

# FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

August 2021

## The tower of silence

New monument blessed at St Mary's to recall *An Gorta Mór*

BY BRIAN SWANSON

**I**n the shimmering sunshine of a Sunday afternoon, in the garden of St Mary's, Calton, history was made, history remembered.

A dignified crowd, several hundred strong, was there to watch the blessing and unveiling of a striking steel sculpture commemorating those who died and the countless displaced Irish families who suffered in the years of the Great Hunger 170 years ago.

Astonishingly, given the huge numbers who fled to Glasgow this is both Scotland's and the city's first memorial specifically dedicated to *An Gorta Mór* – the great hunger.

It is called, entirely appropriately, The Tower of Silence. In the past, few spoke up for the ones who suffered, but the sculpture by Donegal artist John McCarron will speak for them for generations to come.

It was to St Mary's,

opened in 1842, making it the second oldest church in the Archdiocese after St Andrew's Cathedral, that the Irish flocked in those traumatic days, to be nurtured and cared for in the familiarity of their faith; it was here that Brother Walfrid founded Celtic FC to pay for food for their children, and here it is that the descendants of those the memorial commemorates still worship.

### Blessed

The ground where the statue is situated was offered by parish priest Canon Tom White and his parishioners. He told the audience that the people of the Calton would cherish and care for the sculpture for years to come before Monsignor Hugh Bradley, the Archdiocesan Administrator, blessed the sculpture, and with it, the memory of those who suffered, those who died, and those who lived to carry the faith with them to their new home.

### Powerful

The story of the memorial was delivered in a powerful speech by Jeanette Findlay, chair of the committee who fought for six years to make their dream a reality.

■ The story of the monument and its unveiling is told in a special report on page 7.



Canon White blesses the monument  
Picture by Paul McSherry

### BLAZE

## St Simon's destroyed by fire

FULL REPORT PAGE 12



### OUR LADY

## Lourdes day at Carfin Grotto

FULL REPORT PAGES 6-7



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# Novena joy as services resume

**I**n a church laden with lilies, parishioners of Blessed Duns Scotus in the Gorbals were once again able to gather together to take part in a much-loved Catholic tradition.

The Blessing of the Lilies, marking the end of the St Antony Annua Novena was postponed last year on the Saint's Feast Day on June 13 but easing of restriction allowed the celebration to take place last month instead.

Images of St Anthony, known as the Wonder-

BY BRIAN SWANSON

Worker of Padua and best known as the patron saint of lost objects, depict him holding the Child Jesus and with lilies which are seen as a symbol of purity.

This year's preacher was Father Adrian Peelo, a Franciscan friar from Ireland, seen here with parish priest Father Ed Highton.

Father Ed said: "We now have the Novena every Tuesday both at the 10am Mass and at 8pm with Rosary,

petitions, sermon and Benediction. It is growing back slowly to what it was before the pandemic especially now that we can have more people at Mass.

"The people come from all areas in and around Glasgow so we can say that slowly slowly we are returning to normal."

During his time in Glasgow Father Adrian also took of the opportunity of visiting the Poor Clares at Bothwell.



## John's medal honour

**O**ne of Scotland's most long-serving Head Teachers has been awarded the Archdiocesan Medal for services to education.

John Docherty was Head at St Andrew's High School, Clydebank from 2000-2005 and Saint Ninian's High School in Giffnock from 2005 until now.

It's a sign of his impact on the southside school that he had been due to retire this year but has been asked to stay on another year to allow a suitable replacement to be found.

Archbishop Conti travelled to St Ninian's to present the medal and Mr Docherty declared himself "very humbled by the award".

He said: "For me the Archdiocesan Medal recognises the many teachers, school staff, pupils, parents, clergy, Religious sisters, and parishioners who have made a great contribution to supporting the Catholic schools and the faith development of young people in which I have taught and have been privileged to be the Head Teacher.

"I always remind myself never to forget that the witness of staff through the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness, of love and service which are the foundations on which we build a school which puts a living faith modelled on the person of Jesus Christ at the centre of all we do.

"I have been blessed by the support of the Church through excellent chaplains, local clergy, and religious sisters who have been a great blessing supporting our work.

"It is often said that 'we are blessed so that we may be a blessing to others' and that is why the Medal is a tribute to the teachers who

live out their vocation each day in the face of many challenges.

"The best teachers understood how isolating it can be in today's society for young people to live by the principles of personal, intellectual and moral integrity and independence. I thank them for their dedication and the enthusiasm and witness to the young people they teach and form. The influence of good teachers stays with them. They are the people who really shape the life of each student. The great teachers leave a real, positive impact on their students. Those fine teachers help our pupils to become great, and that is a different thing altogether."

Picture by Paul McSherry



## Accommodation plea for COP

**G**lasgow Churches Together has launched a campaign urging locals to open their homes to provide affordable accommodation for visitors during COP26 – the UN climate conference, which is now less than four months away.

The prospect of 30,000 visitors and the presence in Glasgow of world leaders, likely to include Pope Francis, has put tremendous pressure on hotels not only in the city but throughout Scotland, leading to fears that hundreds of 'climate justice guests' from all over the world would be unable to participate because of a desperate shortage of budget accommodation.

The COP26 Homestay Network aims to help put up between 500 and 1,000 visitors during the summit in November and has enlisted the help of Glasgow Churches Together to publicise the online portal, where volunteer hosts can list their homes as a cheaper alternative to hotels and Airbnbs.

