

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

February 2022

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP



‘Pray for me’ appeal from Archbishop- elect Nolan

My dear friends,

You won't believe how important it is to me knowing that people are praying for me. I have had plenty of words of congratulations since my appointment was announced, but it is the prayers that I need and that I appreciate the most.

I am convinced that the Holy Spirit is active in the Church in Glasgow and that despite my inadequacies, God's Spirit can work through me.

I am conscious also that the faith that we share goes deep into the hearts of believers and that, even in those who no longer practise, the seed of faith is still alive in the depth of their being.

St Paul tells Timothy to fan into a flame the gift that he had been given. May we kindle the faith in our own hearts and rekindle it in the hearts of others.

I hope that in Glasgow, by being responsive to the Holy Spirit, all of us together can do just that.

May the Spirit empower us to live lives inspired by faith in Jesus Christ. May the Spirit give us the courage to share our appreciation of the faith with others, so that it bears fruit in our lives and throughout the Archdiocese.

+ William Nolan

Cumbernauld parishioners bring new hope to Africa

A PRIEST has been left 'blown away' by the generosity of his parishioners who raised over £4000 to provide four wells for African villages.

And Father Harry McKay, administrator of St Joseph's parish, Cumbernauld, was so impressed that he added a personal donation of his own to buy a fifth well in response to an appeal by the Scottish International Aid Fund.

He said: "St Joseph's is not by any means a well-off parish but I have never known generosity like it – it just blew me away."

"I have worked in so-called rich parishes but St Joseph's surpasses them all."

"I never ask them for money. I just say that I have

BY BRIAN SWANSON

a project in mind, tell them about it and leave it up to them and they never let me down.

"SCIAF has an appeal to buy wells for African villages and in a short period the parish donated just over £4000, which was almost enough for four wells then I added some money of my own to buy a fifth."

"I want to thank everybody in the parish who donated. I have never experienced such generosity in any parish I have been in – I'm so proud to be part of this parish community."

Penelope Blackwell, Director of Public Engagement at SCIAF said: "We are extremely grateful to Fr



McKay and the parishioners of St Joseph's Parish, Cumbernauld, for so generously coming together to raise money to provide water for not just one, but five villages.

"Every penny raised will go directly to SCIAF's life-changing water projects in

communities in some of the poorest countries in the world, and will be used to provide vital access to water, including building wells and lakes and implementing irrigation systems.

"This means families can collect and store rainwater so they always have the wa-



ter they need to grow their own food, feed their family and ultimately lift themselves out of poverty.

"Changes like this are only possible through amazing SCIAF supporters in parishes across Scotland. Their generosity really will change lives."

■ For more information on how your parish can get involved and raise money to provide water for a village, visit www.sciaf.org.uk/parish

Wayside Club boost

BY BRIAN SWANSON

THE Wayside Club, one of the country's oldest Catholic-run homeless charities, is starting the year with a massive cash boost thanks to a generous £10,000 donation from St Aloysius College.

A total of £20,000 was handed over to the college by its Aloysian Association who raised the money at a recent Ladies Lunch event.

The money was then split to benefit a number of charities chosen by the College.

A spokesperson for the College said: "We are very thankful that this spectacular amount of money was donated despite the pandemic."

"The funds will be divided between four College initiatives – our bursary fund, Green Spaces for Green Blaziers, The Lourdes Fund, and Children's Fund. Money was also raised to support the amazing work of The Wayside Club which helps meet the needs of the homeless, and those suffering from hardship and addiction to alcohol or gambling."

Lawrence McGarry, from the Wayside Club, which this year celebrates the 90th anniversary of its founding by the Legion of Mary, said: "Everyone at the Wayside would like to thank all those who have supported our work down through the years but we are particularly grateful at this time as we appreciate the strain and pressures that everyone is experiencing with ever increasing costs for every household."

"We are extremely grateful for this very generous donation."

Lawrence added: "Despite the madness going on around us at this time here at the Wayside we have managed to serve meals to everyone who has turned to us for support every night and each Saturday afternoon since March 2020."

O'HARE



20TH ANNIVERSARY
Please pray for David O'Hare, a cherished husband to the late Esther, and much loved dad and Papa, who sadly died February 13 2002. Our Lady Of Lourdes and St. Thérèse, pray for him. Jesus, I trust in you.

He will be forever in our hearts.
Inserted by his ever loving family.

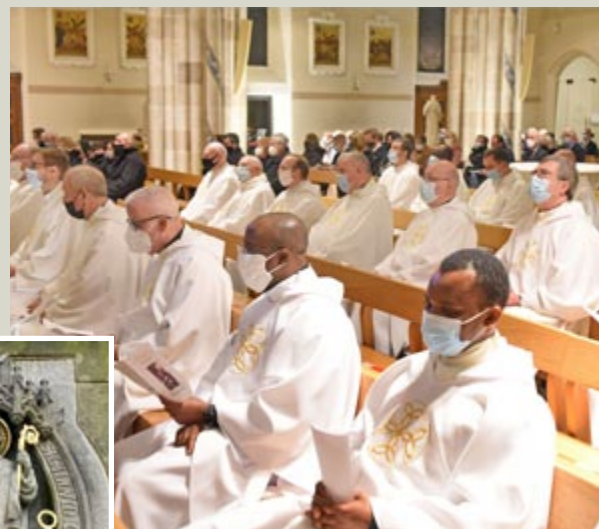
Poignant celebrations mark city feast day

THE Feast of St Mungo was marked in a special way this year as priests from across the Archdiocese concelebrated the Mass while also remembering Archbishop Tartaglia who died on January 13 2021.

Archbishop Conti was the main concelebrant at the Cathedral liturgy which combined a commemoration of Glasgow's patron and remembrance of Archbishop Philip.

For many priests it was a poignant occasion as Archbishop Philip's funeral Mass was celebrated under extreme lockdown conditions which mean that clergy were not able to concelebrate the Requiem.

Members of Archbishop Philip's family were also able to be present in a way that was not possible at the time of his death.



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Time to make your voice heard ... and to listen with respect

A NEW website has been launched in the Archdiocese to support the worldwide process of listening and consultation requested by Pope Francis as part of the Synod.

The new site – www.rcagsynod.org – offers resources for individuals, small groups and parishes to help them take part in the synod – which has been described as the most important event in the Catholic Church since Vatican II.

