

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

*We publish a bulletin each week to keep everyone up to date about our community.*

The Response to the Psalm today: "Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth."

Lucy from P4 with her mum and dad, Catherine Anne [Cat] and Jamie can be seen and heard on line each Sunday singing the psalm of the day. Lucy sang the hymns and the psalm solo for the Mass on Friday for herself and her friends in the class of P4 children.

*We want to encourage children from within other families of the parish who have musical talent to sing at Mass and other Services in the parish. Please contact Fr. Ness on [ojness@hotmail.com](mailto:ojness@hotmail.com) if you wish to become involved.*

**The Day for Life:** Pope Francis has sent his blessing to Churches in the UK and Ireland for the Day for Life and looks especially to all of us but also to everyone to uphold the dignity of every human life.

In Scotland we normally keep the Day for Life each year on this date, 31st May, the Feast of the Visitation. However, because this year today is the Feast of Pentecost, we will miss the celebration of the Feast of the Visitation. Normally we take up a Collection at this time for the Apostolate of Life and we will miss that this year too. However, this is an opportune time for us to commend the work of Pro-Life Groups - the Innocents in our own Diocese, and also the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.

Pope Francis also mentions that it is the 25th Anniversary of "Evangelium Vitae", St. Pope John Paul II's Encyclical on the Gospel of Life. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-05/pope-francis-bishops-message-uk-ireland-day-for-life-2020.html>.

### **Re-opening of churches:**

Last Sunday we wrote on the re-opening of churches. We asked for volunteers from among the age group permitted to take part in the process of the cleaning and future supervision of the use of our church. **Please only use the email address [ojness@hotmail.com](mailto:ojness@hotmail.com)** if you wish to commit to be part of this process which is expected to run and run. We have joined the Diocesan general purchase group for buying approved cleaning materials and utensils. Jim O'Hare has marked out the whole seating area in the church having carefully considered how to get the maximum usage out of our four separate seating areas under social distancing provisions. That is a major step forward.

Bishop Toal yesterday set out how we are to apply and coordinate in our parish the methods this Diocese will introduce to allow Catholic churches the opportunity to open. This what he has said:

The Bishops' Conference will meet on Tuesday next week to receive the reports and recommendations from the Working Groups it has set up to guide the bishops in determining the way forward for the Church in Scotland in the present emergency.

Each Diocese will appoint a Diocesan Covid-19 Coordinator to assist the individual parishes in dealing with the Health and Safety instructions that will have to be followed. Deacon Bill McMillan [Rutherglen] will take on this as he worked in this field professionally. He will be given specific training in relation to the virus by the professionals the bishops had recruited to act as expert advisors on the National Working Group. Deacon Bill will be available to advise each parish and his help should be sought to ensure each parish will comply with the appointed method.

**Each Parish Priest should appoint a Parish Coordinator to work with him to plan and organising the steps needed to be taken as we look to re-open the churches in Motherwell Diocese.** This appointment should be made promptly and I ask that you inform Deacon Bill and the Chancellor of your choice of Parish Coordinator by next Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Deacon Bill will be able to pass on the training he will receive to the Parish Coordinator and work closely with that person in making sure that the necessary steps are being followed.

Last week we printed the draft proposals which will apply in this parish. These include:

- A parish Secretary is needed to record the names and addresses of parishioners who attend Liturgies in the church and of those wanting to attend. *Two parishioners have offered to share this task.*
- Parishioners must wear face coverings at all times when within the church – volunteers must help make these if commercial masks are not available. [we have an adequate supply of face masks]
- Regular and repeated cleaning of surfaces will essentially be needed as well as after each time the church is used.
- Parishioners will have to sanitise their hands on arrival – preferably with soap and water.
- All volunteers must be healthy and not from "vulnerable" groups in terms of Covid-19 protection.

## **CALL TO PRAYER: PENTECOST SUNDAY @ 7pm** with all Christian communities in Scotland

*Though we are moving into the first stages of the easing of lockdown, we continue to be painfully aware that there's a long way to go and that what lies at the end of it all remains unclear. And so we proceed in faith, believing that God always goes before us and knows the end from the beginning.*

*On this Day of Pentecost we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit, believing that it is by the Spirit that God guides us.*

*We pray: Almighty God, by your Spirit, you brought order from chaos. By your brooding Spirit, hovering over the void, you spoke and there was ... something rather than nothing. Create and recreate in and through us, we pray.*

*Almighty God, by your Spirit, you equipped and gifted and led our ancestors to know you and to serve you and to glorify you. Continue to equip and enable us, we pray.*

*And then, Almighty God, as promised by the prophets and as never before, you poured out your Spirit on these first believers - on men and women, on the old and the young; and they were transformed and made alive, as dry bones brought to life. Pour out your Spirit on us, we pray.*

*Almighty God, in these turbulent and uncertain times, send us the Comforter, that we might know you to be near. Grant us your healing touch and help us to know the rest that comes from resting in you. For the loving touch of your Spirit, we pray.*

*Almighty God, by what seemed as a rushing wind and as tongues of fire you brought your Church to life. Come to your Church now, we pray, that by the same Spirit we might be renewed and refreshed and remade and revived. Yes, Lord, grant us a fresh outpouring of your Spirit, we pray. And all our prayers we offer in the name of our Lord and Saviour, none other than Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Prayer Life in St. Brendan's parish during this period of interruption**

**FAITH AND FAMILY - A SCHOOL OF LOVE** for families in this parish, especially those with young children is available in hard copy on the tray at the Barons Road entry to the church and also "on line." Parents of young children - WHAT DID YOU MAKE OF IT? Many people have read it but has it interested you and has it helped you? What about THE TARGETS we included on the separate sheet? Please let us know by letter or by email message to this address: [ojness@hotmail.com](mailto:ojness@hotmail.com) if initiatives like this are of help to the families of this parish in developing their spiritual lives.

