

Easter Season 2020-21 in St. Brendan's. - A focus on the parish today:

The report on the Press Conference given in Rome last Monday which is the insert with the bulletin today, repeats that a new and more inspired vision or dimension for our faith practice is needed. A renewed desire to participate in the life of the parish is a key element. Please read what Pope Francis says in the first paragraph about the sense of personal mission. This bulletin offers many opportunities to PARTICIPATE.

The American spiritual writer Matthew Kelly in his book: *The Four Dimensions of a Dynamic Catholic* describes Catholics who recognize they have a specific mission in their life within a parish.

Transforming people one at a time is at the heart of God's plan for the world.

Matthew Kelly writes about a priest commenting on the seven parishes in the USA where he had served: *It doesn't matter where you go, the same fifty people do everything in a parish. He suggested these questions: who are the most engaged parishioners? Why are they so engaged? What percentage of parishioners are actively involved in the parish? What percentage of parishioners regularly support the parish financially to remain not only viable but also solvent?*

Matthew Kelly found that in the Church in the USA, 7% of the total parishioners provide 80% of the hours needed from lay volunteers to keep the church open. He wanted to discover what spurs on this 7% group because it might then be possible to introduce this element into the lives of more parishioners. [Fr. Brown estimated that there are 1200 parishioners in St. Brendan's.] Given the dynamism of that 7% group, Matthew Kelly wrote about what a parish would achieve if it could add even 3 percentage points to the 7% group to give at least 10% Dynamic Catholics in every parish.

The 4 Dimensions [or characteristics] of a Dynamic Catholic within a parish.

Time given each day for Prayer.

Time given consistently for learning about Christian Faith and God's Word.

Generosity practiced in personal life: *in emotions, resources and care of other people.*

Witnessing to faith through daily life - Evangelisation.

1. Prayer: parishes are like large families in many ways. Every parish needs some prayerful giants to surround the parish with prayer. We are becoming more and more individualistic and the sense of belonging in a parish is one of the casualties. [We praise the fond memory of the people who built St. Brendan's and brought it to this day but we recognize that something new is needed to take it forward to meet the needs of the people of our time.] Many people come to Mass on Sunday but never participate beyond that. They don't engage with the community and the community doesn't consistently engage with them. For such parishioners, attending at church has no communal meaning. What percentage of parishioners will have prayed for this parish in the last month? Just like a family, a parish needs giants of prayer to guide and protect it.
2. Study: on average a Dynamic Catholic spends a quarter of an hour a day learning more about their faith. Jesus didn't just want followers. He wanted disciples who would learn from his life and sit at his feet daily to be taught by him. We have all sat humbly at the feet of someone to learn from them. Dynamic Catholics confidently accept the teaching of the Church and recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in 2000 years of Christian development within the Catholic Church today.
3. Generosity: Dynamic Catholics are filled with a spirit of service and are generous stewards of their time, their talent and treasure. They are generous with love, appreciation, praise, virtue and encouragement. They are generous parents, generous with colleagues at work, and generous with strangers who cross their paths, generous with patience, with kindness, and with compassion.
4. Evangelisation: Having seen how a vibrant spiritual life has transformed them, Dynamic Catholics want others to experience the joy that flows from an intimate relationship with God. They share their faith with other people and rejoice at the opportunity to do so.

St. Brendan's Church – our place of worship.

The limit of 50 on the number of parishioners at daily Mass or at Mass on Saturday and Sunday will be removed from 26th April. It will then be up to us to comply with the social distancing rules when calculating how many people can be allowed within the church. This will depend on the number of people within a family or group who can sit together in one pew. The stewards will monitor how this works out in both our midweek and weekend Masses to ensure that we provide far as many people as possible to safely attend Mass.

The maximum number permitted at a Requiem Mass or other form of funeral service from and after 26th April will rise to 50 subject to the same rules on social distancing. By early June this should rise to 100 and by the end of June to 200 **but always subject to the rules on social distancing applied in each church.**

The celebration of baptism during Mass offers the possibility of families returning to Mass and participating again in the full sacramental life of the Church. A couple from Vietnam, Trinh Van Thang and Quy Thi Cu have arranged the baptism of Quy Thi Cu herself and their infant son, Leonardo next Saturday.