Fr John Campbell, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart and St Lucy's in Cumbernauld, is co-ordinating the synod process in the Archdiocese. He told *Flourish*:

"We would be pleased if parishes shared their experiences with us, to help give others the confidence to engage with the process.

"Over the next few weeks, we will expand the synod team, with representation from all areas of the diocese. The diocesan team will assist in producing a synthesis of all the material that parishes send to the deanery. This will be passed to the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to become Scotland's submission to the European Bishops. These continental

submissions will become the basis for the international synod in 2023.

"On the webpage you will find parish resources for the Lenten period. Small group meetings based on the Sunday gospels of Lent but very much offered in the context of the prayerful listening, sharing and discerning experiences that are part of the synodal process of walking together in communion.

Reaching out

"Questionnaires will be available on the site to assist in reaching out beyond the Mass-going population. They could be used through our schools, on line on parish web sites, facebook pages or shared with other churches and groups that meet in our parish halls that are not necessarily parish groups or in ways that suit local circumstances.

"Many parishes have made an excellent start on this journeying together. Small groups have already met with their own materials or indeed using material from the internet or other diocesan websites. Some parishes put questions inviting responses onto Christmas Cards that were distributed through the schools (maybe



an idea for Easter). Others have distributed questionnaires through their messenger system or indeed included an explanation and time at Sunday Mass to fill in the forms".

Fr Campbell urged every *Flourish* reader to take part in the great process of listening and sharing that the Pope wants the Synod to be.

He said: "If you are finding it difficult to be involved, then please don't despair. You could gather a group of friends for a listening experience, or you could fill in a questionnaire and send it to synod@rcag.org.uk

Synod team member Gillian's message

As we get older we become more set in our ways. We stay within our comfort zone and we very rarely step outside.

The reality is, life is a journey, a journey of change, togetherness and challenge.

To journey in life we need a willingness to accept change in generational hardships as the economy around us evolves.

Together in the Catholic faith we need to embark on a journey together to seek the correct change for the Church, to understand what is important to us as a community. This journey requires conversation,

trust and acceptance but that process will not start if we don't have you.

So as we enter into a new year, let's realign the future of our faith no matter your age, your background, your ideas, your thoughts or your feelings.

This will help us redefine the best version of our faith possible. We must now come together as a community of faith trusting each other to make the Church a special place in our hearts again.

We need conversation, we need trust, we need acceptance ... and we need you.

Pope's Synod plea: let's listen to each other

IN the Church there is a great need to listen to and to hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving gift we can offer each other.

"Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by him who is himself the great listener and whose work they should share. We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the word of God". Thus, the Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us that the first service we owe to others in communion consists in listening to them. Whoever does not know how to listen to his brother or sister will soon no longer be able to listen to God either.

The most important task in pastoral activity is the "apostolate of the ear" – to listen before speaking, as the Apostle James exhorts: "Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak". Freely giving some of our own time to listen to people is the first act of charity.

A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another.

Communion, in fact, is not the result of



strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters.

As in a choir, unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony.

At the same time, each voice in the choir sings while listening to the other voices and in relation to the harmony of the whole.

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WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2022



Dear brothers and sisters,

THIRTY years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the World Day of the Sick to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them.

Many advances have been made, yet there is still a long way to go in ensuring that all the sick, also those living in places and situations of great poverty and marginalization, receive the health care they need, as well as the pastoral care that can help them experience their sickness in union with the crucified and risen Christ.

May the Thirtieth World Day of the Sick – whose closing celebration, due to the pandemic, will not take place as planned in Arequipa, Peru, but in Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican – help us grow in closeness and service to the sick and to their families...

How often do the Gospels relate Jesus' encounters with people suffering from various diseases! He "went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people".

We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that he made it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick... When individuals experience frailty and suffering in their own flesh as a result of illness, their hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply, and questions about the meaning of what is happening in their lives become all the more urgent.

How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for our visit?

World Day of the Sick is marked in the Catholic Church every year on February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This year marks the 30th anniversary of this annual event and Pope Francis has written a special message to those who are ill and their families. *Flourish* offers readers this abridged version of the Holy Father's message.

How can we forget, in this regard, all those patients who, during this time of pandemic spent the last part of their earthly life in solitude, in an intensive care unit, assisted by generous healthcare workers, yet far from their loved ones and the most important people in their lives?

This helps us to see how important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God's charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick.

Jesus' invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers

who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer.

Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission.

Let us thank the Lord for the progress that medical science has made, especially in recent times; new technologies have made it possible to prepare therapies that are of great benefit to the sick; research continues to make a valuable contribution to eliminating old and new pathologies; rehabilitation medicine has greatly expanded its expertise and skills. None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties.

Patients are always more impor-

tant than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can beat listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given.

It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her condition. For this reason, I would hope that the training provided to health workers might enable them to develop a capacity for listening and relating to others...

I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit!

The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: "I was sick and you visited me".

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Francis

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 December 2021, Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto.

Preparing for a Lentfest with a difference

PLANNING a festival programme in the midst of a pandemic is a major challenge but Lentfest 2022 promises to bring a vibrant and varied programme of online events directly to the comfort of your own home this year.

Two years ago, Lentfest 2020 had just begun, and the curtain was about to go up on a new touring theatre production, entitled "Star of the Sea". The announcement to postpone all further events due to the oncoming pandemic brought mixed responses as nobody could have foreseen the extent of what Covid-19 would bring. After more than a year in furlough, AGAP is preparing for a Lentfest programme that will be entirely online.

Whilst it may be disappointing to some that there are no live events this year, an online programme



BY **STEPHEN CALLAGHAN** presents some exciting possibilities. **LENTFEST DIRECTOR**

Never before will there have been such wide access to the festival. There will be music concerts by the likes of singer-songwriter and Celtic Radio Presenter, Martin Jones; internationally acclaimed concert pianist, Alessandra Pompili; and the ever-popular Heelster Gowdie, with their mix of traditional Scottish songs, all of which are specially re-



corded for Lentfest.

