

# FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

April 2022

Imago Mundi

**POPE:  
I AM  
READY  
TO  
GO TO  
UKRAINE**

## Pontiff's plea for peace

**POPE Francis has signalled that he is ready to fly to Ukraine to try to halt the cruel war which is raging there following the Russian invasion.**

Speaking to journalists on his return from a trip to Malta the Pope said a peace mission to Kyiv was 'on the table' suggesting he is waiting for agreement from the authorities before making such a bold intervention.

BY **RONNIE  
CONVERY**

The Pope's has been a constant voice for peace in recent weeks, condemning the Russian invasion and calling for an immediate end to hostilities. But until now discussion of a direct intervention had seemed wishful thinking.

Now it seems the Pope is anxious to go and stand in the centre of the conflict, begging for an end to hostilities.

He said: "I am willing to do whatever needs to be done, and the Holy See, especially the diplomatic side, Cardinal Parolin and Archbishop Gallagher, are doing everything ... everything possible. We cannot render public everything they do, for prudence, for confidentiality, but we are pushing the boundaries of our work.

"Among the possibilities there is the trip ... I answered with sincerity that I was planning to go, that my availability remains constant. There is no "no": I am available.

"What are my thoughts regarding such a trip? I said that it is on the table; it is there, one of the proposals I have received, but I don't know if it can be done, if it is fitting, and whether it would be for the best or if it is fitting to undertake it, whether I should go... all this is in the air."

The President of Ukraine has spoken to Pope Francis several times by phone and has encouraged him to visit the war-ravaged nation and to be a mediating force between Kyiv and Moscow.

While in Malta the Holy Father issued his strongest condemnation yet of the Russian invasion. He said: "From the east of Europe, from the land of the sunrise, the dark shadows of war have now spread. We had thought that invasions of other countries, savage street fighting and atomic threats were grim memories of a distant past.

"However, the icy winds of war, which bring only death, destruction and hatred in their wake, have swept down powerfully upon the lives of many people and affected us all.

"Once again, some potentate, sadly caught up in anachronistic claims of nationalist interests, is provoking and fomenting conflicts..."

## Archbishop Nolan's message for Holy Week and Easter – pray for peace

**"WE preach a crucified Christ." So St Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians. And during this Holy Week we meditate on the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. We contemplate the unjust and inhumane treatment that he received. So cruelly treated by his fellow human beings!**

Sadly this Holy Week we are also all too conscious of the pain and suffering being inflicted on so many people today due to the wars and conflicts taking place

throughout the world. The senseless conflict in Ukraine and the long drawn out wars in Yemen and Syria are but a few examples of man's inhumanity to man. May those who suffer cruelty from their fellow human beings take strength from knowing that in their suffering the suffering Christ is close to them.

These wars remind us why Christ came: that humanity needs to be redeemed; that left to ourselves our selfishness and our

self-interest cause friction and fall-outs, cause violence and war.

We need God to touch our hearts and the hearts of all humanity. We need a heart like Christ's so that we can imitate Christ in his compassion and forgiveness, in his willingness not to take offence and to turn the other cheek.

### Shock

What a shock to see in Mariupol how quickly a peaceful city can be destroyed and reduced to

ruddle, its citizens under siege and brought to starvation for lack of food. Peace in our world is so often superficial and therefore so easily shattered.

As we meditate this week on the passion of Christ may we pray for the people of Ukraine, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere who are enduring their passion. May we pray for a deep change in the human heart that will overcome our tendency to violence and bring peace to our troubled world.





# Sorrow at death of two Glasgow priests

**T**HERE was a mix of shock and sorrow as *Flourish* was going to press at the deaths of two much-loved Glasgow priests within a few days of each other.

Mgr Desmond Maguire, retired Parish priest of St Patrick's, Dumbarton, died in retirement after a long illness. He was 90 years old and had served in five parishes since being ordained in 1954. He retired in 2006 from Parish ministry.

Mgr Maguire had been ill for some time after a life spent in multiple roles in the Church and local communities where his special care for the sick, those living



Mgr Desmond Maguire



Fr Jim Dean

with disabilities and their families was legendary.

Fr Jim Dean, Parish Priest of St Robert Bellarmine in Househillwood and St Bernard's in Nitshill, died suddenly. He was 70 years

old and had only been ordained in 2017 after a period as a permanent Deacon of the Archdiocese where he served in St Gregory's and St Charles. He had previously lived the life of a layman, rising to the top in the field of social work, before offering himself for Holy Orders.

He had been Parish priest of St Robert Bellarmine's and St Bernard's since his ordination. His death left his parishioners devastated with a huge outflow of grief on the Archdiocese's social media pages from those whose lives he had touched in his short priestly ministry.

Full obituaries of both priests will be carried in next month's edition of *Flourish*. Please remember both priests and their families in your prayers in coming days.

*Requiescant in pace.*

## JERICHO

### The Compassion of Jesus

Drug & Alcohol Rehabs., Refuge for Victims of Domestic Violence, Supported Accommodation for the Destitute, the Distressed, and all being 'passed by on the other side.'

**A COMMUNITY OF MEN OF PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES (founded 1970)**

Vocation info. from Bro. Patrick Mullen,  
The Jericho Society, Mater Salvatoris,  
Harelaw Farm, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire. PA10 2PY  
Scottish Charity SC016909 Tel: 01505 614669  
Email: theJerichosociety@gmail.com



Picture by Paul McSherry

## Medal joy for teacher Mary

**A** COUPLE who have 'chalked up' almost a century of teaching in Catholic schools in the Glasgow area will have the distinction of having not one but two Archdiocesan medals as they prepare their retirement.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

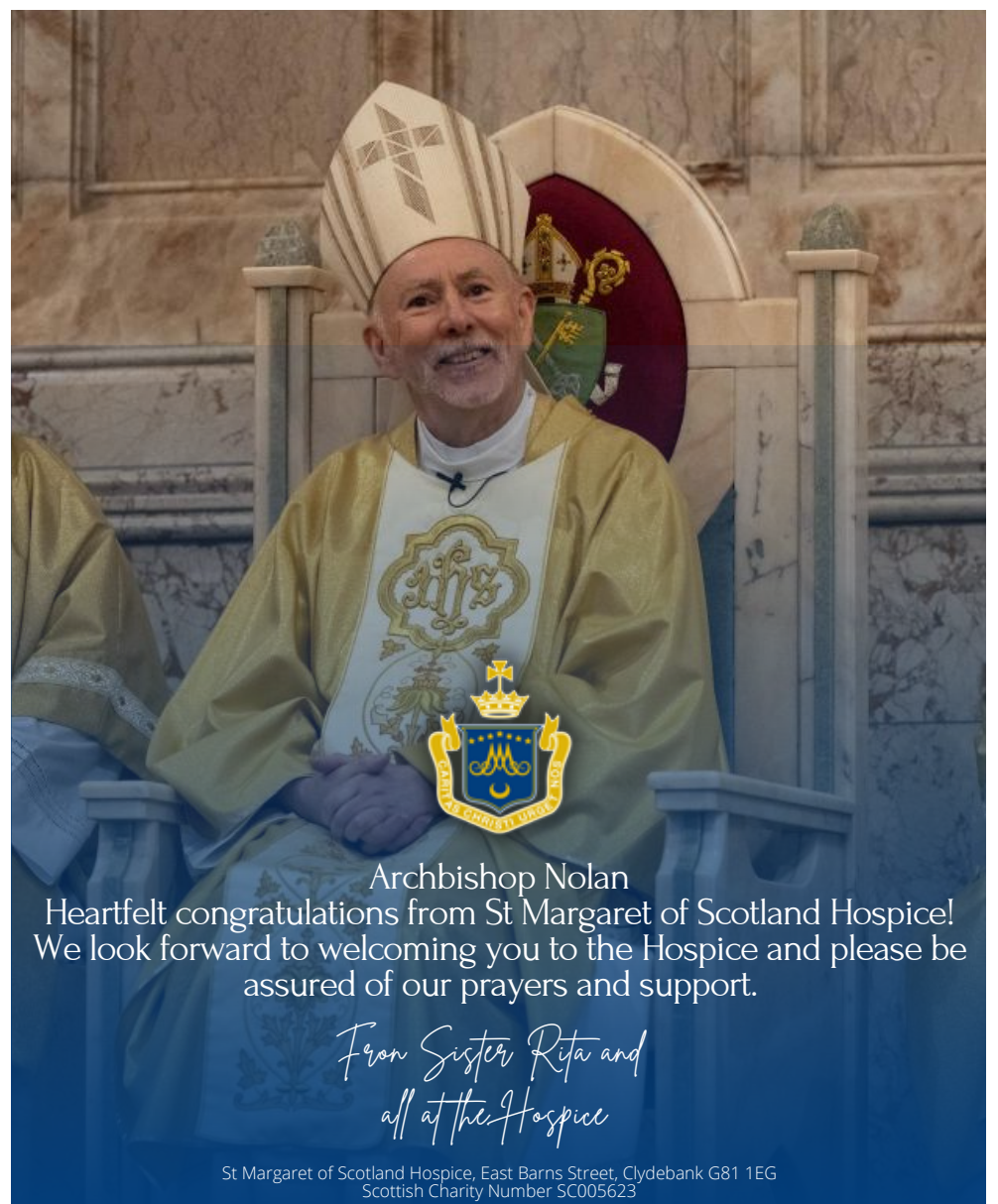
Mrs Mary McLachlan, head teacher at St Ninian's Primary School for the last 16 years out of a teaching

career of over 44 years was presented with the medal at a special Mass celebrated by Fr Francis Balmer and Fr Joe McNulty, at St Ninian's Church Knightswood at which St Ninian's pupils provided the music.

Mary was joined by her husband Danny who re-

tired two years ago after teaching for over 43 years in secondary education, Turnbull High, Bishopton, being his last school, Danny received the Archdiocesan medal then.

The couple were joined by daughters Laura and Roxanne (in photo) and son Martin and now have three grandchildren Noah, Joshua and Logan.



## Home fixture kicks off Archbishop's tour



**A**RBHISHOP Nolan started his tour of the parishes of the Archdiocese in his own back yard with a visit to St Patrick's in Anderston.

The parish which was founded back in 1850 has been chosen by the Archbishop as his new residence. His 'visit' coincided with the start of the parish 40 hours celebration, which began after Mass.

Front and centre Ava Bell (20 months old) with mum, aunt, gran and papa, Archbishop Nolan, PP Canon Paul Garga-

ro and parishioners gathered in the sun afterwards to chat.

Archbishop Nolan said to the parishioners: "I am delighted to be here today. Of course I stay here and have said Mass and met many of you in the past weeks but I am delighted to be here with you today on my first official visit and start of my tour of each parish in the Archdiocese and the start of your 40 hours."

Picture: Paul McSherry

Archbishop Nolan

Heartfelt congratulations from St Margaret of Scotland Hospice! We look forward to welcoming you to the Hospice and please be assured of our prayers and support.

*From Sister Rita and  
all at the Hospice*

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank G81 1EG  
Scottish Charity Number SC005623





# Welcome to Glasgow's 'new' Catholics

**A**N adventurous trip to Mount Sinai was recounted by Archbishop Nolan as he welcomed 50 adults from across the Archdiocese who will be baptised or received into the Church this Easter.

Speaking to the group with their sponsors and families at a special liturgy in St Andrew's Cathedral for the 'Rite of Election' the Archbishop recalled a visit to the sacred site in Egypt when he and his fellow pilgrims camped out for the night on the mountainside.

They subsequently set off to explore the mountainside only to get lost as darkness

fell. Only the headlamps from the vehicle of their guide helped them return to camp and safety.

"Just as I saw the light – literally – on that mountainside, you have all seen the light in your lives. Without that light of Jesus' message and presence we would wander around, lost and confused. But Jesus is the light who allows us to see in the dark, and the light you have committed yourselves to follow."

