

Our faith, our sacramental, spiritual and pastoral life.

Response to the Psalm: “ O that today you would listen to his voice! ‘Harden not your hearts.’

The music ministry at Mass. There is a cantor for each Mass on Saturday and Sunday - Kathleen, Elizabeth, Margaret and Ellen - thank you. The psalm is provided by video recording at every Mass each weekend, presented by the Bulloch family, Catherine Anne, Jamie and Lucy. We are grateful for their generous commitment to serve us in these liturgies.

From Tuesday to Friday at morning Mass, Elizabeth McGinn sings either one, two or three hymns as directed by Fr. Ness.

We take direction and encouragement in our community from these words of Pope Francis:

“Charity is always the high road of the journey of faith, of the perfection of faith. But it is necessary that works of solidarity, the works of charity that we carry out, do not divert us from contact with the Lord Jesus. *Christian charity is not simple philanthropy but, on the one hand, it is looking at others through the very eyes of Jesus* and, on the other hand, it is seeing Jesus in the face of the poor. This is the true path of Christian charity, with Jesus at the centre, always. May Mary Most Holy, blessed because she believed, be our guide and model on the path of faith in Christ, and make us aware that trust in him gives full meaning to our charity and to all our existence.”

AND ALSO

From the pastoral letter issued by Bishop Toal on Friday regarding Vocation and in particular the engagement in this Diocese with children and young people in parishes and in schools. A print of the letter is enclosed with this bulletin. It can also be downloaded from our Facebook and web page media sites.

Given what Pope Francis and our bishop have written on our direction in life and as guidance for children:

families with a child in any of the classes P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 this year who wish their child to celebrate one or more of the Sacraments of RECONCILIATION, EUCHARIST or CONFIRMATION between now and June 2021, please:

- either register for inclusion in attendance at Mass either midweek or on Saturday or Sunday as soon as the number of people able to attend at our Masses on Saturday and Sunday is increased, OR
- commit to following online, either live or when it suits the family, one of the four Masses between 12 noon on Saturday and 4.30pm on Sunday. AND
- ***In addition*** engage with your child when it best suits them and you in our ***Parish Liturgy for Children which goes “online” in a generous undertaking by the leaders from this weekend. The worksheets are available from the church and at the Barons Road door all week.***

The parish, guided by the priest, engages in teaching through those in the laity who feel called by God to serve in the Children’s Liturgy leadership group. They will present the Children’s Liturgy by four separate videos of between five and ten minutes duration posted on our Facebook Page by 1pm on Saturday until 22nd November:

P1 and P2 - Angela, Donna, Anne Marie; P6 and P7 - Megan helped by Ciara and Fr. Ness.

P4 for Reconciliation - Margaret helped by Kirsty and Ciara and her recruits from the 6th year Caritas at OLHS.

P3 and P5 - Debbie helped by Suzanne; P5 for First Holy Communion - Margaret helped by Kirsty and Ciara.

Please therefore spread the word about this commitment which this parish is giving and will always give to the children of Primary School age. Make this information known to all of the families known to you who have a child engaged in the Sacraments in the year 2020-21. THERE ARE MANY SUCH FAMILIES AND ALL MUST KNOW.

Prayer offered in the form of Spiritual Holy Communion: St. Alphonsus de Liguri composed a prayer to be recited by those who for any reason - such as following Mass by the live streaming of it on our Facebook site - are unable to receive the Eucharist. Prints of this prayer and with a commentary on it are available at the church with the bulletin.

St. Brendan’s Parish Business:

Mass at 6PM on Saturday and Mass at 10.30AM on Sunday will be streamed live on our Facebook media to offer as many people as possible the chance to participate.

Daily Mass at 9.30am will also be streamed live on our Facebook site. **If you want to participate at Mass in the church and to be assured of a place, you can register in advance with Kathleen or Lynne.**

STEWADING: if aged between 18 to 70 - could you help - even if for a few of weeks?

