

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

Sung Response to the Psalm today, led by Catherine Anne with her husband, Jamie, accompanying her on guitar. *It is good to have a family combine so well in this music ministry. Many families do this, some over several generations. It shows us building for the future of the Parish. Please follow the melody this morning and every week and join in the singing of the antiphon at the end of each verse:*
“ The good man is a light, a light in the darkness for the upright.” ”

Hymns 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.*

Please join again in singing this very meaningful hymn using the sheet insert with this bulletin. Shortly we will learn another hymn on this same theme within the Diocese: Let us build a houseall are welcome in this place.

At the beginning of Mass this morning: we acknowledge the ministry of the Holy Ghost Fathers, now to be known as the Spiritans, who celebrated Mass for us from Monday to yesterday in the absence of Fr. Ness. On Friday Fr. Gaffney celebrated Mass assisted by the children of P4 for the First Friday of the Month. Fr. Terry and Fr. Phillip celebrated morning Mass in the High School on Tuesday and Friday. *Thank you from all of us.* Look up the photograph on our Twitter feed of him on the sanctuary with the P4 children and the chosen older altar servers

At the beginning of Mass this morning: we are aware that Fr. Stephen Rooney has now begun his ministry as parish priest of St. Ignatius in Wishaw. He follows in the relatively small line of parish priests there, ***beginning in 1858.*** In the last eighty years there have been only five Parish Priests - Canon Kearney, Monsignor O'Donnell Canon McGovern, Monsignor Conway and Fr. McGuinness. We will pray for our near neighbours in their parish community. It's the only parish in Scotland with this saint as its patron and in all generations, it has fostered a strong sense of a worshipping community which is seen in the large participation at daily as well as Sunday Mass.

At the beginning of Mass this morning we want to publish the text message sent by the Leaders of the Children's Liturgy on behalf of our community to all the families who have children in P3 and who wish those children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in five weeks' time:

From the Children's Liturgy team leaders acting for the parish community: our "Big Hug" preparation starts at Mass on Sunday at 10.30 AM for P3 children, and runs for five Sundays. We will meet each Tuesday at 3pm in the parish hall with those children who don't come on Sunday so that all children will complete the "Big Hug" with us before 19th March.

The Big Hug is the hug the father of the prodigal son gives him when he returns home and is made welcome.

This programme and the Faith Friends programme for P4 children needs the support of the whole parish by generously giving our time for the children at Mass each Sunday. What we do for the children extends the total time for the celebration of Sunday Mass here. Some complaints have been made about this but this mustn't deter us as a community in the provision we make for the formation of the spiritual life of our children.

Participation in the parish programme is necessary for every child in P3 who is preparing here for the Sacrament of Reconciliation whether they live within the parish or attend it regularly. The priest who celebrates any Sacrament must either do the preparation personally or supervise those parishioners who do it. This cannot be left to the families or the teachers in the School but must include the Church. All families concerned with P3 and P4 children are asked to understand this and welcome it. To complete the preparation, this participation on Sunday or Tuesday is necessary and it is enjoyable too.

The children will learn the difference between Confession and Reconciliation. One focusses on our failings the other recognizes that despite our failings there is evidence of goodness in our thoughts and in our actions. *Reconciliation allows us to merge the two experiences so that the peace of Jesus Christ fills the vacuum left when our sins are forgiven.*

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

28th World Day of the Sick: in the insert there is an abbreviated version of a letter issued by Bishop Toal to all the clergy of the Diocese with the intention that they make it known to all parishioners. We pray at both daily and Sunday Mass for all those who are ill, we try to visit them if in hospital and we care for the residents of Netherton Court. **The parish will support the Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage as the bishop requests in his letter.**

SCIAF Appeal 2020: the SCIAF Lenten Appeal material focuses on the history of violence against some women in the Republic of Congo, in Central Africa. This theme was chosen partly because it was the [only] one likely to get matched funding from the UK Government. SCIA has received this financial boost in recent years, to its great advantage. Concern has been raised this week that the benefit of getting matched funding from Government should not decide the theme of any appeal by SCIAF, especially when children are very much involved in promoting the appeal. One parish will use the SCIAF Lenten Appeal packages for schools in preference to the materials distributed for the appeals to parishes. The WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal carries a warning that the topics displayed on the materials may upset readers and may not be suitable for young children. **Please ask to view these at the Stall** so that we might decide what to do this year.

Parish Lay leadership - the triangle model: last week Fr. Ness visited his daughter and her family in Germany. At the end of March his son and his son's family will come from Aberdeenshire to live at the chapel house for three days to visit him. These family visits call for leadership from parishioners to ensure the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish goes on despite the absence of the priest.

In business a triangle is used as a model of management with the Chief Executive at the top and the managers along the base. **The more responsibility is taken in an informed way at the base level, the stronger the business.** Here the base line was filled last week by many of our parishioners who confidently took responsibility in an informed way. They liaised each day with those Spiritan Fathers who celebrated Mass here. **Our parishioners led the liturgies on Wednesday and Thursday evening in the church,** assisted the School at the First Friday Mass and **led the liturgy at Netherton Court on Saturday pm. The Children's Liturgy leaders will direct the running of the programmes for P3 and P4 children.** Last Sunday the Sunday Social Group led the light tea and food in the hall. Parishioners responded with great generosity. Each Wednesday this is repeated after Mass in the Hall. Thanks are due to all parishioners.