Audrey Kelly, newly appointed Cop26 Administrator for Glasgow Churches Together said: "The idea of a Homestay Network

was first used for COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009 and it was a great success.

"Our version has been developed by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and the COP26 Coalition, together with Human Hotel who

worked on the first one in Copenhagen.

"We have a deserved reputation of welcoming strangers in this city and I know that people in Glasgow will respond to our appeal.

"But it is important that anyone who wants to be hosts get in touch as soon as possible."

Most of the major hotels have sold out already while smaller guest houses and Airbnb accommodation have quadrupled prices during COP26. In contrast and to make the Homestay alternative as inclusive as possible, there is a cap on what prospective hosts can charge currently set at £10 a night for a shared space, £20 for a private room, and £30 for the use of a whole flat.

To find out more email [cop26office@glasgowchurches.org.uk](mailto:cop26office@glasgowchurches.org.uk)

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

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# Cumbernauld leads the way with flourishing of new ministries

**THE parish family of Sacred Heart and Saint Lucy's in Cumbernauld have had a mini vocations boom this summer.**

One parishioner, Patricia MacAuley, is in her fourth year of training with the Poor Servants of the Mother of God in Roehampton, London. After six years in training Patricia will take Perpetual Vows with this order.

The parish also has one young man, Patrick Connolly, in the Year of Discernment, meeting with other men and sharing prayer, reflection and socialising while discerning a vocation to the diocesan priesthood. Patrick is in his last year at Our Lady's High School Cumbernauld.

Meanwhile no less than four parishioners are now in training for the Permanent Diaconate. Paul Brady a former psychiatric nurse, Tony Murphy, a salesman, Elvis Arrey Etta, an assessor with Falkirk Social Work Services and Paul Nair, an account manager for an electronics company. All the men have very supportive wives and families.

On the Solemnity of Saint Peter and Paul, the Diocesan Administrator, Mgr Hugh

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

Bradley visited the parish to preside at a celebration where Paul, Tony and Elvis were admitted to the Ministry of Lector. This Ministry used to be seen solely as a stepping stone to priestly ordination, but Pope Francis has recently opening it to all the baptised, men and women alike as a ministry in its own right.

## Enthusiasm

Mgr Bradley, encouraged the candidates to allow themselves to be shaped by God's Word so that they could share it authentically and with enthusiasm, with others in their workplaces, in parish ministry and in any opportunity they had to speak of their faith and witness to the Risen Lord.

Afterwards Paul Brady and Tony Murphy were admitted to the Ministry of Acolyte. Mgr Hugh encouraged the men to develop their own love for the Eucharist and to be people who not only administer the Holy Eucharist but who promote by example a deep love for our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Tony and Paul



will now begin their fourth year in formation looking towards the celebration of Candidacy in December and Ordination as Deacons hopefully in June 2022.

Elvis now begins his third year in formation in September and will celebrate the Acolytate in June. Paul Mc Nair will be due for Lectorate next June 2022 as he now embarks on his second year in formation.

Parish Priest, Fr John Campbell said: "There was a buzz about the place ahead of the ceremonies as the cleaners cleaned the church yet again, new flowers were prepared and there was a real sense of occasion. In-

deed it was a great occasion, a busy church, as busy as we could allow under current restrictions, the people were bursting to sing. It's so long since we have had a big occasion, it was truly wonderful.

"The only disappointment was no reception or purvey afterwards. However, our responses were strong, our joy palatable and our pride in our fellow parishioners choosing to serve God and His church in the religious life, priesthood and diaconate is an immense source of pride for us. It is a real reason for hope in this sometimes dark time for our church."



## All change at St Aloysius

**SAINT Aloysius, Garnethill, the only Jesuit church in the Archdiocese, is set to welcome one of its returning sons when Father Gerry Mitchell SJ moves back to his home city later this month to serve as the new parish priest in the church where he was ordained 38 years ago.**

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

Father Gerry, who brings with him a reputation as a dedicated anti-poverty campaigner during his time in London parishes, will replace Father Dermot Preston who will shortly be moving to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle after three years at St Aloysius.

When Father Dermot Preston takes up his new appointment in Newcastle he leaves behind him a parish in good heart with much achieved during his three year term at St Aloysius.

Working with a group of dedicated volunteers he was able to secure a Heritage Lottery grant of £93,000, £140,000 from Historic Scotland plus £100,000 raised by parishioners to pay for urgent repair work to the church's famous bell tower.



Fr Dermot Preston

Picture by Paul McSherry

The work followed a major restoration of the 111 year old church which were completed in 2004.

When the grants were awarded Father Dermot said: "The parish community have raised over £100,000 for the Campanile through fundraising activities and personal donations, so with the generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, we hope to focus our next stage of fund-raising on the interior decoration and lighting within

the Church. This award is a wonderful culmination to a lot of hard work by many people in the Church community for which I am very grateful."

Another significant development during Father Preston's time at St Aloysius has been the growth of the English language or ESOL classes for asylum seekers and refugees held in the Ogilvie Centre next to the church.

From a handful of students and a small number of volunteer teachers there are now 500 students from countries including Sudan, Eritrea, Vietnam, Iraq, Kurdistan and Egypt with around 40 tutors working remotely because of Covid.

During the pandemic volunteers have also been able to operate as a food bank, delivering donated clothing and household goods to families and even providing refurbished donated bicycles to a number of students.

Father Dermot, 63, is a former Provincial of the British Province of Jesuits who was also worked as Jesuit Regional Superior in Guyana, South America, and for many years was vocations director for the British Province.