Later the Archbishop greeted the 'new Catholics' and heard their individual tales as they posed for pictures in the Cathedral.

Parishioners from Maryhill and Milton greet the Archbishop



## It's not too late ... don't miss out on Lentfest 2022!

Picture by Paul McSherry



**T**HERE was a buzz of excitement as sound equipment and costumes were loaded into cars for the first public AGAP Theatre performance in two years earlier this Lent.

We were part of the Ecumenical Celebration of St John Ogilvie and Scottish Witnesses of Faith at St Aloysius' Church, Garnethill. A prayerful audience watched as we performed a 10-minute excerpt from "The Martyrdom of Saint John Ogilvie".

Seven years have passed since the 400th Anniver-

sary national tour of the play, and 10 years since the first production. However, it remains one of our most popular, having been performed more times than any other.

Ogilvie gives us courage and hope, as he throws his rosary into the crowd before his execution, praying for his enemies. Perhaps we can see mirrored in this that same courage and hope displayed in those that took up the rosary gathered in George Square to pray for peace in Ukraine. Our faith engenders hope.

As part of Lentfest 2022, we invited schools to reflect on Hope. St Oswald's Secondary submitted a short, punchy video revealing a collage contributed to by the whole school. It shows Glasgow happy in a future with less pollution, with happy buildings, a clean River Clyde, and electric cars, buses and bikes.

Meanwhile, Glasgow-born teacher and artist James Falconer encouraged his pupils at Hudson Regional Catholic High School, New Jersey, USA to submit a powerful video

called "American Hope: A Celebration of Hope in Urban America".

Easter is just around the corner and it encourages Christians to hope. Perhaps, like Saint John Ogilvie, in the face of seemingly impossible odds, there has never been a better time to take up the rosary with renewed courage and to ask Our Lord for the grace to hope for a better future.

■ **All events in our Lentfest Online Programme can be accessed free via: [www.agap.org.uk/lentfest](http://www.agap.org.uk/lentfest)**



# Cardinal's plea: let's speak openly about divisions in the Church

**THERE are serious divisions in the Church and we need to acknowledge them ... that is the stark message from Cardinal Mario Grech – the man tasked by Pope Francis, with promoting the upcoming synod.**

In a trip to the UK last month, Cardinal Grech spoke frankly about the need for open discussion within the Church. He said we need to recognise the divisions within the Church and seek to overcome them through listening.

"There is a time for silence and a time for words. The two go together: there is not one without the other. A time of silence without a time to speak, as well as a time to speak without a time for silence lead to unpleasant consequences".

Cardinal Grech spoke powerfully of errors made by the Church in recent years in how it has communicated. "Unfortunately, the Church is not an exception. Often, it has spoken where it should have remained silent. And, often, it remained silent where it should have spoken. I'm not referring here to the Church's engagement with the external world, although what I am saying

is also applicable to this realm.

"Often, the Church could have been more vociferous in its fight for justice, in its defence of the poor, but chose to keep its mouth shut. On the other hand, often the Church should have been more prudent, but chose to speak and speak too much. Sadly, this is all true.

"However, I wish to focus on the Church's engagement with itself and the different realities that constitute it. I wish to focus on the culture of silence in the Church, on those internal problems about which the Church should have spoken but chose, because it was convenient, to remain silent.

"There are problems, issues, within the Church about which we choose to remain silent rather than speaking. The clearest example which comes to everyone's mind is the sexual abuse crisis that the Church went through and is still going through.

"Unfortunately this is not the only instance of a problem in the Church about which we choose to remain silent.

"What about the general silence concerning the deep

division within the Catholic church? Between conservatives and liberals? Between those who exclusively want the ordinary form [Mass in the post-Vatican II form] and those who want the extraordinary form [the Tridentine Mass]?

"What about the political divisions in the Church? What about the divisions between the local Churches in the global west and the local Churches in the global south? What about the continuous struggle to make the priesthood of the baptised work hand in hand with sacramental priesthood?

"What about the role of women in the Church? How can one explain we have Catholics who want to exclude certain categories from our pews? These are all issues in the Church about which we rarely have a frank and open discussion. These are issues which we all acknowledge to be present but about which we prefer to remain silent.

"...Rather than having an open, frank, discussion, we end up in a Church made up of cliques. Rather than dialogue, we have a culture of us against them. The Church should speak about



Cardinal Mario Grech

these issues, but often chooses to remain silent".

"In the gospel Jesus drives out a demon that was mute. I think that this is a very interesting detail, especially considered in light of what I have already said. The demon prohibits the possessed man from speaking. He forces him to remain silent.

"Silence at a time when speech is needed, is a sign of evil, a sign of the devil.

When we choose to remain silent, rather than speak, because it is more convenient, we are collaborating with this evil."

The cardinal also challenged head on those who criticise the synod.

He said: "Many people have doubts about the synod, many people think that it is a big risk. Many people are wary of the dangers that this process might bring. I understand these preoccupations. But, perhaps, we have not quite understood what the synodal process is all about.

"This is not a process of revolution: the Pope does not want to change the Church into something that it is not. This is not a wiping out of tradition. This is not a process of democratisation. Rather, the synodal process is a time for speech. A time to let the voice of the Church speak and bring forward the issues, the problems that inhabit our synodal Church.

"For a long time, we chose to remain silent, but now it is time to speak. It is time for the local Churches to voice their concerns. It is a time to let the liberal and conservative sides of the Church to speak, frankly and openly, and air their concerns ... the synodal process is privileged time and space in which the inner voice of the Church is allowed to speak, a time and space in which the Holy Spirit is allowed to speak, through the different organs of the Church.

"For a long time, we chose to remain silent, now it is time for the polyphony that constitutes the Church to be played..."

## Vatican to priests: Do not fear Synod

**THE Vatican has released a letter to world's priests urging them not to be afraid of the upcoming synod and to promote it in their own parishes.**

Cardinal Mario Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, and Archbishop Lazzaro You Heung Sik, Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, have written to priests worldwide about their role as pastors in the synodal process.

The Vatican officials urge them not to see the synod as just another thing to add to their workload, and also to avoid the temptation to fear it as a diminution of the role of the priest in parish life

They urge priests to accept the invitation of Pope Francis "to set out, together, in mutual listening, in sharing ideas and projects, to show the true face of the Church: a hospitable 'house', with open doors, inhabited by the Lord and animated by fraternal relationships".

Fr John Campbell, Parish Priest in Cum-

bernauld parishes of Sacred Heart and St Lucy's, who co-ordinates the Archdiocesan synod process welcomed the document and commended it to all parishes.

He said: "Buona sera, were the first words we heard from our new Pope Francis on the evening of his election. Before giving his blessing to the world, he said, 'I want to ask you a favour. Before the Bishop blesses the people I ask that you would pray to the Lord to bless me – the prayer of the people for their Bishop'.

### Gentle

"It was a similar gentle tone that opened the letter from Cardinal Mario Grech and Archbishop Lazzaro You Heung Sik as they addressed a letter on the Synod to the priests of the Church.

"Here we are two priests and brothers of yours. May we ask for a moment of your time?" they wrote.

"Gently and enthusiastically, they ex-

pressed great confidence that a deeper listening to the voice of the People of God would help us priests to discover a new joy in working with those Baptised who are willing and anxious to collaborate with us in proposing our faith to the world in a language they can understand.

"The Vatican letter wished to add no additional burden to already hardworking clergy, but encouraged us to build on those areas where we are already listening, dialoguing and acting in a synodal way within our parish families. They outlined three areas for priests to concentrate on:

1. To take the lead in promoting scripture as foundational in the life of a parish and to prevent the synodal discussions becoming mere ideology. Rooted in scripture is to be rooted in Christ.
2. To take the lead among the priests in exemplifying fraternity, a fraternal love that can heal, support, soothe and energise.

3. Ensure that there is always in our communities and in our synodal discussions an outgoing dynamism that avoids introspection and encourages us to go out with confidence. Confidence born of the Word and of shared ideas.

Fr John added: "The letter acknowledges that local initiatives and needs will surface on this journey and should be welcomed and embraced. The future of our Church depends on listening, deep listening to each other."

The letter ends with a clarion call to dialogue: "We recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands".





Archbishop Nolan showed his desire to put the synod into action by joining the gathering of all the small groups who came together for the Synodal Way meeting in St Peter's Church Hall in Partick last month. Participants from various dioceses and parishes came along to discuss the themes they had highlighted as part of the worldwide 'listening process' inaugurated by Pope Francis. The Archbishop spoke powerfully of the need to listen in his early addresses and is keen to see all parishes set up opportunities to hear from those both at the heart of the Church and those on the fringes about their experiences, their hopes and their ideas for change.

## Partick parish takes Pope's call to listen seriously

**THE title of the "Wheels and Wings Outreach Group" comes from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.**

It has been adopted by our outreach group, initially consisting of a retired RE Principal, a Religious Sister and a priest of the Archdiocese, informally set up in February 2019 with the intention of "interviewing" 100 individual who felt alienated from the Catholic Church.

As the individual interviews progressed it was felt that a gathering of some kind was a natural follow-up to allow those who had taken part to feel affirmed and less isolated.

Such an event took place with 60 participants attending a dinner at St Peter's Hall in Partick with three main speakers in October 2019.

The topics of the evening were: immigration, divorce and separation, and the situation of women

BY CANON PETER MCBRIDE

who had regretted procuring abortions.

There was a genuine warmth and feeling of journeying together throughout the evening. A second gathering was prepared and arranged for March 2020 which had to be cancelled due to lockdown restrictions.

During Lent 2020 the three of us participated in a weekly zoom reflection with five others and this group would develop into the "Wheels and Wings" outreach group to continue the work of reaching out to those who felt left behind by the Church.

Although we wanted to continue the one-to-one experiences it was felt small groups would be a better use of our time and talents and help us reach out to more people.

We met regularly to develop our own spiritual focus and listen to what the Holy Spirit was asking of us and did so under the patronage of St. Joseph. Pope Francis obviously was listening to the same Spirit when he announced the exciting new format for the Synod!

As a group, we have embraced his call enthusiastically and have offered the opportunity of scripture reflection, sharing and listening to more than 60 people between December 2021 and January 2022. Small groups of eight, consisting of parishioners of St Peter's, and others from as far afield as Stirling, Livingston, Paisley, Renton, and Ayrshire also met during the month of February. A questionnaire adapted from one used by the Archdiocese of Westminster has been used in these groups to allow some collation of ideas to be made.

Our latest gathering, at which almost 80 people attended, was held on the Feast of St Joseph (our patron) and included Mass at St Peter's celebrated by Archbishop Nolan who, as it happened, had been a speaker at our original gathering in October 2019 this event.

Our current aim, having spent time with more than 250 individuals from five dioceses who are practising Catholics, disaffected Catholics, members of other Christian denominations, and young people, is to put together a submission directly to the Synod office in Rome but also to pass on questionnaires from St Peter's parishioners to the deanery team.

We intend continuing our outreach work especially with those experiencing difficulties with or feeling excluded from the Church in the coming months.

# Alex Black

## FUNERAL CARE

Golden Charter  
Funeral Plans



- 24 hour caring & professional service
- Funeral planning, advice and information
- Service room available with private restrooms

7 PEELGLEN ROAD  
DRUMCHAPEL  
G15 7XN

TELEPHONE  
**949 1234**

288 - 290 DYKE ROAD  
KNIGHTSWOOD  
G13 4QU

TELEPHONE  
**959 1234**

1927 MARYHILL ROAD  
MARYHILL  
G20 0BX

TELEPHONE  
**946 1234**

[www.franciscanvocations.org.uk](http://www.franciscanvocations.org.uk)

## FOR WOMEN EXPLORING FRANCISCAN VOCATION



**Bernard Corrigan Ltd**

WHOLESALE FISHMONGER • POULTERER & GAME DEALER

184-200 HOWARD STREET  
GLASGOW G1 4HW

Telephone: 0141 552 4368 • Fax: 0141-552 4731

## Is God calling you?

to a life of silence and solitude within a community of fellow seekers?

