

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

A quiet thought:

The Response to the Psalm today: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want." How appropriate this expression is to keep in the forefront of our minds today.

A happy thought:

Happy Mothers' Day to all mothers and to those who are looked upon as mothers through the love, favour and affection they show to children and young people in their extended families. Sadly there are no daffodils to be distributed to you here this year, but we'll double the quantity next year.

One thought offered about a mother: A mother's love's a blessing, no matter where you roam.

Today we ask God to bless all the mothers of this Parish and keep them safe and well at all times.

Last week our bulletin news opened with this item :

Recent developments in the spread and the means to control of the Coronavirus have led the Diocese to issue a flow of instructions regarding the celebration of Mass and many matters which relate to this including the distribution of Holy Communion to those who are ill and those who are confined to the house. *We are reminded that a dispensation from participation at Mass on Sunday is given to those who are ill.* For the present we are to continue with all Masses and liturgies as scheduled. All changes will be notified through the various means on social media which are now open to us.

Much has changed within a short period of time. The celebration of Mass in public was suspended from Thursday evening throughout Scotland. In each parish a priest was to celebrate Mass alone but a variation has been allowed in these terms by the bishop:

- The advice is for nobody to be present [when the priest celebrates Mass] and that priests abide by that throughout [the diocese]. My general exception is that one other person may attend. That person, whoever they are, must be in the body of the church and not on the sanctuary. The priest is to be the only person in the sanctuary so that the regulations about social distancing are seen to be observed. The church is not to be open during the celebration of Mass.
- It will be very important that the people are well nourished by the Word of God and the preaching of the priest in all Masses that are broadcast. I ask you to be very attentive to this aspect of your ministry, at all Daily Masses as well as Sundays. It is important also that prayers are offered during Mass, in the Prayer of the Faithful, for all suffering from the virus, those caring for them, those making the vital decisions, and all of us at this difficult time. I give permission to seek Our Lady's intercession in the prayers also. You may wish to add additional devotional prayers after Mass or let people know at what other times they will be offered live.
- On Sunday Mornings, and perhaps on other days, something for children could be broadcast from the church, either by the priest, a deacon, or a catechist. I am thinking in particular of the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, with the Gospel being read and explained for children and some prayers offered which they are encouraged to join in with, and an activity to be done at home. I am sure there are some who could do this very well and it would be a good way of keeping in touch with children.

We will follow the bishop's instructions on all of these matters and report to you on this next week.

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

We will continue to publish a bulletin each week to keep everyone informed of how Lent will be concluded and Easter will be celebrated in this parish and throughout Scotland. We will also post notices on our website www.st-brendans.com and on Facebook and most immediately and easily, on our Twitter feed. Please connect to the parish on Twitter to be always be up to date. Here are the Instructions about Holy Week and Good Friday.

Decree of Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments

re Covid 19 and the Celebration of the Paschal Triduum

1. The date of Easter cannot be transferred. [It is celebrated in line with the Hebrew religious Festival of Passover which is a moveable date in the Jewish calendar]
2. The Chrism Mass will not be celebrated on Holy Thursday morning but at a later date.
3. Parishioners should be made aware of the times when the Paschal Triduum will be celebrated so they can be united in prayer with the bishop/parish priest. They may also access these celebrations via social media etc. Episcopal Conferences and individual diocese should offer support to the faithful for family and personal prayer.
4. On Holy Thursday priests in parishes should celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper even without people. No washing of the feet. No procession of Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Sacrament should be kept in the tabernacle. Priests who cannot attend should pray the set Vespers from the Breviary.
5. On Good Friday an additional prayer should be offered for the sick, the deceased, carers, etc. during the corona virus in the general intercessions.
6. At Easter Vigil light a candle and sing the Exultet- no fire, no procession. For Liturgy of Baptism renewal of baptismal promises only. Those who cannot join in the celebration are invited to recite the set Office of Readings from the Breviary.

The visits by Eucharistic Ministers to those who are sick or confined to the house have been stopped to comply with the current social distancing provisions in both its wording and its spirit. We offer a special thought to - we empathise with - all who are affected by this, both those at home and also the ministers who with great love and commitment serve them in the name of the Lord, and share their sense of encounter with Jesus in bringing and receiving Holy Communion.

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. He will be very happy to visit and to do so in line with the current health advice.

The parish's Children's Liturgy programme: we wish to preserve the solid foundation which the parish and the families of the parish have formed through our Liturgy Team in the provision for our children of Primary School age. Our Twitter feed contains items for the children for today on the Scriptures and on activities to be done at home. Prints of these will be available at our main entrance.