Stewards met last Sunday to review their participation and say if they can continue. No one has withdrawn and several young families have provided a parent to join of new in this ministry. Stewards’ rotas will now be adjusted to provide for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion this month and November.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated in the church on Tuesday and Wednesday 22nd and 23rd September in Services at 5.15pm and 6.30pm, each Service involving a group of seven children. Two adults can attend with each child. The two Services will follow in succession on each evening with a gap in time to allow the church to be cleaned and to allow one group to leave and another group to arrive. .

The [First] Communion Masses: will involve groups of five children. Twenty-nine P5 children will celebrate Mass on 7th/8th, 14th/15th and 21st/22nd November inclusive. Mass each weekend on Saturday will be at 10AM and on Sunday at 2pm. The weekend Mass schedule will continue as normal with four Masses.

Kathleen Cosgrove as **Parish Safeguarding Coordinator** applies the Church’s requirements for all who serve as a Steward. Please **contact Kathleen [phone number and email address are given below] to be sent an ID Form if you wish to serve as a steward. You will always be welcome to apply to register.**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: Registration [for the purpose of “Track and Trace”] and then actual attendance at Mass:

1. **the Mass time allocated** to a person or family and the place in the church for that Mass will remain fixed until if and when the number of parishioners allowed to attend each Mass is increased.

2. **If a person or family can’t attend for two weeks in succession their place at that Mass will be offered permanently to the next family waiting in line. The places at all four Masses have now been taken up. If more parishioners register to attend at Mass, a fifth Mass may be introduced if the number waiting substantially increases so that all who wish to participate at Mass can do so.**

3. **the Stewards** will remain the same for each Mass. A need for quarantine would arise if there was an infection among the stewards. Whereas that particular Mass might then require to be suspended for the period of the quarantine, all of the other Masses would continue unaffected.

4. **One Eucharistic Minister**, will help Fr. Ness to distribute Holy Communion. On finishing, Fr. Ness will bless as a group all the young children who are unable as yet to receive Holy Communion.

1. Please follow the protocols exactly as set out so that we keep everyone safe.

2. We have an obligation to provide for the safety of all who come to the church or come into the church car park. We must get all the information needed from you for “TRACK & TRACE.”

3. Move to your appointed seat without delay, please stay there after Mass finishes until you are asked to leave it and leave by the appointed exit. Please do not cross to another exit.

Lynne Kellas and Kathleen Cosgrove record the identity of parishioners who wish to participate at Mass. Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or by email: lynnekellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837 or by email: Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Teresa [McLaughlin] Welsh; Kate Thomson.

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Connie McGinn; Betty Ford; Margaret Kane; William Killeen, Mary Crowe

Birthday Remembrance [RIP]: Gerard Ignatius McLaughlin.

Wedding Anniversary: Congratulations to Sandra and Jim McAlinden on their thirtieth anniversary [4th].

Communication: Prints of this bulletin can be collected from the Baron's Road doorway. It is also available online. Fr. Ness will speak live on Facebook each Saturday at 11AM to highlight the most urgent issues.

Points in summary:

Spirituality: we continue to provide *the Magnificat*, the *My Day by Day* and the *Sacred Heart Messenger* for use by parishioners. Elspeth holds copies of these for September. Unused back copies are available at the church entrances.

Fr. Ness has agreed a programme in principle with the Senior Management of Our La's High School effective from 28th September until Christmas. Once the detail is agreed Fr. Ness will consult with the morning Mass community as to how we should best adjust. Bishop Toal has asked all HS [and PS too] chaplains to support the school to the fullest.

This Friday the Requiem Mass for Teresa Welsh will be celebrated at 9.30AM. Teresa was the widow of the late Thomas [Tommy] Welsh who had the newsagents in Muirhouse for many years.

