

**Our spiritual, sacramental and pastoral life in St. Brendan’s.**

**Response to the Psalm: “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.”**

*The hymn numbers for Mass are displayed on the two Boards. Please join the community in participating fully in singing the hymns chosen for today and each Sunday.*

**Living the Extraordinary Mission:** Pope Francis has called on all Catholics to renew their commitment to bring the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ. This mission begins within our own family circle and circle of friends and neighbours. **This week the URGENT need for this in our parish has become clear.**

- 1. Bishop Toal** announced last week that in July and August 2020 there will be one Mass on Sunday in this parish. This is to allow Fr. Ness to celebrate Mass in other parishes in the Deanery where the level of participation at Sunday Eucharist is higher than here.
- 2. The sadness** is that some of those who attend Mass in the parishes where he will go during the summer, live within the boundaries of this parish. The worry is that what begins as a temporary measure during the holidays becomes permanent. If that happens, the bishop feels that this has been brought about by families not feeling engaged with any particular parish. Any church will do - **all that matters is the time of Mass and the time taken for Mass to be celebrated.**
- 3. Families** have been asked whether they feel they belong here. Many people and many families do feel that they belong here and they show this feeling in many ways. **What do you feel?**
- 4. Families** have been continually invited to take a full and committed part in the Sacramental preparation offered for their children each week in this parish for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Many families have responded but not all.
- 5. There is a concern** throughout the Church that we should abandon “Conveyor belt” sacramental preparation of children and young people. Instead we should emphasise the goodness found in willing participation in the life of the parish and we should try to show to others the excitement of the encounter with the person of Jesus Christ which is experienced and lived out here.
- 6. A Catholic child** can be part of the Pope Francis **Faith** Award Scheme and yet not need to engage in the life of any parish or have any practical experience of any parish. An extra element - **the Parish Commendation** - is given to those children who do engage consistently in the life of their parish.
- 7. Should the Church** stop trying to recreate the imagined former golden age in Lanarkshire and the West of Scotland generally and instead concentrate in establishing a parish community that:
  - a. is welcoming,** hospitable and outward looking
  - b. is built on a sacramental life** found through celebrating Sunday Mass and an active prayer life,
  - c. desires to know more** about Catholic faith and practice,
  - d. commits to lead its children** into a life-long relationship with Jesus through the Sacraments,
  - e. is founded on the active engagement** of the laity as well as the ministry of the priest as servant leader who empowers the laity to live out its baptismal priesthood.

**Our sadness** is that the bishop had given us, priest and people, the mission of establishing a worshipping community on Sunday, founded on our spiritual, pastoral and social life. The two Masses celebrated here each Sunday are central to how we have tried to fulfil that mission among the many young families who make up the population of St. Brendan’s Parish and whose children populate the Primary School.

**Holidays generally** - Fr. Ness will be absent from Wednesday evening until late next Sunday evening to allow him to travel to Modena in Italy to meet there with his son and his wife’s family for the first birthday of his granddaughter, Rebecca and for the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of his son’s father in law. The Holy Ghost Fathers - the Spiritans - will provide for the parish in Fr. Ness’ absence. His next absence is from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November to visit his daughter and her family in Nurnberg.

**PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.**

**This Tuesday:**

- Fr. Ness will be at OLHS all day. There will be a Liturgy of the Word in the parish with distribution of Holy Communion led by Evelyn, one of our three leaders. Each leader has agreed to serve for two weeks at a time. Booklets are available for all to participate fully.
- These liturgies will play a significant part in the spiritual life of this parish especially because Bishop Toal last week told Fr. Ness and all other chaplains that when they celebrate Mass outside the parish - which Fr. Ness does twice a week, Tuesday and Friday at OLHS - they should not celebrate Mass in their parish.
- The Caritas students of St Aidan’s High School and Our Lady’s High School have organised the evening Mass to celebrate the feast day of Pope St John Paul II at 7pm in St Patrick’s Church. The students cordially invite everyone to join with them in this celebration with Fr. Krzysztof and Fr. Hamilton presiding, with the schools’ chaplains, including Fr. Ness.