Claire McKeen and Tony McGhee have arranged the baptism of their son Campbell on Saturday 1st May at Mass at 9.30AM.

The number of persons permitted for weddings from and after 26th April will rise to 50 subject to the same rules on social distancing. By early June this should rise to 100 and by the end of June to 200 but always subject to the rules on social distancing

We are all responsible for the safety of those who come into St. Brendan's for Mass or other liturgies.

Although the Stewards supervise the protocols currently in force, they do so on behalf of and as instructed by the priest of the parish where the buck stops. The stewards have been told to call on the parish priest if an issue arises with a parishioner which they cannot resolve. **All of us must assist the stewards by: COMPLIANCE ALWAYS.**

Will you join our group of stewards? Six parishioners have joined the group this week, - a mother and her daughter, a husband and wife, a recently arrived parishioner who has moved here from St. Ignatius parish, and one of our established daily Mass community. The need for stewards will continue in particular because the increase in numbers able to attend church at the same time increases immediately the demands on those who have served us so well. **We do need to increase the present number. Please help us to increase our 7% to 10% or 14%.**

"Online" Streaming of Mass: On Facebook: *will continue until the restrictions are lifted to allow all parishioners who wish to do so to resume at church. Specifically, Daily Mass at the set time and every Requiem Mass will be live streamed AND the Mass at 6pm on Saturday and both Masses on Sunday – 10.30 and 16.30.*

VERY IMPORTANT: families with children please tell us if you wish to resume at Mass, either midweek or on Sunday or at either of the Saturday Vigil Masses. *This is a special moment in the life of this parish. Your decision will show your response to the love offered to you by God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please notify Lynne or Kathleen. Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or email: lynnekellas@icloud.com or Kathleen on 07585-225837; Kathleenencosgrove@btopenworld.com. We will ensure that your desire as a family to resume at Mass is met by arrangements made within our parish family.*

Mass for families with children at primary school: Mass each Sunday at 10.30AM, will continue to be celebrated with our children very much in mind. *Please try to follow this Mass live at 10.30 from home with your children rather than stream it later so that all of the young people might feel part of the community of children.*

For P3 children, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on 25th May in two Services, 5.15pm and 6.30pm. Each child needs to take part in the sacramental preparation programme here which is known as The Big Hug, if their family wishes them to celebrate the Sacrament within this parish. It runs for four consecutive weeks.

Fr. Ness will meet families of P3 children in two sessions, 5.15pm and 6.30pm on this Tuesday 27th April in the church to explain your part in delivering to your children the Big Hug programme which will start on 2nd May. Families in the alphabetical grouping A-Mc should come at 5.15pm. Families in the alphabetical grouping M-Z should follow at 6.30pm. A maximum of three persons from each family can attend.

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who died recently: Maureen Quigley [St. Thomas].

those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Cathie Kerr; Dan McLaughlin; Bill Neil; Mary & Bernard Ryan; Anne Hannah [1st] Netherton Court; Marie Orr [1st] former parishioner; Mary Ferry; Helen Finnion.

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021

LIFE IS PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY.

The year of the family - 2021 - and the Novena to St. Joseph 22nd April to 1st May.

Bishop Toal's letter about the Novena is included with this bulletin. Please consider the concern which the bishop has about ministry to the families of the Diocese. He has asked parents to write to him to express positive opinions and suggestions for him to consider. Please don't dismiss this request from him.

THE OLD WAY OF BEING PART OF THE CHURCH HAS BEEN SWEPT AWAY BY OUR EXPERIENCE OF THE LAST YEAR OF CLOSURE. We must not simply re-open the doors of St. Brendan's and invite the people of Muirhouse to come back into the way we relate Parish to People - Parish to Families - Parish to each Individual.

