

Our faith, our sacramental, spiritual and pastoral life.

Our lives are dominated by protocols and restrictions, closures and exclusions, most obviously by the rules of social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. This is the October week holiday when many families traditionally went on an autumn break before winter when the thought of going out anywhere is unattractive. Yet, next month just before Advent, our lives in St. Brendan's will be brightened by the celebration of four Masses with a total of thirty two children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time. In the last week, three of the four families who hadn't yet confirmed that they wished their child to celebrate Eucharist for the first time, did so. Sadly for our parish community, one family withdrew their child from the original thirty three from the P4 First Communion group of last May. We pray that in God's own time their child will receive the wonderful grace of the Body and Blood of Jesus, the Eucharist.

We have used the time available at Mass on a Sunday in the lead up to each of the Sacraments to prepare the children fully and well through participation at Mass. We want always to engage with every child and every family as we move towards our goal of full, positive and active participation in the parish and in the celebration of Mass. We look to all families to enthusiastically take on these aspects of pastoral ministry:

1. Lead the children to know and understand that while they can learn about Sacraments in the school they can experience and celebrate Sacraments only in and through the church.
2. Lead the children to know and understand that St. Brendan's is the local church where they live out their life as a member of the Catholic [meaning the universal, located everywhere] Church whose leader in the world is Pope Francis and whose leader locally is Bishop Joseph Toal.
3. Lead the children to complete the four weeks of the Faith Friends programme at home. Previously the priest delegated this ministry to the Children's Liturgy Team. Now it is delegated to the family of each child. Families should follow the "online" weekly video presentation on the parish's Facebook site. The Faith Friends programme is a "must do" in the preparation for Holy Communion. No child should celebrate First Holy Communion in this parish without first completing this programme in full at home. *During the Mass for their child, parents and carers will be invited to confirm that they have completed this special ministry for and with their own child.*
4. Lead the children to know and understand that when they celebrate Holy Communion they join with the Catholic community in St. Brendan's in being part of the Body of Jesus who at the Last Supper on the night before he died on the Cross, gave himself to his closest friends in the Sacrament they will now celebrate which is known as the Eucharist. [*Holy Communion.*]
5. Lead the children to know and understand that everyone in this community in St. Brendan's care for them. We will do many things so they can be happy on their Communion Saturday or Sunday. Stewards will come here to clean the church and to bring their families safely into the church, look after them while they are here and lead them out safely too. Explain about the music ministry at each Mass which the parish will provide and the photographer which the parish has arranged for them at each of the four Masses.
6. Lead the children to know and understand that we who have received the Sacraments of the Catholic Church when we were children, want to hand all of these Sacraments over to them so that they later in life will do the very same for others, as it has been for the last 2000 years.
7. Contemplate and consider how you feel in your own spiritual life (meaning your own awareness of Jesus Christ) about fulfilling this ministry for a child you love. See the goodness of the opportunity God in his providence has given to you. Are you grateful for this opportunity?

St. Brendan's - What's important to us

On Facebook: Mass at 6PM on Saturday and at 10.30AM on Sunday.

On Facebook: Daily Mass at 9.30am and every Requiem Mass.

KEEPING OUR St. BRENDAN'S OPEN BY STRICTLY OBSERVING ALL PROTOCOLS AND RESTRICTIONS.

WE KNOW ALL THE PROTOCOLS - LET'S ENSURE WE ALL KEEP ALL OF THEM.

To participate at any Mass in the church. Lynne Kellas and Kathleen Cosgrove record the identity of parishioners for the purpose of "Track & Trace". Contact Lynne on **07803-314555** or by email: lynnekellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837 or at: Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com

STEWARDEDING: if aged between 18 to 70 - could you help - contact Kathleen Cosgrove to send you an ID Form if you wish to help. All offers of help will be welcomed by those already serving the community. Please understand that without the stewards who have all remained in post from the beginning, we could not celebrate four Masses each weekend [and daily Mass in midweek], thereby accommodating up to 200 parishioners plus the stewards themselves and allowing so many young people to participate.

Young people are welcome to serve us as readers at weekend Mass as Aine, Lucy and Leo do already. This opportunity is open to all of the children and young people who attend at any of the Masses.

St. Margaret's Church of Scotland, Muirhouse: our brothers and sisters in Jesus will reopen their doors for a Service this Sunday. They can accommodate twenty parishioners and this model of Prayer Service on a Sunday will be celebrated once a month. We welcome them back to Barons Road. We will pray for them.

