

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

Response to the Psalm today: "I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord."

### Living the Extraordinary Mission:

**Our bishop wants the celebration of Mass on Sunday** to be central to the life of every Parish. Priests are to teach parishioners about their faith and Mass must not be hurried. The whole congregation should answer aloud the prayers that make up the Common of the Mass. They should answer enthusiastically all the responses and join with the choir in singing the hymns. These are carefully chosen in line with Scripture Readings for each Sunday. We have purchased one hundred and fifty of the new hymn book ***Catholic Hymns Old and New*** using funds donated by a parishioner added to funds from outside the parish. The participation of the children and youth of the parish should be a regular part of Mass on Sunday. **Next Sunday the children will lead our Mass at 10.30.** *They will be given extra time today during Mass and after Mass to prepare. They will also lead at Morning Mass on 15<sup>th</sup> December*

**Children's activities on Sunday** are a real challenge to regular attendance by families at Mass and priests cannot presume that Mass on Sunday will be given absolute priority. *On page three of this bulletin we have set out the strategy of this parish on Sacramental Celebration by P3 and P4 children and in 2021 for P6 and P7 children.*

**Bishop Toal has now asked Fr. Ness to give him a written Review of his ministry here during 2019.** He must state the goals he had set for the year, explain what he has done to achieve those goals and give an assessment of the outcome. *The mission the bishop had given Fr. Ness in St. Brendan's was to build up the worshipping community here while retaining the existing schedule of Masses.* Parishioners can give their [reasoned] opinions on the faith practice of our Parish so that the bishop will have a full picture. Please lodge these with Fr. Ness by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

#### **Instruction to priests given by St. Charles Borromeo 500 years ago and repeated for priests today:**

I admit that we are all weak, but if we want help, the Lord God has given us the means to find it easily. One priest may wish to lead a good, holy life, as he should. He may wish to reflect heavenly virtues in the way he lives yet he does not resolve to use suitable means, such as penance, prayer and the avoidance of evil discussions and harmful friendships. Another priest complains that as soon as he comes into church to pray the office or to celebrate Mass, a thousand thoughts fill his mind and distract him from God. But what was he doing in the sacristy before he came out for the office or for Mass? How did he prepare? What means did he use to collect his thoughts and to remain recollected?

Would you like me to teach you how to grow from virtue to virtue and how, if you are already recollected at prayer, you can be even more attentive next time, and so give God more pleasing worship? Listen, if a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out. Keep the stove tightly shut so that it will not lose its heat and grow cold. In other words, avoid distractions as well as you can. Stay quiet with God. Avoid useless chatter.

If teaching and preaching is your ministry, then study diligently and apply yourself to whatever is necessary for doing this well. Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head.

Are you in charge of a parish? If so, do not neglect the parish of your own soul, do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself. You must be mindful of your people without becoming forgetful of yourself. ***My brothers, for us churchmen nothing is more necessary than meditation.***

We must meditate before, during and after everything we do. The prophet says: *I will pray, and then I will understand.* When you administer the sacraments, meditate on what you are doing. When you celebrate Mass, reflect on the sacrifice you are offering. When you pray the office, think about the words you are saying and the Lord to whom you are speaking. When you take care of your people, meditate on how the Lord's blood has washed them clean so that *all that you do becomes a work of love.* This is the way we can easily overcome the countless difficulties we have to face day after day, which, after all, are part of our work. **In meditation we find the strength to bring Christ to birth in ourselves and in those we serve.**

- **The next absence of Fr. Ness is from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November** The Holy Ghost Fathers will provide Sacramental cover during these four mid-week days while Fr. Ness visits his daughter and her family for Christmas.

## PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

### ***Census of attendance at our Masses last Sunday: 303 persons***

**Each Tuesday:** there will be a Liturgy of the Word in the parish with distribution of Holy Communion. Anne Marie Canavan has joined Evelyn, Margaret and Elspeth as leaders of this liturgy for two weeks at a time.

**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 carefully renewing the floral display at the altar and we welcome the large response in family prayer intentions.*

**Last Sunday we baptised** the twins Ruby and Freddie Clarke in a joyful celebration. Next Sunday during Mass led by the children we hope the twins will be with us and can come on to the altar with their mum and dad so we might welcome them into the parish community among the many children. During Advent, other than for a pressing pastoral need, no baptisms should be celebrated.