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# Award for St Matthew's

**PRIEST and parishioners of St Matthew's Bishopbriggs have long known that their magnificently restored church was a winner... and now its official after the £1m refurbishment was commended at the Scottish Design Awards.**

And by happy co-incidence the announcement came as Covid restrictions were eased allowing more people to attend Mass so that more people will now be able to see for themselves the impressive changes that have taken place.

It took five years from blueprint to award to create a place of worship flooded with light and beauty, inside the shell of the original church constructed in the dark post-war year of 1946.

This time Covid was the enemy with restrictions delaying the project by many months.

Canon Robert Hill, parish priest at St Matthew's said: "We never imagined the project would be delayed by a pandemic of all things and I remember saying at the time that if you want to make God laugh, make plans - but the wait has been worth it."

"It was an honour to be on the shortlist in the first place so needless to say we are all delighted to have won this most prestigious award."

St Matthew's refurbishment, designed by renowned Glasgow based architects Page\Park, who were also involved in the restoration of St Andrew's Cathedral, was entered in the 're-use of buildings' category.

It saw off competition from a number of other projects including the NHS Louisa Jordan Hospital at the Scottish Exhibition Campus.

A spokesman for Page\

BY BRIAN  
SWANSON

Park said: "The original building by Gillespie Kidd and Coia had become tired over the years and we worked to open up the space to make and make it more accessible and worked with craftsmen to design bespoke furniture and altar pieces that really captured the spirit of the original building."

Canon Hill, in paying tribute to the dedication of parishioners for their both their patience and their many fund raising efforts, said: "As soon as you come inside you can appreciate at once why our refurbished church is already being described as an icon in the village - the outside is stunning with a combination of modern architecture and the original 1946 design in perfect harmony. And from a practical point of view the area is much less cluttered

"It is flooded with light so what you see is simply breathtaking. We now have three aisles - one in the centre of the church, paved in such a way that the font seems to mark the beginning of a road which takes us to the altar."

"Our truly lovely building is a tribute to all those who in 1946 began to bring to reality a dream that a Catholic church in Bishopbriggs could be built."

Ken Crilley, director of development for the Archdiocese said: "It's fantastic news to hear about the redevelopment of St Matthews, which lies in the heart of Bishopbriggs Town Centre, receiving such a prestigious design award."

"There was positive collaboration between the Parish and the Design Team throughout the design process which has helped deliver such a great outcome."

## Three cheers for Grans and Grandpas



### Mary's musings

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

**WHEN I hit the big 5-oh I felt an awakening. I was coming into my time.**

The children were more or less reared and ready to have their own adventures. No more was I going to pussy-foot around being a people pleaser. Himself wryly observes he hadn't seen much evidence of that to date.

I wouldn't mourn my youth, instead I would embrace life as an older and wiser, if wrinklier version of myself. Gird your loins, I told him, I plan to be one of those feisty, doughty women, the sort who crosses the road with abandon, weaving through traffic shooting menacing looks at drivers who act as if they have right of way.

This is how my aunt used to cut about. She afforded herself no concessions to advancing age, living her life just as she always did. What it meant, in effect, was that, for example, she was always criticising the priest, actually all priests, readers, cantors for their poor diction. Never mind that she was hard of hearing in one ear and almost totally deaf in the other. She was spirited and gutsy

well into her nineties.

But then, just a couple of years later, our grandchildren started to arrive and I turned to mush. Not only do I babble and coo at my own wee ones I am ever on the look-out for babies to admire and young mums to help, opening shop doors for them and helping them with their buggies. I stop short of offering to change nappies but if the need arises I'll happily oblige.

Now we have four little fellas - the youngest of whom will start school this month - and a new baby due in Autumn. To a significant extent their world has become mine. The eighteen-month-old is fascinated by bins. Nothing gives me more pleasure than pushing him around in his buggy marvelling at blue bins, green bins, purple bins...

His enthusiasm is so infectious I've even considered the pair of us going on a trip to the dump. Our day is made when we see a bin lorry in action. Glasgow being Glasgow the bin men are always up for a chat and are good enough to put time off with an aul' gran and her bin-loving boy.



Whenever I'm looking after my wee boys I find myself somewhere between utter awe at whatever new skill they have acquired today and abject fear they might come to harm on my watch.

But being a grandparent is about so much more than the fun stuff. For Catholic grandparents we have to keep our eyes on the prize. Passing on the Faith is our vocation and we should never underestimate our influence on our grandchildren. All those precious times we spend with them bring what we call teachable moments.

Societal factors such as the rising age for having children means many people don't become grandparents until they are quite elderly.

Sometimes the arrival of grandchildren coincides with retirement, perhaps timed to take on childcare duties to save the parents the exorbitant cost of nursery or childminder. Some grandparents are run ragged balancing the needs of

children and elderly parents.

Others are kinship carers which can be a life of hardship, financially or through the sheer lack of the energy that is required to care for children. For many the physical distance wrought by emigration brings an ever-present sense of loss.

Those alienated from their grandchildren because of family estrangements suffer a particular pain. The Catholic Grandparents Association which is now a global organisation was born out of such a heartbreak. The founder, Catherine Wiley's own family sadness resulted in what is now a global organisation.

Whatever our situation we can hold our grandchildren in our prayers as surely as we hold them in our hearts. I think that was what Pope Francis had in mind when he instituted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly last month.

It was a welcome move!



# Do you see Christ pass by?

**I**N spite of his name, Sigismund Goetze was an English artist, a man of influence and a wealthy philanthropist known more for his Empire Murals than his religious works.

