

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

Response to the Psalm today: "I will bless your name for ever, O God my King."

*The hymn numbers for Mass are displayed on the two Boards. Please take part 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. He wishes all people to come to love and revere the Word of God. It is Jesus who is the WORD. The Gospel of John opens with the words:  
IN THE BEGINNING WAS **THE WORD** AND **THE WORD** WAS WITH GOD AND **THE WORD** WAS GOD.  
Pope Benedict spoke, taught and wrote: **IGNORANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES, IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST.**
- **The Deanery Meeting last Thursday:** Bishop Toal heard Fr. Ness describe the present celebration of Mass on Sunday morning and in the afternoon in response to the mission he had given all of us to **build up together the worshipping community at Mass on Sunday in St. Brendan's.** He accepted that a reduction to one Mass over the summer might break the connection which many families have made or re-made in and with the faith community here. Fr. Ness also explained that as he regularly visits his children throughout the year, he will be available to help in other parishes during July and August and that he will not need help to celebrate Mass here. He celebrated the Vigil Mass at Carfin yesterday.
- **Bishop Toal decided to leave the matter to be sorted out between Fr. Ness and Fr. Bogan as Dean.**
- **Bishop Toal repeated his concern about the celebration of Mass.** It must be central to the life of the Parish. Mass and homilies must be well prepared by the priest. Mass must not be hurried through and nothing should be omitted. Singing should be encouraged and full provision made for the participation of children and youth. The timing of football matches on Sunday should not dictate the level or the nature of participation at Mass. Children's activities on Sunday are now a real challenge to regular attendance by families at Mass and, sadly, priests cannot presume that Mass on Sunday will be given absolute priority.
- **Bishop Toal proposed that Fr. Ness should present to him by 31<sup>st</sup> December** a written Review of his ministry during 2019. This should state the goals he had set for the year, the means used to achieve those goals and an assessment of the outcome. Fr. Ness will do this. Parishioners are invited to set out their reasoned opinions on the faith practice of our Parish in the last year so that the bishop will have a more complete picture. Please lodge these with Fr. Ness by 31<sup>st</sup> December so that he can include these.
- **Bishop Toal wishes the preparation for all Sacraments** improved throughout the Diocese. We try to show to all the families who celebrate Sacraments in St. Brendan's the excitement of the encounter with Jesus which we experience and try to live out as a community. **"We don't look at the Sacraments, especially Mass on Sunday as an obligation to be fulfilled."** [Patricia and John Milligan]
- **Parishioners want everyone to feel welcome here.** All information about the parish is shared with everyone at the earliest possible time. *Everyone is invited to feel that they belong here.* **All people can contribute in very many ways to the life of this community and many people do contribute.**
- **The next absence of Fr. Ness is from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November** to visit his daughter and her family before Christmas. The Holy Ghost Fathers will provide Sacramental cover during these four mid-week days.

## PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

### *Census of attendance at Mass will be taken today*

**Each Tuesday:** there will be a Liturgy of the Word in the parish with distribution of Holy Communion. Anne Marie Canavan after careful thought and prayer has joined Evelyn, Margaret and Elspeth as leaders of this liturgy in accordance with our established model. They are good servant leaders of the community.

**Each Wednesday** at Mass in our Hall we celebrate the combination of **the sacred and the human** by sharing hospitality immediately after Mass. This raises funds which helps to provide for the social needs of the parish. It is the largest attendance at Mass midweek in this parish. **The combination of the sacred and the human** marks the presence of God among us in a very special way.

**November Lists are available** for families to record the names of those whom they wish remembered in the prayer intentions at all Masses celebrated this month by Fr. Ness. We thank Elizabeth for her work in laying out the floral display at the altar and we welcome the large response in family prayer intentions.

**Today at 2.30pm we will celebrate the baptism** of John Paul and Celine Clarke's twin infants - Ruby and Freddie. In May Fr. Ness will become a grandfather to twins - children of his son and daughter in law. Later this month we will celebrate the baptism of another three children. During Advent, other than for a pressing pastoral need, no baptisms should be celebrated.

**Golden Wedding Anniversary:** last Monday May and John Pearson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with Mass in their home in the presence of their daughters. We blessed them as part of this celebration just as we had done with Patricia and John Milligan. All families with marriage anniversary celebrations in prospect can extend this to include the parish community as these two families have done.

**Wednesday evening Faith development at 7pm:** teaching on the Gospels reaches the magnificent Gospel of John this week. This Gospel is so significant that this will last for two weeks. Topics stand alone and so anyone interested can come to the meeting in any week and still take a full part.

### PLEASE NOTE

The Pope has set Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January as a special day for all priests to stress to congregations throughout the world that ***the Church desperately needs and wants to improve the level of knowledge they have of their faith and especially of the structure and meaning of Sacred Scripture.***

**At Advent we will introduce at the Stall a new range of spiritual resources from Redemptorist Publications.** Please think of purchasing at least one of these as a Christmas gift for family or friends to bring into 2020 a deeper level of knowledge and understanding of our faith and our faith practice.

