

Parking at St. Brendan's Church.

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Today the re-surfaced car park has been lined off to provide thirty-two designated parking spaces for motor cars. A parking bay adjacent to the newly constructed ramp and platform has been reserved for use by funeral cars when appropriate. Road Mark Scotland have completed this work and have also outline the direction of the flow of traffic for safe access and egress into, through and out of the car park. **From Wednesday morning the car park will be open for use and for reasons of safety everyone who uses the car park must always comply with the lining which is displayed.**

The work on the car park to plane and take away the loose material on the surface and then to resurface the whole area, **was carried out just before Christmas by JH [Civil Engineering] Contractors Limited - quoting the exact words of John Higgins, the company Director:**

“to support and encourage the Roman Catholic community of St. Brendan's, Muirhouse”.

The work was not done by his company in order to provide a car parking facility for the Primary School to support and encourage the Local Authority. **To fulfil the goal of John Higgins, everyone who considers themselves to be part of the community of St. Brendan's, who feels instinctively that they belong to the St. Brendan's parish family, is not only entitled to use it but should be encouraged to use it whenever they wish.**

From our own savings, that is from the money donated in Sunday collections and through significant donations from families within the parish (much of it given under the Gift Aid Scheme which lets us maximise the benefit) including a special donation lovingly and tearfully made by one family with children at the school, we immediately responded at Christmas by making two donations to SCIAF. This is what John Higgins had asked of us.

One donation was made in the name of the children of the community specifically to provide a source of clean water for children in Africa and another in the name of our community as a whole to support SCIAF's international aid effort generally. As our finances will permit with prudent management of our weekly income from parishioners, further donations will be made particularly as part of our response to SCIAF's annual Lenten Appeal.

A meeting was held on Zoom yesterday evening by Fr. Ness and Kathleen Cosgrove for the Parish with two members of the Parent Council of St. Brendan's Primary School, who with their own families participate actively in the parish community. They therefore have a sense of what the people of the parish feel, as does Kathleen who hears the opinion of parishioners on many matters of importance while she and other members of our long-serving team of stewards greet them for Track and Trace purposes at Mass.

The Parent Council will make known this information on the resurfacing and use of the car park from today on the conditions outlined in this Notice. This will be displayed on the Primary School's App with the co-operation of Mrs Oates. All families with children at the Primary School will know from today and will hopefully think about how this very important and welcome facility for the community has become available.

A free standing sign has been commissioned with All Signs Scotland Limited at the entrance to the car park in these terms: ***This car park has been resurfaced by JH Civil Engineering Contractors Limited for use by the parish community of St. Brendan's, Muirhouse.***

Finally, and very timely, Clare McAlinden in her Ninetieth year and a founder member with her husband and children of this parish, and a great contributor to the good of the parish community, most recently by the wonderful work of her son Jim, declared in a message to Fr. Ness:

"By the way, the Car Park has been made perfect. I feel so much safer walking on it now. Great job done."

The goal of John Higgins has been partially fulfilled in this response from Clare who feels both supported and encouraged as part of the community of St. Brendan's Muirhouse.

Let us all work to keep the Car Park a safe and respected asset of this Parish and do justice to the generosity we have been received in God's Providence.