

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

Sung Response to the Psalm today "Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will."

Hymn for 2020 in our parish:

Come as you are, that's how I want you. Come as you are, feel quite at home..... All will be well, just come as you are.

We will sing this hymn in full on Sunday 2nd February and on 9th February, hoping that all families of this parish will *come as they are* in answer to the invitation of Jesus Christ: ***Come here to this church to meet me in Word through listening to the passages of Scripture and in Sacrament through receiving Holy Communion.***

Gordon our organist is on holiday this weekend. The choir will lead us in the hymns at Mass without the benefit of his accompaniment. We thank them for their contribution to the liturgy of the Mass.

Elizabeth McGinn, who, leads the singing at morning mass and is a soloist for the Psalms on a Sunday with Catherine Anne as one of the choir, celebrated her 75th birthday yesterday. Many happy returns, Elizabeth. Thank you for all you do for the community, including supporting our ministry each Saturday at Netherton Court Care Home and supervising the provision of flowers for the church throughout the year.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION IN THE CHURCH. *The Year [2020] of the Word: The God Who Speaks:*

An opportunity for thinking more deeply about the Word of God when it is read at Mass and then explained by the priest or deacon.

and about

the Sacraments for children of P3 and P4.

Last Sunday the leaders of the Children's Liturgy met with great enthusiasm to talk over and plan our preparation as the parish for the P3 and P4 children to celebrate First Reconciliation [Confession] on **Thursday 19th March** and First [Eucharist] Holy Communion on **Saturday 30th May**. Preparation is shared with the family in the home of the children and with the teachers in the school, but the celebration of all sacraments is in the church and not in the home or in the school.

This is the reason participation in the life of the parish is both good for families and so necessary for each child.

We will make known to the families and the carers of the children today that:

1. The Children's Liturgy leaders help P3 children follow the Big Hug programme in small groups of three or four children. This will begin on 9th February - five Sundays before 19th March. On the fifth Sunday - 15th March - the children will celebrate completing this programme. They also look forward together with the parish community to the following Thursday evening and their celebration with Fr. Ness of the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.
2. The Children's Liturgy leaders help P4 children follow the Faith Friends programme, also in small groups. The children will gather in the church on Sunday 19th April to pray and get ready to begin the programme on Sunday 26th April. It also will run for four Sundays. On the fifth Sunday the children will celebrate having completed the programme and as a small community of their own within the school and the parish they will look forward to the Saturday for the great festival - First Holy Communion.

The two programmes need the support of the whole parish. We value all the children and look to show this by providing for them in the best and fullest way possible. The best way of all is by giving them our time at Mass on Sunday.

Fr. Ness celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the children of Miss McShane's P7 class on Monday. The children came to the Sacrament with a profound understanding of how to celebrate the sacrament well and with a desire to do this to the best possible benefit to themselves. God is good, is God; boys and girls!

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

The Year of the Word, will be celebrated next Sunday [26th February], in the service of the Church and her people.

All over the world, people are becoming alive to the goodness of our Catholic Christian faith. The Church looks out for everyone in the Year of the Word from infant children to the most senior of senior citizens. **It is built around this teaching of Pope Francis and the words of Jesus in yesterday's Gospel passage:**

Pope Francis:

The Year of the Word - "the greatest challenge before us in life is to listen to the Sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy." *Mercy means completely forgiving the Guilty. Leniency means not being hard on the Guilty.*

Matthew's Gospel:

Jesus went out to the shore of the lake; and all the people came to him, and he taught them. He saw Levi [Matthew] the son of Alphaeus, sitting by the customs house, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him.

When Jesus was at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting at the table with him and his disciples; for there were many of them among his followers. When the scribes of the Pharisee party saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?' When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners.'

Going to Mass -going to Mass defines many people as Catholic but what do we do when we go to Mass? Full, active and positive participation at Mass confirms our role in the people of God. We will all need God's mercy more than we need his love.

Revolution in Tenderness: the huge changes taking place in the Church through the influence/inspiration of Pope Francis as he leads us to examine our understanding of God in our life.

At your Side: those who pray, those who want to pray and those who lead others in prayer - we should be honest and use words that link our situation to our belief in God's interest in us..

God's Word for us: see things in a completely different way - not as we see the world but as God sees the world and us in it. Use the many parables found in Matthew's Gospel, Sunday after Sunday this year.

Stations of the Cross - the Gospel best comes alive for us when the story of Jesus connects deeply within our hearts and with our personal experience. Let the Stations shine new light on your own journey through life and open new ways of thinking about Jesus' journey to Calvary.

The Ordinary Season of the Liturgical Year: the rear wall of the sanctuary is adorned in green banners and the priest's chasuble, the altar and lecterns are in green. The Ordinary Season will run until 26th February - Ash Wednesday - when first Lent, then Easter and then Pentecost will interrupt it. The Ordinary Season will be restored on Sunday 1st June and will continue uninterrupted until the First Sunday of Advent.

