died this year, leaving a big hole in many a grieving family. Many among us have been sick. And many have become lonely and depressed. Our elderly, and particularly those in care homes, have often been cut off from the love of their families. Our children and young people have been out of school for long periods and have missed out on many of those social helps that enable them to develop and mature. Many of those who are parents or carers have struggled trying to juggle work with childcare and home schooling. But please God, at last with the vaccination rollout program increasing day by day we will once again be able to experience some of the freedoms which we took for granted and which we have been deprived for much of this past year.

So, we are called to 'choose life' at the beginning of this Lent – and for followers of Christ, this involves following our Lord more closely.

This year on Ash Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February (this Wednesday) we will be unable to receive our ashes, as a sign of a call to repentance, as we usually do. From our Dunkeld Diocesan website ([www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk)) you will be able to download a small prayer service which can be used at home to bless and impose ashes (or some other similar sign like cinders or soil) on the heads of your family members. This is far from the Sprinkling of Ashes at Mass we normally experience but is a convenient way for all of us to mark the beginning of this Lenten Season of penance and prayer. In addition, you will be able to download a short Service of Stations of the Cross from the same source which will help you to pray until our churches open once again.

## **Bishop Robson cont.....**

Additionally, may I also invite you, dear sisters, to meditate in your own homes, and with your families on the Gospel of Saint Mark – perhaps even a few verses each day. The Gospel is short and can easily be covered over the period of Lent. You can find the Gospel of Mark conveniently online if you do not possess a hard copy. You could also pray the Stations of the Cross or the Holy Rosary as I have already said. And for those who can receive the internet, I also invite you to join one of the many daily Lenten Masses streaming from so many parishes and dioceses. The daily livestream Mass from our own diocesan Saint Joseph's convent chapel in Dundee is relayed on the Diocesan YouTube channel at 10am on weekdays and 10.30am on Sundays ([www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk)). This is a positive way of using the power of the Internet for the purposes of evangelisation - of bringing Christ and his Gospel into our homes.

My dear ladies of the UCM, I look forward to the day when, very soon, our churches will once again be open and we shall be able to be together again in our parishes and re-join the full liturgical life of the Church, living our Catholic faith as fully as we possibly can. And, please God, meeting up as the UCM once again.

I have no crystal ball, of course, but perhaps by Easter we will be able to gather in larger numbers for Mass, and, unlike last year when we missed completely our public celebration of Holy Week and Easter, we shall be able to celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as fully as possible.

With every blessing to you and all your families. May we meet up soon!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ Stephen Robson  
Bishop of Dunkeld  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.





## Message from Karen Smith National President Elect

Dear Ladies,  
Hope you enjoyed the Newsletter that we have put together. We are exploring different ways in which we can keep in touch while being mindful that not every member has internet/devices. If this situation remains the same for a while longer, we would consider another newsletter before the summer. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or ideas.  
For those who can, the Cumberland branch have a few Zoom

events that everyone is welcome to join.

The one thing that does connect us is our Faith and being part of the UCM family, so although we can't see each other, or meet up, we can continue to keep all our fellow members and their families in our hearts and prayers. I'm sure you'll agree our Faith is our strength and hope right now.

Please God we all keep well, keep in touch and remain united in prayer. Karen

***“ United in prayer, UCM members never face life’s difficulties alone but are strengthened by the support of fellow members” (UCM Handbook 2018)***

## Family Fast Charity Donations

### Edinburgh

St Catherine’s Convent £300 and Sick and Retired Priests Fund £200

### Glasgow

Salvation Army £250 and Ozaman Centre (SVDP) £250

### Dunkeld

The Lighthouse of Perth £250 and Mindspace £250

### Motherwell

G71 Community Action Group £500

**Galloway** £50 donated to St Joseph’s parish

**Paisley** £50 donated to St Cadoc parish

## Message from Shirley Toole National Treasurer



Dear UCM friends,

It is lovely to get the opportunity to send a message to all my UCM friends across Scotland. You have all been very much in my thoughts and prayers throughout these challenging times.

Following a virtual meeting with Pauline and Karen back in October 2020 it was decided to ask everyone if they would like to use outstanding funds in our Family Fast account to support those in need. Charity nominations for donations of £500 per diocese were asked for and these were sent out before Christmas (*see details*) .

I have received so many wonderful, heartfelt thank you letters from all the charities and organisations concerned.

*“ Thank you so much for your donation of £250. This allows us to continue to provide support to those in crisis throughout Perth and Kinross who are struggling with their mental health. Please pass on our grateful thanks to all of your members”* **The Lighthouse for Perth**

I hope to see you all in person in the not too distant future and pray that you all stay healthy and safe until we can all reconnect again.

God Bless.

Shirley x

## History of the UCM in Scotland

In 1942 the Union of Catholic Mothers was introduced in Scotland by His Grace, Archbishop McDonald, to band together all Catholic married women who aim to follow the full Christian ideal of marriage and family life.

Over many years many single, widowed and divorced Catholic women have joined the Union of Catholic Mothers. All members uphold the sanctity of marriage.