Sacramental Preparation for P3 and P4 children: there was great sadness and disappointment among families of **the P3 children**, also in the School and in the Parish [and with Fr. Rooney] when the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was postponed from Thursday evening. The children's preparation had been excellent and this will stand them in good stead when they do eventually come to the church for this Sacrament. **The P4 children** preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time won't be forgotten by the parish community even though a new date will have to be set for this celebration. It is always a very special day in the calendar for families and also for the School and parish communities. It won't be lost - it has only been deferred.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

for those who are ill: Lauren Neilly; Tess Murray; Gerald Waddle; Henry Douglas; Louise Foley; Jim Doyle; Margaret Carroll; Angela Torrance; Mairi Sneddon; Elaine Farrell and Helen Farrell; John Dobbin; Zoe Ewing; Ownie McKenna; Robert Nimmo; William Brown [Snr], Patrick Francis O'Rourke; Teresa Welsh; Sandra Mclean.

those who have died recently: Rev. Fr. Vincent Darragh;

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Peter Ledwith; Isobel O'Hare; Moyra Ness; Joseph McGinn; Rosina and Lindsay Smith.

In the Piety Stall: many materials for spiritual growth and also Sacramentals and cards for Mass Intentions. These will be very helpful to parishioners in the remaining weeks of Lent. **PLEASE TAKE ONE AT NO CHARGE:** *A Word for Lent* by Fr. Denis McBride and Sister Janet Fearnas.

The Lenten Extra magazine.

The Magnificat booklet contains the prayers and readings for daily Mass plus the Breviary Prayers and meditations for each day and information on the life of the saint of the day AND

the *Sacred Heart Messenger* written by Jesuits has prayers, reflections on scripture and meditations for Lent.

Held over from last week the excerpt from a homily given by Mgr Peter Magee of Galloway Diocese - of a murderous incident in El Salvador involving the death of Jesuit priests serving there

Our church is open from 12 noon until 3pm each day and from 11AM until 4PM on Sunday, all in compliance with current health guidelines, to allow time for personal prayer.

Motherwell Cathedral: Day of Prayer on Saturday 4th April from 10AM until 4.30pm with the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

SCIAF Appeal 2020: will be taken up TODAY. The WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal reminds us that the Scottish Government will double the sum collected through this Appeal. **In advance of today, Bishop Toal has written in support of the SCIAF Appeal:**

We were also to have the SCIAF Lenten Collection tomorrow. As the President of SCIAF, I would much appreciate if you could encourage people to still make their donation, either through cash donations to the Wee Boxes [or directly by envelope delivered to the parish] or directly by post or on line to SCIAF.

Ecumenism: Fr. Ness and Ian Douglas of St. Margaret's have exchanged greetings and given assurances of prayers shared with and for our two Christian communities in Muirhouse **and the whole local community.**

St. Patrick's Night Party: Thank you to all those who have been involved in any way with the preparation for this social evening and to those who supported them by taking tickets and giving energy to them through their enthusiastic anticipation of a joyful social night for this parish. It was postponed - not cancelled.

Matters of Finance.

Your generosity to all things in the Church is very much appreciated. The parish has no reserves to draw on to meet our ongoing expenses and so please remain committed to give your financial support in so far as your own family finances permit, even though current circumstances prevent the celebration of Sunday Mass.

200 Club Renewal: by 30th April. John Campbell thanks the 83 families who participate. He increased membership last year but was short of the target of 100. The cost is £24 per year. The benefit to the parish income from the Club is significant. Forms for 2020 are available at our main entrance to the church.

Gift Aid Scheme: *This comes sharply into focus at this time.* The simple form is available at the entrance which allows the parish to gain the full benefit of your generosity in the money you contribute to the Church in collections provided you pay Income Tax. Please take this opportunity - especially this year when we will need to maximise our income to cover our expenses reasonably modest ongoing expenditure

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The Fourth Sunday in Lent. Twenty second March 2020.

Mass in public has been suspended until further notice but it will be said here each day, as normal, for your intentions with one parishioner present.

This was part of the Reading yesterday morning at Mass from the Book of the prophet Hosea, reading from chapter 5, verse 15 and subsequent verses:

They will search for me in their misery. 'Come, let us return to the Lord. Let us set ourselves to know the Lord; that he will come is as certain as the dawn, his judgement will rise like the light, he will come to us as showers come, like spring rains watering the earth.'

Today is SCIAF Sunday.

Please support this annual appeal. The money which you give will be matched by the UK Government. Donations can be given online to SCIAF or at St. Brendan's church or by adding to your SCIAF Wee Box at home.