The St. Margaret's Children and Family Care [Adoption] Society receives the proceeds of our annual Crib Appeal - £481.71. Please make any final donation before Friday. **Justice & Peace Funding Appeal:** we paid over to the Diocese the sum taken up in the special collection two weeks ago - £300.55.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: started yesterday and ends on 25th January. The community from St. Margaret's Church of Scotland will join us **next Sunday, 26th January at 2pm in a Service to celebrate our Christian faith** and to pray for Christian Unity. We will use the Service approved by the Churches Together of Great Britain and Ireland for this year. The theme this year is the shipwreck of St. Paul on Malta. **Please see the poster on our [and their] Notice Board which shows the theme in artwork.**

Wednesday evening - Faith Matters at 7pm. As part of the "Year of the Word" we explore the depth of Jesus' teaching in the chapters of Matthew's Gospel. We will use Holy Reading [*Lectio Divina*]. This is a way of praying using Gospel passages. It gives each person a chance to say what attracts them in the Gospel passage. Last Wednesday we used the method of praying known as Reflecting on God [Theological Reflection]. Next week we will use Imaginative Contemplation. Jesuits use all three methods of praying.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

those who have died recently: Anthony Friar; Frank O'Donnell; Pamela Sabet; Frank Hastie; Eddie Jordan; Terry Bradley;

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Patrick & Mary Lynch; Cathie Kerr.

In our Piety Stall at the main entrance: Jim McAlinden has completed the final part of its restoration and re-decoration - thank you, Jim.

A full range of cards, diaries and spiritual gifts are available at the Stall:

Pope Francis' own publications A-Z *Living for Christ*.

Matthew's Gospel as used in the Ordinary Season of this year at Sunday Mass.

***My Day by Day* booklet of Scripture readings for every day in January and in February**

the My Day by Day Pocket Diary for 2020 [now reduced to £1].

The *Magnificat* booklet contains the Breviary Prayers and meditations for each day and information on the life of the saint of the day AND the *Sacred Heart Messenger* for every month which has prayers, reflections on scripture, meditations on life using poetry and art and a section for children .

***Redemptorist pocket/purse size Diary* including a print of the Prayers of the Mass [now reduced to £1].**

Redemptorist Diary for 2020. This has an excellent Introduction to Matthew's Gospel for this year. Year A.

There are several available at reduced price - £3. This information on the Gospel is easy to follow and will be of great help throughout the year to understand much better the Scriptures at Mass.

Parish Income and Expenditure: every parish must lodge an Annual Financial Statement with the Diocese on or before 31st January. We are helped in this task by Mrs. Catherine Hamilton and ours is ready. Extracts from this Statement will be distributed next week to be read at home by parishioners. *Thank all of you for your consistent generous support of our parish community.* Any questions about our finances can be raised with Fr. Ness, preferably in person. Lengthy replies to emails sometimes don't convey satisfactorily for either party the intended meaning. Letters can only be answered if the writer identifies themselves. Fr. Ness wishes to answer any questions which are asked about our finances or any other aspect of parish life. A meeting gives him the best opportunity to correct any wrong or misleading information which is held about the parish's finances or more importantly for the parish, about all aspects of pastoral or spiritual ministry.

Wednesday Coffee Morning Masses: resumed in the hall last Wednesday. *The ladies of the kitchen and catering group* who lead this social initiative adjoined with the Eucharist for our community thank everyone who gives such generous support. They, with Richard our hall keeper, are to be thanked for all they do for us.

The Lion King: SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CHILDREN. All the teachers and assistants from the school wish to thank us and especially the men who ensured that the arrangements which Mrs. Oates asked us to put in place were implemented. Our thanks also to the families who fully respected these arrangements as they related to our car park. On that evening School - Parish - Families worked together in perfect harmony.

Speaking of our children, on Sunday 23rd February there will be an Appeal in this parish by Fr. Peter for ***Let the Children live*** a charity which he formed to help the large number of children of Colombia who not only are left to run the streets but also to live on them

The Burns /Scottish Night on 31st January: will begin promptly at 7pm when the meal will be served. The night also involves three singers, Peter Nevans, once of St. Ignatius and Catherine Anne from the parish and Dom whose parents are John and Patricia Milligan. Fr. Ness will propose the Toast to the Poetry and Songs of Robert Burns. Robert Nimmo will propose a very comical but respectful Toast to the Lassies of St. Brendan's.

And finally - Happy Special Birthday - to Elizabeth McGinn on celebrating her seventy fifth birthday

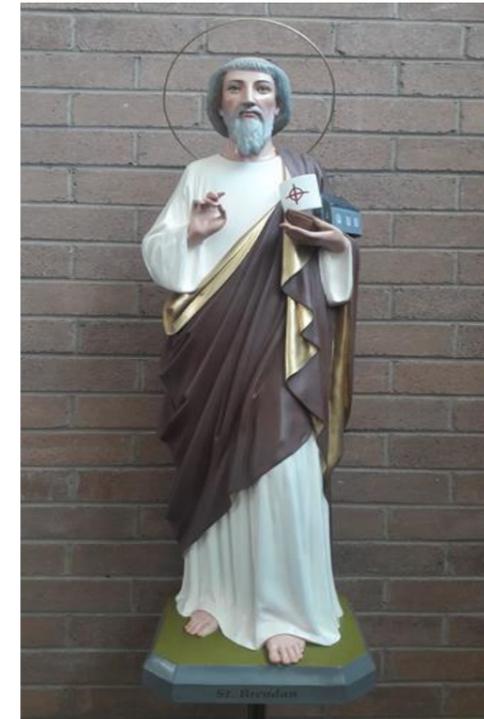
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The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th January 2020.

Let us nourish the spiritual life of every parishioner by working together to lead more families into our community, to make them feel welcome when they come here so that they may participate joyfully in the life of this parish.

Welcome to Mrs. Oates, Mrs. Colton, Miss Patterson and Miss Peattie for our meeting at 2pm with the families of the children from P3 and P4 who wish to celebrate First Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist here in March and May.

Mass: Sunday at 10.30am and at 4.30pm. Midweek at 9.30am.

Holy Hour: every Thursday at 7pm.