

## The Ordinary Season in St. Brendan's.

This Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> June, we welcome Bishop Toal to our community. He will celebrate Mass at 10.30AM and again at 2pm. All forty-six families whose children will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation during this coming week will participate at one or other of these two Masses apart from one family who are unable to come to either Mass. This special visit by the bishop opens our week of three celebrations of this Sacrament for the children on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening, each at 7pm.

The community both cherishes and welcomes all of the children, their chosen sponsors and their families and looks to them in the years ahead to PARTICIPATE fruitfully in the life of the PARISH FAMILY, as many young people with their families already do, and so by the POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT join in the MISSION of the Parish which is to be an EVANGELISING COMMUNITY within Muirhouse and preach the Gospel, the Good News that is Jesus Christ, by all that we do and say.

In this parish we have been trying to establish a model of being Church for the coming years in line with the teaching of Pope Francis. This follows the direction given in the decrees of the Second Vatican Council sixty years ago but not widely implemented yet in our Diocese or in any part of the Universal [Catholic] Church. This was all set out in the Article written by Josephine [Josie] Smith which was published about St. Brendan's in the January edition of the Pastoral Review. *New Wine and therefore new wineskins.* We thank all those who have accepted with relish and energy the right and duty to PARTICIPATE in the COMMUNITY and thereby contribute to the MISSION of the Catholic Church throughout the world and locally in Muirhouse. Read any of the editions of the bulletin over the last two years and you will see where Bishop Toal ordered the emphasis of our life in this parish to be placed.

The key to PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY and MISSION is for the Church, acting through the clergy, to engage with the lay people of all ages in each parish and encourage them to live out the priesthood they receive when they are baptised. The ordained priest as the servant, not the master of the COMMUNITY, is to educate and thereby facilitate full, active and positive PARTICIPATION in the spiritual, liturgical, pastoral and social life – the MISSION of the parish. This is known as the SYNODAL model of being Church and living out our FAITH in Jesus Christ in and through his CHURCH, the Church to which we belong through the PARISH OF St. BRENDAN in Muirhouse, Motherwell, Scotland.

**THEREFORE this week we were pleased to be told that:**

Scotland's Catholic Bishops have welcomed a call from Pope Francis for a Synod on the theme of Synodality, to be held in 2023. Commenting on the announcement, *Bishop Hugh Gilbert, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland said:*

"Last Sunday the Church celebrated the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and our Lady at the very beginning, the birthday, of the Church. We gave thanks for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that first Pentecost but also celebrated the ongoing gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church. *Mindful of these gifts the Bishops of Scotland welcome the initiative of Pope Francis to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church, to the People of God, to listen to one another, and to make that Synodal journey together of communion, participation and mission.*"

"The Pope has called for a very participative process, engaging all the faithful, which will prepare for this Synod. *The Bishops of Scotland welcome the Initiative for a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.*

*As the principle and foundation of unity in our dioceses, the Bishops look forward to the launch of the Synodal journey, a period of consultation and discernment in our local Churches, on Sunday 17th October of this year, and preparations are now being made for that event.* We ask all the faithful to pray for the success of this initiative in the life of the universal and local Church, and above all to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through all of us in the Body of Christ [the Church]."

## St. Brendan's Church – the place of worship and Sacraments for families.

**FIRST THINGS FIRST:**

Bishop Toal has instructed that whatever we do in our church, *keeping things safe for all is the priority.*

- If you invite family or friends to participate in any liturgy such as Sacraments for your child, please explain that they must comply with the system established by our community for their safety, even if it is different from their own parish. **PLEASE NOTE THIS FOR CONFIRMATION THIS WEEK.** The community understands the desire of each family to experience the celebration of their child's Sacrament as fully as possible, but the demands of social distancing limit the available space.
- **Please consider joining the Stewards.** There have been many and varied requests for help from our stewards and they have willingly and fruitfully answered all of them. Please be aware of the many times at all hours of the day and evening each week for months that the stewards have been asked to serve this community. There will be several more requests from Mrs. Oates on behalf of the School - but *for the benefit of many families* - in the coming weeks before the summer school holiday will offer some respite.
- **As regards the three Masses for Confirmation,** Mrs. Oates and the teachers have divided the children into three groups and prepared a seating plan focusing on the child and the sponsor which Jim O'Hare as Parish coordinator will do his best to implement through the Stewards. This will need all families to accept where they can be accommodated in the remaining available seating.

