

The Year 2020-21 in St. Brendan's.

Introduction to Sacred Space [cont'd from last week] – The Prayerbook setting out the Spirituality of St. Ignatius. Thought for today taken from the Prayerbook:

Prayer is about the relationship we have with God, in particular, God who is revealed in Jesus. This is your deepest self-opening to God. To pray is to be loved by him and to speak to him in confidence. In prayer all masks and coverings can be removed. God can only come into you when you are willing to be known as you are. One time you may be happy, the next you may be sad. Prayer is not inborn. It can be learned.

The Church is living now in the midst of the Corona Virus Pandemic that has disrupted our way of life, our economy and our Institutions, thereby causing immense suffering and sadness and will no doubt permanently change how we live and minister [in the Church]. The important thing for all of us in the Church is and will be the priority of our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis has written in the Encyclical Letter: The Joy of the Gospel: *I invite all Christians everywhere [including those in St. Brendan's Muirhouse,] at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to him encountering them....no one in St. Brendan's should not think that this is meant for him or her.* AND SO

A Daily Offering Prayer: [Jim Deeds writing in the Irish Messenger]

Dear God,

Thank you for this brand-new day.

Let us in St. Brendan's, Muirhouse, be rays of the light of peace to all we meet.

Allow us also to be filled with light just like our church in the morning sunshine until evening dusk.

Help us and those we love to truly experience your company along the paths that we will walk today.

Bring the light of healing, consolation and forgiveness to all of us in St. Brendan's who need these things.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Praying for Others.

Fr. Donal Neary SJ

It's mysterious what might happen when we pray for someone. We don't know in what way anyone or anything changes as a result of our prayers but there is something else. St. Paul wrote to the Phillipians that "when I pray for you I pray with joy." When we pray for someone, we can allow the memory of that person to bring us joy. Pray for your grandchildren and feel the joy they bring you or pray for a friend or spouse. I can recall how I am grateful for the person, for love and friendship and for the good they do.

Pick up this invitation and see where it will lead you.

Preparation by families for the Sacraments:

12 for P3 [First Reconciliation],

18 for P4 [First Holy Communion],

13 for P6 and P7 [Confirmation]: Please read the information set out at the top of page 3.

St. Brendan's – Closure of places of worship - now very likely into February

Anyone wishing to participate at Mass on any morning from Monday to Friday as representing the Parish Family, *including specifically parents drawn from the young families of this parish*, please enquire with Lynne or Kathleen. Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or by email: lynnkellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837 or at: Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com. Fr. Ness welcomes the prospect of always having one parishioner present with him for Eucharist.

On Saturday and Sunday Fr. Ness will arrange for a cantor/reader to be present with him at all four Masses. Each Saturday at 9.30AM a Votive Mass to Our Lady will be celebrated and hymns sung as well as being sung during the Sabbath Day liturgy of Saturday PM and Sunday AM and PM.

On Facebook: *Daily Mass including Saturday at 9.30am and every Requiem Mass will be live streamed AND ALSO the Mass at 6PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10.30AM and 4.30pm.*

CELEBRATION OF SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN 2021

People and Priest in St. Brendan's - Co responsible for mission, which is Church, THEREFORE.

On page 2 we have printed the number of families who after two weeks have registered children for the Sacraments which ordinarily this year would be celebrated in line with the curriculum followed in St. Brendan's Primary School. *This is not an ordinary year.* Given the absence of the vast majority of our children [firstly] from Sunday Mass in this church since last March and [secondly] from school since before Christmas and continuing into February at least, *we propose that the celebration of both First Reconciliation for P3 children and First Holy Communion for P4 children and the Confirmation of P6 children should be deferred to a month to be fixed later in the year.* The first two elements are for the Parish to decide - Priest and people in co-operation as the pope has instructed. IF YOUR FAMILY IS INVOLVED - WHAT DO YOU WISH? WHAT DO PARISHIONERS WISH?

The third element is for Bishop Toal to decide. We will write to the Chancellor over this weekend to explain our concern and to make our proposal. By tradition in this Diocese the bishop will make his decision known to the Primary School as regards Confirmation but as regards the other Sacraments that is a matter delegated to the priest who is responsible jointly with the people in the parish.

First Holy Communion children in Class P5 and P6/5:

As soon as we can with confidence fix another day to substitute for 24th January to bring the children together this year, we will do so and make this known.

