

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

Sung Response to the Psalm today: "**May the house of the Lord be at peace.**"

Living the Extraordinary Mission:

Thank you to all who helped the children lead the morning Mass last Sunday. Thank you also to Ciara for outlining the work which the Leaders do with our children. There is still much for us to do to bring families into the community. Compare the number of P1 and P2 children who sang so beautifully on the Sanctuary last Sunday with the total number of Catholic children in the three classes in the Primary School. Yet our children who took part chose personally the hymns and prepared the Readings and the Prayers. They brought forward the Offertory gifts and were present throughout Mass. Thank you to those parents who enabled the children to participate and did so themselves by their presence and the example they gave to their children.

The Children's Liturgy AND Sacramental Preparation: we provide the full level of preparation for the children which Bishop Toal has asked from us. Families with children in P3 and P4 who have enrolled for the Sacraments can participate with energy and enthusiasm over the coming months leading up to the Sacraments in March and May. Fr. Ness will meet with these families on Sunday 19th January at 2pm in the church to review this preparation. It has been detailed in this bulletin over many weeks. **Advent has a special place in this preparation. It leads the children to grasp the mystery of the birth of Jesus at Christmas.** That will lead on to the Big Hug and the Faith Friends programs which we established in February of this year. **Families not from this parish but who attend St. Brendan's PS who won't take part in these programs should speak to the priests in the parishes where they do participate in order 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. Sacraments = Participation.**

The many parents of children who willingly contribute to and participate in this community are asked to be apostles and take this message in whatever way they can to the families we don't attract to join us in our sacraments or our pastoral or social life. The parish has tried every means possible. Fr. Rooney, the Parish Priest Fr. Ness served with when first ordained, had a phrase from the Gospels which he quoted for this very situation: ***and Jesus wept.***

We want to fulfil the mission the bishop gave us, but the community doesn'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.

Participation:

1. Education of our children today in St. Brendan's PS and in OLHS is the focus of today and on Tuesday 26th November at around 5pm the Scottish Parliament will host a debate on the positive contribution of Catholic Schools in Scotland. The briefing, below from the bishop's office, has been sent to every MSP in advance of the debate, which will be led by Elaine Smith MSP.
2. Please contact our MSP and encourage attendance. You can find the contact details here: <https://www.parliament.scot/msps.aspx>.
3. Please remind our MSP about the positive contribution of our Catholic schools - St. Brendan's PS and OLHS - and encourage this to be emphasised during the debate.
 - a. Our Lady's High School have asked that we promote its Christmas Fayre. It starts at 5.30pm on this coming Wednesday and closes at 8pm. The entry ticket costs £1.
 - b. They also want to invite up to twelve senior citizens to a Party on 12th December from 1pm-3pm in the School. Tickets are available free of charge in the Stall.
 - c. Mrs. Oates asks for support for the School Christmas Carols here on 18th December at 10.30.

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

Thank you to Fr. Terry, who celebrated the Requiem Mass of the late Theresa Ritchie on Monday morning **and Fr. Vincent and Fr. Pat from the Holy Ghost [Spiritans] Fathers** who celebrated Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the absence of Fr. Ness.

Ecumenical Service to celebrate St. Andrew's Feast Day with our fellow Christians in St. Margaret's across the road is at 2pm today. We have prepared the Service but St. Margaret's clergy will lead it supported by two Readers from our community. If attending and willing to read, please make this known. We hope that many people from both communities will participate in this first Service for many years. Hospitality will be provided and the complete schedule will finish around 3.15.

This Tuesday: Anne Marie Canavan will take the ministry as lay Leader for the first time at the Liturgy of the Word and distribution of Holy Communion. We thank her and Evelyn, Elspeth and Margaret for their willingness to prepare for and lead these very important moments of community prayer.

Each Wednesday we celebrate Mass in the parish's Hall followed immediately by hospitality. The ladies who provide this hospitality will provide a Christmas Coffee and Tea after the Mass on 11th December and then take a well-deserved break until after the New Year. Please note that the importance of this liturgy to the community means that funerals won't ordinarily be celebrated on a Wednesday.

Wednesday evening Faith development at 7pm: Peter McMillan who was a convert through the RCIA program has learned much about faith and scripture by attending these talks. He will speak next Sunday about how and why this improved understanding is so important to him in his daily life next Sundayand yet like many others, Peter protests - **"I'm a convert, I'm not like many cradle Catholics. This means everything to me and I want to understand my faith better."**

The Pope has set Sunday 26th January as a special day. ***The Church knows how desperately she needs to improve the level of knowledge we have of our faith which 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.*** For how long will be able to justify separate schools in Scotland when the level of commitment to the Church of many families whose children attend Catholic schools is open to question.