Art-lovers will not be left wanting with an array of virtual exhibitions to choose from, including the new "Images of Hope" exhibition and Stations of the Cross interpreted by several artists, including the new series by Christine Mailley; the Via Crucis by James Callaghan with meditations read by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley; and The Glasgow Calvary by John Cairney with meditations read by actors from AGAP theatre. There will even be input from a school in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

As well as this, there will



be the online premiere of a new film, "The Margaret Sinclair Story" made by Callaghan Theatre Productions for the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. The film was shot entirely during the lockdown of 2020, with my wife, Rachel Callaghan, in the title role, and is an adaptation of the play which was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2016. It will be shown on March 29 2022 - the 122nd birthday of Venerable Mar-

garet Sinclair. Alongside this, AGAP has made available several live recordings of past productions that were previously unseen. The reality of the pandemic remains as I write this article whilst in isolation with my wife and two small children after testing positive for Covid-19 just last week. With restrictions beginning to lift, things were hopeful for a programme of live events in 2022 but the unpredictability of a new wave was a deciding factor in this year's Imaginative Fusion of Faith and the Arts.

Live events, especially theatre productions, require rehearsal, and gathering people to rehearse in the same space has been challenging.

Many parishes felt unready to host events and those that would normally appear at Lentfest have the same right to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Live events would be jeopardised too by the possibility of a Covid outbreak among the performers and, as festival organiser with a hands-on role at events, all events could be at risk were I to contract the virus. Hopefully, we will be able to hold live events soon but, until then, I hope that you will enjoy the unique opportunity presented by the Online programme for Lentfest 2022.

■ Visit www.agap.org.uk/lentfest for details and links to all events.

'Pilgrims of hope' for Holy Year 2025

POPE Francis has approved "Pilgrims of Hope" as the motto for the next Holy Year planned for 2025.

The motto aims to give a concise sense of the full meaning of the jubilee journey, according to Archbishop Rino Fisichella who has been tasked with overseeing the year of special events.

The words "pilgrims" and "hope" also represent key themes of Pope Francis' pontificate, said the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which is in charge of the Holy Year planning efforts.

The archbishop said the pope approved the motto last month and the council already is working with Vatican and Italian authorities on the best way to welcome a large number of visitors to Rome during the year.

Traditionally for holy years, the celebrations begin with the pope opening



the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve and ends with the sealing of the door one year later. The holy doors of St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St. Mary Major are opened for the year, too.

A holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness and renewal. Holy years also are a time when Catholics visit designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession and receive Communion to receive a special indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for

one's sins.

Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Holy Year in 1300 and decreed that they would be celebrated every 100 years. But just 50 years later Pope Clement VI proclaimed another holy year. Pope Urban VI thought holy years should be celebrated every 33 years as a reminder of the time Jesus lived.

Finally, in 1470, Pope Paul II established the celebrations every 25 years, which has been the practice ever since. However, special anniversaries have called for special holy years, for instance, in 1933 to mark the 1,900th anniversary of Jesus' death and resurrection and in 1983 to mark the 1,950th anniversary.

The most recent 'extraordinary' Holy Year came when Pope Francis, seeing a need to emphasize God's mercy and to encourage Catholics to return to the sacrament of reconciliation, declared an extraordinary Year of Mercy, which ran in 2015-16.

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MAY 6-8 By His Wounds We Are Healed
A weekend where we can encounter the healing touch of Jesus

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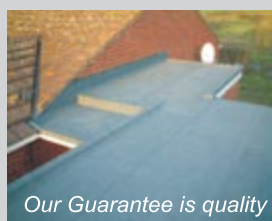
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'The moment I was asked to be the new Archbishop'

LIFE changed for Bishop Bill Nolan on the last Sunday afternoon in January when the telephone rang.

The call from the Nunciature asked him to come to London to meet Archbishop Gugerotti.

After a long train journey and an uncomfortable wait while the Nuncio's previous meetings over-ran the news was delivered... "The Holy Father would like to you accept nomination as the next archbishop of Glasgow."

The news wasn't a total shock. As the Archbishop-elect put it: "When you are asked to go and see the Nuncio it's either for something very bad or very good!"

The appointment to Glasgow will mark the end of seven happy years in Galloway for Bishop Nolan – himself a Lanarkshire boy who was born and baptised in the same parish as the late Cardinal Winning, St Patrick's Craigneuk.

That link was strengthened by the fact that the Cardinal's sister, Margaret, was one of the young William Nolan's first primary teachers. "She was very nice," he remembers.

"When the cardinal was a young priest he baptised one of my sisters. And every time I met him after that he would always ask how she was. It was so very typical of him."

Picture by Paul McSherry



him."

When a bishop is nominated he is asked to take a motto and a coat of arms. The arms of Bishop Nolan show an ancient cross from his diocese of Galloway, together with a symbol of water – to represent the well of Motherwell – his native diocese, and the symbols of his

parents' names, Nolan and Neeson.

His motto is "Sibilus Aurae Tenuis" – which comes from the First Book of Kings in the Old Testament and recalls the prophet Elijah's search for God. The phrase has been translated in a variety of different ways but the Archbishop-elect likes

to translate it as 'the sound of sheer silence' – that is, he says, where God is to be found.

The coat of arms will be amended soon to represent the bishop's new status as Archbishop and Metropolitan but the essential elements and message stay the same ... seek God in silence.

One of the new archbishop's first priorities will be to meet and encourage his priests. He said: "A bishop can do very little without the support of the priests so I want to make it a priority to get to know them better, individually meeting them and hearing their ideas and experiences..."

He is also keen to see the Synod – the consultation process across the whole Universal Church called for by Pope Francis – to expand and make an impact.

He said: "This is such an important process. We want people to have their say, very much so. But more than anything I see it as a moment to listen. We all need to learn to listen to each other, and listen respectfully."

In due time the new Archbishop says he will get out and about to visit parishes and schools but for now his request is simple ... "remember me in your prayers."

That's a request parishioners across the Archdiocese will be happy to satisfy!

Safeguarding Board – can you help?

FORMER Judge the Hon. Lady Rae has taken up the reins as Board Chair of the new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA) which is now being established as an independent body to oversee the Church's safeguarding practice.

And one of her first tasks will be to recruit Board Directors to assist her in her work.

Lady Rae was keen to point out at the outset that the Agency 'is being established to function independently of the Catholic Church in overseeing its safeguarding practice in parishes, dioceses, religious congregations and Catholic organisations across Scotland.

She said: "I am looking to appoint Board Directors who will work with me to re-

build confidence and trust, especially among those who have experienced abuse. In the coming months, Board directors will help me to appoint a new Director of Safeguarding and a Head of Training whose expertise will be vital in providing leadership in safeguarding at a national level.

"I will expect Board Directors to bring their own expertise and experience to the task of developing the Agency's policies and procedures that will build on improvements made in recent years, in the light of various external reviews of safeguarding. All Board directors will be given the induction and ongoing support necessary to be able to fully contribute to the Board and its decision-making.