The Cistercian monks at Nunraw Abbey offer such an opportunity.

With them you can praise God through the psalms and liturgy at set times during the day. You will have time to study the ways of God and to meet God in your *lectio divina*. And, you will find work that will keep body and soul together.

If you have good reason to believe God may be calling you to be a monk, write to:

Vocation Director, Nunraw Abbey  
HADDINGTON, EH41 4LW, Scotland  
Or email: [nunraw.abbot@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nunraw.abbot@yahoo.co.uk)

Scottish Charity No SCO22611





# Pope Francis' prayer for peace in Ukraine

**O MARY, Mother of God and our mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. As our mother, you love us and know us: No concern of our hearts is hidden from you. Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care and your peaceful presence! You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the prince of peace.**

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace. We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century, the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars. We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations. We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young. We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests, we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns.

We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions, to grow arrogant and aggressive, to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons. We stopped being our neighbour's keepers and stewards of our common home. We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war, and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father, who desires us to be brothers and sisters. We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves. Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness, amid our struggles and weaknesses, amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the Church and for all humanity. By God's gracious will, you are ever with us; even in the most troubled moments of our history, you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart. We are your beloved children. In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion. At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort. Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?" You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times. In you we place our trust. We are confident that, especially in moments of trial, you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee, when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs. To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him: "They have no wine" (Jn 2:3). Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer, for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope, joy has fled, fraternity has faded.



We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace. We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness. How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.

Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.

Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.

Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.

Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.

Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.

Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.

Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts. May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew. Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace. May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs. May your motherly embrace comfort those forced to leave their homes and their native land. May your sorrowful heart move us to compassion and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross, Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (Jn 19:26). In this way, he entrusted each of us to you. To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (Jn 19:27). Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history.

At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross, needing to entrust itself to you and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ. The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love, now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love. Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. The "fiat" that arose from your heart opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace. We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days. Our Lady of the "fiat," on whom the Holy Spirit descended, restore among us the harmony that comes from God. May you, our "living fountain of hope," water the dryness of our hearts. In your womb Jesus took flesh; help us to foster the growth of communion. You once trod the streets of our world; lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.



# The square of prayer

**UNITED with the Holy Father and their brothers and sisters throughout the world, Catholics gathered in George Square on the Feast of the Annunciation to pray for peace in Ukraine.**

Earlier on the same day, March 25, Pope Francis consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary following the Russian invasion.

Glasgow's response was a rosary for peace which attracted one of the largest faith community gatherings seen in the city as the faithful from all over Scotland answered the organisers' plea to "bombard heaven with prayers".

Archbishop Nolan was to have led the rosary but had to call off because he was self-isolating after testing positive for Covid.

Bishop John Keenan of Paisley (right) stepped in to lead the prayer service.

He said: "Archbishop Nolan would be gratified and encouraged to see so many here this evening and so too would God and Our Lady to see our faith and trust in

Pictures by Paul McSherry



them as we gather to pray the rosary and to join with the Pope, and Catholic communities throughout the world praying for peace in Ukraine."

Many remarked on the gratifyingly large number of casually dressed young men and women in the crowd who, judging by the familiarity and confidence with which they recited the rosary and sang much loved Marian hymns, had come not out of curiosity but spurred on by their faith.

Present too were a number of priests, some



recently ordained, others long serving or retired, nuns and religious, deacons and members and senior officials of the Knights of St Columba. The team at Sancta

Familia Media were on hand too to ensure that the event was followed by thousands online who were unable to get to the Square.

But above all it was the large number of Catholic men and women in the dignified crowd who daily express their faith quietly and without fuss, which impressed observers.

They were there to recite five decades of the Joyful Mysteries and did so inspired by the beautiful singing of beloved Marian hymns by Maria Madden, director of St Andrew's Cathedral Choir.

This was their faith, and on this night in George Square, they were proud to profess it.

## Nuncio's prayers for Ukraine

**THE Pope's Nuncio to Great Britain, who visited Glasgow last month for the installation of the new Archbishop, has made a heartfelt personal plea for peace in Ukraine.**

Until 2020 Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti was in Kyiv, as papal representative to Ukraine. Now he is on the phone every day staying in contact with the many people he left there and whose lives he fears for.

The nuncio spoke to Italian news agency SIR: "I am on the phone all day, in contact with the people who are there, to find out how things are going, if they are alive..." he says, his voice breaking with emotion.

"The situation is very difficult, there is strong resistance from everyone, even people using their bare hands... Bombings, escapes to shelters, people fleeing in search of safety in the West..."

The Nuncio was asked what can be done. He said: "The problem is that, in addition to the strong and clear voice of the Pope (and the constant and silent diplomatic work of the Holy See), I do not know which world authorities have the strength and authority to convince them to set up a real negotiating table..."

"The Ukrainians are good,



Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti

helpful, hardworking people. And at the same time proud and strongly attached to their land. Even if there were a complete occupation of the country, the risk is that of a second Afghanistan, of a continuous partisan guerrilla campaign of resistance..."

Asked about Western sanctions the Nuncio said: "They will weigh on everyone, but above all on the weakest groups, the poorest. I have never seen the rich suffer from the sanctions that are unleashed. Either they are just scratched or I have often seen them profit from it at the expense of the weakest. Money is very versatile in finding new channels..."

He went on to describe the situation of Catholics in Ukraine.

"There are about 4 million Greek-rite Catholics, who are one of the targets of Rus-

sian violence as strong promoters of national identity. And then about a million Catholics of the Latin rite, partly of Polish origin. We have to help them, support them.

There will be millions of fugitives... In Kyiv there is the new apostolic nuncio, Mgr. Visvaldas Kulbokas, who is doing an extraordinary job and who is a sure point of reference.

The Nuncio revealed he had previously witnessed violence in the Donbas area which is one of the disputed territories.

"It was actually a frightening war, little is known about it in the West. When I was there, I saw people coming out of shelters, cellars, basements, in tears, desperate, crushed by misery and curfew, with Catholics comforted only by the fact that the Pope had not forgotten their existence."

What can we do? The Nuncio was clear: "Pray, help. And have faith. Faith moves mountains; if they don't move it's because we don't have enough faith. Believe me. And then reflect a lot and move beyond our superficiality..."

"Without lofty and global ideals, without wisdom or relying on pure instinct, any catastrophe is always possible."

### INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF ALL GARAGE DOORS

### DALY GARAGE DOORS

Family Business With Over 30 Years Experience

Extensive range of doors including:  
Henderson, Hormann, Garador,  
Gliderol, Caradale, Novoform etc.

- Electric operators installed to new & existing doors
- Roller doors & spares
- Free estimates & advice

24 Hour  
Call-Out

**TELEPHONE: 01355 261601**  
**MOBILE: 07821 679606**

[www.dalygaragedoors.co.uk](http://www.dalygaragedoors.co.uk)

Email: [markpdaly@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:markpdaly@blueyonder.co.uk)  
1 Kendal Road, East Kilbride G75 8QT

### Froscote Roofing

UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Gutters

The Felt Roofing Specialists

All types of Felt Roofing:  
Domestic & Commercial

- New Build
- Strip & Renewal Repairs
- 10 & 20 Year Warranties

Free Estimates & Quotations

Our Guarantee is quality

Tel: 0141 552 5125 / 07710 233 395 Recommended in Which magazine

## UKRAINE EMERGENCY

As Russian tanks rolled over Ukraine's borders ACN pledged more than £1 million in aid to help priests and Sisters as they ministered to refugees and others caught up in the chaos of the conflict.

**Please pray for them,** and help us support our Church project partners ministering to those suffering following the devastating bombardment of towns and cities.



A registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and Scotland (SC040748)

**Aid to the Church in Need**

12-14 Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4DA

☎ 0345 646 0110 | [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org) | [acn@acnuk.org](mailto:acn@acnuk.org)

Donations can also be given online at

<https://acnuk.org/uk22fs>

Rev/Sr/Mr/Mrs/Miss..... Address:..... Postcode:.....

I enclose ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ Other £..... to help ACN's vital work in Ukraine

giftaid it

Please send me information about gift aiding my donation and/or setting up a regular gift ☐

I enclose a cheque to Aid to the Church in Need OR please debit my VISA/MasterCard/Amex/Maestro

Expiry Date: ...../..... Valid From Date: ...../..... Signature strip code (last block of digits): \_ \_ \_ ( \_ )

Issue No: \_ \_ \_ (Maestro) Signature: .....

ACN Office in Scotland: Office G.4, Dalziel Building, 7 Scott Street, Motherwell, ML1 1PN. ☎ 01698 337470.

A22P3FL



# Archbishop and Croy's Fr Joe catch the eye of priest artist

**A GLASGOW-BASED Comboni missionary, who is also an accomplished artist, reveals his latest work exclusively to *Flourish* readers – a 'secret' portrait of Archbishop Nolan begun shortly after his installation at St Andrew's Cathedral.**

Father Javier Alvarado, from Mexico, was inspired to create this image of a relaxed and smiling Archbishop after seeing the joyful reaction of the crowds in the Italian Garden who gathered to congratulate him after the ceremony.

He said: "I took a photograph of the Archbishop and I thought how happy he looked so that was the image I wanted to paint. I told no one because I wanted it to be a surprise and anyway there is a lot of work yet to be done..."

No one was more surprised to see the painting than Fr Joe Sullivan, parish priest of Holy Cross, Croy, who invited *Flourish* to see a portrait which Father Javier, who regularly assists at the parish, had painted of him.

Father Sullivan said: "I had no idea that he was painting the Archbishop's portrait as well as mine – so that puts me in good company!"

"Father Javier is a good friend to our parish and very

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

modest about his talents and generally he just gives his paintings away. I've seen many examples of them and they are remarkable.

"He asked me recently if he could paint one of me and this is the result.

"Modesty prevents me from saying which of the two portraits I prefer but I'm sure our new Archbishop will be delighted with his!"

Father Javier, 57, who has been working as a Comboni missionary in Glasgow for the past six years at the order's community house

in Carmyle said: "I don't know what I will do with the painting when it is finished but if the Archbishop wants it I would be very happy but we shall see."

Before he came to Glasgow he spent 11 years in Eritrea, East Africa, and also worked in his native Mexico City. He will celebrate 25 years of priesthood in September.

Largely self-taught, it was assumed by his family that he would study art and devote his life to it.

He said: "My brothers always said to me that I should be an artist but I said no – I told them am grateful to God to have a talent, but I want to serve Him as a priest and devote my life to Him."



## Young people will welcome Archbishop to Rome

**THE first-ever Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Rome exclusively for young Catholics will take place this summer, and by happy co-incidence Archbishop Nolan will be there at the same time to receive his Pallium.**

The pallium is a narrow woven vestment worn around the neck as a symbol of his authority by archbishops of metropolitan archdioceses.

Organised by the RCAG Youth Office, and with some places still available, the pilgrimage takes place from Friday June 24 until Wednesday June 29, which is the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, when the Papal Mass involving scores of newly appointed archbishops from all over the world, is due to take place.

Mairi-Claire McGeady (pictured) from the Youth Office said: "Unfortunately

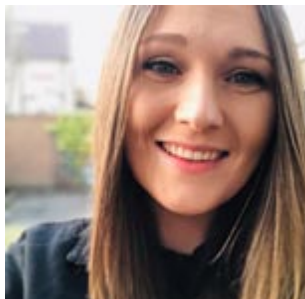
BY BRIAN SWANSON

because of our flight timings we will be leaving Rome before the ceremony starts but we are delighted that the Archbishop will be meeting us while we are there.