Our painting depicts the Suffering Christ tied up, about to be scourged, and largely ignored by the throng who fail to recognise his divinity. Ironically he is bound to a pillar dedicated to "the Unknown God."

Although dating from the

BY MGR TOM  
MONAGHAN

turn of the 20th century, the work is surprisingly timely when so few find a place for God in rescuing us from the pandemic. In the front-left we see a haughty party-going lady in rich robes and tiara totally ignoring the little flower girl trying to earn a penny.

She is followed by a pleasure-seeking toff and behind them, a scientist who is so absorbed with a test-tube

that he sees not the Christ.

Then, above, the fellow with the riding-crop studying form and hoping for winners. Even the poor mother with a sickly child fails to turn to Christ who bends over to look at her and who could have saved the child. The little newspaper boy shouts to sell his wares but not to serve the Lord.

Perhaps the most shameful of all is the well-fed cleric, so full of himself and of his own importance that

he has no gaze for the One he should serve. Among the others is a judge interested only in the letter of the law, a politician in the background ranting to the crowd.

## Compassion

Only the nurse looks upon Christ, and reacts with sorrow, horror and compassion. Such goodness, we find in the nurses and medics of today! The question is.... am I somewhere amidst the passing crowd?



# Fight is on to save St Mungo's

**T**HE fight is on to save St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life which faces an uncertain future after closing its doors to the public at the start of lockdown 16 months ago.

Now as other museums also run by Glasgow Life start to reopen, faith communities in Glasgow are leading the call for an early decision on plans for the High Street venue opened in 1993 and named after Glasgow's patron saint who brought Christianity to Scotland in the sixth century.

Rose Drew, CEO of Interfaith Glasgow, said: "It is imperative that Glasgow does not lose this highly-respected resource nor that the nature of it be changed so much that it no longer reflects the multi-faith nature of our society and is hampered in its work to promote good interfaith and intercultural relations."

The museum's global significance was highlighted by Maria Habito, International Program Director of the Museum of World Religions in Taipei, in Taiwan who said: "St Mungo's isn't just good for Glasgow – it's good for the world. It's part of a global ecosystem of people seeking to understand different faiths to develop mutual understanding. It is our conviction that this type of learning and facility will become ever more important in the coming years."

Sister Isabel Smyth, Founding Director of Interfaith Scotland, and the Scottish Bishops' Conference Secretary for Inter-religious Dialogue who has been involved with St Mungo's Museum since the beginning added: "This isn't the first time Glasgow City Council has tried to close St Mungo's."

"Last time it was saved by the city's faith communities. We can save it again."

The only museum of its kind in the UK, St Mungo's

BY BRIAN  
SWANSON

was created with support from Glasgow's diverse religious communities and contains internationally significant artworks. For a time it hosted Salvador Dali's *Christ of St John of the Cross*.

A spokesperson for Glasgow Life said: "We recognise the very significant role St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art has played in the religious life of the city and the continued importance of the role Glasgow Museums can play, alongside partner organisations. We also recognise the importance of interfaith dialogue and are committed to continuing to support this."

"For some time now, indeed significantly prior to the pandemic, Glasgow Life has been talking to Glasgow City Council and partners on the Cathedral Precinct about how to work better together to improve the visitor experience to the medieval heart of the city".

**■ Interfaith Glasgow has launched a petition to Save St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life and Art, which you can sign here: [www.change.org/p/glasgow-life-save-st-mungo-s-museum](http://www.change.org/p/glasgow-life-save-st-mungo-s-museum)**



## Caritas champions



**Congratulations to David Docherty and Kirsty Kennedy who received their Caritas Award and Certificates at the 10 am Mass on 4th July in St Andrew's, Bearsden. Parish Priest Fr Joe Mackle (also in picture) said: "Well done in achieving the award in what was a particularly challenging year at school and for volunteering as stewards and live stream operators in the Parish".**

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## POEM OF THE MONTH

The poem is part of John Stainer's oratorio, *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer* which is based on Lamentations 1.12.

From the Throne of His Cross, the King of grief

Cries out to a world of unbelief:

Oh! men and women, afar and nigh,

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

I wept for the sorrows and pains of men,

I healed them, and helped them, and loved them; but then they shouted against me, Crucify! Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

Is it nothing to you that I bow my head?

And nothing to you that my blood is shed?

Oh, perishing souls, to you I cry;

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

Oh come unto me! this awful price,

Redemption's tremendous sacrifice,

Is paid for you. — Oh, why will ye die?

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Let us Pray: Be mindful of us O Lord, for whose sake you did not hesitate to be tied to a pillar and scourged. Save us from this dreadful pandemic we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



## Archdiocese of Glasgow Lourdes Day at Carfin Grotto

# Immaculate Mary, our hearts are on fire

**FAIR Friday** for many Glaswegians traditionally marked the start of a mass exodus “doon the water” or to Blackpool, Benidorm or Chiantishire. But for some in the Archdiocese it marked the beginning of the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, where every year in the region of 500 pilgrims would journey to France in honour of Our Lady and St Bernadette.

For many this meant taking with them their fragility, illness and daily burdens to lay them before Our Blessed Mother at the Grotto on the banks of the Gave de Pau river.

Sadly, for the second year running this annual pilgrimage has been unable to take place due to Covid-19. However, as we begin to see the green shoots of normality returning hundreds of pilgrims of the Archdiocese were able to gather on Fair Sunday to experience a taste of Lourdes closer to home.

