

Living in Faith: as we begin a second year of Covid this Lent



A letter from Bishop Brian McGee and a working group on pastoral ministry, for all the Roman Catholic Bishops of Scotland

This is a picture and short-read version

Find our full version online at

<https://www.bcos.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Living%20in%20Faith%20with%20Covid%20Newsletter%20130221.pdf>



Last year in 2020, Covid began in Scotland during Lent.
We thought it would be all over by now, one year on.
We were wrong. But lots of things have changed for the better.
This Lent we will do more in small groups, families, and by ourselves. That's good.



In that first Lent many years ago, Jesus went walking uphill in the desert. It was hard going. It took him 40 days.

Let's remember that time on his own:
He found food in listening to the word of God in his heart.

He came back with new trust in God's mission for his life





What is Lent?

It is our 40 day journey to Easter – like the one that Jesus made.

But we don't need to go out into the desert to live it –
we can live it at home.

Here are some things to help us:

A 3 minute video on what Lent is about:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo1mjuuy1NA0&feature=youtu.be>

And a video on Why do we fast and eat less food

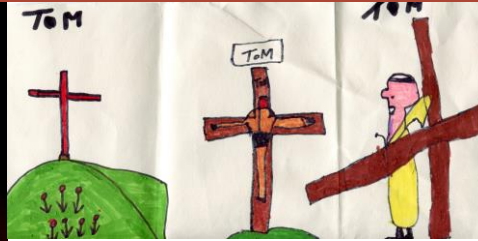


Try this tv channel called **Being Catholic**
Or you can find more things to read online at

<https://www.bcos.org.uk/COVID19/COVIDResources/tabid/133/Default.aspx>



**Covid shows us new things –
how God wants us to build a more human world:**
a world that is more fair and peaceful,
where everyone has the chance to learn about life and faith.
Let's pray for the world to be how God wants it to be



Let us pray for the world around us



**Covid shows us new things –
how God wants us to build a more human world:**

The United Nations will come to Glasgow this November
Presidents and First Ministers of many countries will be in Scotland



We must learn how to take care of our common home better.



The Covid vaccine is for everyone, rich and poor.
Share it out fairly.



Give it to people in every country

We give and we receive from each other in church and in ministry.
Here are some stories of **signs of hope** that we have seen

*50 priests took part in an online meeting with a monk who lives and works in a Benedictine community of prayer.

We weren't allowed to meet in person, because of the Covid rules.



But Abbot Christopher said 'Let's meet anyway on our computers, and share together'

It was really good that we did meet in this way.

*We are all growing older – bishops too.

Old people are at the heart of our church and community.

We will never forget them or leave them out.



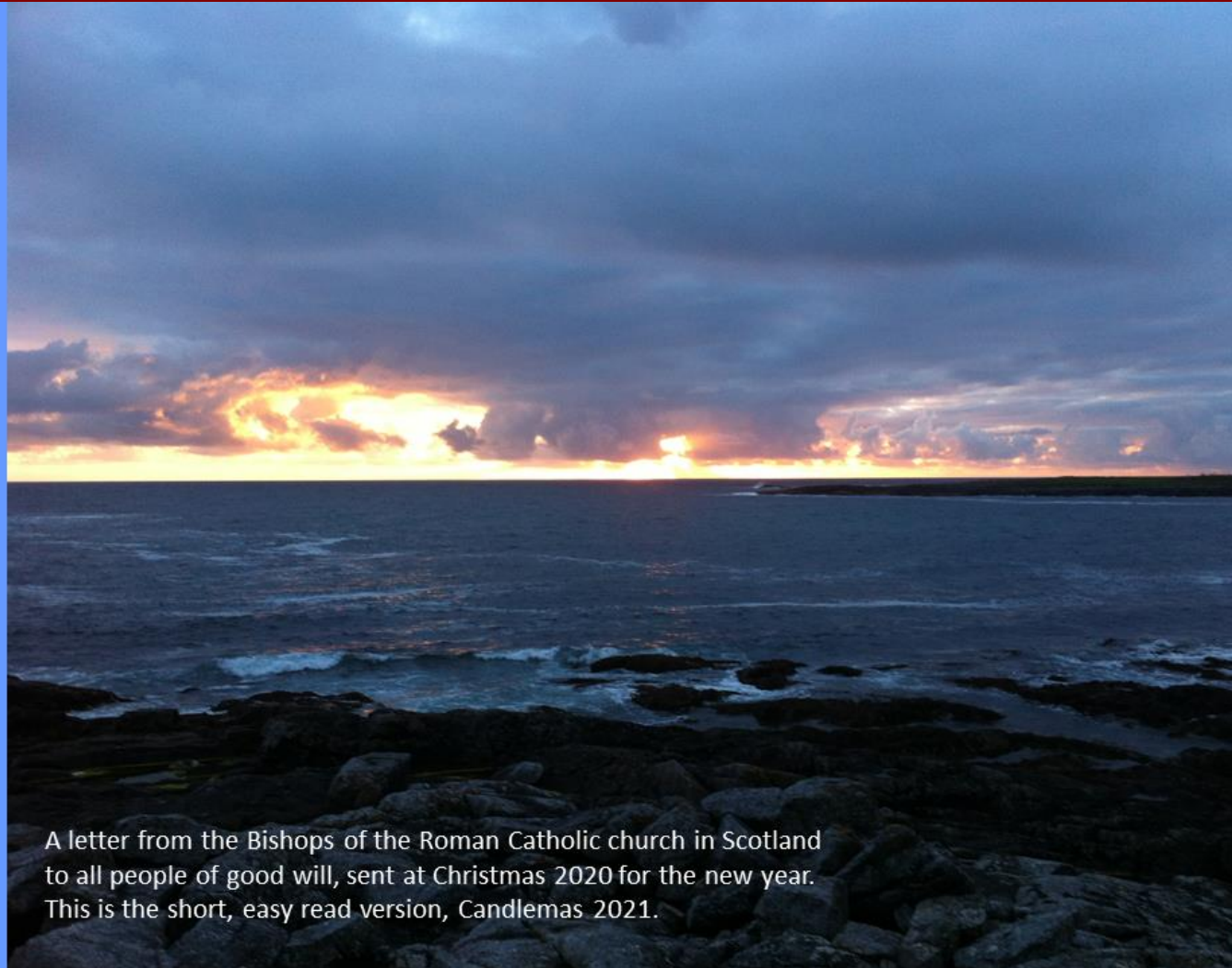
At Christmas, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Scotland wrote a letter to everyone in our country