"When we booked our flights Archbishop Nolan had not even been appointed so meeting him will be a bonus.

"With more than 900 churches across the city hosting the relics of the saints that have gone before us, beautiful statues and frescoes, points of martyrdom and dramatic conversions, the Eternal City is the geographical beating heart of the Universal Church making it a very important place of pilgrimage.

"We know we will be inspired by the saints, moved by beauty and transformed through encounters with the living God."



Led by Canon Gerry Taglia, director of the Youth Office, the pilgrimage will also include daily Mass in a variety of Rome's famous churches, sightseeing tours, and a visit to the Pontifical Scots College.

Mairi-Claire added: "If you're 18–30 years old and are interested in joining us for this journey together with the Lord, please check out our website for more information and get in touch – places are filling up fast."

For more information visit: [www.rcagyouth.co.uk](http://www.rcagyouth.co.uk)





# Castlemilk's 'wee green hut' will be saved

Fr Eugenio Montesi



**PARISHIONERS from St Bartholomew's, Castlemilk have launched a campaign to renovate their much-loved hall which served as a place of worship for three years until the present church was built in 1958.**

For almost 70 years the landmark green building has been the setting for hundreds of social and family events, providing happy memories for generations of locals.

These included the night that Lisbon Lion Billy McNeill hosted a quiz night and back in the day when the hall was turned into a Saturday cinema showing Dan Dare films, not to mention the countless christening, wedding and birthday celebrations which took place inside the green structure.

Now today's parishioners have taken to social media to appeal for funds to renovate the building as well as asking local trades people to help with repairs.

A message on St Bartholomew's Facebook page reads: "Our church hall is now starting to show its age. We think it's fair to say it needs a wee bit of help."

"It was already in a poor state prior to it being closed due to Covid restrictions in March 2020, and during lockdown, it deteriorated further. Very few events currently take place in the hall as it is in such poor condition."

"Over the years it has held many events, including Men's and Ladies' Sacred

Heart, Bingo nights, Youth Club, Guides and Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, Social Nights, 1st Communion breakfasts, Family nights, Dances, Tearoom and many more.

"However we want to use it, we want it to be available, we want to get back holding events where we can all meet and socialise together and we need your help to do that."

Within days of the appeal being launched former parishioner Eugene Robb, raised £400 through his go-fundme page.

Eugene, 54, a taxi driver and amateur musician, who is now a parishioner at St Cadoc's, Cambuslang, hopes to boost that total with an online night of Irish music with viewers making donations in exchange for requests.

He said: "St Bartholomew's has had a special place in my heart for 40 years – I was christened there, made my first communion and my confirmation. And of course I have great memories of celebrations in the hall."

"The church is in the care of the Xaverian Fathers and I've a great relationship with them so I wanted to do my bit to raise what I could and so far I have been knocked out by the response."

"The hall really needs urgent repairs and every penny helps."

A St Patrick's night fundraiser is planned for March and a race night for April. Meanwhile the hall is still being used for tea and cof-

fee after morning Mass on Sunday and as a drop in tea-room on Wednesday mornings.

Father Eugenio Montesi, one of the Xaverians based at St Bartholomew's said: "It's a wonderful thing that the community are doing because the hall means so much to them. I wish them all success."

■ **For more details on how you can help visit St Bartholomew's Facebook page.**

*Does your parish have a fund raising project you want to tell us about? Email us and we will get the word out – Brian. Swanson@rcag.org.uk*



## Young pilgrims will journey to Iona

**YOUNG Catholics carrying relics of Saint Columba, Saint Andrew and Saint Margaret are to lead a summer pilgrimage to Iona to pray for a post pandemic renewal of faith in Scotland.**

Around a hundred people are expected to take part in the three-day walking pilgrimage from Oban to Iona, the cradle of Scottish Christianity where St Columba spread the word of God throughout Scotland.

His relics and those of the other two saints, normally kept at Carfin Grotto, which is to be declared Scotland's National Marian Shrine later this year following the visit of the relics of St Bernadette, will be carried along the route in a specially designed reliquary known as a Brechbannoch for which the new pilgrimage is named.

The reliquary will contain a piece of St Andrew's bone, a fragment of the cross on which he was crucified, and a bone from St Margaret and St Columba.

Supported by the Knights of Saint Columba, the project is an initiative of a group of students from Glasgow University Chaplaincy.

Pilgrimage director Jamie McGowan said: "I have been on smaller pilgrimages to Iona both on my own and with small groups when we could get out and about during the pandemic."

"You can't visit places like Iona without feeling that sense of peace and the faith of those who brought the Gospel to Scotland so a few of us got talking about



the idea of a new pilgrimage to pray for our political leaders, bishops and priests at a time when there was so much uncertainty during the pandemic.

"Inevitably Mass attendances dropped during that time and still haven't fully recovered so we believe it's the right time to pray for a revival of faith, reunite the church and to re-evangelise the nation."

The Brechbannoch Pilgrimage, which is intended to become an annual event, begins on Saturday June 11 with a 6am Mass at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban, and ends with Mass at Iona Nunnery followed by prayers of thanksgiving at the Abbey on Monday June 13.

Pilgrims can expect to cover up to 18 miles a day and will stop at holy sites

on Mull associated with the saint and his followers.

These include a ruined shrine at Kilvickeon dedicated to St Eunan, who was St Columba's nephew and where Mass will be celebrated on the second day.

Members of the Knights of St Columba will be on hand to provide practical help including transporting pilgrims' tents and other belongings between stop overs.

Each group of pilgrims will be divided into chapters with, it is hoped, a priest or deacon accompanying each group.

Lead chaplain will be Glasgow University Chaplain, Father Ross Campbell, who is also vocations director for the Archdiocese.

He said: "I think it is a great initiative to come together and do prayer and

penance for the renewal of our faith in this country, seeking the intercession of those holy men and women who have gone before us."

"From my own experience, the most fruitful pilgrimages have always been the ones where people walk together and hopefully from these days we will spend journeying to Iona, many Christian friendships will be formed."

Jamie said: "We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Bishop McGee, for allowing the pilgrimage to take place and to Father James Grant of Carfin Grotto for giving us the great privilege of carrying the relics with us."

■ **For full details, to find out how to take part or donate visit [www.brechbannoch.org](http://www.brechbannoch.org)**

Since the beginning of 2022, St. Nicholas Care Fund has awarded £18,210 to 9 different projects supporting our most vulnerable citizens – charities supporting young people, disabled groups, schools and others.

We continue to offer funding support where it is most needed.

We have no deadlines for applications so community organisations, schools and churches can apply at any time. Application forms and guidance available at [www.rcag.org.uk](http://www.rcag.org.uk)



St Nicholas Care Fund

[pct@rcag.org.uk](mailto:pct@rcag.org.uk) · 0141 226 5898 · Scottish Charity SC029832



## CARDINAL WINNING PRO-LIFE INITIATIVE ANNIVERSARY

# “We are unlikely to win hearts and minds by hurling insults. Far more likely are we to have an effect if we open our hearts, our minds and our pockets to those in genuine need”

CARDINAL THOMAS WINNING



When Cardinal Winning launched his Pro-Life Initiative, he turned to **Roseann Reddy**, asking her to manage it for him. The project would lead to the foundation of the Sisters of the Gospel of Life and a change of vocation for Sister Roseann. Here she reflects on 25 years of care for mums and babies

**A**ll of us have dates that mean a lot to us – birthdays, anniversaries, significant days, some of which even changed our lives forever.

Sunday, March 9, 1997 was one such day for me. That day, Cardinal Winning made his now famous announcement offering the support of the Church to any woman facing a difficult or crisis pregnancy situation.

He made the offer to save both the lives of unborn babies and their mothers, because he knew, from long experience as a priest, how abortion devastated women. In Britain, by 1997 and the 30th anniversary of the Abortion Act, nearly 5 million unborn children had already lost their lives.

Having made the announcement, he contacted me to see if I would “deal

with whatever response there is”. Politely, I asked him if he had any idea what he had just done and his reply still makes me smile, “Ach, it will be alright, it will be ok.” There spoke a man of great faith and trust, not only in God but in the power of the goodness which the Church and the pro-life people of Scotland had to offer. Twenty-five years later, the Initiative that bears his name is going strong and still doing OK, still supporting women and still saving lives.

When the Cardinal asked me to ‘run’ the Initiative, he said “I’m only going to give you one piece of advice. What we need in the Church and in the world, now more than ever, are experts in humanity. I want these women who come to us to know that they and their babies matter.



They are both created in the image and likeness of God and they both deserve much better than abortion.”

For twenty-five years this has been the message at the heart of every word and action we undertake. This Initiative is a place of life and love, a place of healing and forgiveness, a place that saves lives and gives life and joy back to so many women, men and families.

Over the years we have

not been able to find a suitable local contact.

Of all those we have helped and supported, there are 200+ babies who I believe would not be alive today were it not for the help we were able to give their mothers: support that says you are not alone, there is another way, abortion is not the answer. We will be there for you.

## Changed

Certainly, the world has changed a great deal in these past twenty-five years. Today, women are much more likely to contact us online, via social media, and by text. In the beginning we dealt far more with young unmarried women who were afraid of their parents’ or school’s reaction, who faced being thrown out of their homes, feared they would have to give up the chance of an education and feared a life of living on benefits and at the

margins of society.

Today the presenting situations are much more complex. Many women have so much more to lose now. Job insecurity is rife and the economic situation for many is an incredible pressure. Family support and stable relationships are no longer a guarantee. Life is difficult and the reasons why are complicated. Almost every woman we deal with is anxious or stressed to a degree that we didn’t see 25 years ago.

One area where our work has increased enormously is in post-abortion care, especially through our Rachel’s Vineyard retreats. Right from the beginning, the pain and damage done to so many women was at the heart of Cardinal Winning’s concerns – “Let us help you to avoid making one of the biggest mistakes of your life,” he said.

Our hearts so often break

when we see women and men damaged and hurt by abortion; but our spirits soar and we’re overwhelmed with joy when we see how they are transformed through acceptance, love, forgiveness and the healing touch of Christ.

## World

In our centre, we have a wonderful painting of a smiling Cardinal Winning and often, as I pass it, I wonder what he would think of the world we live in now.

A world of abortion pills through the post, of widespread rejection of marriage and family life, a world of mixed-up values regarding our vision of sex and love, a world striving to be kinder and more environmentally friendly but missing one rather essential point entirely...

As long as we have the taking of innocent human life at the heart of our soci-

ety and continue to deceive women about the humanity of their unborn child, about the reality of abortion and fail to provide them with genuine alternatives; and until we make abortion both unthinkable and unnecessary, then no amount of sloganising will bring us as individuals or as a society any kind of true peace. Saving the child in the womb and its mother from abortion is the first and best way to save the planet.

Sometimes when I pass the Cardinal’s picture, I say a big huge thank you. Thank you for putting your money where your mouth was. Thank you for every life saved, every life touched for the better and thank you for the example of your courage, humanity and humour, all of which we have needed in abundance over these past 25 years.

May the next 25 be just as fruitful!

## Speech that saved so many lives

The speech given by Cardinal Winning on March 9 1997 at Glasgow Caledonian University made headlines round the world. Addressing a conference of SPUC activists, the cardinal made an extraordinary offer of help to women facing crisis pregnancies. It was both a powerful act of faith in Providence and also a sensitive switch of approach away from a purely political critique on abortion to a more pastoral approach offering support to those who felt they had no alternative. He confided in one colleague: “Society might never make abortion illegal but we should do all we can to make it unnecessary...” Even at a distance of 25 years the Cardinal’s words make for powerful reading

**“T**oday I issue an open invitation to any woman, any family, any couple who may be facing the possibility of an unwanted pregnancy.

I strenuously urge any person in that situation, of any ethnic background, of any faith, from anywhere, to come to the Archdiocese of

Glasgow for assistance. Today I can announce a new set of provisions which have been put in place to help you.