This was no virtual pilgrimage either, it was very much real and ‘in the flesh’. In excess of 400 pilgrims assembled for open air Mass and Sacramental Anointing of the Sick at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Carfin. Holy Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Hugh Bradley, who is at the helm of guiding the Archdiocese as Diocesan Administrator during this sad time of *sede vacante*.

Whilst the travel was less onerous for pilgrims, the weather more redolent of the Mediterranean, than the Clyde estuary ... it was glorious. Among the concelebrants at Mass was Canon Tom White who as Director of the Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage addressed those assembled during his homily.

Greeting the congregation at the start of the homily Canon White thanked Monsignor Bradley for permitting the mini pilgrimage to go ahead, despite uncertainty at a certain point about which direction the “R” numbers were heading. Last year an “R” number would have needed explaining. Remarking on how beautiful the National Shrine was looking bathed in glorious sunshine and the warm welcome that our pilgrims had received from the shrine’s guardian, Father Jim Grant and the parishioners of Carfin, Canon Tom remarked that this year’s pilgrimage



St Margaret of Scotland Youth Group  
Pictures by Paul McSherry



had been substantially easier to organise than in normal times and it may well be a model he would suggest to the future Archbishop!

Recalling so fondly in the homily the international character of Lourdes and the other pilgrim groups that Glasgow pilgrims normally encounter in Lourdes from Ampleforth, Westminster, Derry, Down and Conon, Dunkeld and other dioceses across Europe it was obvious from all present that there is a keen hankering for Glaswegians to return to Lourdes and please God that will be soon.

Canon White commented on how the first reading from Jeremiah which referred to God’s promise to his remnant people to raise up shepherds among should speak to the family of the Archdiocese in a particular way. At the moment with Church attendance in most parishes down by at least 60% we feel like a remnant people and having recently celebrated the six months mind of Archbishop Philip the need for us to have a new shepherd is only too real.

“We gather here as an Archdiocesan family not only to honour our Blessed Mother, but for many to remember with affection our late Archbishop and brother, Philip. We ask that God grants him a merciful judgment, forgiveness of any sins he committed in human weakness and rewards him for his fidelity in priestly ministry and love of the God, Our Lady and Holy Mother Church ... and we pray that the words of sacred scripture ‘well done good and faithful servant’ will have been the words that greeted him into paradise,” said Canon White.

Referring to the Gospel of the day, he urged people



to take comfort from the words of St Mark’s Gospel, as Jesus looked at the crowd and took pity on them as they were like sheep without a shepherd. “The Lord will look upon Glasgow and see us as sheep akin to sheep without a shepherd, and as he was moved by compassion to care for the crowd, he will show us the same compassion and will care for us too.”

In drawing a theological parallel to the apparitions of Lourdes and the life and passion of Christ, Canon Tom referred to how Bernadette’s apparition were warmly received by thousands within a few weeks, but the attitude of the crowd changed when the message got more difficult and challenging, even to the crowds claiming that the young peasant girl was mad.

“We too can be subject to the same temptations as the crowd ... we can greet the Gospel message when it is palatable and easy but when we are invited to go to Calvary or gaze upon it we can shy away or even lose sight of God”.

Canon White urged the pilgrims to be aware that many people had endured their own Calvary over recent months and may well have lost sight of God’s presence in their midst and that it was our duty as His remnant people to offer them Christ’s light in their darkness.

The pilgrimage was concluded with the Solemn Blessing of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Canon Tom put it: “The buzz of friends catching up on the Terra Sancta of the grotto was nothing short of a grace filled occasion.”

## A monument to our Irish forebears

**GLASGOW joins the 140 cities around the world in erecting a memorial to our people who arrived in great numbers escaping starvation, eviction and oppression.**

Why it has taken so long to reach this day is another story; an important story that speaks to us of current realities; but a story for another day.

Today is our day, the day for the children of those impoverished and brutalised people who managed to reach these shores to finally see that part of their history, that terrible part, acknowledged and remembered in a physical and permanent way.

So, in that sense, while it is a time for reflection on the awful reality of what they endured it is also a time for celebration that they did endure, they did survive and, in large part, flourished in this city.

They made that journey, dangerous in those times, in an effort to save themselves and their children and, in so doing, they peopled this city with their descendants – still a minority, but now a confident, vocal and proud minority community who have kept alive in whatever way they could, the music, the sport, the language, the history of their native land and their great love for it.

The confident and vibrant multi-generational Irish community of Glasgow is the legacy of their endurance and their bravery and today we remember them and thank them for that.

I suppose the only people alive now who can really imagine what it was like that are those in our community who have arrived more recently to escape, war, hunger and oppression in their



BY JEANETTE FINDLAY

own countries. And that is why, today, as well as thinking of our own people we should think of them.

This memorial should be a reminder to us that we owe it to our own ancestors to

be the welcoming community to new arrivals in Glasgow, that we wish our ancestors had met all those decades ago; and to treat them as we wish our own ancestors had been treated; and as they were treated by the honourable few.

This is a city still scarred by division of many kinds – class being the chief among them – but we should not fall prey to the forces that

seek to divide us in their own interest – and when we feel that pressure to look upon other human beings as being less than us, as wanting to take from us, we should look to this memorial and feel the eyes of our ancestors on us and resist that pressure.

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## SSVP continuous support

Throughout the Covid-19 period the Society has continued to offer support to those in need. While normal visitation was not possible many conferences carried out 'door step' visits to families with food parcels, food vouchers and cash payment delivered at the door. This is an ongoing practice so those in need should contact the church house with their details and this will be passed on to the local conference who will get in touch with the family or person as soon as possible.



