

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

The Response to the Psalm today: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end."

The BBC and the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland - well supported in this Octave:

Bishop Keenan hopes a TV documentary on life in Seminary [Rome] will encourage vocations.

After Mass was televised last Sunday from St. Augustine's church in Coatbridge by the BBC nationally, speaking ahead of the milestone broadcast of a documentary about life as a seminarian in the Scots College in Rome, Bishop John Keenan has revealed he hopes it will encourage new vocations. ***Bishop Keenan who is President of the vocations promotion agency "Priests for Scotland" said:***

"The documentary "Priest School" which will be shown on BBC Scotland on tonight at 10.15pm offers a fascinating insight into the life of a seminarian training in Rome to become a priest in Scotland. I really hope that the programme will act as a catalyst for vocations to the priesthood by allowing viewers to see exactly what the life of a student looks like."

"As a former Roman student, who loved his time in Rome, I do remember feeling a sense of trepidation and nerves at the thought of moving to another country and a completely new environment. Being able to visualise seminary life through a documentary in advance would have settled many of my fears!"

"Every year, the Church runs a Vocations Awareness Week, because of the severe restrictions we face this year, the normal work of promoting vocations will be much harder, but in many ways, this programme can fill a void by offering information, insight and detail about the daily lives of Scottish seminarians in Rome. I sincerely hope it causes some of those who watch to consider what it is God wants of them and how they can respond by considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life."

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

We publish a bulletin each week to keep everyone up to date about our community.

Please connect to the parish if you can on all our social media to help us do this or collect a bulletin.

- We want to **sustain the spiritual life of the community** through online streaming of ***morning Mass*** each day on Facebook at 9.30. Please take advantage of this in our parish and remain part of this community.
- We will continue the ***Talk on Scripture each day at 1pm*** and speak about the history of the first Christians through their communities. We know about these Christians from the Letters of the New Testament, mainly and primarily of St. Paul and the Acts of the Apostles [written by the evangelist Luke] but also other sources.
- We will also have the ***Time for Prayer in the church at 4.15pm*** which lasts about 20 minutes and we now present the **Regina Coeli at 12 noon with one decade of the Rosary** for the intentions of the community.
- Families can come all week to the church door from the Barons Road [chapel house] entry for the following safe and secure items: ***Easter chocolate, Easter work books for children and today's bulletin which will also be available on the Parish's web site.***
- **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. He will be very happy to visit and to do so and will obey the social distancing provisions applicable to all of us.

The parish's Children's Liturgy programme: we want and we try to preserve what the parish and the families of the parish have formed through our Liturgy Team for our children of Primary School age. Our Twitter feed contains items for the children for today on the Scriptures and on activities for home. Margaret Dochnenko will present the spiritual material for the children during our "Online" morning Mass today. A parishioner suggested that we ask the children to give in to Fr. Ness some of their artwork. We'll then post it online on our web page.

Sacramental Preparation for P3 and P4 children the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the P3 children has been postponed to a date yet to be fixed. **A new date will be set for the celebration by the P4 children** preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time. ***These children and all children have not been forgotten by us.***

Ecumenism: we continue to pray along with Ian Douglas and our Christian brothers and sisters in St. Margaret's Church of Scotland Parish on Barons Road, but also we note that: TODAY, SUNDAY at 7.00 pm, Thirteen Christian churches and organisations are taking part in a session of communal prayer for the fourth consecutive week, with many of those participating also lighting candles. Perhaps we in this community could remember to light a candle tonight and pray.

The churches have issued this joint statement with this week's prayer:

"As we find ourselves living through a renewed phase of Lockdown, we see in the Gospel of John (20: 19-23) that, in part, the experience of the disciples, even on the day of Resurrection, was one in which they found themselves locked in and behind closed doors.

"Their experience of Lockdown was interrupted by the presence of Jesus as he came and stood among them. He speaks into the depths of their fears and anxieties: 'Peace be with you.' We hear these words and know that they speak to us. We listen again for what he will say and discover that Jesus simply repeats himself: 'Peace be with you.' As we still ourselves, we hear those words of peace spoken and sense that they are spoken to us and to all who long to hear a word that heals and reassures: 'Peace be with you'. ***Therefore, let us pray*** [abridged version]:

*Father, speak into the depths of our experience, Speak the word that stills our fears
And calms our anxieties:*

'Peace be with you.'

Speak your word to the lonely and to the broken,

To the bereaved and to those whose world has crumbled:

Peace be with you.

'Father speak to us behind locked doors. As we remember others, who risk their own safety, in order to serve others: Peace be with them.

Carers and nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers, Delivery drivers and shop assistants:

Peace be with them.

God who inspires Hope, speak to us in the present

And speak to us of the future,

For though the doors are locked, in time they shall be open: Peace shall be renewed.