On Friday Fr. Ness celebrated [the First Friday] Mass in the Primary School with P7A and Mrs. Colton their teacher. Mass was successfully streamed live to all classes from P7A's classroom. Fr. Ness gave a promise to the [P6 & P7] Confirmandi of a day trip from the School to Lindisfarne [the Holy Isle]. It is the destination of the St. Cuthbert's Pilgrimage Walk from Melrose Abbey. This pilgrimage outing will help to mark their year preparing for Confirmation.

Use of the parish hall - the rule that only three households can meet up at any one time in a church hall was revised late on Friday when the Diocese issued an amended set of guidelines. The Hall will remain closed until Jim O'Hare as Parish Coordinator can meet with Richard Douglas as hall keeper and with Fr. Ness to review these new guidelines and to carry out a Risk Assessment particular on our property and its use - for example - as the setting of the coffee morning gathering. The hall will remain closed until we make that Assessment and decide if we can re-open it.

Synodal Church - a Church where both the parish clergy and members of the laity in the parish meet frequently to talk about, discuss and agree on spiritual, social and pastoral issues. *Further reflections about this will be printed in the coming weeks from the parishioner whose thoughts we presented last Sunday.* Fr. Ness did meet with parents, teachers, stewards and the leaders of the Children's Liturgy Group to learn and consider their thoughts on *the Sacraments for our children from P3 to P7 in this year and next*, He will take all that was said into his decisions during the coming months. We apply this synodal model to our community within the Roman Catholic Church.

Parish Finance: the continuing generosity of parishioners in giving funds to maintain and develop ministry to the community needs to be made known to all - because God is just. This weekend a parishioner has again donated a significant sum by way of Sunday Collection. **Thank you for showing the joy which being one of this community brings you.** An application for "Single Occupancy" partial relief of Council Tax in respect of the chapel house, has been granted by North Lanarkshire Council effective from February last. Separately, the property insurance premium charged by the Catholic Ins. is to be reduced. *This will allow us to make a further repayment of £3k to the Diocese.*

200 Club: congratulations to Margaret O'Kane - Margaret has won the September Draw. **Well done.**

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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Twitter: [stbrendanrcdom](https://twitter.com/stbrendanrcdom).
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc



Sixth September 2020, the Twenty third Sunday in the Liturgical Year.

Mass in the Parish during this coming week:

Monday - Friday : Mass at 9.30 AM;

Saturday at 12 Noon: the first of two Vigil Masses for Sunday

Saturday at 6pm: the second Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sunday: Mass at 10.30am and at 4.30pm.

Please check the parish's Facebook page and also look on our Twitter feed and on our web page Notices to find if any changes are made to this schedule.

When Should You Make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

The most common occasion for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when we cannot attend Mass for a reason outside of our control. Many also make an Act of Spiritual Communion when they can and do attend Mass but something prevents them from receiving sacramental Communion that day, such as a serious sin that they have not had the opportunity to confess.

In an ideal world, it would be best to attend Mass and receive Communion every day, but we can't always do so. We can, however, always take thirty seconds or so to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. We can even do so multiple times a day—even on days when we have been able to receive the Eucharist. Why do that? Because each Act of Spiritual Communion that we make increases our desire to receive sacramental Communion and helps us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Communion worthily.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

The following texts present one modern and one traditional translation of a popular form of an Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori. You can memorize either version or use one as a guide to offer your own Act of Spiritual Communion.

An Act of Spiritual Communion (Modern Translation)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion (Traditional Translation)

My Jesus, I believe that Thou art present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love Thee above all things, and I desire Thee in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though Thou wert already there, I embrace Thee and unite myself wholly to Thee; permit not that I should ever be separated from Thee.



Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road
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ML1 1PP

Rt Rev. Joseph Toal STB KC*HS
Bishop of Motherwell

4th September 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent days, people have been recalling the Pilgrimage of the Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux to Scotland in September last year, highlighting, in particular, the days of the joyful weekend the relics were present here in the Diocese of Motherwell at St Francis' Xavier's Carfin. Later this month, on September 16th, the Feast of St Ninian, it will be the 10th anniversary of the Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Scotland, and once again we will be looking at the recorded film and reports of that happy occasion.

