

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

**Response to the Psalm: I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.**

**CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER - Mornings: 11-12 noon; Evenings: 6-7pm**

**Saturday and Sunday from 1pm – 3pm.**

Last Sunday the Volunteers completed the cleaning of the church and it opened on Monday morning.

Kathleen Cosgrove as Parish Safeguarding Coordinator administers the Forms needed from all Volunteers: Form A – those already **Disclosed**; Form B – those becoming involved for the first time. **AND** Form C - **those parishioners aged between 16 and 18 years who would like to be one of the new ministry of Welcomers to meet with people entering the church for prayer and in Phase 3 for Mass.**

**Contact Kathleen on 07585-225837 or [Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com](mailto:Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com).**

We must record the names and addresses of parishioners who come to the church for personal prayer. PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ON A PIECE OF PAPER SUCH AS AN ENVELOPE TO GIVE ON YOUR FIRST VISIT. **This is for the purpose of the NHS "track and trace" SYSTEM.** We must also record the names and addresses of those persons or families who will come to Mass in the church when we move to Phase 3 and Phase 4. **We must allocate dates and times for Mass at the weekend. Lynne Kellas and Kathleen Cosgrove will share this task for our benefit and if you want to participate at Mass YOU MUST MAKE CONTACT WITH EITHER LYNNE OR KATHLEEN. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING NOTICE ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND AND UNDERSTAND HOW URGENT THINGS NOW ARE.**

*"The Scottish Government's decision not to allow places of worship to open for communal worship until 23 July at the earliest, while allowing pubs, restaurants and cinemas to reopen on 15 July is both disappointing and perplexing.*

*The Church has continued to engage with government and the reopening of churches for personal prayer since Monday (22 June) has allowed time to assess the procedures in place to assure public safety. With these considerations in mind, further delays to communal worship appear unjustified. The Bishops' Conference will convey these views to the Scottish Government as a matter of urgency."*

**The wording of this next paragraph is deliberate and after praying to the Holy Spirit:**

The Archbishops of Westminster, Liverpool, Birmingham and Southwark in England state the obvious when they write: "OUR LIVES [IN THE CHURCH] HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PANDEMIC, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT WE SIMPLY CANNOT RETURN TO HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE THE BREAKDOWN. IT IS TIME TO REBUILD [EVERYWHERE] WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A "EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY."

**In St. Brendan's we cannot hope to return to the way things were.** The church is now open for personal prayer and soon it will be open for Mass. Do the parishioners of St. Brendan's wish to pray here or resume their participation at Mass either in midweek or at the weekend? By order of the Bishops of Scotland, participation at Mass can only resume if parishioners give their name, address and telephone number in advance and await an instruction on when to attend. No one can simply come to the church on Sunday on a hope and a prayer to be admitted midweek may be different. **So far only three persons have registered with Lynne and Kathleen for Mass. What does that say about us as a community that aims to be Eucharistic? What does it tell us of the fruitfulness of the ministry of the priest who was sent by Bishop Toal to build a worshipping, Community that was focused on the Sunday Eucharist.** Bishop Toal issued this advice **last night** to all priests: When we are given the go ahead to have public worship in our churches, I ask that the public celebration of Holy Mass recommence with the Sunday Liturgy at the weekend following the announcement. By that I mean both the Saturday and Sunday celebrations of the Sunday Mass. I think we should pay attention to the emphasis placed on the weekends in our guidance and concentrate on getting the weekend programme in place, particularly in regard to the number of Masses which we celebrate.

## **CALL TO PRAYER @ 7pm** with all Christian communities in Scotland

the experience of these last three months is one that will remain with us for the rest of our days. We will look back and reflect on the significance of it and undoubtedly, we shall ask many questions. Integral to that experience for many has been the physical separation between ourselves and our family and those for whom we care. This physical distancing has been necessary in the face of the risks posed by Covid 19. As we see the easing of the restrictions on Lockdown, we begin to reconnect and rediscover what it is to welcome one another and to give and receive in a social context.

Welcoming, giving and receiving are integral to human experience and reflect something of what it is to be made in the image of God. In Matthew's Gospel (10: 40-42), Jesus reflects upon this and points to the truth that in welcoming one another we potentially welcome the presence of God. In our welcoming of one another, let us renew the relationships that shape our social community and our communion with the living presence of God. Therefore we pray:

Living God, the God who creates, you have made us in your image that, in our giving and receiving, we might better reflect your image. For this gift we praise and thank you.  
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Living God, the God who gives, your gift to the world is revealed in your Son, the image of the invisible God. For the renewing presence of your Son, we praise and thank you.  
Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Living God, the God who renews, you call us to renew our relationships with one another that, in so doing, we might renew our relationship with you. For the welcome you offer in renewal, we praise and thank you. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Living God, the God who welcomes, you welcome us when we return to you weary and heavy laden. Receive us as we are and forgive us when we stumble. For the love we experience as we are welcomed, we praise and thank you. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Living God, the God who loves, you offer us good gifts and invite us to receive them. In response, we offer our lives and all that we are. For the sure promise of your love, we praise and thank you. Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