Cathie Kerr's requiem Mass will be celebrated at 9.30AM on Thursday. Her body will be brought to the church at 6.30pm on Wednesday. Fr. Ness will lead the rosary at 8pm in her flat on Monday evening and Marion Currie has been invited by Cathie's daughter to lead the rosary at the same time on Tuesday.

Wedding Anniversary celebrations: this Thursday evening we will celebrate the diamond wedding anniversary of Jim and Anne McKenzie with Mass in the home of their daughter Rosina. All families with a significant marriage anniversary celebration in prospect can extend this to include the parish community.

Baptisms can be celebrated during Advent in a situation of pastoral need. One family has arranged a baptism just before Christmas. This will follow immediately after the wedding of the parents. It will be a double celebration for 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 outwith the Church to enquire about convalidation - making the marriage regular and lawful under the Code of Canon Law.

For Advent we have introduced at the Stall a range of spiritual resources from Redemptorist Publications including a year 2020 diary with explanations by Fr. Denis McBride about Matthew's Gospel, the text for next year AND 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 its practice.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

Those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Tom McFeely
and those who have died recently: Cathie Kerr

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** booklet and the **Magnificat** booklet for December are all available, as
is the *Sacred Heart Messenger* booklet and the My day by Day 2020 pocket/purse sized diary.

Father Ness' long list of "thank you" at the end of the Year of the Church 2018-2019:

FIRST AND FOREMOST: THANK YOU TO ALL WHO LOVE AND VALUE THIS PARISH BY
BEING PART OF IT. Thank you, in Jesus' name.

THEN:

**All who have helped at the many liturgies since 1st February but focusing on the *Annual Memorial Mass*
*yesterday*** [1] within the church including the altar servers, the cleaners, the Sacristan, the pass keepers, the
piety stall, the music ministry; [2] within the Hall in providing *hospitality to all after Mass*; [3] Jim in his skilled
painting and staining treatment of the new and old timber at the entrance to the church and at the piety stall
and Robert for his meticulous work around the garden and car park and stone areas making November look like
April in the cut of the grass and the flowering in the borders and [4] Richard the hall keeper in not only
preparing the Hall but then cleaning and setting this out for a private function immediately after the families
departed and Anne Marie for her attention to the increasing bookings.

Anne Therese and John [Campbell] for their commitment to the community in opening and closing the church
on time for all services throughout each week, ensuring it's heated and secured and that the many things
needed for the celebration of Mass are in place at the altar; Elizabeth for her imaginative work with the flowers
and in the music ministry for Mass each day; Elspeth, Evelyn and May for their work in the piety stall and
Evelyn, Margaret and Elspeth for their help each Monday with the banking of parish funds; Margaret, Angela
and Debbie for their work with many helpers in leading the Children's liturgy; Gordon, Jamie and Sam [Kydd] in
providing the musical accompaniment on Sunday, especially allowing for Mass led by the children and Ellen
Fagan for the music ministry at 4.30 Mass each Sunday; William [Brown] for being always available to help in
any and every way needed assisted by John Paul from the Cathedral; the many people who through their
specific donation of monies have contributed so much to the cost of repairs and renewals including the now
completed installation of ornamental grills over the exposed windows at the rear of the Hall.

**The legal maxim that the inclusion of one person or one thing does not imply the exclusion of another
person is very important here as so many people should be identified and thanked for the help given.**

Dates for December:

Next Sunday - 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.

8th December - Solemn Feast of the Immaculate Conception - extended preparation for the children to lead
morning Mass on 15th December. *All children are invited and welcomed to take part in this joyful experience.*

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.**

18th 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 - a Christmas Party for the children, starting immediately after morning Mass. morning.

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

Adoption Week: please see the poster by St. Margaret's Children and Family Care Society.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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The Feast of Christ the King - 24th November 2019.

Education Sunday: welcome to staff and students from OLHS.

Next Sunday is New Year's Day in the Roman Catholic Church

Our mission as a community is to *nourish the spiritual life of each parishioner
throughout the new liturgical year of the Church by PARTICIPATION among us.*

This is the Month of the Holy Souls – all Masses are celebrated during this month
for the souls of those who are named in the *November Lists* in front of the altar.

**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 Evening Prayer of the Church.