The greatest commandment of the law is to love God with one's whole heart and one's neighbour as oneself. (Mt 22:37-40)

Christ has made this love of the neighbour his personal commandment when he willed himself, along with his brothers, to be the object of this charity saying: "when you showed it to one of the least of my brothers, you showed it to me." (Mt 25:40)

Extract from The Lay Apostolate – Second Vatican Council, 1965 No. 8

The SSVP continues to serve in hope and in charity



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## Support Glasgow Care Foundation

If you are an organisation looking for a Charity of the Year or an individual who can donate a small monthly amount this can be set up easily on our website. In simple terms the more money that comes in the more people we can help. There are 37,000 children living in poverty in Glasgow today. Every penny donated will go directly to helping people with basic household goods that they cannot afford or to alleviate food poverty which is an increasing plight for a lot of families.

### WHO WE HELP!

Case 1 - We helped a 49-year-old single lady living with her 8-year-old daughter and her nephew whose mother was deceased. When her older daughter moved in with her newly born child the grandmother now had a household of 5 and no cot available for the baby after paying for food. This grandmother was doing what any parent would do – support her family in any way she could. We were able to help by providing a cot and highchair to lend a helping hand.

Case 2 - We helped a married couple in their late thirties with one teenage child. The father suffers from poor health having a chronic skin disorder requiring the constant use of special steroid ointments and hospitalised regularly for treatments to help manage his skin condition. Their bedding and mattress have been badly damaged due to the medication, and they were financially unable to replace them. We provided a new mattress and bedding to ease their stress.



**Glasgow Care Foundation**

Glasgow Care Foundation was established in 1874 before the NHS and Welfare State, sadly our aim of alleviating poverty in the City is still the same. Our client referrals come from organisations such as Social Work, Housing Associations and other agencies working with vulnerable people. We provide assistance to some of the poorest individuals and families who cannot get help from any other source. Our main support takes the form of provision of basic items such as washing machines, fridges, bedding, cookers and floor covering. We also support families with supermarket gift cards to buy food as this is an ever-increasing plight for a lot of people. We often describe ourselves as a small charity doing big things for Glasgow.

Glasgow Care Foundation  
Orkney St Enterprise Centre  
18-20 Orkney St  
Glasgow G51 2BX  
0141 445 2736  
[elaine@glasgowcarefoundation.org](mailto:elaine@glasgowcarefoundation.org)



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Offer your time and join one of our friendly SPRED groups, sharing faith and friendship. Groups meet weekly throughout the Archdiocese in school term time. Full training and support is given to all new volunteers. Do something for others while making new friends and deepening your own faith.

## St Nicholas Care Fund

The St Nicholas Care Fund was established in 1992 by Cardinal Winning to provide grant assistance to organisations providing support to excluded and marginalised groups – refugees, the lonely and isolated, those in food poverty or people and families recovering from the effects of alcohol and drug abuse. In recent times covid 19 has presented some new challenges for us to respond to. We rely upon the contributions we receive from donors and the money entrusted to us enables us to continue our work. You can donate by visiting our website at [rcag.org.uk](http://rcag.org.uk) and going to the Donate page. Now more than ever we need your support.



**St Nicholas Care Fund**

A charity of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

St Nicholas Care Fund has distributed £36 151 in grants since the beginning of 2021. We have supported youth groups; sport and health activities; equipment for the elderly or those recovering from addiction. We provide grants for one-off costs for any activity targeting disadvantage and need.

Application forms and guidance are available at [www.rcag.org.uk](http://www.rcag.org.uk). Please contact us by e-mail if you need further advice.

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As part of Caritas, a global Church network with a presence in more than 160 countries, we're already there when emergencies strike, and will be there long after others have left. Together with local communities we develop local solutions that will make a real and lasting difference.

We help people provide for themselves and their families, start businesses, and learn new skills, creating hope for the future. We stand side by side with communities to build peace and promote justice, so they have power over their own lives.

We are building God's Kingdom here on earth so that we can all live in His love and justice, free from fear and persecution. We work with people in the hardest circumstances, so they can overcome their daily struggles and the structures of injustice that make and keep them poor. We actively serve those forced to the fringes of society and deprived of opportunity.

We work to prevent disasters and, when disaster does strike, we respond immediately by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and rebuilding lives and communities in the long term.

We know that the poorest suffer the most: we will not forsake them.

The SCIAF family is a global community. We believe that a just and green world is possible, if we all come together in love and kindness.

We seek to inspire people to live their faith and build a world where everyone is equal and free from poverty. Together we pray, we act and we give.

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\* The Bishops' Conference of Scotland state that any religious education posts in Catholic schools in Scotland are to be filled by practising Catholics.



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## Missio Scotland

The work of many charities has been affected as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and Missio Scotland is no different. Not being able to promote the live-giving and life-saving work of our missionaries, throughout the world, in our churches and schools here in Scotland has been difficult to say the least. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, light that can shine that bit brighter if you choose to support Missio Scotland—the Scottish branch of the Pontifical Mission Societies—as we will, in turn, use that support to assist our missionaries in providing love and care for those most in need. The Church throughout the world will endure and can emerge stronger from these trying times. Why not make it your mission to ensure that happens by donating to Missio Scotland today? Thank You!



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# Finding connections in August's feast of readings from Scripture



Fr Tom Kilbride

**AUGUST has always struck me as a peculiar month. On the one hand, we begin it still in "holiday" time. Yet we end it going "Back to School".**

We want to cling to the holidays, and are sad when they're over, yet there's also a sense of excitement, of looking forward to new things as the school year gets underway.