"This is an exciting opportunity for people who



wish to assist the Catholic Church's safeguarding personnel – clergy, religious, employees, and volunteers – to ensure compliance with the standards that have been designed to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm. You can learn more about these standards, set out in the core document 'In God's Image', by watching the

video in the About SCSSA page.

"If you have the time, the interest and the commitment to undertake this important work, I look forward to hearing from you".

More details of the Board vacancies are available on the website of this recruitment agency: <https://aspenpeople.co.uk/microsite/scssa/>

'From now on... I belong to Glasgow'

GLASGOW has a new Archbishop! The news spread like wildfire at 11am on Friday February 4. At that precise moment the news went live on the Vatican website, the Archdiocesan website and the social media feeds of Glasgow Archdiocese.

The news brought expressions of great joy and enthusiasm from ordinary parishioners glad to have an archbishop again and those who had worked with 'Bishop Bill' and wanted to extend their good wishes.

Reacting to the announcement, Bishop Nolan himself said: "I feel overwhelmed by the trust Pope Francis is putting in me by appointing me as Archbishop of Glasgow. It will be a wrench for me to leave Galloway Diocese where for seven years I have experienced the kindness and friendship of so many people, particularly the clergy. God truly blessed me by sending me to Galloway and I hope that my successor there will be similarly blessed.

"As I overcome my initial shock at being appointed Archbishop my thoughts now turn to the challenges that lies ahead. I look forward to working with everyone in the Archdiocese, laity and clergy, to carry out the mission that we share of proclaiming God's good news and of bringing the joy of the gospel into the lives of the people of today."

Bishop Nolan added: "I am well aware of my own inadequacies and of the difficulties the Church faces today. Thank God therefore that we can be sure of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

WORDS BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

in the Church. As I leave the Diocese of Galloway behind, from now on I belong to Glasgow. And I assure the people of Glasgow of my commitment and dedication to them. Please remember me in your prayers."

Welcome

Welcoming the appointment Mgr. Hugh Bradley, who has been Administrator of the Archdiocese of Glasgow since the death of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, said: "I am delighted with the appointment of Bishop Nolan. I offer him a warm welcome to the Archdiocese of Glasgow and a promise of prayers on behalf of all the clergy, religious and laity. May our good God bless him with health and strength to lead us in faith."

Commenting on the appointment, Fr. William McFadden, Vicar General of the diocese of Galloway, Bishop Nolan presented a pastoral vision with a genuinely col-



Archbishop-elect preaches at Mass for Marriage tribunal

laborative approach.

"He led with humility and determination, inspired by the initiatives of Pope Francis, and focussing on the needs of the Church for the 21st century. This appointment will allow him to serve both the people of Glasgow

and the wider Church with the same abilities with which he served us in Galloway for seven valuable years.

"We will miss him, but appreciate greatly the contribution which he made, and the legacy which he leaves."

A 'Pope Francis bishop'

BISHOP Nolan has been called by commentators a 'Pope Francis Bishop' for his shared priorities with the Holy Father.

The new Archbishop has been outspoken on a series of issues which the Pope has highlighted in recent years. He has led protests against detention of asylum seekers at the Dungavel Immigration Centre in Ayrshire; he has visited refugee camps to see the plight of those seeking a

better life first hand; he has protested against the presence of nuclear weapons on Scottish soil at peace camps on the Clyde and he has been a champion of the Pope's encyclical 'Laudato Si' on the environment and led the Scottish Bishops' preparations for the COP26 conference last year.

He is known to be a hands-on pastor with bags of experience obtained over decades as a parish priest, never too busy to stop for a word and smile with parishioners.

All roads led to a dear green place



Enjoying a break at World Youth Day

UNTIL last month Archbishop-elect Nolan's life had been spent in three areas: Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Rome.

But looking back on his life's journey maybe it was inevitable that all roads would eventually lead to Glasgow.

He was born on 26th January 1954, the fourth of 11 children of William and Catherine Nolan. He was baptised in St Patrick's Church, Craigneuk and educated at Cathedral Primary School in Motherwell, St Patrick's Primary, Craigneuk, St Vincent's College, Langbank (1965-67), and St Mary's College, Blairs (1967-71).

His senior seminary formation was at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome (1971-78) where he graduated with a Licence in Sacred Theology.

Father Nolan was ordained priest for the Diocese of Motherwell on 30th June 1977. He has served as assistant priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, 1978-1980; assistant

priest of St David's, Plains, 1980-1983; vice-rector of the Scots College, Rome, 1983-1990; assistant priest of St Bridget's, Baillieston, 1990-1994 and parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, 1994 to February 2015.

He has held the posts of chairman of the Council of Priests, 1992-1998; chairman of the Committee for Ongoing Formation of Priests, 1993-2004; administrator, St John Ogilvie, Vicar General of Motherwell Diocese, June 2014 to February 2015.

Bishop Nolan was nominated as Bishop of Galloway on November 22 2014 by Pope Francis, and consecrated in the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock on February 14 2015 by Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

The Holy Father Francis named him Archbishop of Glasgow on February 4 2022 and he will be installed as successor of St Mungo in St Andrew's Cathedral on February 26 2022.



A new springtime of vocations?

With three new priestly ordinations due this summer and the number of seminarians at the highest level for many years, the Archdiocese of Glasgow could be on the verge of a new springtime of priestly vocations. Flourish invited these about to be ordained and those at different stages on their faith journey to share their experiences with our readers. These are their stories as told to **Brian Swanson**

MICHAEL KEARNS, 26, fourth year student at Pontifical Scots College, Rome:

"My family is originally from Broomhill and my grandparents were amongst the first parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour. My parents lived in the south side after they married and eventually moved down to North Ayrshire where I was born and went to school.

"Studying at Glasgow University and becoming part of the community at the chaplaincy there really was a great gift to me. I learned a lot about our faith in those years and felt myself being drawn much closer to Jesus too, in my own prayer but especially thanks to the sacrament of Confession and in the Eucharist.

"So it was a case of both the head and the heart!

"I was fortunate to make a lot of friends there who were in a similar boat; we were all growing together and enjoying the excitement of being joyful disciples, and each discerning our different vocations.

"It seemed to me that the priesthood would be how I could really give back to the Church what God has given me, it would be the best way for me to share the Good News of our faith - and our sacraments - with as many people as possible, and that I'd be deeply happy doing so.