One striking thing from both these events are the crowds which gathered to greet both Our Holy Father and the Relics of St Thérèse, and the contrast with the present when we are restricted to 50 people when we gather to worship. It does feel alien to our Catholic tradition of gathering in crowds and there is a sense of frustration that this is our lot in the present emergency situation.

St Thérèse may help us, though, to come to terms with where and how we are at present. She is the saint who presented the "Way of Littleness" – our own spiritual sense of being little in God's loving hands; our personal littleness, yet still having our unique place in the Body of Christ, the Church; and the response we offer to the Lord in doing all the little things as best we can in loving service of him and our neighbour. Perhaps, in comparison to last September or 10 years ago, we are "little" but we are still here and we need the inspiration of St Thérèse, the Little Flower, to be alive and active as the Church today. Let us trust fully in God's providence and the graces he continues to shower into our lives, St Thérèse's roses from heaven, in order to live our faith joyfully, accepting the Cross of the present, and ready to be "Love in the Heart of the Church", as St Thérèse so beautifully described her own vocation.

All of us have been gifted by God with a beautiful vocation of being alive in this world, and being born again in baptism, and hearing the Lord's call to follow him in every moment and every choice we make throughout our lives. In September each year we have *Vocations Awareness Week* here in the Church in Scotland and, as the title suggests, we reflect on our own vocation, thanking God for all that we have received, and encouraging our young people to be attentive to the Lord's call to them and how they might respond, following the wonderful example of our saints through the ages. Here in Motherwell Diocese we have recently set up an *Office for Youth and Vocation*, the intention being to keep vocation at the heart of our engagement with, and outreach to, our young people in our parishes, schools, youth groups and associations. Fr Colin Hughes will lead this Office and will work with school chaplains and the Diocesan Education Service, with Fr Mark O'Donnell as Diocesan Youth Chaplain and the Diocesan Youth Service, and with Fr Charles O'Farrell, the Diocesan Vocations Director. Pope Francis has encouraged us to emphasise the Lord's call to each of us in our vocation and to aspire to be holy in responding fully in all that we do. It seems good therefore to bring the various strands of ministry with young people together under "Vocation".

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We do like to promote the particular vocation to a “consecrated life”, including in this the priesthood and religious life. With regard to Priesthood, the Diocese of Motherwell has been blessed with the ordination of 13 priests over the last ten years, i.e. since the Visit of Pope Benedict. All of these men are in parishes, as well as covering chaplaincies, and nine now have full responsibility for their parishes. At the moment the Diocese has five seminarians and four others have indicated a desire to train for the priesthood. I ask your prayers for all of them, and your financial support would be much appreciated through the special collection running through the month of September. If those in formation come to be ordained and are joined by a few more, we could hope to have a similar number of ordinations in this decade as in the one just past.

St Thérèse prayed intensely for priests as a Carmelite Sister, and indeed corresponded with some seminarians and encouraged them to persevere in their vocation, so it is good to seek her intercession and inspiration for those preparing for priesthood at present. Once we get beyond the present crisis, the reality we will face in our parishes, and which will be the future for those most recently ordained and those in formation, may be quite different from what we have been used to. St Thérèse’s spirituality of “*Littleness*” may well be quite apt for parishes reduced in numbers and resources. Being a priest looks certain to be challenging in new ways and those responding to the Lord’s call will need St Thérèse’s inspiration to trust in the Lord’s providence as his “little ones” and to accept the pain of the cross. Our memory, therefore, of the Pilgrimage of her Relics is not to be sentimental but rather an encouragement and inspiration for us all, led by our priests, young and old, to face the difficult times ahead and to continue to live and honour our faith in the fullest way possible.

May the Lord bless all our efforts and keep joyful in our Christian Vocations.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Joseph Toal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Joseph Toal