SACRAMENTS - PARTICIPATION IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

A teaching video [Catechesis] for each of the following four age groups is posted with the Bulletin on our Facebook Page and our web site by 1pm each Saturday:

P1 and P2 - PROVISION FOR INFANTS ;

P6 and P7 - PROVISION FOR THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED ON MAY 11th 2021.

P3 and P4 PROVISION FOR THOSE WHO WILL CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION AND HOLY COMMUNION DURING THIS SCHOOL YEAR - 2020-21.

P5 AND P6/5 PROVISION FOR THOSE WHO WILL CELEBRATE EUCHARIST NEXT MONTH

The videos are for the children and watching a video should be linked to attending one of the four Masses for each Sunday either in church or following one on line.

The [First] Communion Masses in November, observing the rule of six:

1. The children will attend to celebrate Mass on either Sunday 8th, 14th/15th or Saturday 21st November.
2. Mass on Saturday will be at 10AM and on Sunday at 2pm.
3. Children will celebrate Mass in groups of 8 with maximum of 5 attending [*from only one other household*]
4. A photographer will attend each of the four Masses with provision for him taking personal photographs.
5. The children will not serve as readers or cantors during Mass.

Mrs. Oates has published the names of the children who will form a group for each Mass. Miss Hill will take up with Fr. Ness how the children can receive the Eucharist at Mass most spiritually as well as in the most pleasant and sensitive way for a child. Our intention is to repeat next month with the children of P5 and P6/5 the simplicity of the four celebrations of Reconciliation held with the children of Primary 4 last month.

Gordon Thomson our organist will provide the music. A teacher from the School will serve as the solo cantor at each Mass. A photographer will be on hand and we hope to have the hall repaired for his use.

Face coverings must be worn by the children **other than when they receive Holy Communion.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Frank Farrell; Margaret Murray.

those whose Month Mind Remembrance or Anniversary occurs about now: Bobbie Boyle; Agnes Weir; Hugh Thomson [36th]; Peter McAlinden [3rd]; Margaret Bradly [1st] Charles, Agnes and John Dobbin; Anna Neish

Communication: Prints of this bulletin can be collected from the Barons Road doorway. It is also available online. Fr. Ness will speak live on Facebook each Saturday at 11AM to comment on the most urgent issues.

Points in summary form:

Spirituality: The *My Day by Day* booklets and the *Sacred Heart Messenger* are a great resource each month to nourish the spiritual life. **The Magnificat** booklet is to be given to every Caritas student in OLHS at their next Gathering Point with an explanation from Fr. Ness of its use and purpose. Consistently using this booklet helps to deepen prayer life, it serves to improve knowledge of our faith and also the understanding of Scripture. **Unused back copies of each of these three booklets are available gratis at the church entrance. Please take one home to read** and perhaps order one from Elspeth or Evelyn or through the Stewards We also have “*How to survive being married to a Catholic*” - intended to help those spouses who are not Catholics understand our ways. **A Church of Scotland friend to our parish has found it a fascinating – and very helpful - read.**

SCIAF: *has appealed for our help preferably on an ongoing basis but even on a one-off basis. Copies of their letter and of the Campaign letter addressed to our politicians in Scotland and in the UK are at the back of the church as you leave. If interested, please take one of each item.*

Mission Sunday: *next Sunday is the day for the annual collection for the Missions. Please try to support this effort by the Scottish Catholic Church to bring about the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. Your donations can be posted through the letter box of the chapel house during this week or next week or given in at any of the Masses.*

Our Lady’s High School: Fr. Ness has celebrated six Masses with and for the pupils in First Year. Each class fully engaged in the preparation before Mass and participated well at the Mass. There was time in the double period to speak in depth about Mass, the Scriptures and the history and tradition of the School as a caring community in the education of young people. The pupils who had participated in the Pope Francis Faith Award in Cathedral PS and also in St. Bernadette’s PS were given their Certificate. The children from St. Brendan’s PS had already received their certificates on the last day of term. A series of lunchtime Masses have been arranged for the teachers of the School and separately for the students of Sixth Year to begin immediately after this week’s holiday.

St. Brendan’s PS: the Covid protocols prevent Fr. Ness from visiting two schools in the same day and restrict a visit to only one class or group in that school. The focus this month will be to visit the children of P5 and P6/5 and Jamie and Jacob from Muirhouse Primary School in the lead up to the celebration of First Holy Communion next month.

Angela Sewell: last Sunday at 10.30AM Mass, altar server Rachel presented a gift to Angela to mark her many years of service to the community. We hope that in time Angela will follow her mum into the Children’s Liturgy Team.

