

## Our spiritual, sacramental and pastoral life in St. Brendan's.

**Response to the Psalm: "My soul, give praise to the Lord."**

***The hymn numbers for Mass are displayed on the two Boards, please join in the singing at both Masses today. Gordon, the organist for the parish will return next week. The organ has been repositioned to bring the choir back in sight and sound of all "in the body of the kirk."***

### **October - Living the Extraordinary Mission Month [Pope Francis request]:**

**On leaving the church after Mass today for those who wish to have it and take it home,** there will be a pack prepared by Missio Scotland under the leadership of Fr. Vincent Lockhart of Motherwell Diocese. It sets out the special request of Pope Francis to all Catholics in the world - especially to us in Muirhouse, Motherwell - to renew their commitment to bring the Gospel to those who do not know Christ, beginning within our own family circle and circle of friends before extending beyond.

**Please take one if this attracts you to learn more - hopefully we will need to request more packs.**

### **Deanery Meeting last Thursday:**

***How is the Diocese to provide for priests being on holiday next summer and throughout the year?*** Bishop Toal provided an outline plan for discussion because priests like the African priest who supplied for Fr. Brown for four weeks each August are no longer available. There are two alternatives - close the parish during the priest's absence on holiday and ask parishioners to go elsewhere for Mass and Sacraments or rationalize all Masses in the Deanery over the summer so that the reduced number of priests can celebrate Mass at some point in each parish. The bishop will attend the next meeting to bring this discussion to a decision for this Deanery. In St. Brendan's we are intent on building the Sunday worshipping community in Muirhouse and a sense of belonging here. To close the parish for any number of days would contradict our mission. However, if for many people there is no sense of belonging to this or to any parish in particular, then the initiative of letting people make their own choice while a church is closed while the priest is on holiday - or on Retreat - may become the adopted practice. Yet, think of the situation just now in Carfin while Fr. McGachey is absent through illness, **parishes do matter for many people and so the Cathedral priests have been given the task of ministry there, to be supported by other local priests.**

**Holidays generally:** the bishop has asked all priests to look at the staggering of holidays and to be [more] accountable for the holidays they take. **Priests are allowed four weeks holidays each year and one day each week. This excludes time spent on Retreat.** Fr. Ness doesn't take a day each week but saves these days up to spend away with his children and staggers these days away throughout the year. **Another priest coming here in the future may not do that but for the present Fr. Ness will be absent: 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Family Life Ministry:** the bishop asks all priests to consider: what are we offering families at present and how can this be developed? What do the families in this Parish want Fr. Ness to say at the next meeting?

- ***We are called to be a welcoming community. Some families won't know what is available from this parish and what is planned by us sacramentally for their children:*** Sacramental preparation for P3 and P4 children has started. It will continue every Sunday. ***It doesn't stop.*** There will not be a Mass of Enrolment or a Mass of Commitment. Promises are not needed - only a genuine response. ***The Posters with the names of the children requesting the Sacraments will be displayed next Sunday.***
- ***P7 Lucy's confident sense of belonging in this parish:*** On 7<sup>th</sup> September I successfully completed my ***sponsored cycle [11 miles] around Millport.*** I would like to thank all the parishioners who sponsored me and helped me to raise the ***amazing £550*** which will go to School funds. Thank you all for your donations.
- For those parents who haven't yet got the Guardian Angel Prayer Card and photograph stand for their child, please collect one today from the Children's Liturgy Leaders.

## PARISH AND PARISHIONERS

**Mass on Wednesday** - the Padre Pio relic held by the Parish will be offered for veneration and the Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart will be recited. Large print copies of the Prayer are now available.

**On Tuesday morning** the Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Holy Communion will be presented by several parishioners. Leadership by lay persons will now include Margaret McCann. Booklets in full colour which the Leaders have used for instructions, will now be available for all who attend and take part so the whole community can always easily follow and have confidence in its liturgies. Services led by members of the laity are crucial to the future of this parish - and to every parish.

From Thursday the bishop wishes priests to lead parishioners in the Novena Prayers [4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October] in preparation for the Canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman, who was a convert from Anglicanism.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE PARISH.