**Wedding Anniversary celebrations:** All families with a marriage anniversary celebration in prospect can extend this to include the parish community as the Milligan and the Pearson families have done recently.

**Wednesday evening Faith development at 7pm:** teaching on the Gospels reached the magnificent Gospel of John on Wednesday and this continues this week. **Peter - a convert** through the RCIA programme said on Wednesday night how much he has learned about faith and scripture and how important this is to him for daily life. **We will ask Peter to speak about this to the congregation when we begin Advent.** Anyone interested can come to the meeting in any week and still take a full part.

#### **PLEASE NOTE AND ACT UPON IT IN SOME DEFINITE WAY**

The Pope has set Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January as a special day. ***The Church desperately needs to improve the level of knowledge we have of our faith. It is under attack daily from outside the Church and many people don't know how to respond when asked questions about their faith and practice.***

**At Advent we will introduce at the Stall a new range of spiritual resources from Redemptorist Publications including the Advent Extra magazine and the book by Pope Francis addressed to young children.** 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.

**At the Children's Liturgy in Advent:** 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 gratis.

***The Children's Liturgy AND Sacramental Preparation:*** from 1<sup>st</sup> December the families with children in P3 and P4 who have enrolled for the Sacraments in 2020 will receive a card to record for themselves their participation each Sunday. Fr. Ness will have the participation record from the Liturgy Leaders and will meet with all the families in January to receive back from them their completed cards. He will outline the dates for the Big Hug and the Faith Friends programmes. **Children who have not participated will not be refused the Sacraments but other dates will be set as and when participation is established.**

**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 in their church. They will join us in St. Brendan's at 6pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December in a joint Christmas Carol Service. **Please join in these ecumenical services to nourish our shared faith in Jesus with our near neighbours in St. Margaret's parish.**

### PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: John Halligan; Samuel Logue; John & Margaret McCourt; Sarah McDonald; John Gregory; John & Annie McLaughlin; Sarah & William McLean; Mary Friary; Jane McLaughlin  
and those who have died recently: Janet Collins [Canada];

**In the Stall:** a whole range of cards, calendars and gifts are available for Christmas, also **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.

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

**The Hallowe'en Party:** last Sunday after Mass was enjoyed by everyone - children and adults too. *Thank you for the effort made by so many people to make this a great time for the children.* All the children responded with great enthusiasm. A great compliment to the parents of the children: **your children whether at work in school or at play in parties behave like children should and not above their age. They are a joy to be with.**

**Today:** extended preparation for the children to lead Mass next **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Parents please allow your children to stay on after Mass finishes this morning for about half an hour to complete a full rehearsal.

**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 have been sent out 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 are 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:** The weekly Service is on Saturday at 3pm. Mass will also be celebrated on the first Monday in December and again at a date close to Christmas Day for the residents.

**Food Hygiene training** has been arranged for 11AM on this **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** in the Hall immediately after Morning Coffee and Tea. The same training will be offered for the Sunday Hospitality Group.

**St. Brendan's PS Multi Use Games Area: opened on Friday.** We offered the use of our Hall to the School to provide hospitality. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to provide the hospitality there including Pauline and Mary who spent Thursday baking in the Hall's kitchen and those parents from both primary schools who were on hand throughout the day to welcome guests and provide catering for them.

**St. Brendan's PS:** ALDI KIT FOR SCHOOLS APPEAL - if anyone collected vouchers during the recent promotion these are welcomed by the School to add to the number they have accumulated. Please leave any at the Stall.

**The Society of the Innocents – Annual Fundraising Draw:** please support the sale of raffle tickets at the stall.

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

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## **32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time -10thNovember 2019.**

**This 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 our loved ones whose funeral has taken place *in this parish or elsewhere* in the course of the last year.

**The Annual Service of Remembrance is at the Cenotaph in the Duchess Park today at 3pm.**

*To nourish the spiritual life of each parishioner throughout the new liturgical year of the Church which begins on 1<sup>st</sup> December - this is our mission for 2020.*

**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.**