The parish hall and the side exit ramp: we still await an inspection of the flooring by Nimmo’s as we want them to do this work. We have an estimate for building a ramp from the side exit of the church into the car park and are considering its benefit against the cost of making this enhancement a permanent addition to the building.

Ecumenical Call to Prayer: For the 32nd consecutive week, 14 Churches and Christian organisations across Scotland call Christians to pray together at **7 pm, today Sunday 11th October.** The internet link to the pandemic prayer is: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/join-in-prayer-this-sunday-with-Scottish-Christians>

St. Brendan’s the Navigator Parish

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Eleventh October 2020, the Twenty Eighth Sunday in the Ordinary Season of the Liturgical Year.

Mass in the Parish during this coming week:

Monday through to Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM;

Saturday at 12 Noon: the first of two Vigil Masses for Sunday

Saturday at 6pm: the second Vigil Mass for Sunday

Sunday: Mass at 10.30am and at 4.30pm.

My Day by Day Scripture booklets: are offered gratis for this month to encourage more parishioners to follow the passages of scripture which are read in sequence daily at Mass. If you wish, please take one with the bulletin as you leave the church.

Please check the parish’s Facebook page and also look on our Twitter feed and on our web page Notices to find if any changes are made to this schedule.

Time to choose what matters – ABRIDGED – Part 1 of 2 parts.

Fr. Stephen Reilly is Co-ordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation [of Catholic Teachers] at the University of Glasgow and is a priest of the Diocese of Motherwell, until recently the parish priest in St. Bernadette's, Motherwell. Fr. Reilly takes up a challenge from Pope Francis and asks whether a harmonious and mutually reinforcing home-school-parish [three way] partnership could become [in the RC Church] a legacy of Covid-19.

Addressing a gathering of young people at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, Pope Francis invited them to go back to their dioceses and shake things up. How might this call apply to youth ministry in a time in which everything appears a mess, when the Covid-19 pandemic has put everything up in the air, [shaken everything up]?

Pope Francis draws on his Jesuit tradition, in particular the tradition of discernment, in challenging the Church to place mission at the heart of pastoral structures and activity. He calls for a 'wise and realistic pastoral discernment', involving the faithful [people], priests and bishops, which, 'seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: "We have always done it this way"', and which reshapes 'the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization'. Shaking up structures and methods allows them to be sifted, and to settle in a new configuration, which will bed in and become stable forms which will bear fruit.

The current Covid crisis, which has caused so much pain, loneliness and bewilderment, is also a time in which new creative forms of evangelisation and community life are emerging. Priests, educators and lay faithful are finding new, experimental ways to worship and communicate the Gospel.

How will dioceses, parishes and the wider Catholic Church emerge from the pandemic? Which initiatives, methods and structures will settle down, be regarded as possessing long-term value, and be developed in the months to come? Pope Francis has challenged us to exercise judgement during the pandemic, viewed as 'a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not'. What does this challenge mean for ministry with young people in today's Catholic Church?

Responding to the challenge: Predictors of faith

In the past 15 years, several important sociological studies of young Catholics in the UK, Australia and the USA have been published, which clarify [present day] opportunities for evangelisation and formation.

In the USA, Christian Smith and his team tracked the religious lives, attitudes and practices of a group of young people of all faiths, and none, from their teens (13–18 years of age) to emerging adulthood (18–23 years of age), conducting a phone survey of 2,458 emerging adults and interviewing 230 of them, and subsequently isolating and analysing the data of the 16 per cent who had been brought up or had self-declared as Catholic at age 13–18.² The responses of the emerging adults with a strong attachment to their faith and its practice could be recovered from their teenage surveys and adult faith engagement could be analysed.

Among the predictors of emerging adult faith among teenagers who became religiously engaged emerging adults, those consistently very important are: strong parental religion, modelling and support; high importance of religious faith; belief in divine miracles; many supportive religious adults; attending a Catholic high school; and frequent reading of Scripture.

A study in 2006, came to a similar conclusion regarding the importance of parental faith in the UK. Where both parents in a two-parent household practice their faith at least monthly (regardless of religious affiliation/denomination), the chances of their young adult children doing the same was 45 per cent; where one practices, it was around 21 per cent, and where neither practices, it fell to around 2.5 per cent. The incidence of teenage children adopting religious affiliation when both parents are religious was 54.8 per cent, one parent religious 30.3 per cent, and neither parent 4 per cent.

A 2019 study in the UK involving 2,146 young people aged 13–15 who self-identified as Catholics, updates and confirms this insight. It discovered that higher levels of connection to the Catholic faith and church attendance among teenage Catholics significantly correlates with both mother's and father's levels of identity and church attendance, and with talking about religion with their mother and father.