Whatever worries or cares you may have... we will help you.

If you need pregnancy testing or counselling ... we will help you.

If you want help to cope with raising the baby on

your own ... we will help you.

If you want to discuss adoption of your unborn child ... we will help you.

If you need financial assistance, or help with equipment for your baby and feel financial pressures will force you to have an abortion ... we will help you.

If you cannot face your

family, or if pressure in your local area is making you consider abortion, come to us, we will help find you somewhere to have your baby surrounded by support and encouragement. We will help you.

And finally, if you have had an abortion. If you are torn apart with guilt, if your relationship has

split up because of abortion, if you are suffering from post abortion stress – come to us, we will help you.

This invitation, I repeat, is open to all. Irrespective of age, creed or colour.

Today I urge anyone in that situation... Let us help you to avoid making one of the biggest mis-

takes of your life.

Call us at our archdiocesan headquarters from tomorrow onwards. We will help you in whatever way you need.

I make this pledge today as a genuine and practical response from the Archdiocese of Glasgow to this fundamental problem facing society.”

## Archbishop hails 25 years of pro-life initiative

**B**EING pro-life means supporting human life at all stages of its development ... that was the message of Archbishop Nolan as he celebrated a special Mass to mark the 25th anniversary of the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative.

Speaking in a packed cathedral in one of his first engagements as Archbishop, Archbishop Nolan paid tribute to his predecessor (and fellow Lanarkshire priest) Cardinal Winning for his insight and courage in founding the initiative in 1997.

He said: “The angels who appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of Christ sang of news of ‘great joy’. But for some people the discovery of being pregnant doesn’t bring great joy. It

brings worry and anxiety.

“A young woman’s life may have to change... maybe it has been a casual relationship and the father is not around. Maybe the ‘good news’ can seem more like ‘bad news’ and the young mother’s dreams of the future may seem to be shattered.

## Support

“I don’t know when our society will come to realise that we cannot solve any problem by taking human life.

“Cardinal Winning recognised that 25 years ago. He was clear that we had to do more than point out to society the dignity of human life, we had to help and support those for whom a pregnancy might seem to be a catastrophe.

“A person facing that situ-

ation needs support – not just to have the baby, but afterwards. We have to value life at all its stages, after birth as well as in the womb. That means helping those who struggle with poverty, realising how hard it is for one parent to bring up a child.

“In recognising the dignity of the unborn let us recognise the dignity of human life at all its stages of development.”

The Archbishop later spent much time meeting and greeting supporters of the Pro-Life Initiative at a reception in the Archdiocesan offices and took time out to thank and encourage the Sisters of the Gospel of Life whose apostolate grew out of the Cardinal Winning initiative.







**As Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine rages on, it's become a staple of anti-Putin rhetoric to insist that the "whole world" is united in its outrage. US President Joe Biden, for example, has said that the prayers "of the entire world" are with Ukraine, and vowed that "the world will hold Russia accountable."**

Yet a quick survey of the global situation is enough to demonstrate that it's not really so. In fact, what's new about this situation is more that the US and Europe are unusually united, but important chunks of the rest of the world, at least so far, aren't fully on board.

China, which represents one-sixth of the world all by itself, abstained from a March 2 vote of the UN General Assembly condemning Russia's invasion, and while its public statements have been largely cautious, Chinese state-run media are using Putin's rhetoric of a "special military operation," recycling claims of US biochemical labs in Ukraine, and reporting that the West provoked the conflict by ignoring Russia's legitimate security concerns.

In Africa, it's become common to hear leaders grumble that while the West appears to be in a full, upright and locked position on stopping the war in Russia, large-scale conflicts raging right now in Ethiopia and Cameroon elicit little more than pious statements of concern.

If we're ever to arrive at a point where wars of aggression such as Ukraine are a thing of the past, it will really have to be the entire world that mobilises swiftly to punish the aggressor, meaning that important global players such as China, the Gulf States and at least parts of Africa will have to be brought into the fold.

Happen to know anybody with cachet in precisely those three places?

This week, a well-known actress and fashion model who's also a Ukrainian émigrée in Italy, Anna Safronik, went on one of Italy's most popular evening variety shows to appeal to Pope Francis to go immediately to Kyiv.

"Today, Kyiv is the capital of the free world, and it must be defended as a symbol of everything democracy has accomplished," Safronik said. "I think that if Pope Francis went to Kyiv, Putin would be forced to stop. By his presence alone, he could convince Putin to stop the bombs and open a real dialogue. Pope Francis, my city, which ordi-

## What Pope could bring to Ukraine



Pope Francis

BY **JOHN L ALLEN JR**  
EDITOR OF CRUX

narily in these months would be covered with white and red flowers, but which instead is being torn apart, is there, waiting for you."

It may be slightly naïve to think that simply by showing up, Pope Francis could accomplish something that a combination of remarkably stiff resistance from Ukrainians and crippling international economic sanctions haven't.

Nevertheless, Safronik may be onto something, in the sense that Pope Francis arguably is the lone global leader right now with a real capacity to help make the wall of opposition to Putin truly global.

Francis and his Vatican team, for instance, recently signed a controversial agreement with China over the appointment of bishops that's been excoriated by critics as a deal with the devil. Vatican diplomats have defended the pact on the basis that, however imperfect, it at least keeps channels of communication with Beijing open, providing some potential leverage.

If ever there was a moment to try spending some of that political capital, this may well be it.

As for the Gulf States, Pope Francis made a highly successful outing to the UAE in 2019, signing a "Document on Human Fraternity"



Anna Safronik

with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in Egypt. In general, Francis has made outreach to the Islamic world a key priority, and he's won the gratitude of many Muslim leaders for his solidarity at key moments, including his repeated insistence that Islam is a religion of peace and terrorism is, therefore, a betrayal of Islamic values.

Once again, now might be the moment to take that good will out for a spin and see what it can do.

Francis's popularity in Africa is the stuff of legend. He's already made four trips to Africa, in contrast to the two under Pope Benedict XVI over roughly the same span of time, and he's poised to make a fifth visit in 2022 to South Sudan. Further, Catholicism in Africa is surging, and a concerted push from Africa's Catholic leadership in tandem with a charismatic pope could make a difference in how African nations choose to position themselves.

So far, the anti-Putin coalition has mostly deployed hard power, a combination of arming Ukrainians and economic sanctions. Maybe it's time to apply a dose of soft power too, and Pope Francis would be in a unique position to lead that effort.

The increasingly sharp language of his top deputy, Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State, saying out loud

that what's happening in Ukraine is "a war unleashed by Russia" and expressing unequivocal condemnation of the bombings of a children's and maternity hospital, may be a signal in that direction.

Here's what Parolin said in an interview with Vatican Editorial Director Andrea Tornielli, speaking of refugees fleeing the war.

"Over the last few days, I have come across a group of them, who have arrived in Italy from various parts of Ukraine: blank stares, faces without smiles, endless sadness... What is the fault of those young mothers and their children? We would have to possess a heart of stone in order to remain impassive and allow this havoc to continue, as rivers of blood and tears continue to flow." Parolin also explicitly rejected Russia's description of the conflict as a "special military operation" for humanitarian ends, saying, "Words are important, and to define what is happening in Ukraine as a military operation is to fail to recognize the reality of the facts. We are facing a war, which unfortunately claims many civilian victims, as all wars do."

Parolin also said he has expressed to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "the Holy See's total availability for any kind of mediation that could favor peace in Ukraine."

Popes don't possess any magic wands in these situations. Paul VI tried to work behind the scenes to end the Vietnam War; John Paul II pulled out all the stops to try to persuade the Bush administration not to invade Iraq, and both failed. Nonetheless, history at least remembers the effort, and it will also do so right now depending on how Francis plays his cards.

■ **Follow John Allen on Twitter:**  
**@JohnLAllenJr**

**CRUX**  
Taking the Catholic Pulse

**CRUX is an independent US-based news agency with the mission to deliver the best in smart, wired and independent Catholic news. We have special editorial interests, such as faith and culture and anti-Christian persecution around the world, but we cover the whole Catholic story.**

**CRUXNOW.COM**



## ART OF THE MONTH

# Pilgrims at the ready!

**THERE are eight main Camino de Santiago routes in Spain that finish in Santiago de Compostela.**

The principal one is the Camino Francés but former 4th Year pupils of St Ninian's High School in Giffnock are more familiar with the Via de la Plata on which they have hiked, if only on the approaches to Salamanca.

Sadly, the restrictions of which we have all become familiar, have put an end to these journeys until future notice.

## Nearer

However, there is an answer nearer to home. The Breccbannoch Pilgrimage! This will begin on Saturday 11th June with Bishop McGee celebrating Holy Mass in St Columba's Cathedral in Oban and will conclude on 13th June in Iona.

Pilgrims will invoke the interces-

BY MGR TOM  
MONAGHAN

sion of Saint Andrew, Saint Margaret and Saint Columba, carrying relics of the saints together with a relic of the Cross on which Saint Andrew

died for the faith, while praying for a renewal of the faith in Scotland.

Breac Bannoch is the original name of the Monymusk Reliquary now housed in the National Museum of Scotland. Further information can be found at [www.brecbannoch.org](http://www.brecbannoch.org)

Our painting on the theme of pilgrimage is by 19th century Russian-born artist Vasily Perov, who died of tuberculosis at the early age of 48. Although his parents married after his birth, he was unable to inherit his father's title of Baron but later gained his own title of Professor at Moscow School of Arts.

Vasily Perov,  
*Pilgrims. On a Pilgrimage*, 1867



## The power of prayer



### Mary's musings

Flourish columnist  
Mary McGinty's monthly  
musings on faith and family

gathered in George Square for the recitation of the Rosary and the prayer of consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In a city known for its big heart unity was the mood of the moment. As Bishop John Keenan who stood in for Archbishop Bill Nolan said, "Glasgow has shown typical solidarity for those in need."

The prayer of consecration laid bare the effects of our world's wanton disregard of our collective commitment to learn from the wrongs of the past and to forge a peaceful future. It spoke of our betrayal of "people's dreams of peace and hopes for the young" and the greed, arrogance and indifference that has brought humanity to this.

A large crowd reciting the prayer of consecration together was a reminder of how far this world has "strayed from the path of peace" but also a spine-tingling expression of the hope and confidence prayer gives us.

We stood in shame and sorrow, seeking forgiveness for what humanity has come to, yet with confidence our prayers would be heard. It was what we learned at our own mother's knee about turning to Our Blessed Lady in times of trouble and placing our trust in her that she will intercede before her beloved son.

By now most of us will have donated to the cause. We all must do what we can. For some that work of 'doing what we can' is happening at the epicentre of the conflict. At present there are over 50 UK journalists from all the major news agencies covering the horrors they see unfold day and night. In their flak jackets, under canopies of gunfire, they tell the story as it unfolds.

In hospitals, doctors and nurses defy their exhaustion, using what medicines and pain relief they have to tend to the injured and dying. With millions now displaced, refugee personnel are working ceaselessly to provide settlement.

We, too, have our role. Those of us with the gift of faith can do nothing better than unite ourselves to the suffering people of Ukraine whose lives, homes and peace have been ravaged.

On the Feast of the Annunciation as office workers were finishing for the week and shops were closing for the day a crowd



**AFTER a week of uncharacteristically glorious spring sun, Glasgow was in fine fettle. In the month we can normally expect winter to go out with a vengeance Glaswegians were basking in the sun in parks and gardens at every opportunity.**

In George Square office workers on breaks and shoppers laden with bags were taking advantage of the unexpectedly warm spell. The heat was redolent of summer holidays taken in warmer climes before the pandemic struck. Much as many of us had enjoyed our staycations last year the relaxing of restrictions pointed to travel further afield this year.