The Feast Day of our patron St. Brendan is 16th May. We have been asked to join with several other parishes across the world with the same patron in producing a 7 minute video of our sense of mission and of living it out in Muirhouse. *The first suggestion offered: a group of children from the parish filmed singing the hymn to St. Brendan written by Mr and Mrs. McAlinden with the framed music and lyrics displayed for other parishes to use. All children wishing to sing on video to provide and provide this contribution should let Fr. Ness know.*

OLHS commitment: The School will resume on Monday. Mrs Smith the Principal Teacher of RE wishes to agree a program for chaplaincy services between now and the end of June designed to suit the young people in the upper School - 4th, 5th and 6 years. This will impact on Mass here and we will keep parishioners fully informed.

Mass at 7pm on Wednesday: 50 people can now attend. In the lighter nights many families are coming with their children to this Mass and we would like to have their good example followed by more families.

SCIAF: thank you VERY MUCH. Several parishioners have given a Gift Aid Certificate to be passed on to SCIAF. **The Certificate must be dated and signed and must give your name and address, and should contain the declaration: I am a tax payer and have donated £x to SCIAF, Glasgow, under the Gift Aid Scheme.** If you can, give such a Certificate please do so for the sum of money you know you donated and deliver it to the chapel house.

Fr. Ness: On Saturday 8th May and Saturday 15th May, Fr. Andrew Clark will celebrate both Masses to allow Fr. Ness to attend a birthday party each week with his son and twin grandchildren and then with Jamie his grandson.

Finance: the Diocese issued our Financial Profile last week for the year to 31st December 2021. If there are any parishioners willing to replace the current members of the Financial Committee, which every parish must have, please make this known to Fr. Ness. The present members all wish to step down - PLEASE LET THEM DO SO.

The Gift Aid Scheme, THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED. Evelyn will submit our detailed claim to the Diocese for HMRC before the end of April. **Gift Aid envelopes for 2021-22:** please uplift at our Main Entrance.

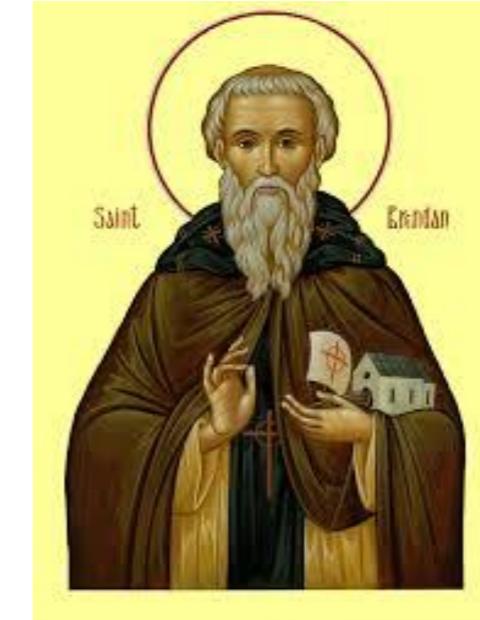
Parish 200 Club for the year 2021-22: envelope/payment can be handed in to Church or to John Campbell.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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**Twitter: stbrendanrcdom.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintbrenrc**



Third Sunday of the Liturgical Season of Easter.

Eighteenth April 2021.

Liturgies for this week:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM - with up to fifty persons attending [streamed live on our Facebook page.]

Wednesday: Mass ONLY at 7pm [NOT 9.30am] with up to fifty persons attending [open to all but telephone to secure a place. Streamed live on our Facebook page]

Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday at 12 noon and again at 6pm.

Sunday: Mass at 10.30AM [celebrated and presented for children and their families] and at 4.30pm.

The parish's Facebook page and Twitter feed show any changes to the schedule.

Press Conference to present the International Theological Symposium “For a fundamental theology of priesthood”, 12.04.2021.

Pope Francis writes in no. 273 of *Evangelii gaudium*: "I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world". *The mission also finds its own dynamic if it is seen in its link with the communion of Love which is the vocation of all.*

The whole life of the Church is missionary, or else it is neither life nor ecclesial [church like].

