

The Ordinary Season in St. Brendan's.

Last Sunday we published this statement of the Church's teaching on this page of the bulletin:

The celebration of the Eucharist [participation at Holy Mass] is the centre of the entire Christian life, both for the universal Church and for the local congregations of the Church.

For all Catholics who live within the boundary of St. Brendan's and whose mobility is unrestricted - that is, they can come to Mass here if they choose to do so - this statement presents a question which can't be ignored:

If celebrating Mass with my own community lies at the heart of the practice of my Catholic faith - why don't I participate at Mass in my own parish? Why don't I take with me to Mass in the parish the children whom I presented for baptism? I did promise on their baptism that I would bring them up in the Catholic Christian faith so that the flame of faith symbolised by their lit baptismal candle, would always burn brightly in their life. If I take this commitment seriously, then why don't I want to be part of the community, and if I don't take the commitment seriously, why did I make it to God - no one forced me? **True knowledge of God consists in a personal profound experience of Jesus Christ and of his love - St. Bernard of Clairvaux.**

Following on this theme, Bishop Toal has issued a letter to "All the Faithful." He asks every Catholic in this Diocese to consider seriously the commitment they made to Jesus Christ to live their faith to the fullest and to bring up children to do the same. **He identifies the end of the phase of life of the Church here and in every parish which passed away with the Lockdown in March 2020. When St. Brendan's re-opens fully very soon, a new way of being Church will open for everyone.** Some parishioners may decide not to return. Will you return? If you have done so already, let us together warmly welcome back into the community everyone who wishes to return.

Bishop Toal asks everyone to step away from thinking of celebrating Mass as an obligation to be fulfilled under pain of sin. Participating at Mass as an invitation to encounter Jesus in the circumstances of our own lives.

The bishop's letter is presented with this bulletin. We have edited it and broken it up into colour sections so as to highlight those parts which reveal how we can be dynamic members of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Please read it. Please read it. Please read it. Please take extra copies to pass to your relatives and friends.

We promoted the letter on our Twitter Feed

We promoted the letter on our Facebook Page.

We promoted the letter on our Web Site.

We promoted the letter during the Saturday Talk we give at 11AM on Facebook.

We promoted the letter at Mass in the midweek and we will promote it at all weekend Masses.

We promoted it by telephone text messaging to all families engaged in Sacramental preparation.

We have promoted it successfully if you are reading it.

Please read it. Please read it. Please read it. Please take extra copies to pass to your relatives and friends.

1. How many families and individuals are giving thought to how and when they will resume coming out to Mass and being part of this parish family? **How many families or individuals will not come back because they have become used to being away for over sixteen months?**
2. Have families who wish their children to receive any of the Sacraments of Reconciliation or Eucharist for the first time or Confirmation during the coming school year, regularly participated along with their children at Mass in this parish since the first Lockdown in March 2020? **Will they willingly do so now?**
3. **From Sunday 15th August, the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady and start of the new school year, we will celebrate three Masses each weekend, not four as at present - Saturday at 5pm. Sunday at 10.30 and 4.30**

Telephone Kathleen on 07585-225837 or Lynne on 07803-314555 to get back as soon as possible into the way of attending Mass on Sunday each week under the new schedule - if that is what you want.

St. Brendan's Church – the place of worship and Sacraments for families.

Keeping things safe for all who come to St. Brendan's is our priority. The virus is predominantly contagious through breathing in of air droplets and by following the protocols strictly we do all that we can to prevent this happening within the church.

The following provisions continue to apply in this church for your safety:

- Track and Trace (test and protect) remains in place
- One metre social distancing is still required inside the church.
- Communal singing is now permitted but parishioners require to wear face masks even while singing.
- Although 200 people can theoretically now be accommodated within this church at the same time, we will voluntarily limit to 100 the number of people who can attend for a Requiem Mass.
- We must wear face masks in the church and sanitise our hands on entering and on leaving the church.
- A cleaning regime [sanitising] of the interior of the church is still required after each service.

When the Masses are reduced from four to three each weekend in two weeks' time, it will take more time to admit parishioners safely into the church. Please come early to the church if you hold a place at any of these Masses so that this can be done with little inconvenience.

We will continue to locate the Piety Stall in the hall, but we intend to return it to the main entrance to the church when the restrictions are further reviewed next week. Thank you to Evelyn, May and Elspeth, with the help of Richard, the hall keeper, for keeping the hall available for our use in this way.

The My Day by Day booklets are available for the month of August as is the Magnificat booklet.