Against this mood of optimism at home, we are faced daily with more news of the atrocities being committed in Ukraine. We watch the horror on our screens, read the stories of children maimed, of whole families being wiped out. No one among us has remained untouched by their plight.

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Let us Pray: Dear Lord, may the Holy Spirit breathe grace into the hearts of pilgrims to enliven their faith, strengthen their hope and feed the flame of their love. May they make their pilgrimage in the true spirit of penance, sacrifice and expiation. May the same Spirit give them the constant help so that they can reach Iona safely and by means of this pilgrimage ultimately come to the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## POEM OF THE MONTH

This is an excerpt from "The Journey" by Rabindranath Tagore.

The morning sea of silence broke into ripples of bird songs;  
and the flowers were all merry by the roadside;  
and the wealth of gold was scattered through the rift of the clouds  
while we busily went on our way and paid no heed.

We sang no glad songs nor played;  
we went not to the village for barter;  
we spoke not a word nor smiled;  
we lingered not on the way.

We quickened our pace more and more as the time sped by.

The repose of the sun-embroidered green gloom slowly spread over my heart.  
I forgot for what I had travelled,  
and I surrendered my mind without struggle to the maze of shadows and songs.

At last, when I woke from my slumber and opened my eyes I saw Thee standing by me,  
flooding my sleep with Thy smile.  
How I had feared that the path was long and wearisome,  
and the struggle to reach Thee was hard!



# Archbishop hails courage of 'prophetic' Bishops' call for nuclear disarmament

**It was the year that Pope John Paul II prayed for an end to martial law in Poland.**

Argentina would invade the Falkland Islands on March 19, sending British troops to the South Atlantic. Israel and Lebanon were at each other's throats.

And it was the year that the Scottish Catholic Bishops made it very clear where they stood on the issue of nuclear weapons.

As Archbishop William Nolan explained at an online event hosted by Pax Christi Scotland, 40 Years On – Still Condemning Weapons of Mass Destruction – the bishops' Pastoral Letter on Peace and Disarmament, issued on March 16, 1982, said: "We are convinced, however, that if it is immoral to use these weapons it is also immoral to threaten their use."

A powerful statement, ahead of its time, and it was not, said the Archbishop, well received by the bishops in England and Wales. "It was seen as a step too far,"

BY MARIAN PALLISTER  
CHAIR OF PAX CHRISTI SCOTLAND

he added.

The Scottish Bishops' Conference was presided over in 1982 by Cardinal Gordon Gray of the Diocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, and the then Archbishop of Glasgow, Thomas Winning, who would be named a Cardinal in 1994, was among the signatories of the pastoral letter.

Other signatories were Bishop Francis Thomson, Bishop of Motherwell, Bishop Colin MacPherson of the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, Aberdeen's Bishop Mario Conti, Bishop Maurice Taylor in Galloway, Bishop Vincent Logan in Dunkeld, and Bishop Stephen McGill of the Diocese of Paisley.

The Catholic Church had always been against nuclear weapons, and there had been some progress in the degree of condemnation.

But the rug, said Archbishop Nolan, was "pulled



from under the feet of the Scottish Bishops" by this "step too far" accusation.

And just three months after the Scottish Bishops' declaration, Pope John Paul II told the UN General Assembly: "In current conditions 'deterrence' based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself but as a step on the way toward a progressive disarmament, may still be judged morally acceptable."

This didn't exactly condone the Scottish Bishops' stance.

Archbishop Nolan pointed out that it was Pope Benedict XVI who took the Church a step further towards accepting that possession of nuclear weapons, rather than being a deterrent "drives the development of ever newer nuclear arms".

And this arms race, the Archbishop stressed, costing the Westminster government some \$4bn each year and the world \$70bn, is what deprives spending on peace building and development.

The Archbishop reminded his audience that the UK government had cut the equivalence of its nuclear spending from its overseas aid budget.

Also speaking at the Pax Christi Scotland event was Daniel Högsta, Campaign Coordinator of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), who described the language used around nuclear weapons as "poetically dramatic".

Nuclear nations, he said, avoided the use of the phrase "weapons of mass destruc-



tion" and employed double standards – other countries' weapons are "a threat", while their own weapons are referred to as "deterrents".

Perhaps an anecdote from Archbishop Nolan best illustrated Daniel's point.

He recalled being at a conference in 2017 at which an Israeli delegate said the people of Israel could sleep at night because of the country's possession of nuclear weapons.

The Archbishop was sitting

next to a Palestinian, whom, he said, most certainly didn't feel safer because of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

A recording of the Pax Christi Scotland event is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ZEE521RRgc>



**Knights of St Columba**

**Congratulations  
Archbishop Nolan**

KSC Province 1 Glasgow look forward to your leadership and guidance for many years to come and wish you happiness and fulfilment in your service.

You are always in our prayers.

**Knights of St Columba Province 1**



**Knights of St Columba**

**The Supreme Knight**

**Brother Henry Welsh on behalf of**

**The Knights of St Columba UK**

**Wishes to congratulate Archbishop Nolan on his installation as Archbishop of Glasgow.**

**We look forward to continuing our partnership in supporting and serving through the precepts of Charity, Unity and Fraternity**

**Knights of St Columba  
Head Office**

**75 Hillington Road South  
Glasgow G52 2AE | Scotland  
T: +44 0 141 883 5700**





## New season's highlights will draw visitors to Blairs Museum

**If you are on the lookout for something different for a weekend trip this spring, then why not head to the former Blairs College?**

Blairs Museum, which is situated in the estate formerly used by the national minor seminary reopens with a new exhibition for 2022 of engravings of the Stations of the Cross by Czech engraver, Alois Petrak, from paintings by Joseph Ritter von Führich. Also on display is the museum's world-famous Memorial Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots.

Museum Curator Elinor Vickers said: "The exhibition for 2022 continues the theme of exhibits of the museum's print collections, begun with the Piranesi exhibition and continued last year with prints by Guiseppe Capparoni.

"Führich was a member of the 19th Century Nazarene movement in Germany which inspired the Pre-Raphaelite movement in the UK. The fourteen prints are both technically outstanding and deeply moving and are clearly inspired by the work of Dürer, who was a profound influence upon

Führich's work.

"The museum will also be displaying all the treasures from the Permanent Collection, such as the world-famous Memorial Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, the Blairs Jewel, the vestment collection and the Jacobite portraits. We are also privileged to be able to display the cloth of silver vestments of Henry Benedict, Bonnie Prince Charlie's brother, for another year."

Ms Vickers added: "Last year the museum gained a significant Recovery and Resilience Grant from Museums and Galleries Scotland to develop a new website. This enabled us to bring the

museum and the collections to people in their own home if they are currently unable to visit.

"The website includes a virtual walk through of the museum with 3D scans of some of our most fascinating exhibits. On the website we are also bringing together information on all the collections belonging to the Scottish Catholic Heritage Collections Trust, not just at the museum, but also those at the University of Aberdeen and the Scottish Catholic Archive at Columba House in Edinburgh."

**You can visit the museum virtually at [www.blairsmuseum.com](http://www.blairsmuseum.com)**

**blaneycarnan**  
SOLICITORS

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY LAWYERS

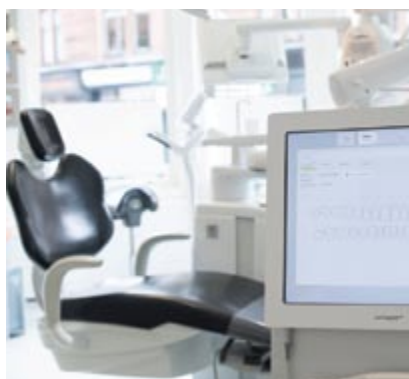
Standard Buildings, 94 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6PH

Telephone +44 (0) 141 248 8111 Fax +44 (0) 141 221 8420

E-mail [mail@blaneycarnan.com](mailto:mail@blaneycarnan.com)

# ADVANCED | DENTISTRY

@ HYNDLAND DENTAL CLINIC



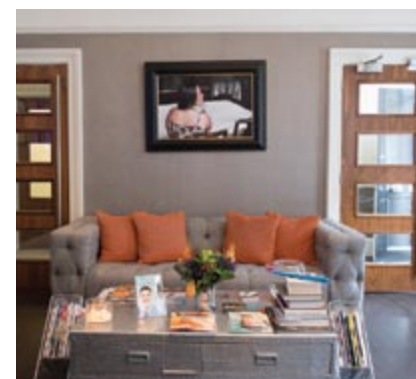
We are an exceptional private dental clinic in the heart of Glasgow's West End, offering bespoke general dentistry and a wide range of cosmetic dental treatments.

**Innovative | Exceptional | Patient-Centred  
Experienced | Modern**

0141 339 7579

[www.hyndlanddentalclinic.com](http://www.hyndlanddentalclinic.com)

**154 Hyndland Road, Glasgow, G12 9HZ**



**BESPOKE GENERAL DENTISTRY, COSMETIC & RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY,  
INVISALIGN, COSMETIC DENTURES, DENTAL IMPLANTS & REHABILITATION**

All our team's GDC numbers are on our website.



# It's not too late to fill that Wee Box!

**SCHOOLS across the Archdiocese and beyond are taking up sustainable 'Acts of Hope' while fundraising for SCIAF's annual WEE BOX appeal.**

Throughout Lent, primary and secondary students have led a variety of fundraising activities for the international development charity. Donations go towards SCIAF's work that helps change people's lives in some of the poorest parts of the world.

This year, SCIAF is encouraging pupils and others to take on 'Acts of Hope' – small steps everyone can take to tackle the climate emergency here in Scotland.

Acts of Hope include: Eat in Hope (eating vegetarian, vegan, or seasonably), Travel in Hope (reducing car use, cycling, walking), Reuse in Hope (reducing consumption by buying less or buying used), and Donate in Hope to SCIAF to help the poorest people in the world.

Samra Ahmed, a student at Notre Dame High School in Glasgow, shared: "Our school is carrying out SCIAF's Acts of Hope, with each year group doing something different. Reusing food waste, planting

herbs and fruits and vegetables, and we'll be promoting reusing clothes.

"We have to take great care in the world we live in. We take our world for granted – well, most of us do. If we can just do the small, little things it can make a big change. We need to all take action."

The football team of St Francis of Assisi Primary, Ballyeston, is playing each game with SCIAF in their minds after putting the SCIAF logo on their football kit.

Fergus Donnelly, Depute Head Teacher, St Francis of Assisi Primary, shared: "This is a source of pride for our pupils. They know that every time they play a game of football they are not only representing their school, but also promoting the great work of SCIAF."

"They compare this to when Barcelona had UNICEF on their shirt or when Celtic play with the Celtic Foundation displayed on their shirt. It goes beyond displaying the name SCIAF though, pupils have plans to work alongside SCIAF in our local community and to raise funds putting charity into action."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was one of the first to

respond to the Wee Box appeal. She said: "SCIAF's well-known Wee Box appeal has already helped millions of people across the world, and its life-changing work continues every single year. This year, funds raised will go towards supporting the world's poorest communities – who are often on the frontline of the climate crisis – to adapt, recover and rebuild from the devastation caused by climate change."

SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal focusses on Malawi this year, where the climate crisis is causing devastating hunger and the loss of livelihoods for thousands. The charity's projects span across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The appeal runs until Easter weekend and is continuing to accept donations. People can donate at [sciaf.org.uk/weebox](http://sciaf.org.uk/weebox) or by calling 0141 354 5555.

Mark Booker, Senior Development Education Officer, SCIAF, said: "It has been such a pleasure and a privilege to be back in the school environment this Lent – last year we weren't able to because of COVID-19."

"We are lucky to have such generous schools supporting our WEE BOX ap-

peal – our thanks go out to each and every student and teacher across Scotland who have got involved. Their Acts of Hope and support of the WEE BOX have inspired us all."

"Our WEE BOX school resources provide activities connected to the curriculum along with the opportunity to use engaging prayer and reflection material."

