

Our Spiritual Life.

Bishop Toal in the first of his two recent letters to *All the Faithful*, has explained the general rule of the Church that **where you live decides the parish into which you are called to live out your faith**. A person or family who choose to become an “associate” parishioner of another parish, should make this known to that parish priest so that he can agree to provide for their spiritual and pastoral care. This will include the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments for infants and children of Primary School age, and also care of the elderly at home, hospital or a place of care. Generally, for all families whose home is situated within Muirhouse, this parish is where the Church wants them to live out their faith, especially by celebrating the Sacraments here, in particular, by participating at the Sunday Eucharist [Mass].

With this in mind for the families of our parish, here are the opening words of the first book of the New Testament - the encouragement given by St. Paul in the First Letter to the Thessalonians, who are the Christians of Thessalonica in Greece:

*We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have **shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ**. We know, sisters and brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.*

Your faith has been a great comfort to us [him, Silvanus and Timothy] in the middle of our own troubles and sorrows; now we can breathe again, as you are still holding firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before our God on your account? We are earnestly praying night and day to be able to see you face to face again.

In St. Brendan’s let us take these same words into our own life as if this letter had been addressed to us, here. We try to help all people, spurred on by the peace and joy we share in believing in Jesus Christ. Through our faith which we put into action by the love we consistently offer to others, we try to be a comfort and a help to them in their troubles and sorrows.

We hope that using the book, *Making Time for Prayer, Jesus and God*, by Fr. Gerald O’Collins, we might help parishioners to nourish and deepen their spiritual life by summarising on this page of the bulletin each week, the thoughts of Fr. O’Collins’. **We also print with the bishop’s Invitation a Meditation of St. Augustine - Late have I loved you [God].**

Fr. O’Collins focusses firstly on Prayer in his book and so we continue our summary from where we finished last week, which was *Prayer as depth of experience*.

We begin this week with:

Putting our Heads into our Hearts: some people admit that when they try to pray, nothing comes into their head. For many people the problem is the exact opposite - too much happens. Too many ideas float into their head, too many feelings flood into their minds and fill their heads with noise. All kinds of fears and worries overwhelm them. They feel paralysed and so cannot pray. Resentment can cause people to avoid praying. They fight old battles over and over and they shout out against people or against outcomes in their heads. The founders of Alcohol Anonymous coined the phrase: Resentment is the number one killer. It’s a luxury we cannot afford when we try to pray. *Resentment prevents us facing and finding God in our hearts.* At these times we can say quietly the name of Jesus, who bore resentment to no one.

Prayer: being delivered from False Images: fruitful and life giving prayer can only take place between God and the real you, not between God and the person you pretend - either to yourself or to others - to be. Prayer frees us both false image of God and false images of ourselves. God wants us to bring to him in thought the real joys, pains and concerns that are on our minds and are part of our lives and not things that we make up, imagine or contrive. We need to explore in thought the images we have of God and set aside those which are false - he is too severe or he will always be indulgent of us. On Friday of this week we listened to the story of the wise and the foolish bridesmaids. The five who were foolish are too late to arrive at the wedding feast because they were not ready to greet the bridegroom [Jesus] when he came. When they do arrive, they find that the door is closed to them, and the bridegroom declares that he does not know them. These images of God need to be explored in times of prayer so that through the improved sense of God which they bring to us, we can discern his will for us in this life and we can direct our actions to conform to his will.

In summarising Fr. O’Collins’ book so far, it describes six ways of being open to pray in our lives: **Going into deep silence; Steady looking; Depth experience; Talking to God and to ourselves; Putting our heads into our hearts; Being delivered from false images of both God and of ourselves.** Next week we move on to: *Prayer as being questioned*.

