

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

The Response to the Psalm today: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. This day was made by the Lord. We rejoice, we rejoice, we rejoice and are glad."

Jamie and Catherine Anne [Cat] and Lucy can be seen and heard singing this Psalm on our Facebook.

### Bishop Toal's Easter Message 2020.

As Christians celebrate Easter this year, we are thinking of the suffering inflicted upon us by the Covid-10 Virus. It is a dreadful time for the whole world and our thoughts are with all who have caught the virus and their loved ones. We are grateful for the dedication and courage of those caring for the sick and the vulnerable, and all who are providing the essential services we all rely on. It is hard to find hope, but our celebration of Easter encourages us to have such a hope - a hope that we will recover and that life will be better again. For Christians we find our hope in Jesus Christ, who having suffered a terrible death on the cross rose again to new life and promised us a share in eternal life. In such a time of crisis we cling on to this faith and reach out to Our Lord in our need. Although we have not been able this year to celebrate these precious days for our faith in our churches, we have sought the Lord and felt his presence strongly within and among us. In the Church's faith in Jesus, risen from the dead, I wish everyone a Happy Easter, as we seek God's blessing on us all and our world in our present need.

+Joseph Toal Bishop of Motherwell.

### **Some thoughts for today:**

**Within our own community we share the greeting of HAPPY EASTER with everyone, priest and people. We also share between priest and people the words of blessing as we cannot meet for the blessing to be spoken by the priest, and given to the people in their presence and in their hearing -**

**MAY THE LORD BLESS US AND KEEP US FROM ALL HARM AND BRING EACH ONE OF US TO EVERLASTING LIFE. *Let us bless the lord. Amen.***

**The future of our parish: where does it lie? - there is saying circulating in South Africa: *Don't say let's get back to the way things were, because the way things were has got us to where we are today.***

*The people of St. Brendan's will decide the future of this parish. They will be directed in this by the degree to which the Holy Spirit is found here. We pray that the community will retain willingly its sense of belonging and that participation at Sunday Mass which is the centre and the high point of our faith practice, will remain an immediate, a valued and a fruitful encounter with God as revealed in Jesus Christ and the many families of this parish with children and young people. The Church won't fail because it is One Holy and Apostolic. The fear is that not all parishes in the Diocese will necessarily survive the economic reality to come.*

**The matter of priests visiting the sick and dying to administer the sacraments:** instructions offered by the Apostolic Penitentiary on how to spiritually live through *ser should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452).* **Decree on the Granting of Special Indulgences to the Faithful in the Current Pandemic:** "The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Sick and of the Viaticum, entrusting each and everyone to Divine Mercy by virtue of the Communion of Saints and granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence, the use of the crucifix or the cross is recommended."

## PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

We will continue to publish a bulletin each week to keep everyone informed of how Easter will be celebrated in this parish and throughout Scotland.

Please connect to the parish on all our social media to be up to date.

### Decree of Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments

1. The Chrism Mass wasn't celebrated on Holy Thursday morning but will be celebrated in the Cathedral at a later date - perhaps as late as August 4<sup>th</sup> - Feast of St. John Vianney.
2. We have celebrated the Paschal Triduum from Holy Thursday night to the Easter Vigil s instructed by the Conference of Bishops in Scotland. Our bishop offers support to the faithful people of this parish through his Pastoral Letter which is published opposite.
3. On Good Friday and at the Easter Vigil, an additional prayer was offered in the general intercessions for the sick, the deceased carers, etc. due to the corona virus outbreak.
4. At Easter Vigil, we did light the Easter candle and we also sang the Exultet - no fire, no procession. We blessed Easter [baptismal] water and we renewed our baptismal promises.