**The children in P7:**

- The young people will have completed the Faith Friends programme so that their celebration of the Sacrament on their appointed evening this week will be supported by their experience of the Church.
- The preparation of all the children in the church has continued each morning after Mass throughout this week with Mrs. Colton, Mrs. Williamson and Miss Peattie. Fr. Ness has been available when needed and stewards waited after Mass daily to provide for safe use of the church and sanitising at the finish.
- *the Faith Friends booklets, duly completed should be returned to Fr. Ness at the Mass with Bishop Toal this Sunday or delivered to Fr. Ness at the chapel house by Sunday evening.* The Letters of Request for the Sacrament signed by each child will be displayed at Mass with the bishop and the Faith Friends booklets will be laid out before the altar at each Mass during the week.
- The Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship explains the role of parents *The initiation of children into the sacramental life is ordinarily the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. With the help of Catechism [teaching classes] through the school, the parents are to prepare their child for the fruitful reception of the sacrament of confirmation.*
- **P4 children looking forward when in P5 to First Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> October:** The children led morning Mass wonderfully well last Friday through presenting several difficult Readings and seven Prayers of Intercession. They were reminded again that we have not forgotten them and that just as last year they will receive a special gift of a Bible for Children - not a Children's Bible, when we will meet with them and their parents one evening in August after the school holiday. From next Saturday/ Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June any family yet to submit a Letter of Request for this Sacrament can collect a Letter from Fr. Ness.
- **P6 children preparing for Confirmation:** we have not forgotten about your preparation. Those who have written a Letter of Request for this Sacrament later this year will be invited to a meeting in August to set the date for it. Meanwhile we ask all those yet to submit a Letter to collect the form and do so before 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Baptism:** there will be more than thirty-five children in the intake to Primary One this year, 2021-22 in St. Brendan's PS. Our Baptism Register in 2015 shows six children born in 2014, four in 2015. The Baptism Register for 2016 shows four children born in 2015 and one in 2016. *The total children baptised over those two years is therefore fifteen children, twenty less than the incoming children for this year alone.* Families who have enrolled their child to St. Brendan's and who will wish them to be prepared for Sacraments in this parish while in P3, P4 and P6/7, should contact Fr. Ness preferably now or but no later than mid-August.
- **P3 Baptism:** three children from the P3 class in the Primary School will begin the preparation for baptism. Given their age, they will be involved in this leading to the celebration of this Sacrament either on their own or with the P3 children in March 2022. Training will follow the programme written for this Diocese and will begin in August. Any family with children already at school or about to go there, but not yet baptised, are invited to contact Fr. Ness to join the three children in their preparation for baptism.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who died recently:** Jim McKenzie [Kirknethan, see note below]; Nicola McFarlane [McGhee family]; Bernadette Lyons.

**those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now:** Connie McGinn; Alda Leonard; Harry Coady and Annie Halligan; Ann Jane McDevitt.

**THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021: Happy 97<sup>th</sup> Birthday, today, Rose Thomson - COMMUNITY.**

**Jim McKenzie:** his sudden and unexpected death occurred last night while he was alone in the house at Kirknethan with Anne [whom he called Katie], his wife of 62 years marriage. His son Jim had left at 7.15 after providing supper for his mum and dad and all was well. When the Care Team arrived at 8.45, they found that Jim had died very peacefully while seated in his chair. May he rest in peace. Fr. Ness was called immediately to the house and police and paramedics also attended as did Martin Sherry. Sad though this has been for the whole family who have cared for their mum and dad at home until well into their eighties, it reminds all of us of the real treasure of COMMUNITY, and PARTICIPATION in it and above all MISSION, to bring the news of the Resurrection of Jesus to all people.