Rosie Martin, Head Teacher, Notre Dame High School, Glasgow said: "We're delighted to be once again partnering with SCIAF with their WEE BOX appeal during Lent. We are very conscious of the appeal this year with its focus on sustainability and climate change, and SCIAF's work in Malawi which is very close to our hearts. The young people have been so active around COP26 and learning about sustainability this year so it was a natural progression to continue the work SCIAF is doing in Malawi around climate change. They've got lots planned to fundraise for the WEE BOX appeal. Lots of activities – non-uniform days, fasting, bake sales, coffee mornings – and our families are very supportive."



## FCJ Centre St Hugh's

*Spirituality and outreach with the Faithful Companions of Jesus*

Email: [FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com](mailto:FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com)



### Holy week with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (women only) 12-17<sup>th</sup> April – Liverpool

Spend time with a religious community and pray through Holy Week alongside them.

### Lindisfarne Pilgrimage 20-24 April

A walking retreat to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne of the coast of North East England.

There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection, walking and lots of socialising!

Young Adults (20's and 30's)

### Vocations weekends 27-29 May

For women considering the vocation to religious life. Opportunity for shared prayer, input, discussion, personal reflection and Q&A

### Prayer and social action in the inner city. Liverpool June (any 2 week period)

A 2-week live-in in a religious community in the inner city. Engage in prayer, reflection, and input as well as social action.

The projects available include

- a community kitchen for Roma women
- an after-school project
- work with the homeless
- an environment project.

## Your funeral wishes At the lowest price locally. Guaranteed.

Funerals from  
**£750**

### Our Price Promise

We promise to match the prices of any funeral director within 5 miles of our locations.

Terms and conditions apply.



### TALK TO US ANYTIME

Whatever your funeral wishes or budget, we can provide a funeral to suit you. Prepaid funeral plans also available.

**JOHN KANE** | Dumbarton | G82 1BA | 01389 888 071  
**JONATHAN HARVEY** | Kilbowie Road | G81 6QS | 01389 887 146  
**JOSEPH POTTS** | Belshill | ML4 1QU | 01698 442 991  
**JOSEPH POTTS** | Blantyre | G72 0YS | 01698 442 955  
**T & R O'BRIEN & SON** | Glasgow | G20 7QS | 01415 306 649

[www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local](http://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local)

We are very proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing a 5 star service to families across the U.K.





# Holy Week invites us to walk the narrow path with Jesus

**ONE of the things that civilisation and modern technology has done is widened our paths.**

This has had a massive influence in the lives of people, their preferences as well as choices. There are few narrow options left, and often even they have alternatives.

Narrow rough roads are made wider and smooth, staircases are replaced with lifts, and close family circles are widely replaced by distant virtual bonds. Individualism grows and glows daily, people feel less obliged to be kind, and are less moved to be compassionate.

The Lenten journey demands of us an attentive ear, an empty heart, a docile will, a patient body, and a fervent, compassionate and faithful soul. This is the ideal at the heart of the teaching of Christianity. But it is more especially demanded of us in this Lenten pilgrimage as we deeply meditate on the greatest accomplishment of our 'becoming'.

We speak of 'becoming' because that is what the Lord's passion and death marks.

**In this Lenten reflection, Carfin-based Brother Shimbo Pastory urges readers to make the most of the intense days of the end of Lent to grow in the spiritual life**

It is the peak of our being made children of God. It is the long awaited turning point. We can borrow the terms 'being' and 'becoming' from the ancient philosophical debate, as they rightly serve the purpose of teaching us faith and life lessons in this time of Lent.

The Cross of Jesus which calls us to this commemoration every year is itself a testimony of great becoming, especially with the triumph at the resurrection of Jesus. George Maloney, S.J. makes a remark in his book 'Prayer of the Heart':

"The Cross was an instrument of degrading torture reserved for slaves and criminals. After the death of Jesus we could have expected that his first followers would want to forget about this part of the story ... But the opposite happens.

"The Lord who rose is the good news. And the cross on

which he hung is celebrated in creed, liturgy, song, art and literature. Crosses are fashioned in wood, stones, and precious metals.

"They are raised high on buildings, they adorn altars and graves. They are carried in pockets, worn about the necks. Why? Because the human heart reads the Calvary scene correctly and understands that the theme of this drama is love and that we are objects of that love."

At all times, God has a way of making his goodness known to us through the thorny, hard, and narrow paths that many fear to tread. Our 'being' is transformed with a continual steadfastness and faith in this 40 days pilgrimage.

At the end of the 40 days we will be assured of change through our dutifulness on the journey. This change is the promise of the crown of resurrection with the Lord



Jesus, as with the help of his grace we die to sin and rise to live uprightly.

Lent can be a very beautiful gift to oneself when one willingly chooses to denounce excesses, and occasions of unrewarding pleasure and gain; when one chooses to think about the future life and make amends for good.

With this disposition we come to realise that we need God so much as on our own we can neither find fulfillment nor accomplish anything. This will help us to pray more. St John Henry Newman teaches us that: "As our bodily life discovers itself by its activity, so is the presence of the Holy Spirit in us discovered by a spiritual activity; and this activity is the spirit of continual

prayer."

Inner tranquility is very important in our journey of faith. The world is full of distractions and preoccupations. There is always too much to listen to, to admire, to read, to watch, to taste, to feel, to follow, to like, to comment about, to share, to consume, and to experience. All these contribute to our anxieties, fears, insecurities, loneliness and even spiritual dryness if we allow them.

With inner peace one gets to know that God does not give us a river, but rather a brook which sometimes flows and sometimes dries up; all to teach us, as one author writes, "not to rest on the river, but on God himself." St Augustine rightly said: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you (God)."

Having sufficient material goods for the things we need often comes with a tempting feeling of invincibility and over-confidence in the supply of the things we have. Our spiritual activities make more impact when we are attentive to the signs of the times and are moved to show solidarity with the suffering world.

With a heart fixed on the Lord we are able to transcend the myopic vision. It takes a leap of faith to choose the narrow path, but that is what the Lord wants of us, to have him always before us and in everything we do.

While the modern world speedily embraces a selfish way of living, we are called to be witnesses in genuine solidarity with the poor, the abandoned and marginalized, victims of war and indifference, the lonely, the sorrowful, the sick, the aged, the terminally ill, and all other people around us.

Lent calls on us to narrow down our priorities, to find time in our busy schedule to pray and pay forward the kindness we ourselves enjoy from God.

**■ Br. Shimbo Pastory, C.S.Sp. is a member of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost (Spiritans) originally from the Spiritan Province of Tanzania, E.A. He is currently undertaking pastoral and mission work experience in the UK under the Spiritan British Province. He writes from Carfin, Motherwell.**

## Following in Ozanam's footsteps

**S**ERVING food and clothing to the poor, homeless and needy in Glasgow is what the Vincentians at the Frederic Ozanam Centre have been doing since the 1970s.

The premises have moved a few times over the years – Candleriggs and Parnie Street – but the Centre is currently at 9–13 Bridgegate off the Saltmarket in Glasgow.

In recent years, the members of the Our Lady of the Wayside SSVP Conference – who run the Ozanam Centre – have begun to see an increase in refugees coming through their doors from many places around the world, whilst continuing to support the regulars who have been coming along for years.

The Centre, like so many other charities was forced to close its doors in March 2020 then reopened with a limited service in May 2021.

Since then, the volunteers have continued to build the clothing service back up to the way it was pre-pandemic, providing clothing to dozens of men every Thursday evening.

Through collaboration with Strathclyde University



BY SEAN MURPHY

Catholic Society, University of Glasgow SSVP and St Maurice's High School, Cumberland, the Ozanam Centre has provided an insight into the work that Vincentians do for some eager and enthusiastic young adults.

The Centre has also linked up with next door neighbours, The Zen Den, who provide hot coffees for service users each week and have adopted their own "Pay It Forward" system where customers can donate a coffee when paying for their own.

The Ozanam Centre is open on Mondays between 11am and 1pm for clothing donation – men's clothing

only at present.

Meanwhile the annual mass to pray for the canonisation of SVDP founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam will take place in St Mungo's church Townhead, on Monday 25th April at 7:30 pm.

The Mass will be celebrated by SVDP's Archdiocesan Spiritual Director Fr William Monaghan and St Mungo's parish priest Fr Frank Keevins.

To contact the Centre, please email: ozanamcentreglasgow@gmail.com

**■ Sean Murphy is president of Our Lady of the Wayside Conference at the Ozanam Centre**

**St Margaret of Scotland Hospice**

**Would you like to work at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice where Patients and Families always come first?**

**We have a variety of roles - closing date 22 April 2022:**

- Advanced Nurse Practitioner (fulltime)
- Palliative Care Senior Nurse Manager (fulltime)
- Palliative Care Staff Nurse / Senior Staff Nurse (fulltime)
- Palliative Care Auxiliary Nurse Day / Night Shift flexible (fulltime)
- Fundraising Officer (fulltime)
- Ancillary Assistant Ward host(ess) (fulltime)

**Benefits:**

- Continuous educational development and progression
- Onsite parking
- Subsidised restaurant facilities
- Gym facilities which can be used by staff
- Continued access to Scottish NHS Superannuation Scheme (subject to eligibility)
- St Margaret of Scotland Hospice Group Personal Pension Scheme
- Subsidised BUPA enrolment
- Cycle to Work schemes available

**Please email us at [humanresources@smh.org.uk](mailto:humanresources@smh.org.uk) or phone us on 0141 952 1141 for an application form.**

**St Margaret of Scotland Hospice**  
**where patients and families always come first**

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Bams Street, Clydebank G81 1EG  
Scottish Charity Number SC005623



# Let's take inspiration from the gospels of Christ's Resurrection this month



Fr Tom Kilbride

**WE all hope Holy Week and Easter feel a little more "normal" this year, after the restrictions of the past two.**

Certainly, here in Salamanca we are looking forward to the traditional processions resuming each evening, in which floats bearing statues and images of the Passion are carried through the city streets accompanied by colourfully robed and hooded members of the various "Confraternities", the slow music of brass bands, and crowds of devotees lining their routes, the smell of incense thick in the evening air.

They are very physical, very public, and very moving representations of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus, and we have greatly missed them these past years.

Our Sunday Readings over the Easter weeks will likewise offer tangible signs of the reality of Jesus' Resurrection – hearing, seeing, touching, tasting all become ways in which the Risen One

is encountered and faith is inspired.

## Easter Sunday, Year C

At the Easter Vigil, we hear Luke's account of the women's visit to the tomb, while the Easter Sunday liturgy gives us John's version. The two are very similar but differ in a few details. John names only Mary Magdalen while Luke names the other women; Luke has an encounter with two figures in white explaining what has happened before the women go off to tell the disciples; Luke says the Eleven are told but only Peter is named as going to the tomb, while, for John, Peter and the "Beloved Disciple" are both told and go.

Luke further adds that the disciples do not at first believe the women. He wants us to know that the disciples' later faith in Jesus was not the product of wishful thinking that he might rise. They simply thought it impossible. Only the Risen Jesus himself standing among them would change

their minds.

Also, throughout his Gospel, Luke has stressed the importance of witnesses and messengers: hearing the Good News is, for him, the basis of the Church's faith. So, the two figures testify to the resurrection and remind the women of Jesus' words, at which these run to tell others.

John, on the other hand, stresses instead the importance of faith, even in the face of mystery and hiddenness. The Beloved Disciple will "see and believe" not because the risen Jesus stands there, but because he finally understands the Scriptures.

John's telling of the story is captivating and immediate, challenging us to reflect on our own response of faith. Luke's version, meanwhile, recognises that we might have our doubts and uncertainties like the apostles, but that we should put our trust in the word we hear and share our joyous Easter vision and faith with others!

## Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

This Sunday, we always hear about the appearances of the Risen Jesus to his disciples on Easter Sunday and one week later. Famously, Thomas is a central character in the story, as the one who demands personal reassurance before he will believe it.

However, the whole story is one of transformation, not just Thomas's: fear becomes joy, locked doors give way to the freedom of forgiveness, a huddled group is sent on mission, doubt yields to faith. And three times Jesus speaks peace.

Only by touch will Thomas be convinced, although the text doesn't say if he even got that far: his declaration of faith seems to come even before he has reached out his hand, now that he can see.

Perhaps we are being invited to consider what things prevent us from fully trusting Jesus or from being the witnesses to his message we could be. We might invite him to breathe his Spirit into us to transform us too.

The people in the First Reading today longed even for the shadow of Peter to fall on them that they might be healed, so aware were they of the power of the Spirit at work in him. Those around us might likewise be touched by that Spirit if we



Alexander Andreyevich Ivanov, *Christ's Appearance to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection*, 1835

are authentically and joyfully alive in our faith!

## Third Sunday of Easter, Year C

Seeing, hearing and touching have all played their part in the first two Sundays of Easter. Today is about tasting, as Jesus invites his fishing disciples to join him for breakfast on the beach. In fact, we can almost smell the smoke from the little charcoal fire as he does so!

It is a moment which is both intimate and powerful, a shared moment between friends but also a revelation of the Risen Lord. No wonder Peter is so quick to jump overboard and make for the shore!

The huge – and unexpected – catch of fish is a sign of things to come. These fishermen will go out into the world (the number "153" probably points to the number of known nations in John's time) and draw people of every nation to Christ ("I will make you fishers of men").

Again, Peter steps forward and is given a chance to repent of his three denials of Jesus with three af-

firmations of love. Moreover, to love Christ is to love his flock and to witness to Christ even in the face of challenge and rejection, just as we find Peter doing in today's First Reading.

In this little seaside breakfast, Jesus is recognised, faith is restored, love is affirmed and a mission is given. John gives us hints that this is a Eucharistic moment: indeed, every Mass offers us these same things!

## Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year C

This Sunday is known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" since we always hear an extract from Chapter 10 of John's Gospel in which Jesus describes himself using that title. This year's extract is quite short, but no less powerful for that.

First, we hear three important things about Jesus: he knows us (that is, he loves us), he gives us a share in his life, and that life is the life of God, the life the Father and the Son share in perfect unity.

But we also hear three things applied to ourselves: we are to listen to him, we

are to follow him and we will enter into that love of Father and Son.

This powerful promise is made all the more vivid when we put it beside today's Second Reading from Apocalypse, with its beautiful vision of the multinational multitude in heaven. Here is where the Shepherd leads them, after all their trials and tribulations: at peace, joyful, at one with their Shepherd-God who has loved them completely. All we need do is listen to his voice and follow him as he suggests, just as Paul and Barnabas preach in the First Reading. The various responses there perhaps invite us to reflect on our own choices.

Hearing, seeing, touching, tasting (perhaps even smell) all inspire recognition of Jesus and faith in him in these Easter Readings. Easter faith draws on every aspect of our lives! Such faith flows into following the Shepherd, loving his flock and sharing his message.

And all of this ends in a share in the loving unity of Jesus and his Father. The new life of Easter is our life and our hope too!

**B MAIN SCULPTORS**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

We have 100 different styles of headstone to choose from at our showyard

**2'6" POLISHED GRANITE HEADSTONES FROM £450**

**0141 641 0088**

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO!

**282 Main Street, Cambuslang, Glasgow (at Railway Station)**

**www.mainheadstones.co.uk**

PHONE FOR A FREE BROCHURE

**T. McGowan & Sons Monumental Sculptors**

FAMILY FIRM ESTABLISHED 1947

**St. Kentigern's Cemetery**  
109 Tresta Road, Glasgow G23 5AA  
Telephone: 0141 946 2429

**Linn Cemetery**  
602 Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45 9SP  
Telephone: 0141 634 8515

**Dalbeth Cemetery**  
1920 London Road, Glasgow G32  
Telephone: 0141 778 4916

**Philipshill Cemetery**  
Westerfield Road, East Kilbride G76  
Telephone: 0141 644 4535

NEW MEMORIALS • ADDITIONAL LETTERING • CLEANING  
All work completed in any cemetery. Brochure available on request

**www.tmcgowan.co.uk**

**AWM Glass Designers**

We design, manufacture, repair and install stained and leaded glass. We also protect stained and leaded glass with secondary protection. We also specialise in double glazing and encapsulation and architectural glazing. Small home jobs welcome.

**AWM Glass Designers Ltd**  
Rosemount Industrial Estate • 145 Charles Street, Unit E9 • G21 2QA  
Tel: 0141 554 8643 • Email: [contact@awmglassdesigners.co.uk](mailto:contact@awmglassdesigners.co.uk)  
Web: [www.awmglassdesign.co.uk](http://www.awmglassdesign.co.uk)

**We cover the whole of Scotland, including the Highlands and Islands**



# It's time to make social media an instrument of peace



## Marian Pallister

The chair of Pax Christi Scotland – and our new columnist – focuses on the issues of the day

**FRANCESCO Taskayali is an Italian-Turkish pianist and composer. On March 11, he posted a video on Facebook that had clearly moved him, and it moved me enough to share to our Pax Christi Scotland page.**

The video was just under two minutes long and began with a young woman in a woolly hat, lilac puffer jacket, jeans and sturdy boots pulling the cover from a white grand piano, sitting down at the keyboard, dusting off some debris and

beginning to play with the expertise of a professional pianist. Her expression was passive, concentrated – she could have been any musician practising anywhere in the world.

But she wasn't.

The person taking the video panned round to the rest of the room, then went through the house, downstairs, into the kitchen. Every inch of that pianist's house was devastated, covered in rubble and dust, doors blown off, windows



shattered. The view from the window was of damaged buildings and shocked neighbours.

A mirror miraculously remained intact on a downstairs wall, but plants from the garden were strewn across the steps to the house.

Taskayali posted: 'She plays the piano for the last time before leaving the bombed house in Kyiv.'

I didn't know who that young woman was – but guessed from her playing that she was someone I ought to know. I Googled, and found on the Classic FM site that she is Irina Maniukina. Her daughter Karina was the one who filmed her mother and their bombed out home, posting it on TikTok before it was taken up by more than two million people on social

media platforms.

The beautiful music she played was Chopin's Étude Opus 25, No 1. She sat down to dust off that keyboard just hours after a bomb landed 30 feet away from her home in Bila Tserkva, south of Kyiv.

Social media is so often a platform of verbal violence. And violence begets violence. The ability to post instant reactions to any and every situation seems to have obliterated forever the concept that 'least said is soonest mended'. The situation in Ukraine has allowed millions of armchair generals to have their say, very often in terms that could start a war.

And yet, we have also found in times of distress – during the pandemic, for example, and now during the invasion of Ukraine –

that social media can be a course of comfort, of kindness, of support and even of positive action. It can certainly raise awareness, as this video did, of the reality of war.

An aim of Pax Christi Scotland is to promote a peace-filled welcome for refugees and migrants. We have campaigned to make the Nationality and Borders Bill more humane, hopefully using respectful language.

Peacemakers, however, must give a voice to the voiceless. So my riposte to Boris Johnson, Priti Patel and Michael Gove as they struggle with the concept of offering a warm welcome to Ukrainian refugees, who have suffered the same shocking experiences as Irina Maniukina, is 'Shame on you.'

# My name is Patrick, and I am a sinner...

**I HAD just finished celebrating the 10 o'clock Mass on the Feast of St. Patrick.**

We were joined at the Mass by some of the pupils and staff from St Mungo's Primary School who are trying to come over more often during the season of Lent.

After Mass the children were led over to the statue of St Patrick and given a little lesson. I had found a lovely chasuble to wear that had sparkling threads of green, white and gold. As the children came out of the church after Mass one little girl looked up at me and asked me if I was the Pope!

The obvious answer was "not yet".

I was reminded however that the opening words of St Patrick's Confessions: "My name is Patrick, I am a sinner", are very much reflected in those words of Pope Francis right at the beginning of his pontificate when he was asked by a journalist, "Who is Jorge Bergoglio", and he quickly replied, "I am a sinner".

Truly good people know they are sinners because they know the holiness of God. I'm not so good, but still, "My name is Frank, I am a sinner".

Not that long ago most Catholics in Scotland would have had some kind of Irish heritage, and so, celebrating St Patrick would have been understood as celebrating



## Fr Frank's log

Fr Frank Keevins CP is Parish Priest of St Mungo's Townhead

the roots of our faith. Nowadays, of course, Catholics in Scotland can come from every continent and island on the planet, which is a wonderful richness in diversity that we have yet to tap into fully.

While I consider myself very much to be a Scot, at the same time I am proud of my Irish heritage. I had cause to think about this when I was doing my best to fill out the census form for myself and for our Passionist community in Bishopbriggs.

In and around a host of questions about nationality and ethnicity, and linked perhaps to the question about religious affiliation, we are asked what nationality we most identify with. I hadn't any hesitation in putting Scottish as my answer, but I have no doubt that a good number of Scottish Catholics will have put Irish, and that would be totally understandable. Father Lawrence, a proud Scot, had an Irish passport.

My main struggle with the census was to find where I

fit in as a Catholic priest, but also as a non-salaried member of a religious order. In all the questions about employment history there is no place for actually being able to explain that this is who and what I am. I know that in the Irish census forms there is a box to tick marked "other", which then opens up to allow you to elaborate, but such a facility doesn't seem to exist on the Scottish census form. At one stage I found myself answering questions about my employment 50 years ago when I was working for Olivetti. I then decided that this was a bit daft, and so I went back and approached the questions another way, having taken some advice from someone whom I thought would know better than me.

I have answered the questions, as have the rest of the community, as best, and as honestly as we can, and our census is now submitted with days to spare.

I do appreciate, however, what the census is, and

what it hopes to achieve, and I have been indebted to the online Irish census of 1901/1911 in gleaning some helpful information about my Irish heritage.

Having an unusual name like Keevins helps narrow down the parameters and

I have been able to easily locate my County Sligo ancestors and I am interested to see how even Christian names have been consistently repeated down through the generations, even if there are signs that this will no longer be the case for

future generations bearing the name of Keevins. If you haven't already done so, enjoy filling out your census form.

So, as ever, protect yourselves, your loved ones, and others, and protect Christ in your lives.

## REGAIN YOUR INDEPENDENCE WITH A BMAS BATHROOM

MOBILITY BATHROOMS MANAGED FROM DESIGN TO COMPLETION

We believe that everybody should be able to enjoy safe and independent bathing and showering. That's why we specialise in designing and installing fully accessible bathrooms for all your mobility needs.



ARRANGE  
YOUR FREE  
NO-OBLIGATION  
DESIGN  
APPOINTMENT



### Choose BMAS:

- ✓ 2,000 bathrooms installed in 10 years
- ✓ Full design and installation
- ✓ High-quality products for safety & comfort
- ✓ Free bathroom design & full quotation
- ✓ Traditional customer service (no call centres)
- ✓ Finance options available

"MY FINISHED BATHROOM LOOKS BEAUTIFUL AND HAS GIVEN ME BACK MY INDEPENDENCE."

★★★★★ Trustpilot

Call for your free bathroom  
design appointment  
**0141 530 3572**  
[bathingmobility.co.uk](http://bathingmobility.co.uk)



Bathing Mobility Advisory Service  
Glasgow Showroom Open  
Dobbies Garden Centre Braehead G51 4FB  
Open 10am-5pm 7 days a week



**Arnold Clark**

# COMMUNITY FUND

**SUPPORTING LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES.**

Find out more at  
**[ArnoldClark.com/community-fund](https://ArnoldClark.com/community-fund)**



**Arnold Clark**

052083