School Holiday and In Service Days this week: on Tuesday Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Ness in the church. **On Friday,** he will go to Oban for a day of pilgrimage and prayer with a group of 6th year students from the Caritas Group. **A Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion will be led here in the church.**

Wednesday evening - Faith Matters at 7pm. The members of the Group have learned how to use the Jesuit method of prayer known as Imaginative Contemplation. This Wednesday the group will review the new methods of prayer they have used and look towards prayer during Lent.

Distribution of Holy Communion: at Mass on Sunday morning three Eucharistic Ministers now distribute the host and five Ministers offer the precious Blood of Jesus. The priest confers a blessing to each child and to all adults who wish to come forward. *We welcome the resumption of Bill Dunbar in the service of the community in Eucharistic Ministry. During Lent we will invite all Ministers and all who serve as Readers of Scripture at Mass to an evening of prayer and reflection on their ministry to the community.*

Talk with photographs and slides on the Holy Land: will be given by Bishop Nolan on **Wednesday 4th March** immediately after morning Mass. Tea and coffee will be served.

The Parish website: is fully operational at www.st-brendans.com. Please explore all the content there.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS

those who have died recently: Christine McLafferty.

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Mary Tierney, John Tierney, Ellen Lewis, Maureen Main; Mick Kerr; Joseph Syme; Thomas Whelan.

In our Piety Stall at the main entrance: a full range of cards, diaries and spiritual gifts are available at the Stall. Our preparations are already turning to Lent which starts on 25th February:

My Day by Day* booklet** of Scripture readings for every day in February will be followed by a special booklet for the whole of Lent. There are special booklets in Lent for Infant children of P1 & P2 age. We will distribute these to the children who attend the Children's Liturgy. P3 and P4 children will similarly receive the Redemptorist booklet ***Celebrate Lent as part of their Sacramental preparation. P5 and P6 will receive ***the Junior My Day by Day for Lent***.

Don't give up something for Lent - *take up something* positive such as following the Scripture passages used day by day. These fit together during Lent and finish at Easter.

The *Magnificat* booklet contains the prayers and readings for daily Mass plus the Breviary Prayers and meditations for each day and information on the life of the saint of the day AND

the *Sacred Heart Messenger* written by Jesuits makes this very special and has prayers, reflections on scripture and meditations on our spiritual life using poetry and art and an imaginative section for children .

Parish Income and Expenditure for the year 2019: an extract from this Statement has been available for the last three weeks. Please ask for a print of this from a pass keeper if you don't already have it .

Our Parish Finance Committee: three suitably qualified people are needed. If you wish to nominate yourself, please hand in a written application to Fr. Ness by today. **Last week the Diocese has informed Fr. Ness that the parish accounts for the year 2019 will be audited by Messrs. WDM, chartered accountants, Motherwell. A Finance Committee is expected to be in place in every parish as part of good governance.**

The sign: St. Brendan's RC Church was erected on the elevation of the church building facing on to Barons Road. It is the design which All Signs recommended from their long experience.

Our Children: Safeguarding practices and norms within our Diocese - and other matters.

- **Safeguarding:** Kathleen Cosgrove in 2018 took over the role of Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator. The policies and practice of our Diocese is to be reviewed this year. The parish's Annual Safeguarding Audit for 2019 was lodged on 31st January. We and every parish will need to become much more engaged with this part of our pastoral life. **Kathleen cannot do it alone and needs the help of at least one other and preferably two people from among our young parents.** Fr. Ness must also find the time to assist her in a dynamic way, not looking back on past situations but anticipating what we may face in the future. **Please contact Kathleen or Fr. Ness if you wish to know more about what will be needed if you want to help.**
- **On Sunday 23rd February we will have a party in the hall for all the children before they get ready for Lent, just as we did last year. Ash Wednesday is 26th February. Fancy dress costumes and face painting will be the order of the day and the costumes can be worn by the children to morning Mass that day. It will be the same entertainer as last March, Cheeko who all the children liked.**
- **On that same Sunday 23rd February as for the Party for the children,** there will be an Appeal by Fr. Peter for the charity ***Let the Children live***.

Parishioners who are EU citizens: please take the leaflet issued by the Catholic Parliamentary Office to explain "settled status". The leaflet is available at the entrance to the church.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

51 Barons Road Motherwell. ML1 2NB.

[01698] 264448

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



The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Ninth February 2020.

Today we begin the sacramental preparation for all children in P3 whose families have asked that they celebrate in our parish the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on the Feast of St. Joseph – 19th March.

Let us nourish the spiritual life of every parishioner. Let us lead families from Muirhouse and surrounding areas to be part of our community and warmly welcome them so that they may participate joyfully to their benefit.

The 28th World Day of the Sick - *please take home the insert sheet to read the abridged copy of the important letter of 5th February to all of us from Bishop Toal.*

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

Holy Hour: every Thursday at 7pm.