

The Year 2020-21 in St. Brendan’s.

The Church is my home - Gavin T. Murphy writing in the Messenger Magazine produced by the Jesuits described his experience as a member of the Church:

The Catholic Church is like a diamond because it has contributed to the light and sparkle of my very being. I have grown up with it as if part of its body. The Church has enabled me to develop a deep relationship with Jesus. I have journeyed with my fellow Catholics through heartache, low periods and despair as well as through joys, consolations and hopes. If I stopped being a member of the Church, I would be like a broken branch or withered rose.

[Yet] it claims to be inclusive, outward looking and non-judgemental, but are there not elements of protectiveness, fear and often anger in its voice? How does the Church react to people who don’t give God a second chance or even a second hearing? A strictness and rigidity can be seen when we are both harsh on ourselves and on others. Perhaps God is calling us to let go of the reins of control and be more true to the Gospel message of compassion and understanding.

However, I can hold together my deep love for the Church and my dependence on it while also tending to its wounds and giving helpful feedback. I can listen attentively and be gently honest. This seems to me a homely thing to do because like my family the Church lives with its struggles and differences as well as providing space for its members to return to one body.

Introduction to Sacred Space – The Prayerbook from the website set up in 1999 to set out the Spirtuality of St. Ignatius - who founded the Jesuits, the Order of Priests who include Pope Francis as a member. Thought for today - The Baptism of the Lord - taken from the Prayerbook:

A parishioner who had been attending Mass regularly suddenly stopped going. After a few weeks, the priest decided to visit him. It was a cold evening and the priest found the man sitting alone in front of a blazing coal fire. The man welcomed the priest and invited him to sit at the fire. The priest sat down where invited, but said nothing. He gazed into the fire. After a few minutes he took the pair of tongs and carefully picked up a brightly burning coal from the fire. He placed it on one side of the hearth all on its own. He sat back on his chair, still silent. The man and the priest watched th coal. Gradually, the flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then the flame went out. Soon it was cold and dead. After a while, the priest got up, took the tongs and returned the dead coal to the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and the warmth of the burning coals around it.

A single lump of coal cannot burn on its own; it takes many lumps of coal to make a fire that does not go out. No Christian can burn for long for God without the constant support of the rest of the Church. WE LINK THE TWO ITEMS PRINTED ABOVE ABOUT THE CHURCH TO:

Preparation by families for the Sacraments for P3 [First Reconciliation], P4 [First Holy Communion], P6 and P7 [Confirmation]:

The parish, as promised last week, has made available in hard copy and also to be downloaded from our website, the Letters of Request for completion and return by those families who wish their children to celebrate one or more of the three Sacraments. A number of families have already delivered in hard copy or by email attachment their letters - thank you. Two boys from the Confirmation Classes - P6 and P7, Christopher and Jamie - have prepared, signed and brought to the chapelhouse their personal letters.

St. Brendan’s – Closure of places of worship

Anyone wishing to participate at Mass on any morning from Monday to Friday as representing the Parish Family, *including specifically parents drawn from the young families of this parish*, please enquire with Lynne or Kathleen. Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or by email: lynnekellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837 or at: Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com. Fr. Ness welcomes the prospect of always having one parishioner present with him for the celebration of the Eucharist, together with Anne Therese to serve as sacristan whenever her work schedule permits.

On Saturday and Sunday Fr. Ness will arrange for a cantor/reader to be present with him so as to present the Sabbath Day liturgy as close as possible to the form approved by the Church. It is not allowed to have an organist present because that presence isn’t necessary. The presence of a Sacristan is necessary AND Anne Therese will be available to read when the parishioner present prefers not to do so.

On Facebook: Daily Mass at 9.30am and every Requiem Mass will be live streamed AND ALSO the Mass at 6PM on Saturday and (during the Weeks of Christmas) also at 10.30AM and 4.30pm on Sunday.

First Holy Communion children in Class P5 and P6/5:
Some of the thity two children will not have received Holy Communion since their first experience of this Sacrament during November. The parish community wants to provide an opportunity as soon as possible for the *children to return to church as one community for this purpose. This was to have been at 2pm on Sunday 24th January*, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Pope Francis has appointed this Sunday in Ordinary Time each year to celebrate that God reveals himself to mankind in both Word through Sacred Scripture and through the Sacraments - the celebration of the Eucharist. As soon as we can with confidence fix another day to substitute for 24th January this year, we will do so and make this known.

Please circulate to any of the families you know in the parish whose children did receive Holy Communion for the first time in November what we now intend to do. We look for all families to **keep in touch with all that is going on in the parish so that they will know about the new date** and so that they can arrange for their child to participate. *Waiting to be told will cause your child to miss the opportunity.*

Under the heading of Brave new Church? The editor of the Pastoral Review writes this: *The markers of [Roman] Catholic identity, the expressions of deep solidarity through coming together to praise God as a Worshipping Community [in Muirhouse], which have been interrupted since last March by several closure orders of Goverment, must be infused with new energy. “Normality” probably won’t be good enough now; we must accept that some fellow pilgrims [from our parish] will have gone for ever and the Church must be as brave as Gideon in confronting [facing up to] its mission with fewer companions at arms.*

We don’t think this is the case in St. Brendan’s. Do you think it is the case here?