August in the parish has that same sense of transition, moving from the often-quieter summer period to the resumption of more recognisable parish life and activities in the autumn. Perhaps this year, more than usual, we hope to resume – and renew – something of "normal" parish life in the weeks ahead.

Our Sunday liturgy this month reflects that mixed feel as well, as we find ourselves pointed in various directions: looking forward, holding on and getting back to normal.

## The Assumption of Our Lady

Firstly, as we mark the great Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, which falls on a Sunday this year, we look to the future. Mary's unique share in Christ's resurrection, when her earthly journey ended, speaks of the hope held out to us all of a share in his glory. The readings, especially those of the Day Mass, all look forward...

The beautiful but mysterious vision from Revelation speaks of the "place of safety" for the star-crowned mother and of the victory of God and Christ. It is an evocative image of Mary and her share in that victory of God, born of her "Yes",

and an image of hope for the Church herself, understood as mother, and for her children. Paul in the Second Reading, likewise, looks ahead to that final victory of God in Jesus, and of the hoped-for share in it of "those who belong to him".

Even in the Gospel text, Mary herself looks forward to future generations celebrating the blessing she has received, and to a world renewed by what God is doing in her and through her. Blessed indeed is she! So, what we celebrate in honour of her, speaks of the invitation God makes also to us to enter into his glory at the end of all things: what she has already reached is held out to us as our destination, if we, like her, believe the Lord's promises.

## Twenty-First Sunday, Year B

Last Sunday invited us to "look ahead" in hope. Today, we are invited to "hold on" as we resume our readings from chapter 6 of John's Gospel and Jesus's teaching on the Eucharist. In fact, we resume only at the end of the chapter, as many decide to leave Jesus because of his teaching.

The invitation he has made is refused by many. Peter however responds to Jesus' challenge by confessing faith in him: "We believe and we know you are the Holy One of God." (John's Gospel, this way, links Peter's profession very closely to the Eucharist, as his denial is linked to the Last Supper and his 'redemption' after Easter linked to a Eucharist-type moment on a beach: "Simon, son of John, do you love me?")

This and his question in response to Jesus' question "Lord, to whom shall we go?" speaks of firm faith and a sense that there is no other way than Jesus. It also speaks of a shared faith – a "we" rather than an "I" – which is a hallmark of faith in Jesus. Perhaps this reminds us that our personal response to the invitation to "hold on" when others walk away from Jesus is always supported and strengthened by the faith of others, the faith of our church community.

## Twenty-Second Sunday, Year B

Having returned last week to our readings from John, we now "resume" our reading of Mark's Gospel, which we left aside back in

July. There are definite "circles within circles" about this month's readings!

We resume it as Jesus – who has been challenged by the scribes and Pharisees – now lays down some challenges for them. Where is their focus: on the Law and its call to covenant justice, compassion and righteousness, or in traditions about table etiquette?

In fairness to the Pharisees, they believed that what Jesus calls "human traditions" had in fact been handed down from Moses as a parallel to the written Law. However, Jesus calls them to a deeper and wider view: the Law was given in order to bring out the best in God's people; they are replacing it with tests measuring how "clean" someone is by how well they follow the rules. It is sin from within, Jesus says, that will show how "unclean" a person is, not compliance with arbitrary traditions.

The commandments, Jesus reminds them, were given to shape a people who would be "clean" on the inside, a people who would be wise, compassionate and just – like God. Being like God is what real "cleanness" means, Jesus suggests, which St James describes like this: "coming to the help of widows and orphans", an echo in our actions of the compassion of God himself. If we are like that on the inside, we will get it right on the outside too. The opposite won't necessarily be true, however.

## Twenty-Third Sunday, Year B

As always in Mark's Gospel, Jesus' spoken words are accompanied by actions. This week we hear the second of two healing stories. (Sadly we skip over the first, the cure of a Syrian woman's daughter, a touching story which speaks of tenacity and faith in the face of obstacles, something which may well speak to us just now!)

Instead, we jump to the healing of a deaf man who cannot speak, a story we only hear from Mark, who preserves for us not just the story but also an Aramaic word the early community must have remembered hearing Jesus say: "Ephphatha" ("Be opened"). Although Mark's is a brief Gospel, usually lacking much detail or elaboration, it has little touches like this

which bring us closer to the person of Jesus than pages of reflective theology could ever do!

Yet, for Mark, the word is also a call to discipleship: to open our ears to hear his word (like the good soil receiving the seed in chapter 4) and our mouths to speak the gospel (as the apostles were sent to do a few Sundays back in chapter 6). The man in the story is all of us. Brought to Jesus (perhaps by the faith or example of others) and touched by him, we are invited to "be opened" to receive and to speak the Good News.

So, these Sundays point us in various directions, a bit like August itself. We are invited to look forward in hope with Mary. We are challenged to express faith like Peter. And we are reminded of our core vocation: to hear the word and to speak it to others.

Perhaps that, more than beginning a new school year or a new cycle of parish activities, is what we really need to think about "resuming" as summer ends.



Nicolas Poussin, *The Assumption of the Virgin* (ca. 1630)

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## O'HARE



Precious memories of Esther (née Murray), a cherished wife to the late David, mum, gran and adored great-gran, who died on November 7, 2014, and whose birthday occurs on August 7. Our Lady of Lourdes and St Thérèse, pray for her. Forever in our hearts. Inserted by her ever-loving family.