**Memorial Service:** last Thursday evening at the request of Donna Black, a parishioner we led a Service of Scripture and Prayers for Alex Black, the father of her husband David. The whole family especially David and his aunts Nan and Christine and Petra the widow of Alex in British Columbia, Canada thank us for our generosity, as does Ryan the son of David and Donna and only grandson of Alex. This too is PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY, MISSION

**Prayer Partners:** The names of the forty six P7 children who will be confirmed this week children are displayed on the poster at the rear wall of the church. They will each receive from our Parish Family a laminated prayer card showing their first name and their chosen saint's name together with a replica of the papal Cross formed and worn by Pope Francis. Forty-six parishioners last weekend each took up the ministry of praying for one pupil. Please check with the Stewards to learn the name of the young person for whom you have committed to pray. When social distancing permits, please look at the list of names to read something of the interests of all the Confirmandi and the pupil to be helped by your prayer. Mrs Williamson and Miss Peattie have provided a magnificent poster.

**The Piety Stall:** is located in the Hall. **Access to it is available after the four Masses on Saturday and Sunday.** We would like to establish the Stall as the centre and first and best resource for our spiritual and pastoral reading materials as well as sacred objects and sacramentals. The supply of My Day by Day Scripture booklets for June available and from today can be taken *gratis* from the tables at the two exits rather than see them unused and recycled. In the proposed new model of Church all Catholics will be asked to learn more and more about Faith and Practice.

**The Diocesan special collection for Sick and Retired Priests:** our collection two weeks ago gathered £531.42. Further donations of £210 were made last weekend and the Stewards passed on a gift of £50 which had been made to them by one family in recognition and gratitude for their service. **The bishop may say a word to us this weekend about the significant expense that the Diocese needs to fund looking to the future and further donations will be included in our payment to be made to the Diocese at the end of this week.**

**The construction of the platform and ramp and the new stand for the Statue:** due to a nationwide shortage of building materials the work by Prater Contracts can't start until early July. Nimmo Joinery will complete the building of the stand to hold the statue of St. Therese this week. We thank all parishioners for their generosity to parish income - Collections and fundraising. **Elizabeth McCarrison's daughter, Marguerite won the 200 Draw for May.**

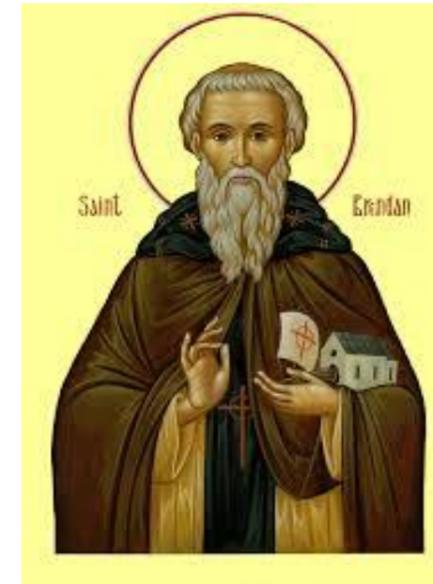
**St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish**

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**Tenth Week in Ordinary Time. Sixth day of June 2021.**

**Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi.**

***Liturgies for this week:***

**Monday through to Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM [*streamed live on our Facebook page.*]**

**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: Mass of Confirmation for total of forty-six children from P7 at St. Brendan's PS at 7pm [*Streamed live on our Facebook page.*].**

**Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday at 12 noon and again at 6pm.**

**Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [*celebrated and presented for children with their families*] and at 4.30pm.**

**[*Mass on Saturday at 6pm and Mass on Sunday at both 10.30AM and 4.30PM is streamed live on our Facebook page.*]**

***The parish's Facebook page and Twitter feed show any changes to the schedule.***