

Easter Season 2020-21 in St. Brendan's - A focus on our parish and Diocese today:

Pope Francis wrote: Vatican City, Mar 18, 2021 the vigil of the Feast Day of St. Joseph:

Pope Francis has invited Catholic priests to rediscover St. Joseph and learn from his fatherhood *during the year 2021 which the pope had dedicated to St. Joseph. He has now designated this year to pray for all families [including ours and yours].*

Bishop Toal sent out these messages to all parishes on Friday through the Chancellor of the Diocese:

With the easing of Covid restrictions, the Bishop can now be available to take part in parish liturgical celebrations once again. If there are any events you would like the bishop to attend, please let me know. *We have invited the bishop to celebrate Mass here on Sunday 7th June in preparation for the three Confirmation Masses.*

Special Collection in May: The Diocesan special collection in May is for Sick and Retired Priests and each parish priest is urged to promote this collection within your parish. In 2020, the costs to the Diocese for sick and retired priests was in excess of £305K, whereas the special collection was only raised £29,850. The deficit of about £275K had to be met from diocesan funds. Please remind parishioners that donations can also be made using the *Payacharity* online portal on the front page of the diocesan website – www.rcdom.org.uk. The options provided include Sick and Retired Priests. Donations can be gift aided. **We will take up this collection on Sunday 23rd May.**

SCIAF: as Bishop President of SCIAF I also wish to thank all you have responded to this year's "Wee Box" Appeal. Some priests have told me of the generous response through the collections in their parishes and it is very edifying to hear of your kindness to the poor in South Sudan in the midst of our own difficulties. As Catholics we do respond willingly when we hear of the needs of our poorer brothers and sisters in other parts of the world and it is uplifting to hear that we do not forget or ignore them at present. The deadline for making contributions to this year's SCIAF Lenten is May 11th – any monies received before that day will be doubled through the Aid Match Scheme.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization: Catholics across the world are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative with the Pope's support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5)."

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-04/pope-francis-shrines-may-2021-prayer-end-pandemic.html>

May 2021 Rosary Mission: The May 2021 Rosary Mission is about to be launched with the theme: Rosary Stronghold with the Holy Family - Protecting our Families and the Family of Nations. The designated Rosary Hour for the Diocese of Motherwell for the National Rosary Relay Rally on Sunday May 30th is from 7pm to 8pm and will be led by Bishop Toal. Further details, <https://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/> **We will take part as a parish.**

We look beyond ourselves and beyond our needs - Mary's Meals and May prayer appeal:

This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in our prayer campaign for the work of Mary's Meals, which is reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We pray in thanksgiving for each little act of love that makes this work possible, and we also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish enabling us to reach more hungry children.

Prayer resources and further information can be found at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/prayinmay>

Pray in May with Mary's Meals In this month dedicated to Our Lady we invite you to join us in praying for the work of Mary's Meals, a mission carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities. This meal brings children into the classroom where they can get an education, offering hope of a better future. Our work began with prayer, and prayer has sustained our rapid growth - from feeding 200 children in 2002 to feeding over 1.8 million children today. Please join us in praying for:

- all the children who receive Mary's Meals.
- all those who have grown up eating Mary's Meals and gone out into the world as adults.
- all the children still waiting for Mary's meals, that we will be able to reach them soon.

St. Brendan's Church – our place of worship.

Bishop Toal wrote to us last week:

First of all, whatever we do in our churches, keeping things safe for all present remains the priority. We should wish to demonstrate that **the Catholic Church is at the forefront in doing all that is required to prevent any possible spread of coronavirus.**

1. A risk assessment has been carried out with and for Fr. Ness led by Jim O'Hare and the stewards. The maximum number of persons of all ages who can gather in our church at the same time has been set at 114 persons. This includes children and adults, the priest, the sacristan, all of the stewards present, the organist and the cantor - in short, everyone.
2. The amount of work expected of the stewards will increase in the coming months. Careful planning is needed in each parish involving those who serve as stewards and a realistic assessment made of their on-going availability.

As a parish we are careful about the health and welfare of the stewards. **Constantly we seek to increase the number of stewards. There are currently thirty five [35] stewards.** They serve the community by providing for its safety and not for the sake of exercising authority or control over anyone. **The model for every steward is Jesus washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus who came to serve not to be served and who asked his disciples to learn from him so that they might wash each other's feet.**

Let us renew that sense of togetherness which allowed us to re-open the church last July. Having been told that no one over 70 years of age could serve as a steward we asked for volunteers from those under 70 years of age. Other parishes couldn't find enough stewards but by the power of the Holy Spirit we were blessed with an excellent response and the stewards have remained in post. Let us follow their instructions even when we are puzzled or frustrated by what we are being instructed to do. Ultimately in providing this service they are given their authority by the priest. Issues or frustrations should be either absorbed and accepted or raised with Fr. Ness.

Baptism: Claire McKeen and Tony McGhee have celebrated the baptism of their son, Campbell today, Saturday, at Mass at 9.30AM. **We warmly welcome Campbell into the parish community and congratulate Claire and Tony on his birth, as well as his gran Anne Therese who has joyfully taken up child minding mid week.**

Mass for families with children at primary school: Mass each Sunday at 10.30AM, will continue to be celebrated with our children very much in mind. All families not at Mass should follow this Mass live from home with your children rather than stream it later so that all of the young people might feel part of the community of children. **All families with children intending to celebrate any of the Sacraments in the coming months in this or in the next scholastic year are asked to either bring the children to Mass - the optimum - or follow Mass broadcast live "online" while sitting alongside and praying with the children at your home.**

Many families with children have resumed attendance at Mass. There is the chance to ask about this now for midweek or on Sunday or at either of the Saturday Vigil Masses. Please notify Lynne or Kathleen. Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or email: lynnkellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837; Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com. **We want to accommodate all of the families, but you must react too.**

Meetings for Confirmation preparation [10th – 11th – 12th May at 7pm] the parents of children in P7 who hope to celebrate Confirmation in June are asked to attend a meeting on one of these three evenings to review the celebration of the Sacrament and to receive and begin the programme known as Faith Friends. This is provided by the parish and is distinct from the catechesis programme provided in the school. This year the families will need to lead the programme at home just as families did last year for First Eucharist and the P3 families will begin this weekend for First Reconciliation. Monday's meeting will cover families A- H; Tuesday will cover families J- M&Mc; Wednesday will cover families O-Z.

