175th Anniversary 1845 – 2020

Newsletter No. 2
July 2020

St. Margaret's and St. Paul's, Ayr

Message from Our President

This newsletter is primarily to inform our parishioners of St. Margaret and St. Paul parishes the financial stability of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP), details of income and expenditure for the financial year to March 2020 and the projects we have sponsored on God's behalf. We would not able to carry out the Christian work of the SSVP without the generous financial support of our parishioners, so it is paramount therefore, the Ayr Conference is transparent in all its financial matters to preserve its good reputation for honesty and responsible stewardship of its finances.

It would be remiss of me not to offer our parish's special gratitude to Bishop Nolan, Father David and Deacon Bill for their spiritual uplifting during the pandemic by planning and offering virtual Masses. I know not every Parishioner is able to access the virtual Masses, but they must be reassured that they are always in our prayers.

Financial Undertakings to Year End March 2020 - Summary

Income

Opening balance	***£1,834.00***
Box collections	***£8,788.00***
Secret collections	***£346.00***
Income from SSVP	***£700.00***
Other income	***£300.00***
Total	***£11,968.00***

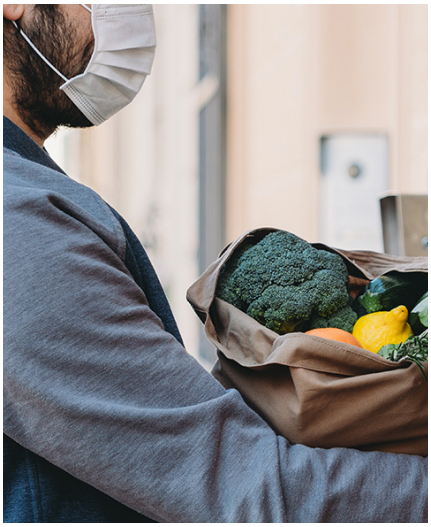
Expenditure

Relief	***£7,006.00***
Dues	***£291.00***
Twinning	***£30.00***
Payments to SSVP	***£1,538.00***
Expenses	***£622.00***
Payment/Donations non SSVP	***£555.00***
Closing balance	***£1,926.00***
Total	***£11,968.00***

Undertakings

The following activities were accomplished by members of the Ayr Conference up to 31st March 2020

Individuals/Families helped	***173***
Hospital visits	***18***
Parishioners transported to Mass	***65***
Parish Outings	***2***



Caring Work and Social Justice Activities

During the pandemic with the need to protect our members from contacting the virus, we had to curtail most of our caring work and social justice activities, but with the assistance of young youthful helpers, we were able to offer a limited service ensuring families received their food vouchers through their letterbox and receive financial and other support through guidance from the South Ayrshire Council welfare department. Our gratitude therefore goes to these young stalwarts who enabled us to reach out to the needy of our parish, so they did not endure hardships in addition to the stresses of lockdown.

Obituary

Sadly, this last year we lost a long serving and active member of the Ayr Conference, Mr. Jim Corbett. Our heartfelt condolences were paid to Mrs. Jane Corbett on her loss and may God continue to give her the strength and comfort:

"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. If any one believes in me, even though he dies, he will live. Anyone who lives and believes in me, will not die, alleluia.

Invitation

We have rented a lock up from Ayr Council for £1.00 per month with no rates as we are a registered charity, where donated furniture can be stored. This has vastly increased our storage capacity to accommodate the increase in furniture donations from our Parishioners. Due to the lowering of social restrictions we are now able to commence collecting donated furniture and material products, however, on a reduced scale due to the lack of personnel available. Therefore, if you feel you could assist us in our work either by joining the Ayr Conference of SSVP, or becoming an Associate by giving up some of your free time to help us, please contact any one of the SSVP Ayr's Vincentians or telephone 07413 397630. Further information about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can be found on our website www.ssvpscotland.com.

Donations

Over the past 4 months normal parishioner box collections have been disrupted due to Masses being stopped leading to a downturn in receipts. This has now left us with limited finances to support the needy within our Parish. Therefore, we urgently need our Parishioners to consider opening up a provisional bank standing order to the SSVP Ayr Conference so that we may commence to receive regular income until either the pandemic is by or churches start normal masses. Our bank details are: Sort Code 80-22-60 and account 12096863.

May God bless you for your kindness and support during the year.

Pat. Snee - President
on behalf of the Ayr's SSVP