"Several years later, I'm now in my fourth year at the Scots College in Rome. I study theology at the Gregorian University. I've had a lot of different experiences in different places since I've

been a seminarian, meeting people both in parishes in Scotland, and from all over the world here in Rome.

"Being impressed and inspired by the faith of others, of all ages, is the best thing about this life.

"I'd say for me it's been more of a winding path than a straight road so far; I suppose following God's plans should always be a little exciting, and entertaining too. We need to be people of joy!

"I like to think I haven't lost my youthful enthusiasm from those years on campus in Glasgow, and hope I never do when I get to come back permanently!"

ROHAN BALD, 24, Royal Scots College Salamanca, Spain:

"I come from a non-religious family in Poole in the south of England where I had a happy childhood, and after doing well in high school I left for Glasgow to study medicine.

"As a teenager I had been dismissive of faith, but as I approached my early 20s, more questions emerged and they eventually led me to the Catholic faith.

"Consequently I was confirmed at Easter 2019 at the university chaplaincy - Turnbull Hall. I was there for three years and I consider this my home parish.

"Priesthood became a question for me as soon as I entered the Church. I tried to avoid it for a long while, but as the end of my degree approached, I had to answer. And only priesthood gave me a sense of peace. Instead of continuing to become a doctor I decided to go to seminary.

"So, on January 7th I arrived at the Royal Scots College, Salamanca where for the next six months I will study Spanish, alongside introductions to various topics including liturgy, prayer, philosophy and music. If all goes well, I will hopefully continue my studies in philosophy and theology in Rome."

DEACON FRANK MCKENDRY, 64, Pontifical Beda College Rome.

"I was ordained deacon at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome on 10 June 2021 and hope to be ordained to the priesthood later this summer.

"I was a parishioner in Sacred Heart, St. Joseph's in Cumbernauld and then in Holy Cross, Croy. I have a degree in Quantity Surveying and am a Chartered Surveyor. I spent most of my working career overseas, working on major construction projects

"Over the past five to 10 years, while working in various parts of Norway and Qatar, I found that my daily prayer life and my desire to attend Mass daily had substantially increased.

"In 2016, I discussed this with the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and later this led to completing a six-month propaedeutic period for vo-

Following the call of the Lord

WITH three new ordinations due this summer, a record number of students studying for the priesthood and the appointment of a new Archbishop, 2022 is set to be a year of hope and growth for the Archdiocese.

Father Ross Campbell, vocations director, based at Turnbull Hall at Glasgow University said: "We currently have eight men in formation, which is the most we have had for quite some time and as a diocese we look forward to three priestly ordinations this summer.

"It is also encouraging to note that our monthly discernment evenings only began be-

gin in January and yet we have six men signed up for them already.

"These evenings offer the opportunity for men thinking about the priesthood to come and find out a little bit more about what life as a diocesan priest is like. We meet monthly for catechesis, prayer and fraternity and I would encourage those interested to get in touch to find out more."

He added: "While there can be in little doubt that the pandemic has led to a shrinking of the Church in Scotland, it is encouraging to see that some have been able to deepen their faith

in these difficult times of restrictions and lockdowns. God never stops calling, and despite the challenges we face in the years to come, it is a consolation to see that some men continue to respond generously to this call.

"What kind of priest do we need for the years ahead? A priest who seeks to model himself on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. One who is full of missionary zeal, who seeks to nourish the faithful with word and sacrament, to comfort them with mercy and love, and one who is ready for the momentous task of evangelising a culture that has lost direction and sight of God."

AIDEN WILSON, 27, 3rd year student, Pontifical Scots College, Rome

"I'm from Toryglen where I grew up and where mum and dad still live. Mum is the housekeeper at St Brigid's which is my home parish and our family have always been closely involved with the church.

"Before I left Holyrood Secondary I applied to join the RAF but for all sorts of reasons that did not work out. It was around this time that I was introduced to the Faith movement by our Parish Priest Father Byrne and my conception of the Church truly broadened. Father Byrne, the Faith movement and Father Adam Falewicz, a priest from Poland who covered for Father Byrne had unwittingly become my inspiration into answering the call to join the priesthood.

"Ever since I have embarked on this journey, I have been met with time after time, periods that only confirm my vocation and sense of belonging. "There was no Damascus moment for me - more of a sense of being on a journey."

PATRYK SOLIK, 24, Royal Scots College Salamanca, Spain

"Last month I started the Propaedeutic course which is a 6-months long preparation course before joining the seminary in Rome. I come from Poland, but this summer I graduated in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Glasgow. My home parish (in Scotland) is the University of Glasgow Chaplaincy where I was involved during my time at the university.

"It's really hard to provide a short answer about the reasons why I applied to the Seminary. The best I can say now is that God works in wonderful ways, He has always guided me, He brought me to Scotland, and now I feel He is calling me to be a priest."

DEACON EDWARD TONER, 27, Pontifical Scots College Rome.

"I'm in my final year of formation at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome. I've been in formation in Rome now for 6 and a half years and have studied Philosophy and Theology, I'm now in the last year of my Licence in Dogmatic Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Before coming to seminary I studied Spanish and French at Strathclyde University. My home parish is St Paul's Shettleston.

"Since I was a wee boy I always spoke about wanting to become a priest, but this idea went to the back of my mind when I was at school. I always believed in God and went to Mass and was involved in the life of my parish, as an altar boy when I was younger and then in music groups.

"It wasn't until I was leaving school and starting Uni-

versity that I got involved in the Faith Movement where I met lots of young Catholics and young priests and religious sisters. Meeting enthusiastic and faithful young Catholics, combined with great catechesis, really helped me to open myself up to God's will and to start considering a priestly vocation.

"I applied for seminary three years later and started seminary in September 2015. I was ordained a Deacon in May last year and will, please God, be ordained a priest this summer. I really can't wait to get back to the Archdiocese and start working with the people of our parishes."

DEACON DOUGLAS GREEN, 58, Pontifical Beda College, Rome

"I became a Catholic in 2015 and I am now in my fourth and final year of study in Rome. I was ordained a deacon at St Paul's outside the Walls in Rome, last June. This for me was uplifting, a culmination of the years of study and prayer life at seminary and before, to bring me to this point of my journey to serve God.

"My home parish before entering seminary was St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow. As well as a parishioner I was a member of the choir.

"Before coming to the seminary process I felt a strong calling to serve God for a long time but did not know what direction to take or where God would eventually lead me. So he has brought me here to Rome to study, I was not forced I came freely, I came to serve God and His peoples, all peoples.

