

## Our Pastoral and Spiritual Life.

A football club in Glasgow is wondering what happens next after the departure of the manager. *The Times* newspaper considers the crucial question is whether the club has an infrastructure to thrive no matter who comes and who goes. *Does the club have the resources, the support network, the stability and the continuity to absorb such a change* without losing the benefit of what has been put in place for the good of all?

The Catholic Church is not a football club but there are points made about the football club which are worthwhile to consider in the life of the Church as experienced in our parish. We know that the Church is guided by the Holy Spirit and as followers of Jesus Christ, the universal Church and the local Church, *St. Brendan's in Muirhouse is rich in resources ...her people; the support network....her people; the stability....her people.....; and as for continuity.....her people.*

The Church as located in one area, such as Muirhouse, prospers - because of the people and their sense of belonging and their sense of encounter with Jesus through *participation in the sacramental, spiritual, pastoral and social life of the parish.*

The Church in one area, such as Muirhouse, flounders and fails - because many of the people have no sense of belonging and no sense of encounter and *no desire to participate consistently in the life of the parish.*

The people in this parish, through the synodal process which Motherwell Diocese is facilitating, have an opportunity to set out the parameters for the living out of our faith. One parent with a child at the Primary School who is not herself a Catholic, has made it known that she had been interested in being part of the process. Gail [Murphy] has therefore now been invited to sit in as an observer at the five meetings of the group which will be held between now and the end of March. Her contribution will be welcomed as part of the listening to the views and the concerns of the laity which Pope Francis has set out as the primary goal of the process.

Last weekend 265 people participated at Mass: Saturday Vigil: 52; Netherton Court Care Home: 11; Sunday 10.30AM: 156; Sunday 4.30PM 46. The Catholic Directory shows the estimated population of the parish at 1600. The Census has been submitted to the Diocese. The Church teaches that participation at Mass fully, actively and positively is the “Central expression of our Catholic Faith,” In the light of that figure, **Bishop Toal may now instruct that we withdraw the Saturday Vigil Mass and focus once again on building up the worshipping community in St. Brendan's through only the two Masses on Sunday. That was his specific concern and instruction in February 2019.** He was so vehement about it that we printed it each week on the cover page of the bulletin. The benefit is that people coming together in greater numbers will have a deeper sense of being a **parish family** and a **worshipping community**.

CONFIDENCE ... VISION ... KNOWLEDGE ... A DESIRE FOR MEANINGFUL PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS ... and ... A DESIRE FOR COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY BETWEEN CLERGY AND LAITY are suggested as essential qualities among parishioners everywhere today for the Church to serve God's Will.

The young people preparing for Confirmation on 25<sup>th</sup> November with Bishop Toal will mark *the beginning of Catholic Education Week* in this parish by attending in uniform at 10.30AM Mass this Sunday. Their presence is a symbol of our Sacramental preparation, the cornerstone of engagement with families in this parish. Their overall engagement in the preparation programme has been excellent and their parents and teachers and those parishioners who have helped them prepare are invited to see the power of God's Holy Spirit moving in this parish.

The fourth and final part of the Faith Friends programme for Confirmation will be presented next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November in the hall immediately after 10.30AM Mass. All will need to attend because there will not be an opportunity to meet between Sunday and Thursday evening when the Sacrament will be celebrated. Bishop Toal will be very pleased to be told during the Mass for Confirmation that the preparation has been completed by everyone.

Students from S6 and four teachers, - Mrs Smith, Mr. Kerr, Mrs. Maguire and Miss McGhee - from OLHS will mark *the end of Catholic Education Week* by joining us for 10.30AM Mass next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November. At that Mass Niamh McAleavey one of our parishioners, will speak about the High School and bring the week of celebration to a close. It will be good to see the P7 pupils in the final year at Primary School and the S6 students in the final year at High School in the church together. Soon P7 will become S1 for the young people and the within the blink of an eye S1 will become S6 and those young people will have become young adults.

## St. Brendan's Church, our parish family.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation - arrangements for the Mass on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm:** at the meeting with parents of the P7 children on 26<sup>th</sup> October, we asked that those attending with each child should be the parents, the sponsor and the immediate family. In this way distractions from the spirituality of the bishop administering the Sacrament to each child will be reduced - if not eliminated. We also asked each family to provide in advance at the chapel house the names and 'phone numbers of those attending to help the stewards record the identity of those coming to the Church. Please do this within the next week unless those attending with you can register using the QR system. **We also ask families to take on by prior contact with Fr. Ness:**

- 1. the ministry of Reader of Sacred Scripture and the Prayers of Intercession AND**
- 2. to bring the gifts to the altar in the Offertory Procession AND**
- 3. the Extraordinary Ministry of the Eucharist if they already serve the parish in this way.**

**Dominic Smith will be at the Mass as photographer and Gordon Thomson as organist.**

***The November Lists:*** this tradition is worthy of being handed on to every generation here as elsewhere in the Church. Lists with an envelope are available at the Main Entrance and the Exits. Completed Lists are opened and placed at the Shrine in front of the altar. Every Mass celebrated in the parish during November is offered for the eternal rest of those whose names are recorded on the Lists. No donation or stipend is necessary. Please take on this tradition in St. Brendan's for this generation and future generations. It is a powerful sign of our love and concern. **Who will pray for the soul of your deceased relatives and friends if you don't?**

**Baptism:** Kevin and Catherine Anne McGuire brought their child, Ruaridh Daniel, with Godparents, Marianne and Duncan, to St. Brendan's for baptism on Saturday. We welcome with great joy this infant into the Church and congratulate his mum and dad on his birth.

**RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:** today - Sunday - Hope Sinclair will begin her journey to membership of the Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation administered at the Easter Vigil next year. Hope was baptised in the Church of Scotland as a child. Her baptism is valid. At the Easter Vigil she will acknowledge in Confirmation the dogmas of the RC Church, and will receive Holy Communion for the first time. We will introduce Hope to the community at 10.30AM Mass today and welcome her as she begins this journey with us. Anne Therese our sacristan has offered to be the Faith Friend of Hope at the weekly sessions leading to Confirmation. Other parishioners will be invited to join in one of these meetings to describe their personal experience of one of the topics on the Catholic faith - such as prayer, not as experts in theology but as fellow pilgrims on a life-long journey. This will add to the teaching which Fr. Ness will give on the faith of the Church.

**The Annual Memorial Mass:** will be celebrated on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon. Invitations to participate at this Mass will be sent this week to those families who have suffered a bereavement in the period between 1<sup>st</sup> November last year and 31<sup>st</sup> October this year and where the Requiem Mass or Funeral or Memorial Service was held in this parish or conducted from it. **Families from the parish can also ask that relatives or friends be included where the funeral has been conducted elsewhere in the UK or abroad.**

**Altar Servers:** on Wednesday four of the children in P5 - Kadee Rose, Sophie, Ailah and Michael - who had celebrated First Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, came to the church to train to serve at the altar. They will serve at Mass this Sunday along with Eilidh and Olivia. Lucy Kellas will return from reading at Mass to act as an MC at the Children's Mass on Sunday morning and Zoe her sister also from P5 will begin to serve as a reader at Mass. **This list is never closed. Any child who wishes to serve the community as an altar server or as a reader should come to Fr. Ness so that proper training can be arranged.**

**World Day of the Poor:** the Catholic Church's 5th World Day of the Poor is today.

Pope Francis paid a private visit to Assisi on Friday, to listen to and pray with poor people from around Europe. He said: May this meeting open all of our hearts to put ourselves at each other's disposal, so make our weakness a strength to help continue on the journey of life, to transform our poverty into wealth to be shared, and thus to make the world better.” **The Parish's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul:** the need for this pastoral ministry in Muirhouse has been very forcefully demonstrated in recent requests for help. This winter the demands on members of our Conference to answer these requests will increase. **Pope Francis would see this as an essential ministry.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who have died recently:** Betty Duddy; Alice Campbell; Joe Gorman; John Zambonini.

**those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occur about now:** Jane McLaughlin; Samuel Logue; Jim Doyle; John and Margaret McCourt; Frank Cooney.

**THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021: COMMUNITY PARISH AND LOCAL**

**Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade: today at Duchess of Hamilton Park at 3pm.**

**PARISH DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER and DECEMBER:**

**Sundays, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November:** mark the start of and the finish to Catholic Education Week.

**From Monday to Thursday this week:** Fr. Ness returns to Aberdeen to be with his son and his family.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm:** OLHS Former Pupils and Benefactors' Memorial Mass.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm;** Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, at 12 Noon** Annual Memorial Mass:.

**29<sup>th</sup> November to 3<sup>rd</sup> December:** Fr. Ness with his daughter and her family in Germany for "Christmas" visit.

**The Holy Ghost Fathers [Spiritans]:** next week the Order will provide a priest for Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the absence of Fr. Ness. *To show our appreciation of their help and to support the Order financially, please contribute to their annual fundraising by taking a book of their raffle tickets which are at the stall.*

**Bishop Nolan will celebrate Mass on Wednesday and so all morning Masses will be celebrated here this week.**

**The Stall:** May Ferrie, Elspeth Lynch and Evelyn Dunbar have done very well for the community to lay out the stock of the piety Stall procured for Confirmation and for Christmas. **Our thanks are due to each of them for their care.**

**The Hall:** William Brown and Ellen Connelly have volunteered to assist Richard in looking after the Hall. Thank you. William who is a Reader and is the brother of Anne Therese our sacristan, will help Richard immediately and Ellen who is part of the Parish's Safeguarding ministry and is the wife of Liam Connelly of the SSVdP, will be able to help from next March. They are not to feel that they are now locked into this service for ever, nor should Richard. We ask only that if possible, they commit to serve the community in this way until 30<sup>th</sup> November next year.

**Covid 19 infection:** The Diocese wrote to Jim O'Hare this week to ask him to encourage us in these matters:

**Maintaining good hand hygiene** - everyone should sanitise their hands on entering and leaving the Church.

**Continued practising of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.**

**Wearing face coverings.** It is mandatory in Scotland in public places such as places of worship.

**Ensuring ventilation is maintained** – open windows and doors during Masses and between Masses to enable a stream of fresh air to pass through the building. VENTILATION, VENTILATION, VENTILATION, VENTILATION.

**Continuing to engage with Test and Protect and self-isolate** when symptomatic or have tested positive.

**Continuing to keep a register of those who go to the same Mass on Sundays or weekdays each week.**

**Every visitor to the parish should be asked to leave their details or use the QR code which should be displayed in every parish.**

**We have consistently applied these rules. We thank Jim once again and all who have served us to keep us safe.**

**St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish**

**51 Barons Road Motherwell. ML1 2NB.**

**[01698] 264448**

**Twitter: stbrendanrdom.**

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



**Thirty-third week in Ordinary Time and the  
Fourteenth day of November 2021. *Remembrance Sunday.***

***Liturgies for this week:***

**Mass at 9.30AM from Monday through to Saturday, including Thursday.**

***Mass will ALSO be celebrated at 7pm on Thursday as explained on page 4***

***Saturday at 9.30AM: Votive Mass of Our Lady, Mother of the Church is celebrated for the renewal of our spiritual life through the Synodal process which has begun in St. Brendan's.***

***Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday is at 5pm.***

**Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [**celebrated and presented for children with their families**]  
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.***