

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

Sung Response to the Psalm today, led by Catherine Anne and Jamie: *Please sing this antiphon today at the end of each verse: "May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you."*

Hymns for 2020: *these have been chosen for Lent to reflect what is read from Sacred Scripture in this Liturgical Season. Continuing with the theme of the hymn: **Come as you are**, we will soon introduce a second hymn - **Let us build a house** . please read the words at hymn number 319 - All are welcome in this place. A new parishioner, John David Shaw has made himself known to us this week. You are very welcome in this place, John David Shaw*

Lent as we pray it in the Preface: *Lord, you have given us your children, this sacred time [six weeks of Lent] for the renewing and purifying of our hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, we may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure. PLEASE MAKE FULL USE OF THIS TIME OF RENEWAL. GIVE TIME TO YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE AS WELL AS TO YOUR WORKING, SOCIAL AND FAMILY LIFE.*

Today, the second Sunday of Lent the readings from Scripture at Mass include:
the pastoral Letter of St. Paul to Timothy, which contains this statement of Christian faith [*although this letter was written in the name of Paul by his disciples and not by Paul himself*]:

God has saved us and called us to be holy - **not because of anything we ourselves have done** - but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.

The Gospel describes the Transfiguration of Jesus. Once again, this event is deeply theological. The presence of the figures of Moses and Elijah tells us this. *Its importance is not in the elements of the story, but in its meaning:*

What does the Transfiguration reveal to us about Jesus of Nazareth? Among other things we learn that the three apostles Peter, James and John stay awake on the mountain and see the glory of God. On Holy Thursday night the same three men will be taken deeper into the Garden Gethsemane by Jesus just as they alone were taken up the mountain by him. Unlike during the Transfiguration when they stayed awake, they fell asleep in the Garden and did not pray awhile with him. Therefore, they don't see the glory of God. They see only the arrest of Jesus and they take fright and run away.

Sacramental Preparation for P3 and P4 children:

The Big Hug programme ended for almost all of the children of P3 either last Sunday or on Tuesday. Thank you to those many parents who brought their children week by week to experience the pastoral life of the community with and through our Liturgy Leaders, to take part in the programme and to mix on the Sanctuary with the other children of all ages. Three children will finish preparing in the coming week. With great sadness we learned from the School that the parents of one child withdrew their child from the Sacrament. Next Sunday all of the remaining P3 children will come on to the Sanctuary after Holy Communion to sing for us one of their two special hymns.

Two posters now displayed on the sanctuary showing the *Big Hug* will be displayed on the night of the Sacrament when Fr. Danny Rooney from St. Joseph's Stepps will join with Fr. Ness to celebrate Reconciliation with our children.

The P4 children preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time are welcomed at Mass each Sunday in the lead up to Easter and then they start the Faith Friends programme. One of the two Caritas students from OLHS, will be a leader in that programme each Sunday and we are very happy to affirm him in this commitment to the children.

Lent is a time for prayer: the children in P1 & P2 have received the **Infant My Day by Day** for Lent. The children in P5 - P6 - P7 have received the **Junior My Day by Day** to keep and to use. **The Sacramental preparation children in P3 and P4 have received a booklet *Celebrate Lent*** because of their very special spiritual preparations this year. If any child has not yet received these booklets their families should collect one from the Liturgy Leaders. Additional copies of these booklets can be purchased at the Stall.

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

Our liturgical Programme for the Second week of Lent. The purpose and goal of everything we are doing is to develop and deepen the spiritual life of the young and the old:

Mass will be celebrated at 8.30AM each day in the classroom of P5 on the second floor of the Primary School for children, staff and for members of families who can manage to come. It has been a joy to see so many people at Mass here each morning. It's never too late boys and girls to arrive at this Mass.

Mass at 12.55pm each day from Monday to Friday in OLHS. We ask families to encourage the young people who attend the School to take up this opportunity to participate at Mass as often as possible during the remaining four. Visitors into the School are also welcome to attend. Three parishioners and Audrey attended Mass this week. The greatest number of students attending are from the upper school age group.

On Tuesday and Thursday of this week Fr. Ness will be engaged in the High School for most of each day to lead each First Year class in writing a Meditation and a Prayer for each of the 14 Stations of the Cross and then in presenting this as a full liturgy. In his absence, a Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated with distribution of Holy Communion at 9.30AM in the church led by members of the lay liturgy group. Please support the community by your presence and participation. By doing this you also support Fr. Ness in his chaplaincy ministry.

During Lent on Wednesday from 7pm until 8pm in the side chapel, we will meet to hear a full explanation of the gospel passage from the previous Sunday. The gospel passage today is the Transfiguration. This can't be fully explained in the time available for a homily and Wednesday evening will let this be fully explained in fulfilment of the Pope's instruction that we focus anew on the Word of God throughout 2020.

On Thursday evening Holy Hour continues from 7pm with an opportunity for silent prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Evening Prayer of the Church beginning at 7.45pm. Consider coming into the church to pray in silence even for ten or fifteen minutes during this hour.

Friday at 3.15pm. Stations of the Cross in the chapel. Children and families have been invited each Friday during Lent to come into the church straight from both Schools - Primary and High School. Last year Stations were held at 7pm. The spirituality was deep but the attendance in numbers was weak. *This year the time has been changed to daylight on the day and time of the Crucifixion.* The spirituality has been very deep - supported by two young children and their grandparents. The attendance in numbers remains weak. On Friday, Mrs Dickie from St. Bernadette's parish and Mrs Oates from Our Lady and St. Anne's Cadzow came in straight from school. They had invited families on their way from School to join them here. Our hope is that many families will follow them in taking up this opportunity over the next four weeks. Stations of the Cross can't remain in our Lenten liturgical programme without a significant increase in the level of participation.