Cardinal Marc Ouellet, P.S.S. [abridged]

As Vocations Sunday approaches, and within the framework of the Church's research on synodality, Pope Francis has often repeated what he said in 2015 about synodality: "**The path of synodality is the path that God expects from the Church of the third millennium.**"

This expectation of God and of the Holy Father may seem abstract at first glance, but when we consider it from the point of view of vocations, it takes on a very concrete content.

Synodality basically means the active participation of all the faithful in the mission of the Church, it describes the united march of the baptized towards the Kingdom which is being built on a daily basis in the realities of family, in the workplace, as well as in social and [the church's] ecclesial life in all its forms. This requires a life of faith and close collaboration between lay people, priests and men and women religious, for the proclamation of the Gospel to the world through the attractive witness of Christian communities. This expected growth of a Synodal Church certainly corresponds to the orientations of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, patron saint of the missions and doctor of the Church, reminded us that love is the driving force behind the mission of the Church. She bore witness to this love above all through prayer and penance as part of her life in the Carmel. But this love is poured out by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all the baptized, to be given to the world by the Church present and operating in the world at the service of suffering humanity today.

This priesthood of Love, *which is exercised by the entire ecclesial community*, is animated and supported by a variety of vocations to love, whose distinct forms and colours complement each other. Between priests and lay people, between men and women religious of different charisms, the Holy Spirit communicates the grace which brings about communion among all, enabling obstacles to be overcome, and through this communion, mysteriously and at least virtually, reaching the whole of humanity

Insight from Divine Revelation on the priesthood of Christ and the participation of the Church in this priesthood is a crucial question for our time. This is not a new theme, but a central one, the originality of which will be to establish a fundamental relationship between the priesthood of the baptized, which the Second Vatican Council has enhanced, and the priesthood of ministers, bishops and priests, which the Catholic Church has always affirmed and specified. This rapport is not to be taken for granted in our time, because it entails pastoral readjustments, and it involves ecumenical questions not to be ignored, as well as the cultural movements that question the place of women in the Church.

In this context, how can we live a missionary conversion of all the baptized without a new awareness of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church and to the world through the Risen Christ?

In this search for synodal conversion, there is room for a vast theological endeavour which should offer a renewed vision, a sense of the essential, a way of valuing all vocations while respecting what is specific to each. Such a vision of the communion of vocations is rooted in the communion of divine Persons and seeks to deploy a Trinitarian ecclesiology capable of energizing the synodal and missionary Church that Pope Francis dreams of. It is clear that this research interests the whole Church, especially bishops, but also theologians, consecrated life, married people, and those involved in [spiritual] formation at all experiences of life.

Indeed, during the synods on the family, on young people, and on the Church in Amazonia, questions regarding the priesthood and synodality were raised in all their magnitude, with an insistence on the reality of baptism, the basis of all vocations. The time has come to prolong the reflection and to promote a vocational movement facilitating the sharing of the various Church experiences all over the planet.

Given the scope of this symposium, we hope it will mark a stage in the research of the Church and encourage new initiatives and publications. I cannot extend this invitation as Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops without appealing for prayers from the people of God, and in particular, from contemplative communities. *Since this is the question of the priesthood, whose baptismal and ministerial awareness we must re-energise, as well as the consciousness of the fruitfulness of consecrated life, this can only be obtained by a grace from above to be implored with insistence and perseverance.*

Professor Vincent Siret

Baptismal life is the fundamental human vocation and all must exercise the priesthood received at baptism. The ministry is in the service of this. We can hope, for example, to avoid a disappointing and counter-productive priest-secular face-off and to articulate this duo in relation to the presence and life of men and women religious, who are on both sides.

The Symposium is part of the path of synodality, as the Cardinal has just recalled. This path is in fact the only way to escape ecclesial clericalism. *I say ecclesial and not ecclesiastical because the clerics within the Church are not the only ones tempted by this truncated and deceptive vision.* The vocation of all to enter the Kingdom by grace is explicit and unique, and it prevents any withdrawal into ecclesial structures. The ministry of priests is not primarily structural or organisational, but essentially mystical, that is, inscribed in the Mystery. Only this ultimate depth of the Mystery, in which the journey can only be a journey with and in the footsteps of Christ towards the Father in the Spirit, can allow a way out from above of the many difficulties and risks encountered in being trapped in a worldly dimension, that of a power struggle or of communication based on publicity.



