

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

Sung Response to the Psalm today, [led by Catherine Anne (Cat) with her husband Jamie on guitar]:
"In his days justice will flourish and peace 'til the moon fails"

Advent: translated from the Latin word *Advenire*, it means that Jesus *comes to* each one of us personally and not merely that he comes into the world.

We encounter Jesus in two ways - by Word [the Scriptures] and by the grace which flows from the seven Sacraments of the Church, and especially participation in the Eucharist each Sunday which is the high point of each week.

Urgent for each family: During the whole of Advent, please take the chance to read the Scriptures in continuity through the My Day by Day booklet or the Magnificat booklet for December. This will bring a new insight into your life in Jesus Christ.

The Parish has given children books and symbols through the Children's Liturgy for use at home. Teenagers have been offered separate resources. Each family has been offered an Advent Calendar. Please receive these at the Stall if any family didn't obtain them last Sunday.

1. ***The Advent Challenge:*** take a free copy of Matthew's Gospel at the Stall and read a chapter of it each day. This Gospel will be used throughout next year - Year A of the 3 year cycle.
2. During Holy Hour we will pray and meditate on the fourteen Stations of the Infancy Narrative. Fr. Denis McBride composed these and his summary of Matthew's Gospel in the special Diary for 2020 (the Gospel to be used next year) is worth buying to have the benefit of it alone.

The Children's Liturgy during Advent AND Sacramental Preparation:

We want to set a solid foundation from Primary 1 to Primary 6/7 for the three Sacraments celebrated in Primary School. Fr. Ness will meet with families on *Sunday 19th January at 2pm* in the church to review the preparation by P3 & P4 children since August. **Advent has a special place in this preparation. We want to help the children in age groups to grasp the mystery of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Participation Record Cards for parents to use were distributed last Sunday to let families record for themselves their participation in this Parish between now and the meeting on 19th January.** The leaders will maintain a record of attendance for use by Fr. Ness when he meets with the parents.

Families not from this parish who won't take part in our programs but who attend St. Brendan's PS should speak to the priests in their own parishes to arrange to celebrate the Sacraments there. Children of families from this parish who don't participate in the Advent and later programs will not be refused the opportunity for Sacraments, but dates for this will be set as and when participation is established. ***Celebrating Sacraments requires consistent participation in the sacramental life and the pastoral life of the parish.***

We want to fulfil the mission the bishop gave us of building up the worshipping community. To do this we don't provide a conveyor belt to take children of families forward to an isolated day of celebration of a Sacrament which is never experienced or is very seldom experienced within the community either before or after that day.

Fr. Rickland of St. Bernadette's parish celebrated Mass here on 27th October. He saw the energy and the commitment of the parish to connect with families in general but with a focus on young families whose children are engaged in the Sacraments this year. He sees the need to do this in his parish and has set about this process on the basis of what he has seen us establish here.

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

Bambinelli [beautiful infant children] next Sunday - 15th December: look at the poster on the Notice Board at the entrance to the church. It is a celebration by Pope Francis in which he blesses the figure of the baby Jesus which will be used in the crib. **Our children by God's Providence are to lead the morning Mass that day and we will follow the example of the Holy Father with our very beautiful children.** If you have a crib at home, then please bring the figure of the baby Jesus to Mass for the prayer of blessing.

The Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service to be held with the community from St. Margaret's is next Sunday, 15th December at 6pm. We will preside at this Service and two Readers will be needed from our community. We ask our many families with children to bring their children to take part in singing the popular carols which have been selected. We will have the children on the Sanctuary at times. Please support our hospitality by your presence even for a little while in the Hall after the Service.

On both Monday and Tuesday this week a lay Leader will preside at the Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Holy Communion. This will allow Fr. Ness to attend a graduation with his family on Monday and on Tuesday lead the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout the day at OLHS with six other priests. The morning Mass community decided to have this Liturgy each day rather than call out another priest for Mass.

St. Brendan's School: Mrs. Oates has a shared vision with Fr. Ness about the strong foundation of cooperation between the school and the parish and she does all she can to focus parents' attention on this. The parish and her school benefit from this and she are grateful for the time we give to allow the children to rehearse for the annual Carol Service and drama scheduled for 18th December. This is followed by the Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre. **She asks for our wholehearted support for this in ten days time.**

Wednesday evening Faith development at 7pm:

The Pope has set Sunday 26th January as a special day to emphasise the provision of Faith Development. Peter McMillan felt happy at having the chance to speak to us at Mass last Sunday ***about his deepening understanding of his faith and the benefit this brings to him. The subjects explained each week gives each parishioner an opportunity to improve this knowledge and understanding. The invitation is open.***

Baptisms celebrated during Advent: a family has arranged a baptism for 22nd December. This will follow immediately after the wedding of the parents on the same day. It will be a double celebration for us in this community as we encourage couples who are free to marry to come and discuss and plan for this in 2020 and also encourage couples who have married in ceremonies outside of the Church ***to ask about convalidation - making their civil marriage lawful under the Code of Canon Law.***

Appeals for financial help that might attract you when thinking of Gifts at Christmas:

SCIAF - Real Gifts - we wouldn't think of giving one of the many options on offer to a child as coming from Santa - *but perhaps to a friend or parent who has everything they could ever want*

Fertility Care Scotland: see the poster at our entrance. They rely totally on financial help that parishes offer to them. They are a registered charity and so Gift Aid supports a taxpayer's donation.

