

## **St. Brendan's - our life at the arrival of Fr. Hamilton.**

On Monday Bishop Toal wrote to Fr. Hamilton and all members of the clergy - priests and deacons - in these words:

.....I propose that I meet with the Deans on Thursday: 3rd February in the Diocesan Offices at 2pm to prepare an agenda for Deanery Meetings. The Deanery Meetings should be arranged for the following two weeks in February. The Council of Priests will then meet on Thursday 24th February at 2pm in the Diocesan Offices.

**Following on from the discussion at the Consultors' Meeting about our parishes and their future**, I propose that we look at the Instruction "***The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church***", issued by the Congregation of the Clergy in July 2020. It covers a lot of issues which are pertinent for us as we look ahead. I have read this document a couple of times recently and I ask you to do the same in preparation for our forthcoming meetings.

**These passages are taken from the first paragraphs of this document which will affect St. Brendan's:**

The Holy Father recommends that: "If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that **so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life.** More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37)"

5. The Church proclaims that the Word, "became flesh and lived among us" (Jn 1:14). This Word of God, who loves to dwell in our midst, in his inexhaustible richness, was received the world over by diverse peoples, inspiring in them the most noble of aspirations, such as the desire for God, the dignity of every human life, equality among men and respect for difference within the single human family, dialogue as a means to participation, a longing for peace, welcome as an expression of fraternity and solidarity, together with a responsible care for creation.

For the journey of the Word to continue, the Christian community must make a determined missionary decision "capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation".

### **II. The Parish in a contemporary context**

6. Missionary conversion, which naturally leads to a reform of structures, concerns **the Parish in particular, namely that community gathered around the Table of the Word and the Eucharist.**

***The Parish has a long history and from the outset, it has played a fundamental role in the life of Christians and in the development and pastoral work of the Church. We can see this in the writings of Saint Paul. Several of the Pauline texts show us the formation of small communities as domestic churches, which the Apostle simply calls a "house With these "houses", we get a foretaste of the birth of the first "Parishes".***

7. The Parish is regarded as a response to a precise pastoral need, namely that of bringing the Gospel to the People through the proclamation of the faith and the celebration of the Sacraments. The Parish is a house among houses and is a response to the logic of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, alive and active among the community. It is visibly characterised then, as a place of worship, a sign of the permanent presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his People.

### **III. The value of the Parish today**

11. In virtue of this discernment, the Parish is called upon to read the signs of the times, while adapting both to the needs of the faithful and to historical changes. A renewed vitality is required that favours the rediscovery of the vocation of the baptised as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a missionary of the Gospel, in light of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent teaching of the Church.

12. Pope Benedict XVI taught, "the parish is a beacon that radiates the light of the faith and thus responds to the deepest and truest desires of the human heart, giving meaning and hope to the lives of individuals and families" Lastly, Pope Francis recalled how "the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers"

## **Our Pastoral Life in St. Brendan's**

What of the Parish now? Let us take guidance on the future by reading again these passages from today's Second Reading: the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians: **1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:13**

**Be ambitious for the higher gifts**, and I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. **Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.**

But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. **When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am an adult, all childish ways are put behind me.**

**Can you remember the hit song by Barbara Streisand, The Way We Were? It begins:**

*Memories light the colours of my mind, misty water coloured memories of the way we were.*

Memories overflow when we encounter change in our lives. Here are some of the memories of the last three years and of the real people who have impacted upon the life of the community in the recent past as we look forward to **What of this Parish now?**

- In the first week a meeting was held in the Primary School to discuss the preparation of the children in P3, P4, P6 & P7 for the Sacraments. **Ministry to the families with children and young people at Primary School - St. Brendan's and Muirhouse Primary too and with young people at OLHS was identified as a crucial part** of the Sacramental, Spiritual, Pastoral and Social life of this Parish and it was a task for the whole community. **How has the priest and community fared in this sacred task?**
- There were only two altar servers. Readers often also filled the role of Eucharistic Minister. There were two leaders for the Children's Liturgy There was no live musical accompaniment for the choir on organ, piano or keyboard. **Sign up Sunday followed.** There was an explosion of interest from parishioners willing to engage in ministry to serve this community.
- A Pre- Lent party for the children was held following the German tradition. The success of the St. Patrick's Night fund raising Dance for the HCPT Group of St. Bernadette's held in our Hall was identified as a model for social nights for the Parish and a Church Workers' Social was quickly organised and proved a great success because parishioners participated through leading it and attending in good numbers. Parties at Hallowe'en and Christmas followed for the children
- The Children's Liturgy became an established element of our Sunday worship and the Leadership numbers increased to introduce The Big Hug and the two Faith Friends programmes for Sacramental Preparation led from within the community for the families of the community - parents and children.
- The sound system in the church was upgraded in the first week and again in the last week - essential. The organ was purchased and the electric piano in pristine condition donated and Gordon appointed
- The Coffee Morning Ladies supported the purchase of new chairs for the hall from their accumulated savings and the hall was then re-painted, broken glazing and damaged vinyl replaced, the lighting was upgraded and the toilets' flooring restored. Mass in the Hall on a Wednesday is to be restored. Please support the attendance at the Wednesday Eucharist when Bishop Nolan will often preside at Mass and then stay on for the social engagement with hospitality provided and shared.
- All of the doors of the church internal and external were restored, the lighting was upgraded by John and Rod and the Children's Liturgy Room made worthy of that sacred usage.
- The church grounds were restored by Robert and are maintained by him with help from Pat arranged by Ellen Fagan, the pathway was re-opened to the hall and a new path led into the School by the Brown family who maintain both. Jim devoted hours each day after work to restore the paintwork and timber treatment of the church and the chapel house and the garage. John Paul assisted by William unblocked the drains and William arranged roofing contractors to check and fix the tiling on the church and the chapel house. Richard took over the keeping of the hall and soon to be assisted.
- The community will now move forward from this platform if all participate in its mission.