Diocesan Centre
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Rt Rev. Joseph Toal STB KC*HS
Bishop of Motherwell

15th April 2021

Diocesan Novena in honour of St Joseph.

In this year dedicated to St Joseph I invite the faithful of the Diocese of Motherwell to pray a Novena in honour of St Joseph through nine days from Thursday April 22nd to Saturday 1st May, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker. The Novena can be prayed communally in church or other settings, or privately at home. The intention of our prayer is to seek the intercession of St Joseph, Protector and Guardian of Church, in our present need.

I particularly commend that we pray for families, for parents and their children, that they may be sustained and encouraged by the example of the Holy Family and feel confident to participate in the life and worship of the great Family of the Church as we seek to come together again as Christ's Body after the trials and separation of the past year.

Beyond praying the Novena, I would hope that we can renew our efforts to reach out to families and offer support and encouragement wherever that is possible. Pope Francis continues to encourage our parishes and Catholic organisations to make the ministry to families a priority and indeed to look for opportunities and take initiatives to allow this to happen.

As Bishop I would like to know what you, the Faithful [people] of the Diocese, think about the Church's ministry in regard to the family and what initiatives you would like to see happen. If you wish to offer some thoughts or ideas, please email me at bishoptoal@rcdom.org. I look forward to hearing what you have to say.

I commend the Novena to you, and also my hope for renewal and new life in our ministry to families.

Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Toal

NOTE: we have obtained 100 booklets of prayers, including the Novena [nine days] Prayer for the family, prepared by Fr. Michael Kane and Fr. Francis McGachey of St. Augustine's Parish in Coatbridge for use in this Diocese. If you feel your family will participate in this Novena as a prayer for your own circumstances and spiritual development and growth, please come for one of the booklets either inside the church or at the secure box at the steps at the entrance from Barons Road.

7% of Parishioners contribute 80% of volunteer services to a parish - here is further evidence from Minutes of a meeting in 2013.

St Brendan's Fund Raising Group.

Meeting held in St Brendan's presbytery Wednesday 23rd January 2013.

In attendance were –

Father King, Tommy McFall, Kathleen Leary, Margaret Lester, Jim O'Hare, John Campbell, Marie Sneddon, Cathie Dunn, Margaret Dohnenko and Jim Leonard.
Apology – Hugh McCann.

Father King opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m. and explained that the refurbishment of the house, the new double glazing in the church and the replacement steps at the front of the church had left the parish with a debt of around £125.000. It has now been worked down to about £100.000 which is still an astronomical sum. He felt that the priority now was to raise money that could be used to give the church a much needed refurbishment. The reason he asked for the meeting this evening was to search out ideas for fundraising; he wanted this to be a new beginning for St Brendan's and threw open the meeting to suggestions for fundraising ideas.

Father himself suggested the idea that an appeal could be made to the parishioners to bring unwanted old gold and silver, odd earrings, broken chains etc. It was agreed that this was a good proposal and that a notice should be placed in the parish bulletin as soon as possible. Father also stated that he would like to see a Coffee Morning at least once a month after Sunday mass, not only as a money-making scheme but more importantly, to help revive community spirit in the parish.

John Campbell will continue to administer the 200 Club.

Other ideas were –

Fish Supper Bingo Evening. Car Boot sales. A Children's Fun Day – to be held perhaps a week or two before the schools finish for the summer. A Ladies Night. A Race Night. A Quiz Night. An Antiques Roadshow. A Sports Night. Disco for children in the Community Centre – perhaps with a Talent contest. Live Bands from the OLHS pupils. A Valentines Disco, Olde Time Dancing. A Tea Dance.

It was suggested that an account be set up to provide working funds, Father will look into this.

No activities to be held during Holy Week.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 5th February at 7.00 p.m.