**On Wednesday at Mass in the Hall we gave out a full colour extract from a Prayer Booklet prepared by the Parish of St. Peter in Chains, Saltcoats - 30 Minutes of Prayer which will change your life.** Today as you leave after Mass you can collect another extract from this booklet. Bishop Nolan had not been aware of this treasure from a church in his Diocese and took the extract away with him to read. **Please take a copy of this second extract to your home to help you build a prayer community both there and here.**

**The Three-Legged Stool:** the part ***parents*** play in bringing their children to participate in the life of the ***church***. This can’t be left to the ***school***. A visiting RE teacher at Mass here four weeks ago, took the copy of this article from our church to St. Ambrose High School in Coatbridge and used it in her lessons that week. She got a response. “You could hear a pin drop - and that’s not usual.” It shows the power of the Holy Spirit can be at work both among and through us.

Last Wednesday at 7pm in the Children’s Liturgy Room we **explored our Catholic Christian faith in the topic the Gospel of Matthew.** This week Fr. Ness will be absent but he will prepare a paper to let those who attend review together what they have learned so far and talk this through using his Headings. The topics stand alone and so anyone interested can come on any week and still take a full part.

***The Church desperately needs/wants to improve the knowledge people have of their faith.***

- We will give out to children who attend the Children’s Liturgy, the Parish’s Advent Book for Children plus either the My Day by Day Advent booklet for Infants or the Junior booklet for older children. We will also give a print of each booklet to every teacher in the Primary School.
- ***The Children’s Liturgy programme*** will be adapted from 1<sup>st</sup> December to help the children focus on Advent and the real story of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. All families are invited to take part.
- **We will open a parish spiritual library in 2020** paid for from outwith the Parish and located in the Children’s Liturgy Room. We need to move urgently from physical/material improvements in buildings to concentrate on deepening the spiritual formation of parishioners both young and old.

**In honour of Our Lady, the Rosary** will be recited at the beginning of the Holy Hour at 7pm each Thursday followed by silent prayer. **Fr. Ness won’t be here this week - the parishioners will cope without him.**  
**The Wednesday Coffee Morning Mass** community grows in strength. This really is a joy filled experience for the people who participate. **You too can take part.** The ladies and their supporters have financed the purchase of five new tables to arrive this Thursday for use in the Hall. Thank you from all of us. The Food Hygiene training has been arranged for 11AM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Hall. **To be kept up to date with all that’s going on** or is planned, please fill in the form available from Pass keepers which asks only your family name and for your mobile number for text messages to you.

### **PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS**

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind remembrance occurs about now:** Tony O'Hare; Joseph Small; Thomas Sneddon; John Ledwith [Snr]; Agnes Dobbin; John Dobbin.

**and those who have died recently:** Margaret Bradley; Stella Moyle; Rita Mount; John Tiffen [Blantyre].

**In the Stall: Pope Francis' A-Z *Living for Christ* and the My Day by Day booklets for November; the *Magnificat* booklet** is also available, as is the ***Sacred Heart Messenger*** booklet which contains very good articles on faith, prayer and practice, with something suitable for all ages. **Please give thought and find time to deepen your knowledge of our faith and so help it to grow.**

### **Looking back and looking forward:**

**St. Margaret's Church of Scotland parish:** Fr. Ness will meet the Rev. Ann Paton on Monday to discuss with our neighbours and fellow Christians how we might celebrate with them the Feasts of St. Margaret and St. Andrew in November and also join them in a Christmas Carol Service. Please pray for a good outcome.

### **Something for the children and families of the Parish:**

Children's Masses will be celebrated on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November with extended preparation during Mass the week previous and again on 15<sup>th</sup> December with extended preparation on 8<sup>th</sup> December  
Hallowe'en Party in our Hall on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November immediately after Mass. You can come in fancy dress to Mass that morning. This will be the November First Sunday of the month celebration and so parents can stay and watch and share conversation and hospitality.