On Friday the children from the Primary School attended a Memorial Mass for the father of Mrs. Colton - Mr. Gerry O'Donnell. Mrs O'Donnell and her other daughter Mrs Cooper, both part of OLHS, attended this Mass and sat among the children. The chosen passages from the Scriptures were proclaimed with great reverence and maturity of speaking by children out of Class P7. The whole liturgy was very consoling for the O'Donnell family.

During Lent all Eucharistic Ministers and all who serve as Readers of Scripture at Mass, are asked to pray and consider their relationship to God and how they express this in their ministry to the community. Eucharistic Ministers are asked to attend at the church this Tuesday evening at 7.30pm for one hour of prayer and reflection until 8.30pm. On 17th March Readers are similarly asked to attend. At the end of the parish's Children's Liturgy programmes for P3 and P4 children engaged in the Sacraments this year, we will invite their leaders to an evening of prayer, reflection, evaluation and peer supervision.

SCIAF Appeal 2020: *an officer from SCIAF will attend next Sunday* at both Masses to speak briefly about the Lenten Appeal this year. The Appeal highlights the history of violence against some women in the Republic of Congo, in Central Africa. The WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal reminds us that the Scottish Government will double the sum collected through this Appeal. **Please take the pack prepared by SCIAF for their appeal this year, make up the box and fill it during the forty days of Lent.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

for those who are ill: Lauren Neilly; Tess Murray; Gerald Waddle; Henry Douglas; Louise Foley; Jim Doyle; Margaret Carroll; Angela Torrance; Mairi Sneddon; Elaine Farrell and Helen Farrell; John Dobbin; Zoe Ewing; Ownie McKenna; Robert Nimmo; William Brown [Snr], Patrick Francis O'Rourke.

those who have died recently: James Parks [C'nauld]; Linda Smedley; Paul Feenan;

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Cathie and Patrick Devine; Charles Douglas; Gerard Jackson and Catherine McCulloch; Gerard McLaughlin; Bobbie Boyle;

In the Piety Stall: many materials for spiritual growth and also Sacramentals and cards for Mass Intentions: *The My Day by Day* scripture readings booklets for Mass during Lent have all been taken. Booklets for Eastertide have arrived. *A Word for Lent* by Fr. Denis McBride and Sister Janet Fearn is a good resource for meditation and prayer in the remaining weeks of Lent. *The Lenten Extra* magazine covers the six weeks of Lent and is excellent for use by families. *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 has prayers, reflections on scripture and meditations for Lent. It uses poetry and art and has a good section for children. Please look to see what might attract you among these items.

Our Children: Safeguarding practices and norms.

The Church - Motherwell Diocese and our parish - has a legal duty as well as a moral obligation to provide care of children and vulnerable adults. We must anticipate circumstances where these groups may be at risk and not just react when we realise they have been at risk. As an example, care of our many young altar servers requires that they be looked after unobtrusively yet diligently at all times. On Friday before the Mass here with the school children two parishioners immediately took this responsibility when asked. Thank you.

A Talk with photographs from the Holy Land: was given by Bishop Nolan on Wednesday after morning Mass. His talk may help those who attended to identify the places in and around Jerusalem and in Galilee and the hill country around Nazareth referred to in the Scriptures and so understand more about the life of Jesus.

Ecumenism: Fr. Ness and Ian Douglas of St. Margaret's wish to arrange a joint Service to be celebrated in St. Margaret's either in Holy Week or immediately after Easter and hope to meet this week to agree a date.

St. Patrick's Night Party: Friday 20th March [7-11pm] all tickets have been sold and all arrangements have been made for those who will attend to enjoy time together with food, refreshments, conversation and song. The funds raised will be donated to HCPT.

Your generosity: first Sunday of the month social and family time in the Hall after Mass. Thank you for the donations last Sunday but please accept the goodness offered *gratis*. A small sum donated is more than enough.

Finance: The Financial profile for 2020 was sent to us this week. Every parish must pay 24% of total income as a levy to meet the running costs of the Diocese. In calculating the levy, total income is reduced by any sum repaid against the debt of the parish. Last year nothing was repaid as we funded essential repairs to property and improved property, equipment and facilities both material and spiritual from our income and donations. As a result our levy has risen from £6000 to £12000. This will slow down the rate at which we can repay the debt. *We could improve this situation immediately by increasing our very modest income from the Gift Aid Scheme.*

Spiritual lives: care of our souls and of the souls of those in our care should be the centre of our life. It is the purpose of taking part in the life of the Church. It is the beginning and end of taking part in the life of this parish. Please don't let this opportunity slip through your hands during the remaining four weeks of the Season of Lent.

The Parish website: operates at www.st-brendans.com. Please explore all the content there. The parish Twitter account is used with the website to keep everyone interested, up to date with our life.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc



The Second Sunday in Lent. Eighth March 2020.

The timetable for all Lenten Services this week is set out on the third page.

We invite all families to use the Season of Lent in its many elements. *The Stations of the Cross is one element.* This takes place on *Friday just after 3pm* - the day and time when Jesus was crucified. The 3.15pm start time of the Stations was set to encourage children and families to attend straight from school and parishioners to attend who are reluctant to go out in the evening.

Today a second collection will help meet the cost of caring for the priests of the Diocese who have retired from ministry through age and/or ill health.

**Mass: Sunday at 10.30am and at 4.30pm. Midweek at 9.30am.
Holy Hour: each Thursday at 7pm.**