# So much sadness after St Simon's fire

**IT survived two world wars, air raids and countless national and local emergencies, but on the night of July 28, St Simon's church at Partick Cross succumbed to an enemy that could not be resisted as fire destroyed the little building which has a special place in the hearts of countless Glaswegians.**

The ferocity of the blaze, which took away roof, walls and fittings, left nothing but charred wood, metal and stone when the flames were extinguished. The Polish shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, the stained glass of Lorraine Lamond, the refurbishments overseen by the legendary Fr Paddy Tierney – all were reduced to black ash in the cold light of day.

The loss of St Simon's will be keenly felt by parishioners across the city who have links to the parish and also by members of the Polish community who worshipped there every Sunday, though provision was immediately made for them to celebrate Mass in Polish in nearby St Peter's in Hyndland Street, as they had during the pandemic. Masses in Polish will now be celebrated at St Peter's, as follows: Friday 7pm.

BY RONNIE CONVERY

Saturday vigil 7pm.  
Sunday 2pm until further notice.

Canon Peter McBride said: "The tragic events have left all of us with a numbing sense of disbelief and shock. Into this pain we invite the Lord (whose house it was!) and offer a grateful prayer that no-one was injured and no life lost.

"Our greatest relief was that Sister Mary [who resided in the adjacent presbytery] escaped the blaze relatively unscathed and for us as a parish community that takes precedence over our sense of loss.

"No decision has been taken as to the viability of rebuilding our church and this decision is not ours to take... we just offer thanks that we are in the fortunate position of having St Peter's church nearby which allows the uninterrupted celebration of daily Mass."

Public figures wasted no time in expressing their sorrow at what had happened: Robert Hynd, Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow (Church of Scotland) said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with the congregation of St Simon's. Denominations are meaningless at times such as this and

we will offer whatever support we can to help in their recovery from this tragic event."

Scottish Government Health Secretary Humza Yousaf tweeted: "I know St Simon's had a special place in the Polish community's heart. Solidarity with our Catholic community in Scotland."

Scottish Labour leader, Anas Sarwar, tweeted: "Really sad to see this, but thankfully no one was hurt. Thoughts and prayers with all those that have a connection with the church, especially our Polish community."

A spokesman for the Archdiocese said: "The destruction of St Simon's church by fire will be a blow to people far beyond the west end of Glasgow. Though small in size, St Simon's was well-frequented and was the spiritual home of the Polish community in the west of Scotland who had established a shrine there.

"It was also a focal point for the local community, and especially the homeless who benefited from a café on site which had to be suspended during the pandemic.

"The cause of the fire is as yet unknown and the future of the site will be a matter for discussion in coming weeks and months."



## 'I want the world to see what is happening to us'

SCIAF launches emergency appeal for Ethiopia

**H**ow quickly things can take a turn for the worse.

Two years ago, I was in the Tigray region in Northern Ethiopia. Back then it was peaceful, prosperous, and I was visiting SCIAF's successful projects. But since November 2020, this region in Ethiopia has been engulfed in conflict that has taken away the vital progress that had been made.

After the years of famine and war with neighbouring Eritrea – years we all remember from the images on our TV screens in the 80s – this region was flourishing. We watched farmers bringing in a plentiful harvest, and a river bringing water all year round that used to be dry many months of the year. The children I met and spoke to were in school, dreaming of a bright future.

Since autumn 2020, the conflict in the Tigray region has led to violence including the killings, rapes and abuse of women, children and men. Homes have been destroyed. Villages flattened. Thousands of Ethiopians have been killed and more than two million people have been internally displaced.

Now, at least five and a half million people – more than the



**Penelope Blackwell**

Director of Public Engagement,  
SCIAF

population of Scotland – require emergency food.

We can't turn our backs on the people of Tigray. Or those who face similar circumstances in times of conflict and emergency.

In the context of such clear human suffering in Ethiopia, the UK government needs to re-evaluate its decision to slash the international aid budget. Cutting aid by billions of pounds risks destabilising many areas of conflict where humanitarian relief is necessary. We have a moral duty to help those who need it.

Thankfully we can all contribute to ending the humanitarian emergency in Ethiopia today. SCIAF has launched a donation appeal this month to ensure help gets to those who need it.

While many charities have struggled to access and start work in Tigray, SCIAF has been there

since day one. We have worked in the region for decades alongside other agencies of the Catholic Church. This means we can reach those in hard-to-reach areas and provide support, including food, shelter, clean water, medical support and other essentials.

While helping people who have been displaced in the region, a 14-year-old girl affected by the violence shared her story with us. She wants the world to know what happened to her and has given us permission to share with you. We have changed her name to ensure her safety.

Her story does contain violence so please do not read further if you are not comfortable.

Semira, 14, told us that one-morning militia stormed into her house. She was shot, along with her parents and siblings. Her father died immediately. Semira's



mother's body shielded the baby at the cost of her own life. Semira watched all of this while unable to do anything herself – she was bleeding too, having been shot in the leg.

Semira and her siblings fled their home. However, her leg injury meant she could not walk far and she had to leave her brothers and sisters hidden in the countryside and find a hospital. For two months, she didn't know if they'd survived. Finally, Semira was reu-

nited with her siblings in a camp for those who had been displaced, supported by SCIAF.

Stories like Semira's are why we are working round the clock to provide food, water and shelter to men, women and children who have lost everything overnight. It is hard to hear about such suffering, but we cannot ignore what is happening in Ethiopia.

If you'd like to help children like Semira and her family, please support SCIAF's Ethiopia Appeal.