

Our sacramental, spiritual and pastoral life in St. Brendan's. The Response to the Psalm today: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Like last Sunday, how appropriate it is in God's Providence that these words spoken by Jesus and used in the liturgy of Palm Sunday, reflects the feelings of so many people in the world. And yet God had not forsaken Jesus. He would be glorified, not forsaken. Jamie and Catherine Anne [Cat] and Lucy can be seen and heard singing this Psalm for today on our Facebook page.

Some thoughts for today:

Presence at Mass. *One person at Mass each day has symbolised - an important word very different Sacramentally from the word "sign" - the presence of you - the people of the parish. Every Mass has started with this declaration - the symbolic presence of the community, in the Assembly. Nothing is more important. If you would like to be that symbolic presence please telephone the chapel house and speak with Fr. Ness or leave a voicemail message.*

The lack of altar servers. The children are very much missed in their absence *This is a testament to the families of the parish - these are representative of your children. They come from your homes.*

The future of our parish - *it is in the hands of the people of St. Brendan's - where it should be and will always be. If the community melts away and loses its sense of belonging, if Sunday Mass and daily Mass loses its importance for the people of Muirhouse, in the economic reality we will face, the parish may not survive. Please read the information offered on page four of this bulletin. The Church won't fail. It is divine, it is the Church of Jesus Christ and was founded by him but, to write prophetically, not all parishes in the Diocese will necessarily survive the economic reality to come.*

Just some of the bishop's many instructions to priests in our Diocese: It will be very important that the people are well nourished by the Word of God and the preaching of the priest in all Masses that are broadcast. I ask you to be very attentive to this aspect of your ministry, at all Daily Masses as well as Sundays. It is important also that prayers are offered during Mass, in the Prayer of the Faithful, for all suffering from the virus, those caring for them, those making the vital decisions, and all of us at this difficult time. I give permission to seek Our Lady's intercession in the prayers also. You may wish to add additional devotional prayers after Mass or let people know at what other times they will be offered live.

On Sunday Mornings, and perhaps on other days, something for children could be broadcast from the church, either by the priest, a deacon, or a catechist. I am thinking in particular of the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sunday, with the Gospel being read and explained for children and some prayers offered which they are encouraged to join in with, and an activity to be done at home. **I am sure there are some who could do this very well and it would be a good way of keeping in touch with children.**

The matter of priests visiting the sick and dying to administer the sacraments: instructions offered by the Apostolic Penitentiary on how to spiritually live through serious illness and possibly death without the consolation of the sacraments. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Current Pandemic:** *"Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessions, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."*

Decree on the Granting of Special Indulgences to the Faithful in the Current Pandemic: *"The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Sick and of the Viaticum, entrusting each and everyone to Divine Mercy by virtue of the Communion of Saints and granting the faithful a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence, the use of the crucifix or the cross is recommended."*

PARISH AND PARISHIONERS.

We will continue to publish a bulletin each week to keep everyone informed of how Lent will be concluded and Easter will be celebrated in this parish and throughout Scotland. **Please connect to the parish on all our social media to be up to date.**

Decree of Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments

Celebration of the Paschal Triduum

1. The Chrism Mass will not be celebrated on Holy Thursday morning but at a later date - perhaps as late as August 4th - Feast of St. John Vianney.
2. Parishioners should be made aware of the times when the Paschal Triduum will be celebrated so they can be united in prayer with the bishop/parish priest. This can be accessed in our parish from our social media platforms all as directed by the Conference of Bishops in Scotland. Our bishop offers support to the faithful for family and personal prayer.
3. On Holy Thursday the priest in a parish should celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper even without people. No washing of the feet. No procession of the Blessed Sacrament to an Altar of Repose and the Blessed Sacrament should be kept in the Tabernacle.
4. On Good Friday an additional prayer should be offered in the general intercessions after the Passion for the sick, the deceased, carers, etc. due to the corona virus outbreak.
5. At Easter Vigil, light a candle and sing the Exultet - no fire, no procession. For Liturgy of Baptism renewal of baptismal promises only. Those who cannot join in the celebration are invited to recite the set Office of Readings from the Breviary.