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

Last weekend allowed us a further opportunity to welcome more individuals and more families to celebrate Mass. At each Mass we sang: **All are welcome in this place** and we, priest and people, mean every word - **All are welcome, all are very welcome in St. Brendan’s**. It was very encouraging to **be joined by more of those people and families whose presence has been so badly missed**. This process of coming together in Sunday worship will continue to grow at God’s pace, all as directed by his Holy Spirit active among us. Each Saturday morning at Mass we will pray for the building up of the worshipping community from within those persons and families who live in and around Muirhouse where the church and the school are located. Pentecost marked the birth of the Church and right from the beginning the celebration of Mass by the Christian communities from Thessalonica to Muirhouse which gather for Sunday worship, has been the means of measuring the spiritual health of the Church in each location.

Invitation letter from Bishop Toal with this bulletin about the National Pilgrimage next Sunday.

Pope Francis had declared the Liturgical Year 2021 to be the Year dedicated to St. Joseph. We had celebrated this by promoting the plaque showing St. Joseph, as he sleeps. This image is one which the pope had always loved. He explained that each night he writes out a note of his principal worry or concern and places it under the statue which he has at his bedside dedicated to St. Joseph as he sleeps. By morning time, he often finds that his worry or concern has been resolved. On the Feast of St. Joseph, this year, the pope extended the Year from one dedicated to St. Joseph alone to one dedicated to The Holy Family, that is to *Jesus, Mary and Joseph*.

Bishop Toal has directed that: keeping things safe for all who come to St. Brendan’s is our priority. Telephone Kathleen on 07585-225837 or Lynne on 07803-314555 for any information you feel you need to get back as soon as possible into the way of attending Mass here at either the Saturday Vigil or on Sunday.

On Thursday we took delivery of a machine known as a “Fogger.” This machine sprays a water-based cleaning agent throughout the church almost like dew settling overnight. This does not need to be directed at or targeted on any specific parts of the interior furniture, furnishings or other contents. **The cleaning agent dries within minutes when sprayed from a distance. The kneelers can be cleaned in this way and so they are now once more in use.**

The bishop has asked Fr. Ness to give priority midweek to serving the spiritual and pastoral needs of the two Schools. The First Friday Mass for the Primary School will be here on 10th September at 9.30AM followed at 11.30AM by the Patronal Feast Day Mass at OLHS. The Secondary School now closes on a Friday at 12.30PM.

Jamie and Cat Bulloch with their daughter Lucy [P5] will provide the music ministry at the Saturday Vigil Mass, Young musicians or singers from Primary and Secondary schools are invited to join them to form a Group who would work together to develop music at this Mass by introducing other instruments and harmonies.

Sacramental Preparation.

“First Holy Communion Mass” on Second October at 11 AM.

1. A poster is on display at the Entrance and in the Parish Hall to record the names of all the children participating.
2. The Faith Friends programme for this Sacrament continues each Sunday until 19th September. For any child who cannot manage to attend on Sunday, they have the one option: to come after school on Thursday at 3pm to the Liturgy Room.
3. A sincere “Thank you” for your response - all parents and carers have participated to the fullest. THANK YOU.
4. On Sunday 3rd October, the parish would love the children to participate at Mass with as many of their family and extended family as they wish and to be warmly greeted by the 10.30AM children’s Mass community. The children will share the Eucharist as a member of that community and lead each one to remain as a committed member of this parish.

Confirmation Mass for P7 children on 25th November at 7PM. Part of a Letter dated yesterday from Bishop Toal Since the pre-Christmas Confirmations will be celebrated just before, during, or just after our Annual Catholic Education Week, I propose that we follow its theme, “Celebrating and Worshipping”, in our Confirmation preparation and liturgies. This reminds us that the Holy Spirit inspires us to worship and adore God, which we do in such a special way in the Church’s worship and in the celebration of the sacraments. **It is an opportunity also to invite our young people in P7 in St. Brendan’s and their families to be active participants in the Church’s worship and mission.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

Covid 19 diagnosis: John and Margaret Campbell have been diagnosed as have several of our young parishioners. We pray for the recovery of all who have made this known with a request for our prayers.

Baby girl: the parish family congratulates Samantha and Daniel Kennedy on the birth of their daughter Sloane Louise on Thursday. What a difference a year can make, this time last year they were single, they decided to bring forward their wedding to October because of the Covid restrictions and now quiet at home is no more.