**Sacred Service in the Parish from this weekend onwards:**

**The role of Sacristan:** the service of Anne Therese McKeen ended last weekend. The community **thanked her for her service in this ministry. Anne Therese has replied: 'Thank You' for the generosity and appreciation shown to me by the Worshipping Community of St Brendan's. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve the community as sacristan and I look forward to continuing, along with my young grandson, Campbell, to be part of this caring and prayerful community and to serve anew the community whenever I am able and in whatever way I can with God's**

**PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:**

**those who have died recently:** Margaret McLean; Kathy Hughes; Noreen Rafferty; Martin Kane.

**those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occur about now:** Anne Brown; Cathie Kerr; James Casey; the deceased members of the McIntyre family and of the Paterson family; Peter Parks [53 years]; Peter and Sarah Doherty.

**OUR**

**COMMUNITY.**

**Celebration of Mass: the Spiritan Fathers from Carfin have completed their service of the community and we than Fr. Jude, Fr. Paul, Fr. Bonaventure and Fr. Pat for celebrating Mass for us throughout January. They were supported by parishioners who gave time to provide transport when needed - Margaret, Richard, William and Jim. Both the priests and the laity were and are willing servants of this community.**

**St. Margaret's Children and Family Care Society:** sincere thanks for the generosity which has been shown in the weeks that followed Christmas week when the total donated to the Society at the Crib was £148.15. Further donations have been made - £220; £200; £416.35. The total sent to the Society is therefore £784.50.

**RCIA:** Hope Sinclair spoke at all Masses last weekend. She has immersed herself in preparing to enter the Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil. Hope will take part with Anne Therese who has accompanied her as a member of our community, in what is known as the Rite of Election at the Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March where all RCIA participants come to meet and pray with the bishop. Her name will be entered in the Book of the Elect. Hope greatly appreciated the response from the community. **We hope that Hope speaking may lead others to consider following where she has joyfully gone in the RCIA programme.**

**Diocesan Priesthood:** Fr. Charles O'Farrell is the Diocese's Director of Vocations and has asked that we promote how the Diocese responds to any man - young or old - who considers that God may be calling him from his own life situation to test a vocation to the priesthood through what is known as a process of discernment and formation. Any man in St. Brendan's parish who feels called to respond to this outline should speak to Fr. Hamilton about this.

**The role of the lay person in St. Brendan's:** his years of formation for priesthood while in seminary will have led Fr. Hamilton to know and understand the duty of the priest to empower the lay people of the parish - you - to act in the fullness of the priesthood you received as part of the grace of Baptism. If Fr. Hamilton is to personally take over the action, supervision and administration of every element of the sacramental, the pastoral and the social life of St. Brendan's the spiritual element will suffer, especially the quality of the liturgy in the celebration of Mass for the community. **All parishioners are called to serve the community and the most fundamental service is Presence.**

**Catechesis and lay Catechists:** will become a crucial element in the Catholic Church of tomorrow in Scotland, The teaching method "The Good Shepherd" set up in the USA will be presented on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm in Rutherglen. The first lay catechists will be trained in this method. Would anyone from our community wish to be part

**Synodality in St. Brendan's:** whereas some parishes in the Diocese have been unable to establish and sustain a Group to participate in the universal programme of engagement of parishioners throughout the world in reading the signs of the times and re-establishing the role of the Church which Pope Francis has identified as a Field Hospital to Society, in this parish we have established a vibrant group. Please support them. The Bishops of Scotland will host "Synodality in the Life of the Church" on-line at "bit.ly/BCOSYouTube which will run at 2pm on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

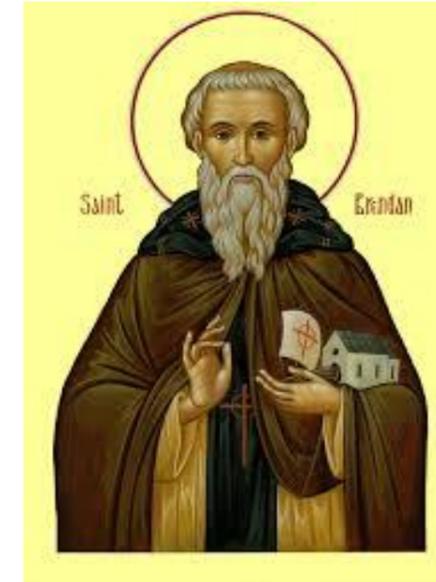
**The Annual Safeguarding Audit:** has been completed for our community and will be lodged with the Diocese.