Let the Children Live - for street children in the city of Medellin, Colombia - Fr. Peter will present an Appeal personally here on 22nd/23rd February. Send to c/o 81 Calder Road Mossend ML4 2RH.

Any parishioner wishing to make a donation in response can do so personally or through Fr. Ness.

Fr. Francis McGachey: following his release from hospital after what was thought to have been stroke, Fr. McGachey has resigned as parish priest of St. Francis Xavier Carfin. The bishop reluctantly accepted this decision. He will appoint an experienced priest to that parish after Christmas.

2. Bishop Toal is to undergo eye surgery on 19th December and will be indisposed into January.

We will pray for each of them during the four weeks of Advent and for the people of Carfin parish.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

Those who have died recently: James Mayes; John Carroll [Netherton Court]; Jim Cleary.

Christmas Remembrance: A Mass booklet will be prepared for the Christmas Vigil and the Mass on Christmas morning. Space will be reserved in this booklet to record the names of family members whom parishioners would like to be included in the prayer intentions for both Masses. Please leave the names in the box provided at the Stall or give the names to Fr. Ness personally for inclusion in this booklet. This is a community intention and invitation to the community. Only the names of your loved ones are needed for inclusion.

In our Piety Stall at the main entrance: a range of cards, calendars and spiritual gifts are available:

Pope Francis' own publications A-Z Living for Christ and Lessons to children.

My Day by Day booklet for Advent and for Christmas and the **My Day by Day Pocket Diary for 2020.**

Magnificat booklet AND the **Sacred Heart Messenger for December/Christmas.**

Redemptorist pocket/purse size Diary incorporating a print of the Prayers of the Mass.

Redemptorist Diary for 2020 which includes a very readable Introduction to Matthew's Gospel.

We thank Evelyn, Elspeth and May for their resolute service to the community through supervision of the Stall and ordering and controlling the stock and the flow of funds throughout the week

Collections at Mass and the Christmas Collection: thank you for your consistent generosity:

All Signs, Motherwell, are designing a sign to be displayed on the church wall facing Barons Road. This will remind all who walk or drive there of the close link of both school and parish, of parish and school.

Dates for December:

Tomorrow 9th December: Mass of Anointing on the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception at Carfin at 1pm.

Tomorrow evening: Christmas Dinner of the Monday Club with Guests Reader Ian Douglas and Fr. Ness.

10th December: Sacrament of Reconciliation offered to 1st Year, 3rd Year and 6th Year at OLHS.

11th December: Mass in the Hall at 9.30AM with special Christmas time tea treats to follow. Everyone in the parish is welcome to take part in this special element of our sacramental, pastoral and social life.

12th December from 1pm-3pm in the School to twelve senior citizens to a Party on. Tickets are available free of charge in the Stall.

13th December: Christmas Tree and Crib put in place in time for Mass led by our children on 15th December.

14th December: Sacrament of Reconciliation available at the Cathedral from after Morning Mass.

15th 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.**

16th December: beginning of the Octave of Christmas: sing Come O Divine Messiah for the first time.

20th December: Christmas Dance in the Hall with Santa Claus' visit expected for all adults and families present.

22nd December: the Christmas Party for the children led by Tickle and surprise guest, starting immediately after morning Mass. All children are invited, and refreshments are available for parents who stay with children.

24th December: Mass at 9.30AM will bring Advent to an end. **Christmas Carol Service begins at 8.30pm**

The Vigil Mass of Christmas will start at 9pm and light refreshments and Christmas pies will be offered in the Hall after Mass to allow all parishioners time and space to wish a Happy and Holy Christmas to one another.

Christmas Day: Mass will be at 10.30AM. Parents of altar servers please let Fr. Ness know either personally or by email on ojness@hotmail.com or by text message to 07768-396970 whether your family will be attending Mass on either the Vigil of Christmas or Christmas Day. There will be practices for servers at those Masses and it will be hard on a child if they arrive enthusiastically wanting to serve at either of the two Masses and they haven't been involved in the practice for that liturgy. They won't be able to serve unless they have practiced the special parts which relate to each Mass and it will be sad to refuse serving.

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



The Second Sunday of Advent - 8th December 2019.

Our mission as a community is to *nourish the spiritual life of each parishioner by participation in parish life throughout the new liturgical year which began last Sunday.*

Today: extended preparation for the children to lead morning Mass next Sunday. *The children are invited to be part of this preparation during Mass and for at most half an hour after Mass.*

Parish Christmas Hamper Raffle - Seasonal Appeal to raise funds for the Parish - Elizabeth will be on hand with tickets on coming in and going out

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

Holy Hour: at 7pm on Thursday with Stations of the Nativity of Jesus.