The July edition of the Magnificat booklet printed this history of our patron saint:

Brendan was born in the year 484 near what is now Tralee and was educated in Killeady near Limerick. He entered a monastery in County Kerry. There he spent hours praying Sacred Scripture - he meditated on the Word of God in the Old and the New Testament. From Kerry, Brendan evangelised the West of Ireland and founded monasteries there and in Scotland. A legend developed around the idea that he undertook a sea voyage lasting seven years after receiving a vision of the "Promised Land" of the saints. In 1976 a sailor reproduced Brendan's journey from Ireland to Newfoundland in thirty-six feet long hide covered boat. Saint Brendan the Navigator lead me forward by your gentle light. Amen.

You are invited to take one or more of these booklets which after the first week of every month are left out for parishioners to take and use without charge. **We all have a duty to deepen our knowledge of our faith and of Sacred Scripture. Have you asked yourself - what do I do to improve my knowledge? Do you think you have done enough? Will you do something more now?**

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly: Theme of the celebration last week – I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.

Pope Francis tells this story about an elderly lady he met in 2019 in Panama at World Youth Day: *she carried a sign saying, "we grandmothers also know how to make a mess - by using "wisdom". Join the grandparents to make a mess. It will be a real mess, a really clever mess, don't be frightened of it - go out and speak. I asked her age, thinking she was quite elderly. She was 14 years younger than me!! What an embarrassment!!*

Special Collection for July – Peter's Pence:

The Special Collection for July to support the ministry of Pope Francis and the Work of the Holy See, is known as **Peter's Pence**. We usually take up this collection on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. This year we set aside Sunday **15th August which is the Solemn Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven.** We will know by then whether all parishioners who wish to attend at Mass, can do so. We hope that many who do return will support this worthy appeal. This is one of many elements of parish life in which all are asked to participate.

The SCIAF Summer Appeal is to help those suffering in Tigray, Ethiopia, due to the terrible consequences of the Civil War there. Bishop Toal visited the Diocese of Adigrat in Tigray and the funds raised by SCIAF this summer will go to assist that Diocese. **SCIAF have intensified this week their Appeal for these people, asking our help.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

Birthday Best Wishes: Rose Thomson [97 years young last June]

Birthday Remembrance: Rosemary Friel [nee Boyle]

for those who have died recently: Cathie McGhee; Connor Sheul [former pupil of OLHS]; Maimie Feely and Pat Dyer [both Easterhouse].

those whose Month Mind or Anniversary occurs about now: Gerry Lynch; Andrew McGuire; Myles Leonard [3rd]; Eddie Ford [28th today]; Sadie Tracey.

THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY 2021: COMMUNITY

Morning Mass on Monday and Tuesday and on Friday: Fr. Ness will visit his son's family in Aberdeen City on Monday and Tuesday this week. The Spiritan Fathers cannot assist us on these days, but Fr. Flynn can do so on Friday morning when Fr. Ness has agreed to celebrate a Requiem Mass in Easterhouse. After prayer and reflection, he decided not to look elsewhere for a priest to celebrate Mass in his absence but to allow the Stewards some much needed rest and to celebrate Mass online from his son's house as he has done previously. **Please therefore note Mass will not be celebrated here on Monday and Tuesday morning**

Netherton Court Care Home: after an absence of sixteen months, we will resume our ministry next Saturday afternoon with the residents of this Care Home who now include Rose Thomson and Ellen Jordan.

Door sign: The handles on the main doors can mislead people - the **handle should be pushed for the door to open inwards, not pulled to open outwards.** The word "PUSH" will be engraved on the metal plate of the door, and we intend that this will solve the issue once and for all. **These doors are not locked during Mass.**

Wedding: on Saturday 31st July Morvan Kerr and Dominic Joseph Green will marry in our church. We wish them well in their life together as husband and wife and we will welcome them as husband and wife into the community at the first opportunity after the wedding.

Finance Committee: Suzanne, Lynne and Jim as members of the parish's Committee have met with Fr. Ness to consider the issues relating to the continued unrestricted use - open to all, 24/7 - of the car park which serves the Church and the Hall. Before reaching a conclusion on how to respond to the urgent need for repair of the surface, Fr. Ness has asked the Diocesan Surveyor, Guy Logan, to inspect the whole area and estimate the cost of essential repairs. Meanwhile, Suzanne will enquire into the availability of grant assistance, if any, and Fr. Ness will write to the Education Department of NLC to alert them to the possibility that the Car Park will be closed so that they can take appropriate action when the Primary School re-opens. The responses will be fed back to parishioners. **Please be aware and make it known to others that the car park may need to be closed for safety reasons without warning.**

Stewarding: our parish has received great support to provide well-coordinated, respectful, competent and cheerful stewarding. **Will you offer to help with this, especially if you are returning to the church in response to the theme of the bishop's pastoral letter? We have supported and promoted this here throughout the time of closure.**

Plants: Angela Sewell offered to bring us potted plants which children had grown from cuttings. These plants are available on the Barons Road Entrance, and some will be presented as part of the Offertory Procession at Mass.