Those who have died recently: Connor Shuel; John McKinnon; Ann Gorman [Netherton]; Betty Mc Gorry; Linda McAlorum; Rosemary McCafferty; Vera McGrenary; Julie Davies [Port Talbot]

those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Henry Douglas; Gerry Lynch; Hugh Ferry; Cathie Hughes [5yrs].

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021: COMMUNITY AND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Family matters: we welcome the Spiritan Fathers who will replace Fr. Ness here this week to celebrate Masses.

Confirmation on 25th November: the bishop has written to us about the preparation for the Sacrament in our parish and we've printed part of his letter on page 3. Our preparation with the children of P7 will begin on Sunday 19th September. There are still several children who need to write to say that they want to celebrate the Sacrament with the bishop. We hope to have their letters by next Saturday.

The Piety Stall is restored inside the main entrance of the church: and will be opened at the end of each Mass to avoid congestion before Mass. Please re-enter the church after Mass from the main entrance to browse or buy there. **My Day-by-Day booklets and the Magnificat for September** are available there to parishioners.

Construction of the ramp; update on the Car Park; the Hall; and the rail at door on to Barons Road:

The safety rail at the church door opening on to Barons Road will be fitted this week by Belhaven Engineering.

The work on the concrete platform and ramp will continue this week. Taylor Construction has asked that the car park be closed during its working hours other than for supervised use of it by those attending the Monday Club.

The risk assessment for the Insurers, the interest level of the Council on what work might be done on the car park and the parish's willingness to carry out and finance that work, will be put to the Diocesan Property Committee on Tuesday. PLEASE TAKE REASONABLE CARE WHENEVER YOU USE OR WALK OVER THE CAR PARK

The hall re-opened last Monday for the Monday Club: Norah Donnelly has been elected to chair the Club and will be helped by Committee members, Susan and Alice. All protocols will be observed by the members during Meetings with help from Richard, who **holds the parish's diary for bookings of the hall. We will defer taking any bookings until the end of September to allow an impact assessment to be made by Richard with Jim O'Hare on the re-opening of the hall.** We thank John Paul Latta for the improvements he made last Thursday to the hot water system in the hall.

On Wednesday 8th September: using table service, the Coffee Morning ladies will re-start the catering in the hall for the Morning Mass community, **after Mass at 9.30 is celebrated in the church.**

On Sunday 12th September: Collection for the cost of formation of priests at colleges in Rome and in Birmingham and for deacons for the Diocese.

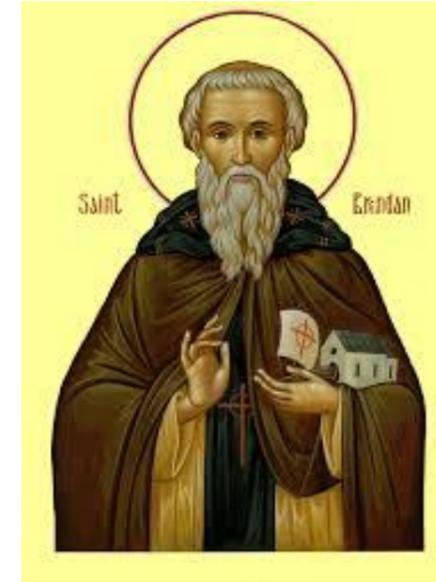
St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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Twenty-second week in Ordinary Time.

Twenty-ninth day of August 2021.

Liturgies for this week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM [*streamed live on our Facebook page.*]

Wednesday: Mass at 7pm. [**this will end next Wednesday 1st September.**]

Saturday: [Mass at 9.30 celebrated when appropriate as a Votive Mass of Our Lady as Mother of the Church for the intention of the building up of the worshipping community in our parish]; the Vigil Mass is now at 5pm.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [**celebrated and presented for children with their families - please see the Note on page 3 of the bulletin about this Mass**] **and at 4.30pm.**

[Mass on Saturday at 5pm and Mass on Sunday at both 10.30AM and 4.30PM is streamed live on our Facebook page.]