**Parish Annual Finance Statement:** please take note of the Summary prepared from the Statement drawn up by Gerry McCann of Easterhouse parish for us and presented to the Diocese. Our expenditure will increase for the reasons explained already, including the absence of the grant we had received to help us meet the levy.

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



**The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

**Thirtieth January 2022.**

***Liturgies for this week:***

**Mass at 9.30AM from Monday through to Friday. On Tuesday the Requiem Mass of the late Mrs. Margaret McLean will be celebrated.**

**Saturday: 9.30AM [Votive Mass of Our Lady celebrated for the guidance of the Parish in the Way, the Truth and the Life - Jesus her Son]**

**Vigil Mass of Sunday at 5pm.**

**Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM and at 4.30pm.**

***[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.***

# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH~ FINANCE REPORT

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Finance Committee: Fr Ness, Suzanne O'Hare, Lynne Kellas and Jim O'Hare.

PARISH INCOME			
	£		£
<b>Offertory Collections</b>	49,384.21	<b>Fundraising</b>	1,939.00
<b>Gift Aid Repayment</b>	9,876.78	<b>Stall Income</b>	3,264.92
<b>Special Collections</b>	6,415.39	<b>Donations</b>	28,371.37
<b>Votive Candles</b>	3,401.65	<b>Refunds</b>	616.93
<b>Hall Rental</b>	1,125.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME: £104,395.25</b>			

Many parishioners had increased their contributions since closure March 2020. Several joined Gift Aid and others introduced direct payments to the Parish's bank account. The various closures from March 2020 reduced the number of parishioners who contributed to income but through their love of the parish and their generosity, the income has risen but so has our expenditure. All parishioners are asked to contribute to the expenditure of the parish so that this obligation is shared fairly, and we don't rely on the goodness of a proportion of this community. *God is just and to be like him, we must also be just.*

PARISH EXPENDITURE			
	£		£
<b>Housekeeping</b>	1,858.97	<b>Special Collections</b>	6,415.39
<b>Church Repairs</b>	31,599.58	<b>Diocesan Levy</b>	12,986.48
<b>Church Furnishings</b>	786.99	<b>PIF Interest</b>	965.43
<b>Divine Service</b>	13,170.96	<b>Parish Debt/Investment</b>	29,716.00
<b>Stall</b>	3,516.34	<b>Telephone/Broadband</b>	732.63
<b>Supply [Priests] Costs</b>	1,450.00	<b>Heat &amp; Light</b>	6,565.35
<b>Hall Repairs</b>	559.00	<b>Council Tax</b>	2,130.68
<b>Ground Repairs</b>	83.98	<b>Insurance</b>	2,687.49
<b>Office Equipment</b>	958.13		
<b>Office</b> Print, stationery, admin	3,136.80		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £119,320.20</b>			

We try to keep the expenses as low as possible but at the same time we have a responsibility to ensure that the church, hall and house are properly maintained, and any repairs/improvements are carried out. In 2021 a number of substantial works have been carried out – the roughcast at the outhouses was stripped and restored, a Platform and Ramp at the side exit was constructed, a new CH boiler was installed in the chapel house, an extension to the sound system has been introduced, and the car park re-surfaced and we have responded through SCIAF gifts.

## PARISH RESERVES (Total of all funds held in Bank and Diocese)

**1/1/2021: RESERVES = £14,980.30**      **31/12/2021: RESERVES = £11,478.92**

## PARISH DEBT OWED TO DIOCESE

**1/1/2021: DEBT = £18,292.43**      **31/12/2021: DEBT = £0.00**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

At the close of three years much has been done in restoring the fabric of the church, the hall and the chapel house and in providing for the interior décor, fittings and fixtures and the furnishings. It is the function of the Finance Committee to preserve this and to keep everyone informed of matters arising and decisions taken. There are many ways parishioners can assist but one truth cannot be ignored: **until many more parishioners who could register under the Gift Aid Scheme choose to do so, the financial strength of this community will be impaired.**

## Finance Facts

The parish pays a Diocesan Levy of 24% of our Collections and Gift Aid Income. This year it was **£12,986.48**

We received a grant from **The Levy Fund** which paid 50% of the Levy.

## Some Average Weekly Costs

Levy **£249.74**  
Heat & Light **£126.26**  
Divine Service **£253.29**  
Insurance **£51.68**  
Office Print etc **£60.32**

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact one of the Finance Committee

**GIFT AID REALLY PROVIDES INCOME TO US AT NO COST TO YOU!**

If you are a taxpayer, please consider signing up for Gift Aid