### **Some general matters to be aware of:**

- We want to sustain the spiritual life of the community through online streaming of *morning Mass* each day on Facebook at 9.30 - OTHER THAN TOMORROW - Easter Monday, when Mass will be at 11AM following on from this change made last year for Easter Monday and Boxing Day. We will develop the *Talk on Scripture each day at 1pm* and move from the Passion Narratives of Holy Week to examine the history of the first Christian communities from study of the Letters of the New Testament primarily of St. Paul and the Acts of the Apostles whose author was the evangelist Luke. We will also maintain the *Time for Prayer in the church at 4.15pm* which lasts about 20 minutes and present the **Rosary at 12 noon** for the intentions of the community. All opportunities for prayer are there to be taken up live or later.
- Families can come either or both today and tomorrow to the church door from the Barons Road [chapel house] entry for the following items: Easter chocolate, Easter workbooks for children and today's bulletin which will also be available on the Parish's web site. They are all securely available there in a basket
- **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 for all.
- **The parish's Children's Liturgy programme:** we wish to preserve what 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. Mrs. Debbie Ferns from P5F at the School will present the spiritual material for the children during our "Online" morning Mass today and will share the homily period of the Mass with Fr. Ness in that regard. **Sacramental Preparation for P3 and P4 children** the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the P3 children has been postponed to a date yet to be fixed. **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.**
- **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.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who have died recently:** Roy Douglas; Ann Alexander; Edmund [Teddy] Bunce.

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now:** Anna Nicholson, David Benassi; Claire Jackson.

**In the Piety Stall:** many materials for spiritual growth. **These are now available free of charge for the Easter Octave.** Contact Fr. Ness on [ojness@hotmail.com](mailto:ojness@hotmail.com) if you wish to have one or more of them.

**Matters for our community:**

**Gratitude:** Even in this period of Social Lockdown, Social Distancing, Social Isolation and many restrictions on our freedom to move from place to place, a number of parishioners have worked to maintain the amenity of the parish both externally and internally, and to keep the Hall secure. The church itself has been lovingly prepared in your name for all of the Solemn Liturgies of Holy Week and the many and varied Services which we have held there since the Restrictions led to the suspension of our regular pattern of life, including specifically the pattern **and** practice of our spiritual life.

**Thank you,** Robert and Richard, Anne Therese and Elizabeth, Jim and son [for changing the banners] twice over. Thank you, Trish Timmons, for all the help in setting up and demonstrating the operation of the Facebook facility.

**Thank you** to all those parishioners who have represented the community at Mass since the closure of the church and who have also served as a Reader for that Liturgy, most significantly during the Easter Triduum from Thursday until today - Bill and Daniel and Lynne and Debbie and Anne.

**Thank you** to all parishioners for their expressed concern for the community, for the wellbeing of the parish and for the health and welfare of the priest. **Christianity has two essential characteristics: Relationship and Gratitude.**

Bishop Toal is rightly concerned that parish income throughout the Diocese has reduced to the point where many parishes won't be kept going without help from the parishes who hold credit in the Pastoral Investment Fund. In our case please remain committed to give your financial support in so far as your own family finances permit, even though current circumstances prevent our opening up the church. **The parish's bank details are RBS SORT CODE: 832545. ACCOUNT: 00641758.**

*Donation from the Annette MacDonald School of Dance:* although the classes have been suspended in our hall, Annette paid her charges up to date and in addition made a generous donation to parish funds.

**Your generosity to all things in the parish and the Church** is very much appreciated.

**200 Club Renewal:** by 30<sup>th</sup> 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 on request.

**Gift Aid Scheme:** *This comes sharply into focus at this time.* The simple form is available on request, 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.

**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)**



**Easter Sunday - Twelfth April 2020.**

***Using the parish's site on Facebook you can view:***

**Weekday morning Mass at 9.30 BUT Easter Monday Mass will be at 11AM**  
**Mass on Saturday at 6pm and on Sunday at our scheduled times,**  
[Each Mass is celebrated with one parishioner present to symbolise the community presence.]

**From Tuesday the Rosary will be recited at 12 noon "online" on Facebook.**  
Each decade of the rosary will provide a topic resource for Meditation.  
**The "online" Talk on Scripture at 1pm. It will continue from Tuesday to Friday this week as will "20+" minute Prayer period at 4.15pm from Tuesday to Friday.**

**SCIAF Appeal: Funds raised 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.**