"Now that I am a deacon, I have put my whole heart, soul, mind and might into serving God and His good people. We never stop learning as deacons and priests. Prayer life for me is very important and will always be ongoing throughout my priestly vocation."



St Andrew's Day celebrations at Pontifical Scots College, Rome



Focus on Catholic schools



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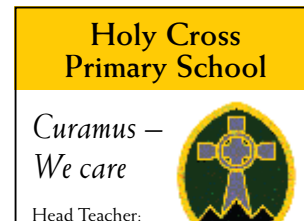
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News and views for
FLOURISH
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Focus on Catholic schools

Supporting our schools

The work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service ensures Catholic schools across Scotland are supported in their mission. Already plans are being made for this year's Education Week

WITH almost ten months to go preparation is already underway for Catholic Education Week which takes place this year from the Feast of St Margaret of Scotland on November 16 until the Feast of St Andrew on November 30 based on the theme of "Communion, Participation, Mission", adopted from the Holy Father's call for a synodal Church.

Originally the highly anticipated event, which encourages schools, parishes and other agencies to work closely together in order to celebrate the successes of Catholic education in Scotland, ran for a single week but more recently the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) set a fortnight aside to give schools and parishes greater flexibility.

Significance

According to the SCES: "Schools and parishes are asked to consider which week within this fortnight best suits their local community for marking this important aspect of the school year.

"The purpose of Catholic Education Week is to highlight the significance of education, not only for young

people but for society as a whole. Students, parents, teachers and others are asked to reflect on their own roles in the education process – at home, in school, in the local parish and in other educational settings."

SCES provides support materials linked to each year's chosen theme to assist schools and parishes in their own plans to draw attention to the added value which Catholic schools bring across Scotland.

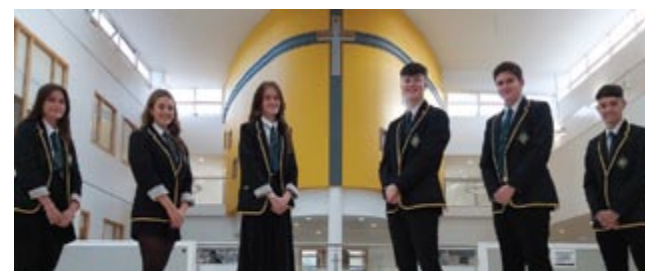
Promotional events, liturgical celebrations, particular classroom lessons and school activities are encouraged in schools and parishes throughout this week. The materials provided can be used at other times of the year.

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Recruitment drive for Catholic teachers announced for 2022

A RECRUITMENT drive for more Catholic teachers to join the profession has been launched by the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

Working closely with Diocesan RE Advisers and in partnership with schools and head teachers, the SCES recruitment working group, who meet twice a year, have developed new online resources to encourage and support aspiring teachers.

These include materials for pupils in S3 to S6, advice for applying to university, interview preparation, videos from current Catholic Head Teachers and Profes-




sional and Spiritual reading that centre on the vocation to teach.

A spokesperson for SCES said: "There has never been a better time to consider a career in teaching and Catho-

lic schools all over Scotland are looking for ambitious and committed new teachers who can be a vital part of a community of faith and learning, making a real difference and helping future

generations achieve and believe."

For more details visit the SCES website at www.sces.org.uk.



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Our Lady is a true mother for all

FEBRUARY being my birth-month reminds me of this painting entitled *Madonna del Parto* by the Tuscan painter, Piero della Francesca which dates from early in the second half of the 15th century.

It depicts Our Lady in the late stages of pregnancy when she is about to give birth to the Divine Son. It

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

was originally hung in the apse of a church in the village of Monterchi, his mother's village, but is now housed in the local museum.

Hopefully, one day, it will return to the lovely little church from which it came. Although it had withstood an earthquake, it was moved

because it had suffered from many years of neglect. The painting dates from round about the time of his mother's death and probably reminded Piero of the prayer he said, and we say. "Hail Mary... Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."

Her posture and her ungainly hands show signs that mothers reading this piece will easily recognise. Scientific investigation reveal that the head-dress and the canopy were intended to be more elaborate with much more decoration.

Perhaps the necessary speed of fresco work prevented the painter's original intention. Look at the angels holding the canopy. They are a mirror image of each other. Perhaps the same model was used for both and only the different colours mark them as individuals. I like the red socks!

Piero della Francesca, *Madonna del Parto*, 15th century



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Church-hopping birthday pledge



Mary's musings

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



I'M one of those annoying people who love January. Granted, I'm probably annoying for a load of other reasons.

When the New Year comes around I'm buzzing with ideas and plans. Experience has taught me that few of my ideas ever come to fruition yet my enthusiasm remains undiminished.

This year I'm behind the game. 2022 is well under-way now and my big plan for the year is only now about to take flight. And it's a landmark year. Yup, come December and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe I'll be turning 60 which I'm totally fine with.

The thought of entering my seventh decade is going to take a bit of getting used to, especially since I still feel about 22.

My mother dreaded birthdays ending in an '0'. When we were planning her 80th birthday party – a wee get-together in our house for her nieces and remaining siblings – we printed what we thought was a lovely invitation. When we showed it to her before we sent it out she was crestfallen. "Could you do it without telling them

my age?" she implored.

Me, I take the opposite approach. While I'm not the big party kind of gal and certainly not the surprise party type, I intend to commemorate the milestone.

Himself has been primed for a series of weekend breaks to make up for the Covid restrictions of the last couple of years. Other than that I'm taking inspiration from a pal of mine who celebrated her half-century by attending Mass throughout the year in 50 different churches in the archdiocese.

So, starting this week, I'm going to attend Mass at 60 churches, learning about the history of each church and its place in the archdiocese. That's to say while most of them will be in the archdiocese I hope to expand my geographical reach by including my home diocese of Galloway.

Before my parents were married my dad would take his mother out on a drive on a Sunday. They would visit the church in the diocese which was hosting 40 Hours and then he would take her thereafter for afternoon tea.

St Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr will be top of my list for

Galloway. As my childhood church it has a special place in my heart. My parents would often remind me of its proud history, being built in 1827, two years prior to Catholic Emancipation. The parish itself was started in 1822, making this year its bicentennial.

Please God, Mass on my 60th birthday will be in my own parish of St Peter's, Partick, which was our first parish after we were married and where we celebrated the baptism of the first of our four children. It's also where our three daughters were married.