**Mass last Friday evening for the families of P4 children:** several families replied as requested to say that they would be participating in the "live streaming" of the Mass on the eve of what would have been the First Holy Communion Day of the children. We hope that most if not all of the families were able to participate in that way as the Mass was "child centered" and was offered for all of the children and all of the families. The children who took part as readers of the Scripture, as cantor, as giving the Welcome and the Words of Thanks, as reading the Prayers of Intercession and Reflections after Holy Communion and the parents who assisted them, were clearly inspired by God's Holy Spirit. Jude Scullion's Prayer wasn't included on Friday but we'll hear it at Mass today and his video is "online" with those of all the other children.

**The parish's Children's Liturgy programme:** Angela Sewell will present the spiritual content for the children during our "Online" morning Mass today. Many children have given in their art and craft work which we will continue to post and update on our web page and Facebook and Twitter pages. Many people have praised everything displayed on the Sanctuary which the children have brought with great energy and joy. We thank the whole families for their ongoing commitment to this. It has been a gift to the parish community at a time when we could have settled into a sense of melancholy.

**Bible and Certificate for each of the P4 children:** the families who weren't able to bring their children to the church yesterday to collect the bible and certificate are asked to contact Fr. Ness during this week.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who have died recently:** Frank Griffen [Easterhouse];

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now:** Annie Milligan; Harry Coady; Ella Murray and Andrew Murray.

**Birthdays Remembrance:** David Ness.

**The Piety Stall:** alternative sources which we can use. For those who can access the internet please use Redemptorist Publications [rp@ShineOnline.net] and The Catholic Truth Society [www.ctsbooks.org].

**The My Day by Day monthly publication of the Readings of the Day in the edition for the month of June, and July are available directly from Elspeth as is the Messenger magazine and the Magnificat booklet.**

*The Revised New Jerusalem Bible: the Study Version costs £20 and is available from Fr. Ness. A questionnaire was to be put out today asking parishioners on their view of the **WORD OF GOD 2020 as appointed by Pope Francis**. We will delay issuing this until next week to include several questions for the families whose children in P4 received the Catholic Children's Bible yesterday from the parish. What have they thought of it? It is intended to be the Bible for children and not a Child's bible. It is full and intact - no part has been omitted.*

**Matters for our community:** Families with a relative confined to the house and anyone living alone should note that if they wish the Sacrament of the Sick or wish a visit from Fr. Ness this can be arranged by a telephone call to the chapel house.

**Fr. Ness' own health:** he has been immobilised for two weeks as a consequence of spinal stenosis which shows itself at the 3<sup>rd</sup> lower vertebra and causes acute pain on the right thigh and right leg. In 2016 this disability caused an 8 week absence from the parish in Easterhouse. The mechanisms for recovery then - sessions of traction in a clinic in Glasgow and exercising in deep water at Wishaw Baths are not available. Some temporary relief from immobility has been achieved through using a machine which applies a form of strong massage to the right lower back and right hip and thigh. This has allowed him to walk for most of each day but with no confidence or sense of permanence or security. We will continue with daily Mass but other Services will be reduced to allow time for recuperation and to investigate other possible remedial treatment. Last night he decided not to present the Vigil for Pentecost with Mass at 11pm as previously intended.

**.One parishioner can represent the whole community at Mass.** If you would like to do this - please let Fr. Ness know by telephone, letter or email to include you in the daily schedule. The Sunday Masses and the Vigil Mass are served by parishioners who are willing to lead the hymns and to read and if any parishioner would like to join the four ladies who do this at present please contact Fr. Ness.

**Thank you:** to Anne Therese for the many hours of service since the closure of the church in providing for all the forms and times of Mass and other Services without which all that has been celebrated through "on line live streaming" would not have been possible especially given the recent immobilisation of Fr. Ness and including meeting all public safety hygiene and cleansing requirements. Thank you to Elizabeth for her commitment to the floral decoration of the church which has been unbroken since closure and to Robert for the work on the grounds and dustbins and yesterday to Jim McAlinden for changing the banners on the sanctuary.

**Interim Financial Report:** please read carefully the enclosed report and make known any questions or observations to Fr. Ness on his email address [ojness@hotmail.com](mailto:ojness@hotmail.com).

**200 Club Renewal:** there will still be 12 draws during the year. John Campbell will make the April, May, June and July draw when all members have re-registered and normality restored.

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

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc](https://www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc)**



## **Pentecost Sunday: Thirty first May 2020**

**Pentecost [Fifty days after Easter Sunday] yet the Gospel focus is the Easter event, the defining moment the history of humanity and the Christ event.**  
*"If Jesus did not rise from the dead our preaching is in vain and we [Christians] are to be the most pitied of all people."* St. Paul: 1 Cor. 15. **The Resurrection of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are all part of the same action of God.**

***on Facebook view:***

**Monday – Saturday: Mass “on line” at 9.30AM;**

**Saturday: Vigil Mass “on line” at 6pm**

**Sunday Mass “on line” at our scheduled times: 10.30am and 4.30pm.**

**Monday – Friday: also the “online” Talk on Scripture is at 1pm focusing on the Elijah and Elisha cycle in the 2 Books of the Kings and Mark's Gospel.**