- **The Children's Liturgy programme** will be adapted from 1<sup>st</sup> December to help the children focus on Advent and the real meaning of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. All families should take part. Children in P3 and P4 who have enrolled for the Sacraments in 2020 will receive a card to record their participation each Sunday. Fr. Ness will meet with the families in January to receive back from the families the completed cards and to plan for the Big Hug and the Faith Friends programmes. **Caritas students from OLHS 6<sup>TH</sup> year have asked to be allowed to take part as leaders.**
- **At 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 will be distributed.**
- **We will open a parish spiritual library in 2020** – to be located in the Children's Liturgy Room. Please look in at the room. See what the children have done over recent weeks and commit to using the library once it's in place.
- **St. Margaret's Church of Scotland parish:** at 2pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November we will celebrate the Feasts of St. Margaret and St. Andrew with our fellow Christians. They will join us in St. Brendan's at 6pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December in a joint Christmas Carol Service. **Please make a personal commitment to join in these ecumenical planned services to cement in place our fellowship in Jesus Christ.**
- **To be kept up to date** please fill in the form available from Pass keepers which asks only your family name and mobile number for text messages to be sent to you.

### PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: John Malligan; Connie McGinn; Annie Boyle; Andrew Brown.

and those who have died recently: Mrs. D'Arcy; Agnes McMillan; Agnes Bryce;

In the Stall: Pope Francis' *A-Z Living for Christ*; the *My Day by Day* booklets for November and the *Magnificat booklet* are all available, as is the *Sacred Heart Messenger* booklet which contains very good articles on faith, prayer and practice, with something suitable for all ages.

**Looking forward:** Dates for November and December:

**The Hallowe'en Party:** today in the Hall starting immediately after 10.30 Mass until 2pm. This fancy-dress party will run hand in hand with the November First Sunday of the month social celebration and so parents can stay and watch and share conversation and hospitality. Children can run home and change. Face painting will be on offer during the party for all the children **[and for adults too.]**

**Next Sunday - 10<sup>th</sup> November** - extended preparation for the children to lead Mass on the following **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. All children but especially all in P3 and P4 preparing for Sacraments are asked and expected to take part. Parents are asked to allow the children to stay on after Mass finishes next Sunday to complete the rehearsal and to be shown where to stand on the sanctuary and around the altar when singing.

**17<sup>th</sup> November** - Mass led by the children in Liturgy of the Word and in music. **ALSO** - World *Day of the Poor*.

**23<sup>rd</sup> November** - SATURDAY at 10AM - the *Annual Memorial Mass*. Invitations will be sent out this week to the bereaved families of this parish. Please give names to Fr. Ness of family members to be included who have died this year where the funeral was celebrated elsewhere. A candle will be prepared also for that loved one.

**24<sup>th</sup> November** - Feast of Christ the King and the last day of the Church's year. It is **Education Sunday** with participation at Morning Mass in this Parish from OLHS staff and students.

**1<sup>st</sup> December** - **First** Sunday in Advent and New Year's Day of the Church. Blessing of the Advent candles and wreath and blessing and sprinkling of the Advent Water and distribution of Advent Calendars and resources.

**8<sup>th</sup> December** - **Solemn** Feast of the Immaculate Conception - extended preparation for the children to lead morning Mass on 15<sup>th</sup> December. All children but especially all in P3 and P4 preparing for Sacraments are asked and expected to take part

**15<sup>th</sup> December** - Mass led by the children in Liturgy of the Word and in music. **ALSO at 6PM** Christmas Carol Service in St. Brendan's celebrated jointly with the congregation from St. Margaret's Church of Scotland.

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - **beginning of the Octave of Christmas**

**22<sup>nd</sup> December** - Christmas Party for the children, starting immediately after morning Mass.

### Other matters of importance

**Netherton Court Care Home:** Monday is the first Monday of the month and so Mass will be celebrated here at 2.30pm. The weekly Service is on Saturday at 3pm. Mass will also be celebrated close to Christmas Day for the residents. Margaret, Elspeth and Elizabeth generously help Fr. Ness in this ministry each weekend. Help from other parishioners will always be welcomed

**Food Hygiene training** has been arranged for 11AM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November in the Hall immediately after Mass and the Morning Coffee and Tea. Increased use of the Hall for parish catering makes it prudent that we obtain training in food hygiene. Please let Pauline Douglas know if you want to attend this course. The same training will be offered separately for the Sunday Hospitality Group.

**The Annual Service of Remembrance** will be held at the Cenotaph in the Duchess of Hamilton Park next Sunday at 3pm. **In the event of inclement weather an alternative indoor venue will be provided.**

**St. Brendan's MUGA Grand Opening is on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November from 11.30AM to 12.30PM.** We have offered our Hall to the School to provide hospitality for their invited guests.

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

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

**[01698] 264448**

**Twitter: stbrendanrcdom.**

**Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc**



## **31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019.**

**NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS** - please complete a *November List*. These are opened and presented at the shrine in front of the altar. **The Memorial Mass** on 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 10AM is for those loved ones whose funeral has taken place *in this parish or elsewhere* in the course of the last year.

*Our focus is to deepen the spiritual life of each parishioner and to offer resources to help everyone do this in the new liturgical year of the Church. This begins not on New Year's Day but on the First Sunday in Advent - which is 1<sup>st</sup> December this year*

**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 Evening Prayer of the Church.**