Some general matters to be aware of:

- **We learned of the death last Sunday in County Cork of Canon Denis Keane.** He founded this parish with the parents and other relatives of many of the families who are part of this worshipping community. We celebrated Mass on Tuesday for the repose of his soul and again on Wednesday to coincide with his Requiem Mass.
- We are doing all we can **to sustain the spiritual life of the members of the parish** through online streaming of Mass each day on Facebook and of the Talk on Scripture each day at 1pm and Time for Prayer at 4.15pm. From tomorrow we will also present the Rosary at 12 noon for the community.
- Families can come both today and tomorrow to the church door from the Barons Road [chapel house] entry for Palm branches. They are available there in a basket
- **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 in line with the current health advice for all.
- **The parish's Children's Liturgy programme:** we wish to preserve what the parish and the families of the parish have formed through our Liturgy Team in the provision for our children of Primary School age. Our Twitter feed contains items for the children for today on the Scriptures and on activities to be done at home. **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. **The P4 children** preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time won't be forgotten by the parish community even though a new date will have to be set for this celebration.
- **Ecumenism:** Fr. Ness and Ian Douglas of St. Margaret's have exchanged greetings and given assurances of prayers shared with and for our two Christian communities in Muirhouse **and the whole local community.**

PRAYER INTENTION REQUESTS FROM PARISHIONERS:

those who have died recently: Cathie Anderson; George Bain; Dennis Cochrane; Canon Denis Keane.

those whose Anniversary or Month Mind Remembrance occurs about now; Marcella Griffin; Connie McGinn

In the Piety Stall: many materials for spiritual growth. **These are now available free of charge for Holy Week. Contact Fr. Ness on ojness@hotmail.com if you wish to have one or more of them.**

A Word for Lent by Fr. Denis McBride and Sister Janet Fearn.

The Lenten Extra magazine. *The Magnificat* booklet contains the prayers and readings for daily Mass plus the Breviary Prayers and meditations for each day AND the *Sacred Heart Messenger* written by the Jesuits for Lent.

Matters of Finance for our community:

Bishop Toal has written to the priests in all the parishes of the Diocese about finance. This will impact upon this parish as we look to the future. The bishop's letter highlights a concern which invites our attention. Our parish income has reduced to the point where this parish won't be kept going without outside help. Our fixed costs exceed the much-reduced regular income and we need to make everyone aware. The parish has no reserves to draw on to meet these costs. Please remain committed to give your financial support in so far as your own family finances permit, even though current circumstances prevent our opening up the church. **The parish's bank details are RBS SORT CODE: 832545. ACCOUNT: 00641758. Bishop Toal writes:**

The Diocesan Finance Committee will meet by "video conference" on Tuesday afternoon to assess what steps the Diocese should take regarding finance. We will be looking at what assistance can be offered to parishes. I know you are already thinking yourselves about what steps can be taken to maintain some sort of regular income through the "lockdown" period and some suggestions have been made to me. One priest through the Pay-Pal scheme he had set up last week has taken in about two-thirds of his weekly collection. Others have been trying to encourage new standing-orders or increased contributions from the present standing-orders. Clearly it is a very delicate matter when many people will be struggling to make ends meet at present and are uncertain about the future. Keeping in touch with parishioners is central [to our role as shepherds of the flock]. One parish which has invested very generously in the Pastoral Investment Fund [PIF] over many years, has offered to make available a substantial sum of its investment to be given on loan to support any parish that finds itself in financial difficulty in the coming months. This is a very generous gesture of solidarity and communion between us and, if a parish is struggling to meet expenses or to pay levies, it will be supported [by loans from the PIF.]

Your generosity to all things in the parish and the Church is very much appreciated. As the priest of the parish who has family finance commitments and a home to maintain for family use, the task facing all families to balance their family budget is very well understood.

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 on request.

Gift Aid Scheme: *This comes sharply into focus at this time.* The simple form is available on request. which allows the parish to gain the full benefit of your generosity in the money you contribute to the Church in collections provided you pay Income Tax. Please take this opportunity - especially this year.

St. Brendan's the Navigator Parish

51 Barons Road Motherwell. ML1 2NB.

[01698] 264448

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



Palm Sunday - Fifth April 2020.

Weekday morning Mass at 9.30 and Mass on Saturday at 6pm and on Sunday at our scheduled times, has been celebrated by Fr. Ness with one parishioner present at each Mass to symbolise the presence of the community.

Using the parish's site on Facebook you can view each of these celebrations of Mass, both those past as well as those to come in the Holy Week and the weeks ahead. Our "online" Talk on Scripture which is given at 1pm and a "20+" minute Prayer period at 4.15pm can also be viewed.

From Monday the Rosary will be recited at 12 noon "online" on Facebook from the chapel house. Each decade provides us with a resource for Meditation related to the present circumstances of general anxiety and fear for health and wellbeing.