

## Our faith, our sacramental, spiritual and pastoral life.

All families in the parish but in particular this year those who have children in classes P3 to P7 in St. Brendan's and those who have children and teenagers at OLHS, are invited to understand that life in the Church INVOLVES PARTICIPATION, NOT SIMPLY MEMBERSHIP and to read and take to themselves spiritually the following passage:

**Let us return to the Eucharist with joy!** First of two parts from a letter issued by Cardinal Sarah from the Vatican on 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Solemn Feast of the Assumption, speaking about the celebration of Mass during and after the COVID 19 pandemic, addressed to the Presidents of all the Bishops' Conferences of the Church. Cardinal Sarah is the Prefect of the Curia Office which directs the Liturgy of the Church.

### *Let us return to Mass.*

The pandemic caused by the Covid 19 virus has produced upheavals not only in social, family, economic, educational, and work dynamics, but also in the life of the Christian community, including the liturgical dimension. To prevent the spread of the virus, rigid social distancing was necessary, which had repercussions on a fundamental trait of Christian life: coming together to share our faith and share the Eucharist. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Mt 18:20); "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And all who believed were together and held all things in common" (Acts 2:42-44).

*This community dimension has a theological meaning. In the words of Saint Augustine: our heart is restless until it finds God and rests in him*

The Lord Jesus began his public ministry by calling to him himself a group of disciples to share with him the life and proclamation of the Kingdom; from this small flock the Church is born. Scripture uses the image of a city to describe eternal life: the heavenly Jerusalem. **A city is a community of people who share values, fundamental human and spiritual realities, places, times, and organized activities and who contribute to building the common good. Christians built places where the faithful could recognize themselves as the community of God, a people summoned for worship and constituted as a holy assembly - they built churches. Just as you did here.**

The Christian community has never sought isolation and has never made the Church a city with closed doors. Formed in the value of community life and in the search of the common good, Christians have always sought **insertion into society, while being aware of an otherness - to be in the world without belonging to it and without being reduced to it** And even in the pandemic emergency, a great sense of responsibility has emerged. In listening to and collaborating with civil authorities and experts," the Bishops of the Church "were prompt to make difficult and painful decisions, even to the point of suspending the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist - the celebration of Mass in our churches - for a long period.

**As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as "the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows"**

*As soon as is possible, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love, and hope.*

**Part 2 of the letter will be printed next week.**

**The Parish and the chaplaincy at both schools will do everything possible to celebrate Mass for the children, the teenagers and young adults of our community over the coming weeks of this autumn term at school - leading to Christmas . Please see the further information about this on the following pages of this bulletin. This information will be updated each week to keep everyone fully informed.**

## **St. Brendan's Parish - Concerns**

Mass at 6PM on Saturday and Mass at 10.30AM on Sunday will be streamed live on Facebook media.

Daily Mass at 9.30am will also be streamed live on our Facebook site.

**If you want to participate at any Mass in the church.** Lynne Kellas and Kathleen Cosgrove record the identity of parishioners for the purpose of "Track & Trace". Contact Lynne on 07803-314555 or by email: [lynnkellas@icloud.com](mailto:lynnkellas@icloud.com) or Kathleen on 07585-225837 or by email: [Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com](mailto:Kathleencosgrove@btopenworld.com)

**STEWARDED:** if aged between 18 to 70 - could you help - even if for a few of weeks? Kathleen Cosgrove as Parish Safeguarding Coordinator will outline and apply the Church's requirements for all who serve as a Steward. Please **contact Kathleen to be sent an ID Form if you wish to help.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MAIN INFORMATION: for the purpose of "Track and Trace":**

1. **the Mass time allocated** to a person or family will remain fixed to attend each Mass.
  2. **If a person or family can't attend for two weeks in succession** the invitation is offered to another.
  3. **the Stewards** will remain the same for each Mass. Quarantine would be necessary if there was an outbreak of the Covid 19 infection among the stewards but other Mass groups would not be affected.
1. **Please follow the protocols exactly as set out so that we keep everyone safe.**
  2. **Move to your appointed seat without delay, please stay there after Mass finishes until you are asked to leave it and leave by the appointed exit. Please do not cross to another exit.**

***Always observe the 2 metre social distance rule when you are within church property including the car park, and always wear a face covering. The church, the house, the hall, the car park and all ground within the parish boundary are our responsibility under the protocols and we must discharge this fully to avoid complaint against Bishop Toal and Fr. Chromy as the Vicar General who carry this responsibility ultimately for the Diocese.***

### **SACRAMENTS - PARTICIPATION IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF St. BRENDAN'S PARISHIONERS.**

The truths which Cardinal Sarah emphasises in his letter printed on page 2, shows that every child who intends to celebrate a Sacrament this year in our parish should view online our Children's Liturgy in order to prepare well through PARTICIPATION. A teaching video [Catechesis] for each of the following four age groups is posted on our Facebook Page by 1pm each Saturday:

**P1 and P2 - Angela and Anne Marie; P6 and P7 - for Confirmation, Megan helped by Ciara. P4 for Reconciliation - Margaret helped by Kirsty and Ciara. P3 and P5 - Debbie helped by Suzanne P5 for First Holy Communion - Margaret helped by Kirsty and Ciara.**

**The videos are for the children to watch when it best suits the family. This should be linked to attending one of the four Masses for each Sunday either in church or following one online.**

**First Reconciliation** will be celebrated in the church this Tuesday and Wednesday in Services at 5.15pm and 6.30pm. **This will be the template for all further Sacraments in this school year.**

**The [First] Communion Masses:** will involve groups of five children. **The P5 children** will celebrate Mass on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> November inclusive. Mass each weekend on Saturday will be at 10AM and on Sunday at 2pm. *Four families have not participated in the preparations since P4.*

**The participating families should give their full attention to the spiritual preparation of their child.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

**those who have died recently:** *John Holbourne*; Agnes Weir; Peter Bradley; Mrs. Veronica Russell; Brian Canning; Jimmy Canning; *Italics identifies one of our parishioners*

**those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now:** Tam Whelan, Stephen Russell; Annie Higgins; the deceased members of the Syme and Whelan families with Robert and Grace McVey, Jessie and Bryan McNamee, Andrew Brown, Maureen Kane, Patrick and May Whelan, Nan McVey

**Wedding Anniversary:** John and Margaret Campbell [46<sup>th</sup>]; Kenny and Kathleen Cosgrove [23<sup>rd</sup>].

**Communication:** Prints of this bulletin can be collected from the Baron's Road doorway. It is also available online. Fr. Ness will speak live on Facebook each Saturday at 11AM to comment on the most urgent issues.

**Points in summary form:**

**Spirituality:** we provide *the Magnificat*, the *My Day by Day* and the *Sacred Heart Messenger* for parishioners to buy each month. **Unused back copies are available gratis at the church entrance. Please take one home to read.** We also have prints of a book "*How to survive being married to a Catholic*" - intended to inform and help those spouses who are not Catholics understand our ways.

**The sanctuary adorned with flowers for First Reconciliation:** we have prayed recently for Robert Nimmo, a non-Catholic close friend of Fr. Ness who has undergone medical treatment and surgical procedure. He wrote in response to this to "*thank the parishioners for their kindness, support and prayers during recent months. The flowers on the sanctuary today to mark the celebration by P4 children of the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week, are a token of my appreciation*" **Robert also requested that we photograph for him the array of images of the tongues of fire which the children had brought to the church last Pentecost Sunday. He thinks their imagination is wonderful.**

**Breach of Social Distancing and closure of the Car Park through lockdown provisions:** The Parent Council of St. Brendan's Primary School had this item on the agenda for the meeting last Thursday. Fr. Ness explained that this is a matter for the Church to regulate not for the School although it does involve parents of children who attend the School. **All families who make use of the car park must comply strictly with Road Safety provisions and now also with Social Distancing protocols just as parishioners must do when attending Services, such as the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday and Wednesday evening this week.**

**Our Lady's High School:** the programme Fr. Ness has agreed with Mrs Smith of RE to lead discussion and then celebrate Mass during a double period with all first year classes will involve **a change of our time for morning Mass on Tuesday and Wednesday this week from 9.30 to 12 Noon. Please take careful note.** Mrs Smith has just been appointed acting PT and desires to encourage participation of the young people in the life of Motherwell parishes.

**Use of the parish hall:** The Diocese has published a scheme developed by one of the parishes to assess the risk of opening its Hall. We want to do this here and open the hall for limited purposes such as to display for sale the stock of cards and sacramentals such as rosary beads and medals. This is to assist families wishing to buy such items to mark the celebration of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist or Confirmation by their children and items for Christmas. Information on this will be displayed on our social media and Fr. Ness will make announcements as appropriate.

**Ecumenical Call to Prayer:** For the 29th consecutive week, 14 Churches and Christian organisations across Scotland call on Christians to pray together in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Please join in prayer at **7 pm, today Sunday 20th September**. The internet link to the prayer is: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/scottish-christians-join-together-in-prayer-this-sunday>

**St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish**

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**Twitter: [stbrendanrcdom](https://twitter.com/stbrendanrcdom).**

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



**Twentieth September 2020, the Twenty fifth Sunday in the Ordinary Season of the Liturgical Year.**

***Mass in the Parish during this coming week:***

**Monday, Thursday and Friday: Mass at 9.30 AM;**

**Tuesday and Wednesday: Mass at 12 Noon - careful note**

**Saturday at 12 Noon: the first of two Vigil Masses for Sunday**

**Saturday at 6pm: the second Vigil Mass for Sunday**

**Sunday: Mass at 10.30am and at 4.30pm.**

***Please check the parish's Facebook page and also look on our Twitter feed and on our web page Notices to find if any changes are made to this schedule.***