You can see each version online at <https://www.bcos.org.uk/COVID19/COVIDResources/tabid/133/Default.aspx>

‘Light
shines in
the
darkness’



A letter from the Bishops of the Roman Catholic church in Scotland to all people of good will, sent at Christmas 2020 for the new year. This is the short, easy read version, Candlemas 2021.



As Bishops, we wrote about **signs of hope.** We said that:
In Scotland we agreed to stay at home to save the lives of older people and those with health problems –
while our sisters and brothers have been **keyworkers** all year,
putting their lives at risk, to help people they do not know.



We also said that all the vaccines are good to use in the UK. Every one.
Scientists should always choose ethical sources for all the materials they need –
just as Christians try to choose Fairtrade supplies, and not use others.



What has lockdown been like?

Hugh Matthews lives in Kilmarnock. He is part of our working group. He says:

'The internet is a Godsend'

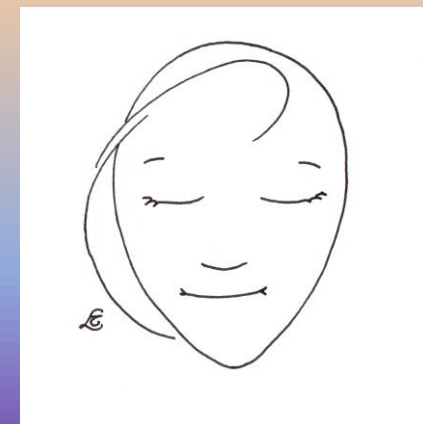
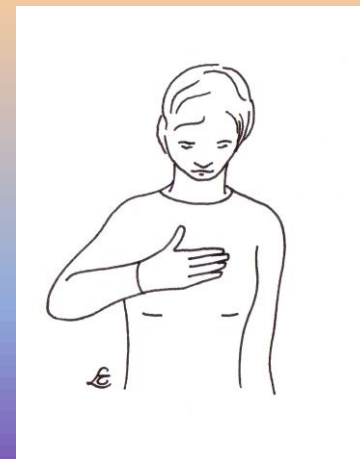
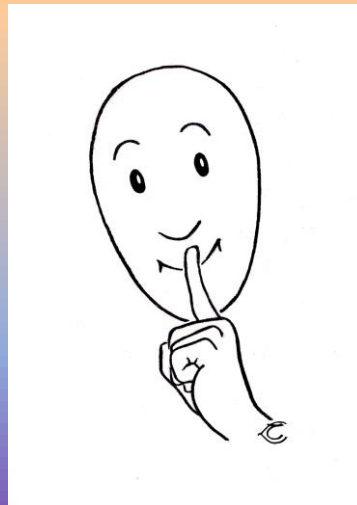
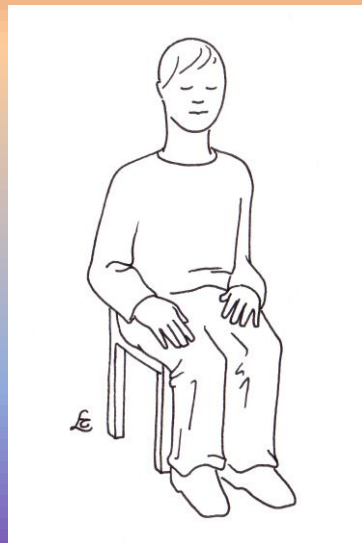
Taking part in livestreamed Mass or prayer time has been wonderful.

Some people I know may be sick for a whole year. They could never get to church.

I never realised what this feels like until this year.

We've **all** had to take part from home.

To share together the Word of God – even when we've not been able to receive Holy Communion.



Let's learn from this first year of Covid

Let's run parish meetings online on Zoom or Teams

Let's post newsletters on social media, as well as through the letterbox for people with no device or computer.

Let's make more videos, and reach more people than just writing things.

Why don't YOU make a video, or join an online meeting?



When you do, be sure to remember the **ABC of Tips for a good meeting:**

A: Audible: make sure people can hear you, & look straight at the camera if you can

B: Be BRIEF – don't go on and on

C: Christ-centred: the best videos show us Christ



What has lockdown been like?

Full read original letter is online at

<https://www.bcos.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/Living%20in%20Faith%20with%20Covid%20Newsletter%20130221.pdf>

Iain McLean stays in Greenock. He says 'we have slowed down as a family – less rushing about. We take part in Sunday Mass online. My son had his First Communion.



He missed having his grandparents with him in the bench. But we sent them photos after.

It's better to keep on celebrating, than to put life on hold'.

Anthony Horan works in Parliament.

He says 'I've been to so many meetings this year, more than I usually do in Parliament.

The Scottish Government have run extra ones.

They had hard decisions to make about lockdowns, and about keeping people safe.

We helped them understand that Catholic Christians need ways to receive or take part in each of the seven sacraments – especially the Mass'.



How are you living in faith in this time of Covid?
How can you share your story with other people this Lent –
let's live these 40 days together on our journey to Easter