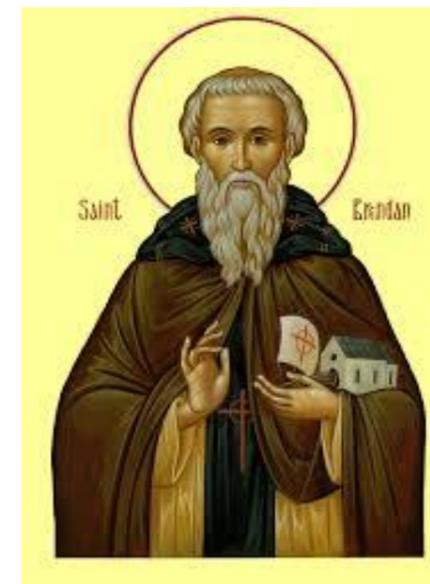
St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time.

First day of August 2021.

Liturgies for this week:

Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM [*streamed live on our Facebook page.*] **PLEASE SEE AND READ THE NOTE ON PAGE 4 OF THIS BULLETIN**

Wednesday: Mass at 7pm.

Saturday: Vigil Mass of Sunday at 12 noon [ends next week] and the Mass at 6pm will be brought forward one hour to 5pm.

Mass will be restored at 9.30AM [if our stewards are able to accommodate it].

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

[*Mass on Saturday at 6pm and Mass on Sunday at both 10.30AM and 4.30PM is streamed live on our Facebook page.*]

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



Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road
Motherwell
ML1 1PP

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

28th July 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish you all well, and hope you are enjoying the Scottish summer.

As we follow Liturgical Year B this summer, we listen to Chapter 6 of St John's Gospel at Mass through successive Sundays. Last Sunday we heard the Gospel of the Miracle of the Loaves and the Fish, when Jesus fed the multitude gathered around him with the five barley loaves and two fish – *"Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted"*. Hearing of the Lord's abundant blessing on the hungry people we are encouraged to place our faith in the Lord's generosity when he feeds us with his Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. We also are hungry for the Lord's love and protection, and particularly for the sustenance he offers to us in Holy Communion. We come, therefore, to each Celebration of Mass in anticipation and thanksgiving for such a wonderful gift.

In the forthcoming Sundays we will hear Jesus' teaching about himself as the Bread of Life that has come down from heaven – *"I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world"*. Our firm faith in the miracle of the Eucharist, that the Lord's Body and Blood become truly present in the consecrated bread and wine, is strengthened and renewed by the Lord's own words and our participation in the holy mysteries of his passion, death and resurrection renewed for us in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I invite you to listen attentively to the Lord's words and to renew your faith in the salvation made present for us in each Mass celebrated. At the end of his discourse in John's Gospel at chapter 6, Jesus asked the apostles if they wished to go away as others were doing, and Simon Peter answered, *"Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; you are the Holy One of God"*. When we are present at Mass may this profession of faith be ours and may the Lord reassure us of its truth and of all the goodness he bestows upon us.

We continue to experience some effects from the coronavirus and, while we hope life can become more "normal" again, we are aware that some threats to our health and well-being remain and will require continuing caution and willingness to make decisions and accept sacrifices for the benefit of others as well as ourselves. **We do hope though that more of the faithful will now feel able to return to our Catholic practice of attending Sunday Mass, recognising that we will continue to make every effort to ensure everybody's safety as more restrictions are lifted and larger congregations can gather in our churches. I would like to extend a special invitation to families to come to Sunday Mass, wishing especially to welcome parents and children, teenagers, and young adults, to revitalise the great Catholic tradition of attending Mass each week, thus acknowledging the gift of faith received from the Lord and sustained by his abiding presence in the Holy Eucharist. It may be true that the forced separation of recent months has lessened the desire of some to participate in the Church's worship, but there comes a time to take stock and hopefully to decide on a path of renewed interest and participation.**

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Hopefully this can be a time of new life and hope, not something forced upon us, but rather an invitation from the Lord to come and listen and be fed with the beautiful gift he gives us of himself in the Eucharist.

I take this opportunity also to encourage you to attend Mass in your own parishes on Sundays (including, of course, Saturday Vigil Masses). It is quite easy for people to chose to attend Mass in other parishes when churches are so close to one another, but we do all live within the boundaries of a particular parish, which we therefore belong to. We are clearly going to face a period of readjustment of some sort in the post-pandemic period and I would think that the loyalty of the local Catholic community to their own parish church, and participation in its worship, sacramental and social life, will very much determine its viability and vitality. Every parish will need the commitment of the present and future generations as well remembering the great deeds of the past.

With grateful thanks to the Lord for the wonderful gift of the Eucharist, I thank you for your own prayers and for your support for the Church. **May the Lord be close to each one of us and our families as we look to him in our present need and in our hope for the future.**

Yours in Christ,

With my prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Joseph Toal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+ Joseph Toal