St Robert's, Peat Rd will definitely be on the list as that's where our son was married. Then there's Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, our former parish where our youngest two were baptised to be included. Sadly I can't complete the quartet of baptismal churches since our son was christened in St Simon's, Partick which tragically was burned down last year but St Peter's will

cover that.

I'll consider my mum's home parish of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Saltcoats, something of a hybrid as it was in the Archdiocese of Glasgow until 1947.

I'm going to begin with our mother church, St Andrew's Cathedral as that seems like an appropriate choice. Then it's be on to St Teresa's, Possilpark which to my shame I've never been in, although St Thérèse of Lisieux is my confirmation saint and I have a great devotion to her.

Full disclosure here: I have always associated St Teresa's with St Teresa of Avila on account of the spelling. I'm even more ashamed when I think of the Little Flower relics coming to this church in 2019 and me still not cracking on.

So, who knows what other lack of knowledge I'll unearth in the coming months as I traverse the archdiocese and beyond.

I'll keep you posted!

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Reading the February gospels helps us get our priorities right



Fr Tom Kilbride

As our seminary course began here in Salamanca in January – all obstacles to getting the students here overcome! – we were struck by how often the Mass readings in those early weeks were about vocation, calls and responses.

In the Sunday Gospels too, we heard Jesus at the start of his ministry, laying out his mission and inviting disciples to join him. All highly appropriate for seminarians at the very start of their journey!

Over the three Sundays before Lent begins, we hear Jesus taking things a little deeper, teaching his disciples and a large crowd. It is one long passage, a “sermon” of sorts, split into three parts over these weeks.

It is similar to Matthew’s “Sermon on the Mount” but much shorter, for, while Matthew likes to gather Jesus’ teachings and sayings into large speeches, Luke tends to spread them out across his gospel, linking them more directly to Jesus’ activity.

Luke presented Jesus preaching in a synagogue as he began his ministry; now, he preaches in the open, bringing good news to the poor as he said he had come to do, and spelling out what his message demands in response.

Sixth Sunday, Year C

In the first “slice” of Jesus’ sermon, we hear the Beatitudes as Luke presents them. Unlike Matthew’s version, these are shorter, more direct (“you” rather than “they”) and more practical in meaning (“the hungry” rather than “those hungering for justice” for example).

The promised “happiness” echoes and deepens what Jesus had said, quoting Isaiah, that he brings “good news to the poor”. However, like a prophet, he expresses the opposite too: happiness for the poor and hungry imply woes for the rich and



self-satisfied. The Kingdom turns things on their heads.

Luke has already suggested that through the words of Mary, who praises God for lifting up the lowly and casting down the proud, for example: God turns things upside-down. The mourning will laugh; those who laugh will mourn (“laughing”, in Scripture, is often a sign of someone scorning God or his messengers!).

Jesus preaches both hope for the suffering and a warning for those who would reject the Kingdom and the word of God. He perhaps also hints that, since he is a true prophet, he will be rejected himself, and his messenger-disciples too. The passage is certainly challenging!

Seventh Sunday, Year C

The second part of the sermon this week focusses on the morality expected of those who belong to the

Kingdom. Jesus speaks to “you who are listening”, in other words both to his disciples, to whom the sermon is first directed, and also to the crowds.

It is both teaching the faithful and mission to those beyond. And the basis of the morality is to act like God, who is compassionate, kind and merciful.

The disciple has to go beyond a “tit-for-tat” mentality, simply returning good or ill done to you or doing good only for a reward.

Even settling for “doing as you would be done to” seems not to be enough here: Jesus instead calls us to “do as God would do”, which is so much deeper, so much more generous – and perhaps so much harder!

Eighth Sunday, Year C

Lastly, the Sermon offers us a couple of images to ponder and the challenges that go with them.

Jesus told us that he came to “bring the blind new sight”. Today, we hear what happens if we refuse to let him open our eyes: we will fall into a pit and bring others down with us!

Mind you, that blindness might not be caused by simply failing to open our eyes. It could be caused by the plank covering our eyes which we don’t even notice! The power of the Spirit in Jesus opens our eyes, removes the plank and helps us see clearly enough to bring God’s goodness to others too.

Over these weeks, the “Sermon on the Plain” builds on Jesus’ first sermon in Nazareth and spells out its impact on us. The Spirit anointed Jesus to preach the freedom, light, joy and grace of God’s Kingdom. Now freed, we should free the captive, forgiven we should practice forgiveness, restored to goodness in this “year of the Lord’s favour”, we should draw from the store of his grace within us.

If we preach good news to the poor, we are to be good

news to the poor! Once blind, now we see; once mourning, now we rejoice; once hungry, now we are filled, with a fulness overflowing for others as it overflows from our compassionate Father for us.

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

Those three February Sundays form a unit, but then as March begins so does Lent. As always, on the first Sunday we hear of Jesus’ 40 days in the desert and the tests he faces.

Again, Luke is like Matthew here, with the same three temptations and Jesus’ responses drawing from Scripture. Luke, however, has his own take on things. Matthew ends with the temptation on the mountain, looking out over the nations. His gospel will end with Jesus sending the apostles out to make disciples of all the nations. Luke, however, makes the temptation in Jerusalem the last one, as the climax of the story.

For Luke, Jerusalem is crucial (literally!). It is towards there that the whole

of his Gospel will lead and it is from there that the mission of the disciples to the world will begin. He begins his gospel in the Jerusalem Temple (with the angel’s message to Zechariah) and ends it there too (with the disciples there praising God).

Jesus is being tempted to short-circuit the whole plan of God, but he rejects that temptation in favour of doing God’s will.

We will be back in Jerusalem in a few weeks’ when we enter into Holy Week. That is “the appointed time” Luke refers to, when the devil will return to do his worst. But we already know that Jesus will overcome him then too.

God’s will is to save (see the First and Second Reading) and we know with certainty that Jesus will bring about that salvation.

Even as we begin our Lenten penance, we hear that evil, sin, and all that oppresses us has been overcome through the events that took place in Jerusalem that Passover week. Sin never gets the last word!

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Fr Jim's ministry touched many lives

JIM and I were close friends for over 45 years and he was my best friend.

We first met at the seminary in Cardross in 1976 during a college function at which parents were present. He made a dramatic entrance from the top of a staircase, wearing his extra-large size cassock, with a cup of tea in hand, and asked if I'd seen his mother. When I said I didn't know what she looked like he replied, 'just look for me with a hat on!'