The theme, theory and practice of co-responsibility for Mission in St. Brendan's:

In the *Motu proprio* [his own decision] issued by Pope Francis last Monday, the Pope wrote that "*the urgency is being ever more felt today to rediscover the co-responsibility of all of the baptized in the Church*, and the mission of the laity in a particular way." And the Pope observes that "regarding the entire Church, in the variety of situations, it is urgent that ministries for men and women be promoted and conferred... *It is the Church made up of baptized men and women that we must consolidate, promoting forms of ministry and, above all, an awareness of baptismal dignity.*" Lay people and evangelization

The Pope explains that "*to offer to lay persons of both sexes the possibility of accessing the ministries of Acolyte [Minister of the Eucharist including carrying out the purification of the sacred vessels used at Mass] and Lector [the proclamation of the passages of Sacred Scripture during Mass except the Gospel], in virtue of their participation in the priesthood of the baptized, the awareness will grow, through a liturgical act (of institution) as well, of the precious contribution that many lay persons, including women, have been offering for some time to the life and mission of the Church.*" He concludes that "*the decision to confer these offices even on women, which entails stability, public recognition and a mandate on the part of the bishop, will make more effective everyone's participation in the work of evangelization.*"

"Co-responsibility" featured prominently in our bulletin last Sunday in messages addressed to the parents of the children who will prepare this year for the celebration of Sacraments.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Charlie Docherty [Viewpark]; Archbishop Philip Tartaglia; Michael Higgins; Bill Cotter [Cork]; Bishop [retired from Dunkeld Diocese] Vincent Logan.

for those whose Anniversary occurs about now: George Gierthy [45 yrs]; Catherine Nolan [15yrs].

Points in summary:

Next Sunday, 24th January, is “Sunday of the Word of God”. Pope Francis, who instituted this event, reminds us that “we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture, otherwise our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness.” Every parishioner is asked to consider carefully and respond in a way that is meaningful to them over the coming year.

IN THIS PARISH WE TRY AND TRY AND TRY TO LEAD PARISHIONERS TO LOOK AT THEMSELVES AS THE POPE INVITES AND TO USE THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE HERE IN THEIR RESPONSE AS REGARDS TAKING THE WORD OF GOD INTO THEIR LIVES.

The Piety Stall: the closure of the Church makes access to the Stall difficult but not impossible to organise. There are calendars and diaries for sale. The My Day-by-Day booklet which has the readings for Mass each day is on sale as is the Magnificat and the Messenger Magazine.

The Redemptorist *through the Year with Mary* Diary for 2021 and the My Day-by-Day pocket-sized diary for 2021 are available there. Every home should have the Bible and the Revised New Jerusalem Bible is excellent and is available from the Stall.

The three-year cycle - ABC - for Sacred Scripture: we have entered Year B in the Ordinary Season of the Liturgical Year. We will follow the Gospel of Mark, chapter by chapter during this Season. ***A print of this Gospel is available free of charge from the door of the Church entering from Barons Road.***

The St. Joseph Prayer Stands: which were requested by many parishioners are now available on request from the church or chapel house. On the Feast of St. Joseph, we will have a special feature to celebrate family life in this parish.

IF YOU WISH ACCESS TO THE STALL OR TO ANY ITEM LISTED HERE, PLEASE COME TO THE BARONS ROAD DOOR OF THE CHURCH AFTER MORNING MASS OR AT THE WEEKEND.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January and, although public services of worship are not possible at present, Bishop Toal urges that we should still pray for this intention through these days. ***We will do this “online” in a special Service from the church this Sunday at 3pm.***

The Article published in the January edition of the Pastoral Review comments on our life and ministry here in St. Brendan’s under the heading *Greetings to the Church in Muirhouse* can be accessed online from our social media platforms. We hope that you will recognize the elements of our life in the description given of them.

Parish Finance: our Financial Year End Statement as of 31st December has been completed well in advance of the deadline of 31st January. We reported last Sunday on several important aspects of our financial position. We will present a summary to parishioners by a Talk given “online” supported by a printed report. **Many parishioners have increased their contributions since March without which the parish would not be in as healthy a position. Several have joined Gift Aid, and several have made direct payments to the Parish’s Bank Account. Thank you.**

Fr. Ness was badly affected by an infection last week which antibiotics appear to have overcome. He has been advised to take time to rest, living away from the parish and may do so this week on notice given on our social media.

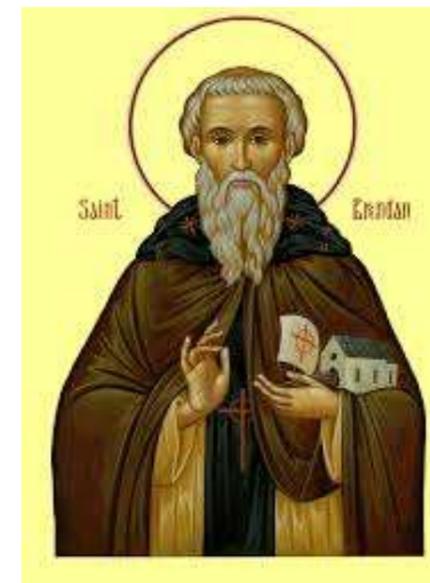
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**Seventeenth January 2021, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
or Season in the Liturgical Year.**

Liturgies during this week when we enter Ordinary Time

Monday to Saturday: Mass at 9.30AM with one parishioner attending

Monday to Friday at 1pm: broadcast Talk on Sacred Scripture

Monday to Friday at 4.15pm: broadcast Time for late pm Prayer.

Saturday at 6pm: Vigil Mass for Sunday with one parishioner attending.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM and 4.30pm each with one parishioner attending.

Sunday : Prayers for Christian Unity at 3pm with Gordon our organist.

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