- Fr. Ness met the Head Teacher and the School's Senior Management Team. On Tuesday Mr. McHugh will resume his role as Head of RE, stepping back from acting DHT. He and Fr. Ness will set out a programme for between now and Christmas supported by priests in our Deanery.
- Mrs. Oates will bring ***the P1 children*** to the church on Tuesday to prepare them for coming to the First Friday Mass this week. ***This arrangement shows the need for our emphasis on the Children's Liturgy. The children should already be very familiar with the church and the priest.*** Their parents and God parents promised God at Baptism to bring the child into faith practice. ***On Friday all children will attend*** for Mass on the First Friday and next Sunday Mrs. Oates and several teachers will attend Mass here for the blessing and distribution of the wrist bands for ***the P6 children who have enrolled in the Pope Francis Award Scheme*** this year. The parish will give each child an appropriate marker of enrolment in the Award Scheme celebration through Mass in this church. **What does this involvement of the School - 3 times - say to us?**
- **Catholic Schools:** Bishop Nolan - of this parish as well as the Bishop of Galloway - is reported at length in this week's front page of the Catholic Observer in his complaint to East Ayrshire Council that "once again the very existence of Catholic Schools is being called into question" **Our families should realise that the bishop's complaint is strengthened if they and others show that they practice their faith in conjunction with the Catholic Church and the School and is weakened if it's shown that they don't.**
- On Wednesday we began the meetings ***to explore and explain our Catholic Christian faith.*** The subjects between now and Christmas will change each week - Church History, the changes of Vatican II, Sacraments, Scripture, the hierarchy and the laity, the celebration of Mass, the Saints, spirituality and personal prayer. The topic this week is the four faces of Jesus as painted in the four Gospels and as painted by four classical artists. How does each portrait help us to understand better the Jesus painted by each Evangelist? No one came forward to join the Rite of Initiation of Adults into the Church. This is both strange and sad as most parishes participate each year in this programme
- ***The Church wants to improve the knowledge people hold of their faith.*** Bishop Toal has set up an Office for Mission and Evangelisation within this Diocese. As part of our response, we will give out to **children who attend the Children's Liturgy the Parish's Advent Book for Children prepared in cooperation with St. Brendan's in Yoker, 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 to every teacher in the Primary School for use in class.
- From this Thursday, in honour of Our Lady, the Rosary will be recited at the beginning of the Holy Hour followed by silent prayer. Benediction will start at 7.45pm.
- **To be kept up to date with all that's going on** or is planned, please fill in the form asking only your family name and for your mobile number for text messaging back.

### PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind remembrance occurs about now:** Gerard Lynch; Joe Smith; Steven Russell; Tom Whelan; Robert & Mary Syme; Jessie & John Stuart; Joseph Syme; Grace & Robert McVey ; Jessie McNamee; Brian McNamee; Maureen Kane; Thomas, Jane, Geraldine, John and Mary Whelan, Andrew Brown and Helen Hughes.

**and those who have died recently:** Andy Fegan; Robert Port

**In the Stall:** Pope Francis' *A-Z Living for Christ* and the *My Day by Day* booklets for October and in advance for November before the Advent special edition arrives; **the *Magnificat* booklet** which is a level beyond *My Day by Day* is now available, as is the *Sacred Heart Messenger* booklet produced in Dublin and edited there by the Jesuits. It contains very good articles on faith, prayer and practice, with something suitable for use by all ages.

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

**Our Sick List:** will be closed today to link in with the Mass of Anointing. Families wishing the names of loved ones to be included the Sick List which will open next Sunday - please give a note in writing to Fr. Ness.

**St. Margaret's Church of Scotland parish [across the road]** have been asked if they would like to join with us in a Service either in their building or in ours to celebrate the Feast Day of their patron [16<sup>th</sup> November] and the Feast Day of St. Andrew, the patron of our country [30<sup>th</sup> November] and to join with us in a joint Carol Service.

**Morning Mass on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October followed by shared hospitality in the hall - is today.** It will follow the presentation to the children enrolled in the Pope Francis Award Scheme. Please support this sharing in our life of the parish. Only a donation is asked. There is no ticket for entry.

**Something for all children of the Parish:** 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. **Keep the date free, children.** There is no charge for this nor for the Christmas Party planned for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**Netherton Court Care Home:** Fr. Ness celebrates a Liturgy with the Catholic residents there each Saturday at 3PM. He welcomes help each Saturday pm from anyone who feels able to offer this. Mass will be celebrated there at 2.15 on the first Monday of each month and parishioners are very welcome to participate at this Mass.

**Last Friday** we welcomed all the children from St. Brendan's PS on the First Friday of this month to celebrate Mass with us on what was the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Miss Mitchell and her Class, P7/6 had prepared well to proclaim the Scriptures and to lead the Prayers of Intercession as well as to bring forward the Offertory Gifts. The children and the teachers were presented with a Mission Rosary for each one of them as **Mrs Oates has arranged for the rosary to be said in the School during October - the Month of Our Lady.**

**Yesterday** we celebrated the Mass of Anointing for the Sick and Housebound of the parish, followed by hospitality in the Hall

**The last carpet:** we will carpet the area around the stall and then - **it is finished.** It was suggested to have a special collection for this outlay. **We won't - but please remain as generous as possible in the Sunday Collection.**

**Parish Web site:** John and Brian of Sancta Familia attended here this week. They filmed an aerial view of the parish from a drone camera. They filmed the inside of the church and the Hall and took still shots in and around both places. They also filmed a message by Fr. Ness about the community of St. Brendan's. A selection from all of these items will be posted on our web site very soon. If you have items related to the parish's history which could helpfully be posted on our web site - please lend it to Fr Ness.

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

**51 Barons Road Motherwell. ML1 2NB.**

**[01698] 264448**

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



### **Twenty seventh Sunday in the Ordinary Season, 6th October 2019.**

**This week:** we have entered *Living the Extraordinary Mission Month* - an initiative of Pope Francis for the Church - please take an Information Pack to learn more.

Today the P6 children from St. Brendan's who have enrolled in The Pope Francis Award Scheme will receive the wrist band of enrolment at morning Mass.

**Everyone is invited to share in hospitality in the Hall especially those families whose children have enrolled in the Pope Francis Award Scheme - the pope calls all of us into friendship with one another and with Jesus, as community.**

**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 each week with October Devotions - Rosary and Benediction, closing with Salve Regina [sung]**