For those who lead the life of our Nation: Our Queen Elizabeth,

First Minister and Prime Minister, and all who shape our common life,

For us all: Peace shall be renewed.

God whose name is love and whose gift is love, Open our hearts to know you and to love you,

To love you and to love our neighbour

And as we do, to hear again: 'Peace be with you.' May we find our strength in you,

And hear again:

'Peace be with you.'

Our Prayer Life in these times

The priority and the focus of priestly ministry at all times must be to sustain and to nourish the spiritual and the pastoral life of the whole community to which he is sent by the bishop. Both the priest and the people have the opportunity during these days when a lot of time is spent inside our homes, to think about how we can and how we do pray and to give time to prayer. ***Bishop Toal asked all priests who celebrate Mass and stream this online - which we do using Facebook - to take time to prepare well and preach fully on the Scriptures each day, to explain their deep meaning to parishioners.*** He also wishes ample time on Sunday to be given over to the children and we do this by the goodness of Margaret and Debbie - two of the Liturgy Team. Gatherings in church may remain suspended for many months. Other leaders may therefore wish to join this ministry to present at Sunday Mass.

We offer prayer time at 12 noon and at 4.30pm. These periods provide material for prayer at home and the times were chosen to suit the families' likely timetable for meals and play. The Regina Coeli Prayer is printed on our website and our Facebook page. **Please join in these opportunities for prayer.**

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PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Ann Alexander; James McKechnie, John Martin; Marie Orr; Ellen Halliday; Helen Finnon.

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now: Bridget [Kennedy] Fagan and Betty Alexander; Agnes and Leo Symonds.

The Piety Stall: the spiritual life of the parish has been badly affected by the loss of this dynamic and valuable resource of prayer and spiritual reading materials from our lives. There are alternative sources which we can use. **For those who can access the internet please use Redemptorist Publications [rp@ShineOnline.net] and The Catholic Truth Society [www.ctsbooks.org]**

***The Jerusalem Bible* was the great bonus that came in 1966 from the Second Vatican Council. In the years that have followed it was updated and reprinted as the New Jerusalem Bible and in 2019 it has been further updated and reprinted as The Revised New Jerusalem Bible. We have been using the Study Version of this further updated bible in our 1pm Talks on Scripture. The Study Version contains a series of Introductions to each Book in the Bible and footnotes to each chapter of each book. We have sourced the most economic source for this Study Version. Contact Fr. Ness on ojness@hotmail.com if you wish to have one or more of them.**

Fr. Thomas D. Stegman SJ is one of the most respected American spiritual writers and a globally acknowledged expert on the writings of St. Paul. We put on our website a link to an article he has written for Easter - ***What happens when we die*** - understood through Easter faith in the risen Jesus.

Matters for our community:

Gratitude: Even in the continuing Social Lockdown, Social Distancing, and many restrictions on our freedom of movement, parishioners have continued to visit the church individually and the chapel house for a myriad of reasons and observing the norms in place to protect our health. They are all very welcome ***Many other people come looking for financial help from our community. In your name we do offer help - arranged by the SSVdP during the temporary suspension of their ministry.***

We have welcomed parishioners to represent the community at Mass since the closure of the church. Many have read at Mass but that isn't necessary. Parishioners who don't wish to read are also welcome. No parishioner [18+ yrs] is excluded.

Thank you to all parishioners for their expressed concern for the community, for the financial wellbeing of the parish and for the health and welfare of the priest. ***Matters of finance in our community shouldn't be raised by the priest. Ultimately, he is accountable to the bishop for the financial stewardship of the parish but a priest must only give himself to bring the life of Jesus ever deeper into this community. A finance team must be formed for this Parish and only a lay member of the that team must in future speak on matters of finance to the community.***

200 Club Renewal: by 30th April. John Campbell thanks the 83 families who participate. He increased membership last year but was short of the target of 100. The cost is £24 per year. The benefit to the parish income from the Club is significant. Forms for 2020 are available by telephone or personally from Fr. Ness.

Gift Aid Scheme: *This comes sharply into focus at this time.* The simple form is available on request. The very limited use of this scheme here in St. Brendan's causes a very significant loss in our income.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

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



Divine Mercy Sunday - Nineteenth April 2020.

Using the parish's site on Facebook you can view:

Weekday morning Mass at 9.30 Mass on Saturday at 6pm and on Sunday at our scheduled times, 10.30AM and 4.30pm . [Each Mass is celebrated with one parishioner present to symbolise the community's presence, your presence.]

From Monday the Regina Coeli will be recited at 12 noon "online" on Facebook with one decade of the Rosary offered for the intentions of all. The "on line" Talk on Scripture at 1pm. It will continue from Monday to Friday this week as will "20+" minute Prayer period at 4.15pm from Monday to Friday.

SCIAF Appeal: Funds raised will be matched by the UK Government. Donations can be given online to SCIAF or at St. Brendan's church or by adding to your SCIAF Wee Box.