From the Confessions of St Augustine

Urged to reflect upon myself, I entered under your guidance the innermost places of my being; but only because you had become my helper was I able to do so. I entered, then, and with the vision of my spirit, such as it was, I saw the incommutable light far above my spiritual ken and transcending my mind: not this common light which every carnal eye can see, nor any light of the same order; but greater, as though this common light were shining much more powerfully, far more brightly, and so extensively as to fill the universe. The light I saw was not the common light at all, but something different, utterly different, from all those things. Nor was it higher than my mind in the sense that oil floats on water or the sky is above the earth; it was exalted because this very light made me, and I was below it because by it I was made. Anyone who knows truth knows this light.

O eternal Truth, true Love, and beloved Eternity, you are my God, and for you I sigh day and night. As I first began to know you, you lifted me up and showed me that, while that which I might see exists indeed, I was not yet capable of seeing it. Your rays beamed intensely on me, beating back my feeble gaze, and I trembled with love and dread. I knew myself to be far away from you in a region of unlikeness, and I seemed to hear your voice from on high: "I am the food of the mature: grow, then, and you shall eat me. You will not change me into yourself like bodily food; but you will be changed into me".

Accordingly I looked for a way to gain the strength I needed to enjoy you, but I did not find it until I embraced *the mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who is also God, supreme over all things and blessed for ever*. He called out, proclaiming *I am the Way and Truth and the Life*, nor had I known him as the food which, though I was not yet strong enough to eat it, he had mingled with our flesh, for *the Word became flesh* so that your Wisdom, through whom you created all things, might become for us the milk adapted to our infancy.

Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!

Lo, you were within,

but I outside, seeking there for you,
and upon the shapely things you have made
I rushed headlong – I, misshapen.

You were with me, but I was not with you.

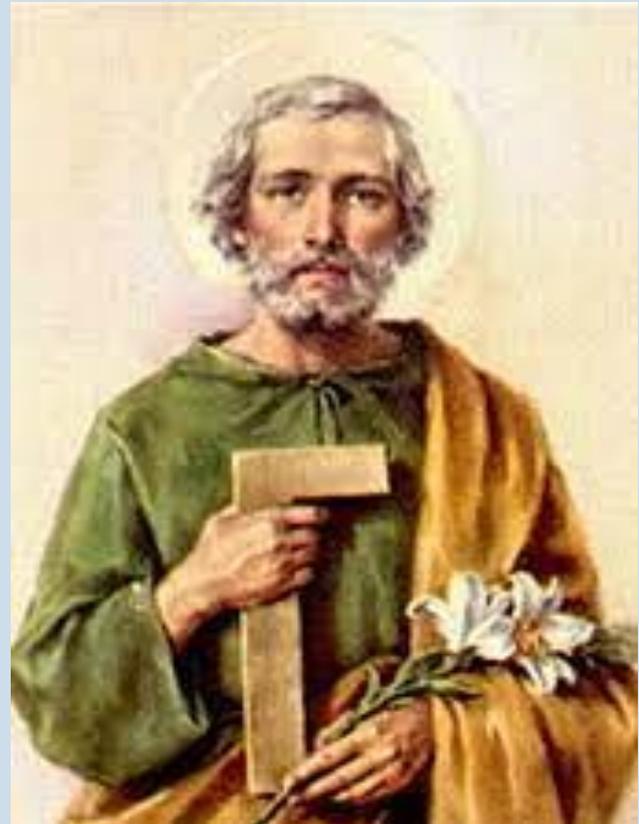
They held me back far from you,
those things which would have no being,
were they not in you.

You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;
you flared, blazed, banished my blindness;
you lavished your fragrance, I gasped; and now I pant for you;
I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst;
you touched me, and I burned for your peace.

Bishops' Conference of Scotland

National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Carfin 2021

**in honour of
St Joseph
in this
Year of Dedication**



**Sunday 5th September 2021
at 3.00 pm**

**Principal Celebrant and Homilist
Bishop Brian McGee**