**Netherton Court Care Home:** Fr. Ness celebrates a Liturgy with the Catholic residents there each Saturday at 3pm. In his absence next Saturday Elspeth, Margaret and Elizabeth will lead this liturgy with the residents in the model he has established, and they have witnessed. This is the importance of lay people taking the lead in this parish. The absence of a priest should not mean the cancellation of these important celebrations in our parish.  
**Do you agree that this is very important about St. Brendan's? Will you do something to assist?**

**Presentation to Fr. Michael Brown last Friday evening** was very enjoyable for all who took part especially Fr. Brown himself when he took the microphone to sing the song My Friends written and made famous by Freddy Mercury and Queen. Thanks to all who came and all who helped on the night especially Ciara and Kirsty at the Bar and above all to Tommy McAtear who entertained us all night.

**Patricia and John Milligan:** went to Sorrento near Naples to celebrate their Golden Wedding but on Wednesday surrounded by some of their family and many of their friends in this Parish at the Coffee Morning Mass, Fr. Ness will bless them in celebration of their fulfilment of their marriage vows by God's grace.

***The Annual Memorial Mass will be on a Thursday evening next month.*** Families are invited to give to Fr. Ness the names of those belonging to them who have died between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 whom they wish to be remembered at this Mass - whether or not the Requiem Mass or funeral was celebrated here.

**Thank you, Evelyn - and Anne -** for providing the new covers for the pyx used by the Eucharistic Ministers.

**The last carpet was laid at the stall last Monday:** thank you to the parishioner who gave a donation to help meet the cost and to the parishioner who on Monday anonymously but **using the Gift Aid Scheme made a very substantial contribution to the annual property insurance premium of £3927.81.** This is the tragedy isn't it **of the loss of the second Mass on Sunday when many people show they love this community but the bishop will reply that the community as a whole has brought this situation by not participating here over recent years.**

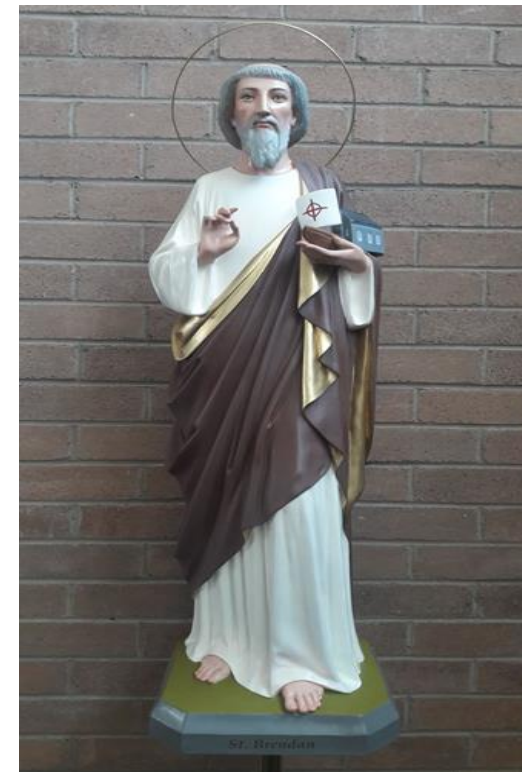
**Parish Web site:** a video message about the Parish with aerial film of its boundaries around Muirhouse, spoken by Fr. Ness can be viewed on YouTube: [youtu.be/YpxJMfleeGg](https://youtu.be/YpxJMfleeGg). **It is a very important insight into parish life.**

**St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish**

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc](https://www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc)**



## **Mission Sunday - 20th October 2019.**

**This week:** *Living the Extraordinary Mission Month* - the initiative of Pope Francis for the Church. **Mission Sunday Appeal in the second Collection today.**

***We hope all our families with young people and/or children at school, have enjoyed the mid-term break and will return refreshed and ready for action.***

**Mass times: Sunday at 10.30AM [with Children's Liturgy] and at 4.30PM and: Monday to Saturday at 9.30AM.**

**Holy Hour: at 7pm on Thursday with October Devotion - Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, closing with Salve Regina [sung]**