He is right when he writes this: *Like the pruning of a vine, our prayer must be that this [present] crisis will lend more strength [vigour] to growth, a new appreciation of the Eucharist, more power in the holy assembly [of the people of the Parish] and deeper consolation among the faithful people. In short, let us pray that we in St. Brendan’s Muirhouse [and other parishes elsewhere] might live out our deepest identity more fully, as beloved children of the Father who together in the Spirit, become the Body of Christ.*

Pope Francis describes the role of the lay members of the Church this way: The laity must assume a role of co-responsibility [with the clergy]. *They are used to being passive and told what to do and not to do anything without permission.* Some Roman Catholics do not want to do more than go to Mass and support the parish financially, whereas they need to re-construct their role as co-responsible with the clergy - priests and deacons and religious - for the mission which is Church. The Church doesn’t have a mission, the Church is Mission and this should be the deep yearning of all the faithful. In St. Brendan’s the priest welcomes the lay people to be co-responsible with him for Mission.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Sheila McGurk [Hamilton]; Ann Reilly.

for those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Stephen Timmons [aged 14]; Francey Connelly [1st anniversary]; Stephen Mulheron; Hugh Ferry [Sen]; Peter Ramsay; Gerard McLaughlin and the deceased members of the Johnstone and McLaughlin families.

Points in summary:

The Piety Stall: the closure of the Church makes access to the Stall difficult but not impossible to organise. There are calendars and diaries for sale. The My Day by Day booklet which has the readings for Mass each day is also on sale.

The Redemptorist *through the Year with Mary* Diary for 2021 and the My Day by Day pocket sized diary for 2021 are available there. All of us are called on to learn more and more about Sacred Scripture. Every home should have the Bible and the Revised New Jerusalem Bible is excellent and is available from the Stall. IF YOU WISH ACCESS TO THE STALL PLEASE COME TO THE BARONS ROAD DOOR OF THE CHURCH AFTER MORNING MASS OR AT THE WEEKEND.

The Article published in the January edition of the Pastoral Review: which comments on our life and ministry here in St. Brendan's under the heading *Greetings to the Church in Muirhouse* can be accessed on line from our social media platforms. We hope that you will recognize the elements of our life in the description given of them.

Year B of the three year cycle - ABC - for Sacred Scripture: from Monday we enter the Ordinary Season of the Liturgical Year. We will follow the Gospel of Mark, chapter by chapter. *A print of this Gospel is available free of charge from the door of the Church entering from Barons Road.*

The Crib and the Christmas Tree: will be removed tomorrow [Monday] morning but parishioners are still asked to make a donation if possible to the St. Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. This will reflect well the work done to provide the tree and the crib in our parish for the Christmas Season. The banners and the white coverings/adornments of the altar and of the two lecterns will be removed to be replaced until Ash Wednesday with the green banners and coverings which denote the Ordinary Season of the year.

STEWARDING - renewal of service: each of the stewards willingly continued to serve in this ministry. *Their service of us has been interrupted by the order that all places of religious worship must close.* Are **YOU willing to serve with them when we resume with our religious services as we have done since July?** Kathleen Cosgrove will provide an ID Form for you to complete and return as the first step to serving as a steward. We welcome those four people who have asked to join this ministry and we thank the stewards for their sterling service to us.

Gift Aid [number 13 envelope]: will the parishioner using this number please meet with Evelyn or Fr. Ness to sort out an administration problem. *THERE IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GIFT AID SCHEME which this financial year will bring great benefit to the parish.*

PARISH FINANCE:

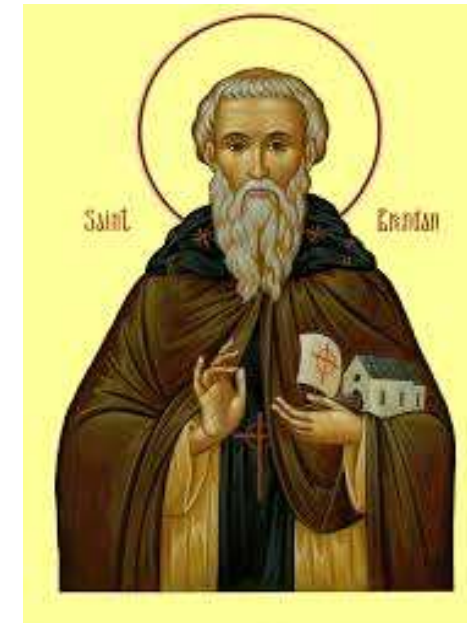
We are preparing our Financial Year End Statement as at 31st December which should be reconciled with our current balance held with RBS and lodged at the Diocesan Office by 31st January. We repaid £5000 on 31st December against the debt owed by the Parish to the Diocesan Pastoral Investment Fund. We have also made a donation to SCIAF Real Gifts on behalf of the two sisters, Louise and Katrina from St. Bride's EK who with their mother Christine keep up to date all of the information on our social media. We have held in reserve sufficient monies to cover the building and repair works which will begin very shortly.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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[01698] 264448

**Twitter: [stbrendanrcdom](#).
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc**



Tenth January 2021, SOLEMN FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS IN THE RIVER JORDAN - ENDS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Liturgies during this week when we enter Ordinary Time

Monday to Saturday: Mass at 9.30AM with one parishioner attending

Monday to Friday at 1pm: broadcast Talk on Sacred Scripture

Monday to Friday at 4.15pm: broadcast Time for late pm Prayer.

Saturday at 6pm: Vigil Mass for Sunday with one parishioner attending.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM and 4.30pm each with one parishioner attending.

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