Jim used to hold court at college, sitting in his room, drinking tea, lots of tea. I'd never met anyone who drank so much tea. He was called 'Bede' by the other students in his early seminary days because he always had his rosary beads in his hands with a rather pious demeanour. While he dropped the pious demeanour, prayer remained of utmost importance to him. When discussing the problems of the world or the Church his refrain was always 'but where is Christ in all of this?'

I remember well his ordination in 1978, particularly

BY PROFESSOR
EDDIE CAMPBELL



the reception. Monsignor Jimmy McMahon who was rector at the time, spoke jokingly of the problems the staff had experienced with Jim. He highlighted his severely withdrawn personality and that they couldn't get him to say a word to anyone. In those rather less-sensitive days he also spoke of Jim's poor appetite and their inability to get him to eat. Finally, he spoke of their difficulty in getting Jim to read or study. Jim was in fact an excellent student of theology. One of his lecturers at Cardross, Fr George

Donaldson, told me that Jim was the best student he'd taught.

After Cardross, Jim had the opportunity to study history at Cambridge University but chose not to. He remained a great reader throughout his life with a prodigious memory and he could quote entire paragraphs from Vatican documents, so much so that I used to call him the Vatican's star pupil.

Jim didn't do anything by half measures. He gave his all in everything – in prayer, in study, in work, in enjoyment and in friendship. He enjoyed working with people and this was one of his greatest strengths.

Many will have been the parishioners who first met him in Bellsmyre, Partick, Drumchapel, Alexandria, Househillwood, Thornliebank or Carmyle, when he officiated at their wedding, baptised their children, visited them when they were sick, brought communion, buried family and friends, listened when they were troubled or just made them laugh.

Pictures by Paul McSherry



I know that many welcomed him into their homes and how much he valued that. People were his passion – poor, rich, young, old, but I think he had a special place for those who were marginalised by society or even by the Church. You can see why he was fond of Pope Francis.

He styled himself at different times 'James of Alexandria' or 'James of Carmyle' and his injunction to 'smile you're in Carmyle' was legendary. Jim was passionate about ministry and faithful to his calling to the end. It grieved him that serious illness in middle age had slowed him down and even at the end of his life he still hankered to have greater opportunities to work with people pastorally.

He loved eating out with friends: I think of him ordering a meal in any one of his favourite restaurants in Glasgow when he would finish his order with, 'and plenty of it!' How many times did we hear him say 'that was a great day out. I loved it!' or 'that was a great wee night!'

He loved Ireland and

Irish music, especially melancholic songs, the sadder the better. It's a good job he didn't drink.

Jim was a character, a one off, never dull, but he was much more than a character. He was a person of real substance. A friend of mine who lives in Germany, and who's not at all religious, met Jim only once. He wrote to me on hearing of his death: 'You had talked about Jim so warmly before we finally met him. And I could tell the moment I met him, here was a Mensch (a person of substance), wise, perceptive, humorous, someone who radiated his faith'.

Having ministered to the sick as chaplain to the Western Infirmary and elsewhere, he in turn was a model patient in the hospital and he was clearly admired, respected and liked a great deal by the staff who cared for him so well. He was still telling stories and ministering on his sick bed, still commenting on the lovely outfit the consultant was wearing – teaching us by example how to face suffering and death with se-

renity. He told me he wasn't afraid of death and that he was curious about it and looking forward to meeting 'the Boss'.

Jim is our brother, uncle, cousin and friend. For me he was always there! Very accepting and generous with his time. He was a great encourager. He gave of himself to the end and friendship was one of his special gifts. He always put himself out for me and for many of you, even when his own health wasn't so good. He mellowed over the years and was eventually more accepting of himself and others.

I don't think Glasgow will ever be the same for me. I'll always expect to see a tall figure in a black coat with a wee black beret tilted to the side waddling at a snail's pace down Buchanan Street, with a tiny bag containing a book, a minuscule ornament or the latest fragrance.

I don't think I'll really take this all in until one evening when he's the person I need to talk to and he's not there. That evening will come. For us all, I say: Thanks for everything Jim.

Fond memories of Irish pastor

ONE of Glasgow's oldest priests has died. Fr Joseph Murphy passed away on 7 January last, he was in the loving care of Asborough Nursing Home, Milltown, Co. Kerry since August 2019.

His Requiem Mass took place in the rural village of Ballydesmond in County Cork and he was interred in the church grounds beside his late brother Fr Tom.

His nephew, Joe Murphy said: "He often spoke of the wonderful years he spent in the Sacred Heart Parish, Glasgow, and he instilled a love for his favourite team Glasgow Celtic in all of his nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by us all."

Joseph Murphy was born on 21 February 1929 in Ireland. He was educated at St Brendan's Killarney (1943–1946); Rockwell College Cashel (1946–1948); and studied for the priesthood at St Peter's College Wexford (1948–1954).

He was ordained on 6 June 1954 by Bishop James Staunton, Bishop of Ferns, at St Peter's College Chapel in Wexford and immediately crossed the sea to serve as a priest in the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

His appointments were



varied. From 1954–1960 he was Assistant Priest the then-new and now-closed parish of St Nicholas in the east end of the city; from 1960–1967 he served as Assistant Priest at St Teresa's Possilpark. This was followed by a three-year stint as Assistant Priest St Saviour's in Govan. In 1970 he was on the move again, this time to St Agnes Lambhill where he stayed until 1977.

That year he was appointed by Archbishop Winning to the newish parish of St Louise, Arden where he

ministered until 1982. His last appointment was as Parish Priest in a parish of his own and he found himself back in his beloved east end in charge of the great old parish of Sacred Heart Bridgeton.

He made a great impression on parishioners there as was evidenced by the outpourings of affection on the Archdiocesan Facebook page:

One former parishioner recalled: "Fr Murphy used to bring his Collie Dog into my Veterinary Practice and I loved being in his company."

Another wrote: "A fantastic priest – he always came up to the house ..."

A third wrote: "He was our priest in Sacred Heart. I cleaned church for him with my pal Ina and have very happy memories of him. A lovely man, he will be sadly missed. I remember his wee Collie too!"

Fr Murphy retired in 1990 after eight years at the helm of Sacred Heart and returned to his native Ireland which he had left as a young man. There he lived happily with his family and helped out in local parishes until his final decline. He died at the age of 92.

Requiescat in pace.

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