### UCM Scotland Handbook (2018)

## Message from Marie Brady *National Secretary Elect*

I have been a member of the UCM since 2017, when I joined the Bishopbriggs branch where I was made most welcome by the committee and members. In late 2018, I had the honour of being elected as the President of the newly formed Cumbernauld branch of UCM. In January 2019, 27 ladies were enrolled into this new branch and as UCM we have been involved in many Parish initiatives, promoting the values of the UCM and praying and supporting Vocations to the Priesthood. As Branch President, I have had the opportunity to attend Archdiocese and National meetings and events and was elected as Minute Secretary

for the Archdiocese of Glasgow UCM Committee at the 2019 AGM. I was delighted to be proposed for the role of National Secretary in March 2020. I look forward to working with Karen, Evelyn and Shirley as we continue to promote the UCM, family values and Vocations to the Priesthood and look forward to meeting with you all soon.

God Bless, Marie



## Message from Evelyn Kearney *National Vice-President Elect*

I have been a UCM member in the St Columille's, Rutherglen branch for 40 years, mostly as Secretary. Two years ago I became Motherwell Diocesan President. I am a retired teacher and widowed with three adult children. I look forward to joining Shirley and the new National Committee and I pray that our tenure sees the UCM have a successful future.



## LENTEN STATIONS

Cumbernauld UCM would like to highlight their **Zoom Lenten Stations of the Cross** commencing Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm and each Wednesday during Lent.

**The Zoom meeting ID is 943 443 6656**

**Password— 7fvBqn**

**They would love to see you virtually if you can make it!**

**Priests for Scotland— see Facebook post below.**

## News from across Scotland UCM Cumbernauld

2020, a year we shall never forget. All our lives have been affected in one way or another with the arrival of Covid 19. Many have suffered the loss of a loved one, many have endured the pain of the virus and it's lasting effects. At no greater time has the power of prayer been needed.

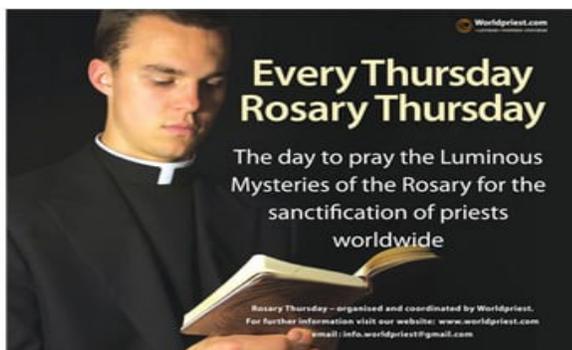
Here in UCM Cumbernauld, our private social media platforms were full of Prayer requests from members and others within our Parish Family of Sacred Heart, Saint Joseph's and Saint Lucy's. We felt the need to bring our members together to keep focused and help each other during this pandemic, especially as we could no longer meet up. We proposed a weekly Rosary that members could access via 'Facebook Messenger'. It was a success and as our numbers increased, we moved onto 'Zoom' to accommodate. Each week our Rosary is

offered up for the Popes intentions, our Priests and Clergy, Covid victims and members special intentions. During the month of

November, we would pray the Litany for Souls and during the season of Advent, we opened our weekly meetings to our Parish Family and held Reflections on each Sunday's Gospel with Prayer, Personal Reflection and Hymns with some help from our Parish Priest and Spiritual Director, Fr Campbell and members from our Parish family.

With our weekly virtual meetings, not only did we create an avenue for prayer and reflection for our members and others, but we also became a source of social contact for members who are otherwise having to isolate or shield. There is always a chance for a gab and a blether at the end of our prayers, so a cup of tea is always nearby!

Fast forward to 2021 and our need for prayer is just as great. To this date, our Rosary has continued each week and we are hoping to provide Lenten Reflections. We at UCM Cumbernauld pray, not only for our own members, but for all UCM members and their families. May God Bless you all and keep you safe.



## Pope Francis proclaims Year of St Joseph

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled [\*Patris corde\*](#) (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

### [The Year of St Joseph Prayer](#)



**PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary,  
be with us this day.

You protected and cherished the Virgin;  
loving the Child Jesus as your Son,  
you rescued Him from the danger of death.

Defend the Church,  
the household of God,  
purchased by the Blood of Christ.

Guardian of the Holy Family,  
be with us in our trials.

May your prayers obtain for us  
the strength to flee from error  
and wrestle with the powers of corruption  
so that in life we may grow in holiness  
and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.

Amen.

## World day of Prayer—5th March 2021

The 2021 theme “Build on a Strong Foundation” is an invitation to return to the foundations of our faith, which can also be expressed as the foundations of the World Day of Prayer—“Informed Prayer– Prayerful Action.”



The health situation in each country, each region, each town, and village is still under the impact of the pandemic and the restrictions to slow the transmission of COVID-19. We cannot ignore it, but rather be responsible in our celebrations.

We are United in Prayer, Even in the Midst of a Pandemic .

Should you wish to find out more information please visit <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

## Renewing faith, hope and love: Pope Francis’ message for Lent

### DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- . Fast from hurting words *...and say kind words.*
- . Fast from sadness *...and be filled with gratitude.*
- . Fast from anger *...and be filled with patience.*
- . Fast from pessimism *...and be filled with hope.*
- . Fast from worries *...and have trust in God.*
- . Fast from complaints *...and contemplate simplicity.*
- . Fast from pressures *...and be prayerful.*
- . Fast from bitterness *...and fill your hearts with joy.*
- . Fast from selfishness *...and be compassionate to others.*
- . Fast from grudges *...and be reconciled.*
- . Fast from words *...and be silent so you can listen.*