### **Prayer Life in St. Brendan's parish:**

**The church has opened for personal prayer:** there was a very powerful sense of willing cooperation among the parishioners - more than thirty and many very much aged under 70 - who arrived after Mass last Sunday evening to "deep clean" those areas of the church which will be open for our use for personal prayer and to enter and leave. It took just over two hours to complete the task. We prayed before and after the work. "Thank you" to all volunteers but especially to those women and men who took part in such service to the community for the first time. **Please now at least consider coming to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament which is exposed on the altar throughout each prayer time. Introduce your children into this traditional form of prayer within the Roman Catholic Church.** Full provision has been made for your safety and that of your family. Children aged 5+ must wear a facial covering.

**The parish's Children's Liturgy programme:** Margaret Dochnenko will present the spiritual content for our children during our "Online" morning Mass today. This is the final art and craft work request from our children. It will be featured in an Article being prepared for publication in the *Pastoral Review* magazine  
**Thank you, children, for the inspiration you have been to all of us in the Lockdown. God is good.**

**Mass to close the Primary School Year:** we celebrated Mass last Tuesday evening for all the children, led by P7, supported by P6. Thank you Tricia Timmons for all your hours of selfless work for these Masses for our children and their families. Thank you to all the families for your joyful participation. A real gift to us all.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who have died recently:** Robert Donnelly; Mary Donnelly.

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now:** Gerard Lynch; Margaret Ness; Margaret Fisher; Mamie Canning; Mary Welsh.

**Matters for our community:**

**Families with a relative confined to the house and anyone living alone** should note that if they wish the Sacrament of the Sick or wish a visit from Fr. Ness this can be arranged by a telephone call to the chapel house.

**Jimmy Stevenson arranged this last week through John, his son. Jimmy explained that yesterday was his eighty second birthday. Many happy returns Jimmy, from all of us in St. Brendan's. Ad multos annos [many more "happy birthday" days, Jimmy].**

**I'm very glad I 'phoned,** *With my prayers and best wishes.* Bishop Toal's comment at the end of his telephone conversation yesterday to ask how we were getting on in St. Brendan's. *This is a summary of what he was told on your behalf:*

*The children have excelled, supported by their parents, in preparing art and craft works to reflect the Gospel Readings as presented direct to them by the Children's Liturgy leaders each Sunday since Easter.*

*The children and their families have thrilled and encouraged the community by their Holy Spirit inspired participation, leading in evening class Masses "live streamed" from the church on Facebook since Easter.*

*The parish community provided a Parish Coordinator and more than thirty enthusiastic volunteers, not conscripts, to prepare the church for re-opening. They have collectively demonstrated the viability and the longevity of our agreed and approved strategy to implement the safety measures required from us.*

*The community has sustained the financial solvency of the parish with many parishioners increasing their weekly contribution. A significant number have joined the Gift Aid Scheme. £8K was repaid to PIF. The quarterly levy was paid, allowance made for the annual insurance premium and a thermal temperature gauge was purchased to enhance safety of parishioners attending church. A Statement was published.*

*The community has generously helped the SVdP to continue to give financial support to those in need.*

***A prayer from Albania made for our community in St. Brendan's - Who walks Alone.***

**Who walks alone** loses the way, *only in the community* comes wisdom. One hand cannot tie a rope round a bundle.

**Who walks alone** loses the way, Who then falls and has no one to help her, Who then screams and has no one who hears her.

**Who walks alone** stoops under her burden. Nobody shares her joy, and no one shares her sorrow.

**Who walks alone** loses the way, she has only two feet, she has only two arms, she has only two eyes.

***But in the community,*** everyone has a thousand hands, everyone has a thousand feet, **no one walks alone.**

**St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish**

**51 Barons Road Motherwell. ML1 2NB.**

**[01698] 264448**

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



**Sunday: Twenty eighth June 2020, the Solemn Feast of Saint Paul and Saint Peter. [brought forward by one day]**

***on Facebook view:***

**Monday – Saturday: Mass “on line” at 9.30AM;**

**Saturday: Vigil Mass “on line” at 6pm**

**Sunday Mass “on line” at our scheduled times: 10.30am and 4.30pm.**

**Monday – Friday: the “online” Talk on Scripture feature continues at 1pm.**

**The church will be open for personal prayer: from Monday to Friday between 11AM-12Noon and between 6-7pm; on Saturday and Sunday from 1pm-3pm.**

***On our website, on our Facebook page and on our Twitter feed you will find all the information you will need about day by day changes and developments.***