Eucharistic Ministry: Lesley-Ann Henderson will be instituted as a Minister of the Eucharist at 10.30AM Mass on Sunday after a period of thought and prayer on her part. The community offers her this meditation on taking up this sacramental ministry: *I thank you, God of all creation for calling me to serve your holy people. May I see you in them. May they see you in me. With reverence and humility I approach the Eucharist and this ministry.*

Children's Liturgy: did any child manage to grow an "Angela" plant as Fr. Ness did? It's on the altar.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who died recently: Jim Samson; William McGinn; Robert Calderwood [Coatbridge]; Mary Reid.

those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Anne Kehoe [1st]; William Nolan [34th]
Geraldine Whelan, John Whelan; Mary Whelan [Australia]; Lorna Harvey; Niamh Mary Collins [2nd];
Connie McGinn; Gerry Lynch.

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021

LIFE IS PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY.

The Year of the Family - 2021 - and the Novena to St. Joseph 22nd April to 1st May.

The parish followed the lead of Pope Francis and Bishop Toal in the Nine Days of Prayer for all families. We used the booklet of prayers which was available in the church and met and prayed the Novena each night online at 9pm. We used the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis called "With the heart of a father" as a source of meditation each night.

For P3 children, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on 25th May in two Services, 5.15pm and 6.30pm. Mrs Oates will allocate the children into two groups and make this known to the families involved. **Thank you to those who came to the church for the meeting on Tuesday evening.** Participation in the spiritual life of the parish is the foundation for each of the Sacraments and the only way to nourish the community. **The "Big Hug" preparation has begun. All of the families should participate in the parish to the fullest with their child.**

Feast Day of our patron St. Brendan: is 16th May. We have been asked to join with several other parishes across the world with the same patron in producing a 7 minute video of our sense of mission and of living it out in Muirhouse. *The first suggestion offered: a group of children from the parish filmed singing the hymn to St. Brendan. Three children, three girls, wish to sing on video and we will now prepare this and be in touch with their families.*

Mass at 7pm on Wednesday: families who have been coming consistently with their children to this Mass have now a place at Mass on either Saturday or Sunday. These families have shown lively, spiritual energy and pure goodness each evening. **This same opportunity is open to all who otherwise wait for a place at Mass on Saturday/ Sunday.**

Parish 200 Club for the year 2021-22: envelope/payment can be handed in to Church or to John Campbell personally. By determined canvassing and persistence John, as the co-ordinator, has increased the total membership of the Club from last year, which itself was well up on previous years. Thank you to all those who participate. This fundraising is for the benefit of the community. The prizewinner for April is Teresa Ledwith. Congratulations!

Subject: St. Brendan's Church, Muirhouse - Construction of New Accessible Ramp at side entrance. 30th April 2021 *Your grant application has been submitted to Viridor Credits and I've spoken to one of the grants officers in their Head Office in Taunton and they appeared satisfied with everything. Hopefully we'll have some good news to report back to you shortly and then the work can begin.*

Guy Logan Diocesan Estates Manager

Tiling on steps at entrance onto Barons Road and entrance to the chapel house: the existing tiles have been removed but the replacement tiles won't be available before Wednesday, we will use the other exit meantime,

Finance generally - a parishioner has very generously donated to the cost of replacing the hard wood of the screen which divides the main chapel from the glass chapel, When added to the sums contributed by this same parishioner over the years dating back to Canon Boyd, the total is a five figure sum. Such love for Jesus Christ and for the Church is shown by very many in this community each week. Thank you to all who contribute in this much needed way.

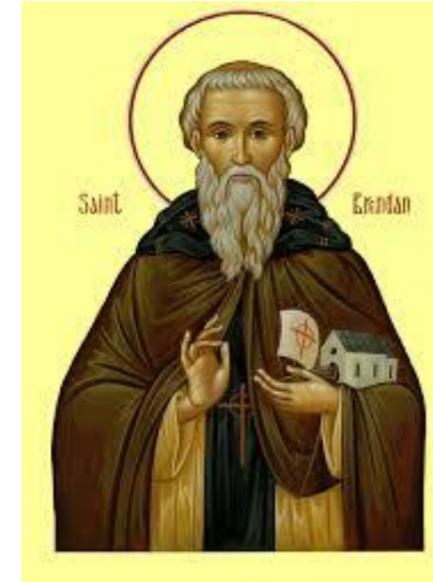
St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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Fifth Sunday of the Liturgical Season of Easter.

Second day of May 2021

Pope Francis speaking in this year of the family during the pandemic:

Let us dream. The path to a better future.

So let us dream here in this parish for the day when sharing together in the Sunday Eucharist is the desire and dream of every family and they are either with us at Mass or prominent on the waiting list for a place to join with this worshipping community at Mass.

Liturgies for this week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday : Mass at 9.30 AM - [streamed live on our Facebook page.]

Wednesday: Mass ONLY at 7pm [NOT 9.30am] [Streamed live on our Facebook page]

Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday at 12 noon and again at 6pm.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [celebrated and presented for children with their families] and at 4.30pm.

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