

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

July 2021

I am with you always – this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples... They are the words that I, as Bishop of Rome, and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly... – POPE FRANCIS



BY RONNIE CONVERY

Pope Francis has sent a moving and powerful letter to the elderly as the Church prepares to celebrate the first ever World Day of Grandparents and Elderly People.

The celebration which will be marked this year on July 25 is intended to place the focus of the Church on the often hidden but heroic work done by older people and is intended to thank them and encourage them.

The letter, written in a deeply personal way by the Holy Father is sure to touch the hearts of senior citizens and all who care for them. *Flourish* has therefore decided to carry an abridged version of the letter and dedicates this special issue to our older readers. In the words of the Holy Father ... “The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!”

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CARDINAL

Remembering Cardinal Tom 20 years on

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GREAT HUNGER

Famine memorial to be unveiled

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PARLIAMENT

Dumbarton's John is new Speaker

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Irish famine memorial will grace St Mary's

SCOTLAND'S first memorial dedicated solely to the dead and displaced Irish victims of the Great Hunger will be unveiled in the grounds of St Mary's in the Calton later this month after a lengthy campaign by the descendants of those it commemorates.

The stainless steel sculpture, created by Donegal-based artist John McCarron, will stand in the grounds of

BY BRIAN SWANSON

the church regarded as the spiritual home of the impoverished Catholic families who were forced to seek a new life in Glasgow during one of the darkest periods in Irish history more than 170 years ago, when the country was devastated by the potato famine.

It is estimated that a million people died and an-

other million fled starvation in the Great Hunger years from 1845 to 1852 with 100,000 eventually finding a new life in Glasgow.

Celtic Football Club was founded at St Mary's, initially as a way of raising money to alleviate poverty among the Irish families whose descendants now account for around a third of Glasgow's population.

The same generosity which distinguished the community who supported Brother Walfrid in his work in the 1880s, was evident in the fundraising campaign to build the memorial which will be soon be numbered among more than a hundred such spaces in towns and cities all over the world.

Plans for a Glasgow memorial by Coiste Cuimhneachain An Gorta Mor (the Great Hunger Memorial Committee) began in 2015 and in under two years raised an impressive £80,000.

Donations came from all over the world and included an incredible £22,000 raised at a single dinner-dance at Celtic Park.

Jeanette Findlay, chair of CCAGM said: "It is only right their legacy and struggle are commemorated by their descendants in a permanent and fitting way."

■ **A full report with pictures of the unveiling and blessing of the sculpture is scheduled to take place, in line with level 2 Covid restrictions, on Sunday July 25, will be published in the August edition of Flourish.**



A tribute in steel

ARTIST John McCarron, based in Donegal, was chosen from a large number of entries to create the memorial which he has called 'Tower of Silence' which will stand on a three metre high plinth in a small area of ground to the right of the entrance to St Mary's Church.

John said: "This was a terrible event so a memorial to the estimated hundred thousand people who fled to Glasgow should be worthy of a powerful statement."

The square stainless steel column represents Glasgow, though the steel patchwork echoes the stone-built cabins from where the people came. The abstract steel figures that stand atop the column are semi abstract figures, gaunt and thin, starving, carrying nothing but themselves and their

children. They are rural people in an urban landscape.

"This sculpture represents my interpretation and attempt to relay a sense of truth. Truth about starvation, desperation, emigration and integration into the Scottish nation."

"The sculpture is titled The Tower of Silence. In many cultures, a tower of silence was an elevated platform where bodies were placed after a battle for carrion to feed on. In the context of An Gorta Mór the combatants, those fighting for survival, are on their own tower of silence, their old lives and way of life gone, a city awaits where they must adapt to an urban lifestyle to survive".



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Communion dress recycling initiative

GLASGOW based charity is appealing for donations of unwanted communion dresses to help families of next year's first communicants facing financial hardship.

ApparelXchange, a social enterprise which recycles and re-uses children's clothing, will clean, store and sell – at a fraction of the normal cost – any donated dresses, shoes, kilts, jackets and accessories for the celebration

of next year's sacrament.

Mary Beth Graham, sales and marketing manager with the charity said: "I grew up in a Catholic family of six so I personally recognise the importance of this Sacrament but I also know how many families can struggle with financial and social pressures for this special day where items are bought then used only once."

"For that reason we've decided to launch this drive

now since the First Communion 'season' coming to an end and rather than put dresses in a cupboard or a charity shop we would ask families who no longer need them to donate them to us for next year.

Opportunity

"It's an ideal opportunity to help families who find themselves struggling and facing needless pressure at what should be a very happy

time for them and their children."

ApparelXchange, who intend to work closely with Catholic schools to let families find out more the scheme, are now accepting donations at its shop in St Enoch's centre next to the Vue Cinema.

■ **For more details email: Marybeth@apparelxchange.co.uk**

Youthful saints' relics now venerated at St Ninian's

THE relics of two young people born almost a thousand years apart have been placed in a Glasgow school oratory in a moving ceremony conducted by Archbishop Conti.

The occasion was the blessing of the new altar at St Ninian's High School in Giffnock at the end of the school term, and the Archbishop took the opportunity to encourage young people to imitate the example of the young 'heroes of the faith' over whose relics Mass will now be said in the school's magnificent oratory.

Head teacher John Docherty told Flourish that the school felt privileged to have the relics of the new 'internet saint', Blessed Carlo Acutis and the young Italian saint, St Rosalia of Palermo.

Blessed Carlo was beatified earlier this year. The English-born school student and amateur computer programmer, is best known for documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloguing them onto a website, www.miracolieucaaristici.org, that he created before his death from leukaemia near Milan 15 years ago.

Saint Rosalia of Palermo was born almost 1000 years ago but her relevance in a

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

Covid world is greater than ever. In 1625, as a plague swept Palermo and killed dozens of people each day, the Saint appeared before a man.

Rosalia, a young Sicilian hermit who died 500 years earlier, told him that if the people of Palermo walked in procession while carrying her relics, to be found in a grotto on Monte Pellegrino, then the "evil fever" would disappear.

'Evil fever'

Archbishop Conti used their example to encourage the staff and pupils to keep struggling for holiness. He said: "What a privilege to have these relics to remind us that being a saint is possible at any time, anywhere and at any age – even at your age!"

Following the ceremony Mgr Tom Monaghan, a regular visitor to St Ninian's, spoke about Blessed Carlo (a hair of his head is contained in the reliquary and Saint Rosalia of whom a piece of bone is enshrined) and paid tribute to Mgr Graham Bell, a Scottish priest based in Rome and



working at the Vatican and Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the President of the Vatican office dedicated to the New Evangelisation, for their help in obtaining the relics for the school.

He said: "When I look at

the picture of Blessed Carlo with his track suit and computer, I think, 'he is just like one of the pupils I see in St Ninian's.'

"Today my thought is, 'you pupils could be just like Blessed Carlo!'"



Bishops back synod

SCOTLAND'S Catholic Bishops have welcomed a call from Pope Francis for a Synod on the theme of Synodality, to be held in 2023.

Commenting on the announcement, Bishop Hugh Gilbert, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland said:

"The Bishops of Scotland welcome the initiative of Pope Francis to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church, to the People of God, to listen to one another, and to make that Synodal journey together of communion, participation and mission."

Bishop Gilbert added: "The Pope has called for a very participative process, engaging all the faithful, which will prepare for this Synod. The Bishops

of Scotland welcome the Initiative for a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.

Unity

"As the principle and foundation of unity in our dioceses, the Bishops look forward to the launch of the Synodal journey, a period of consultation and discernment in our local Churches, on Sunday 17th October of this year, and preparations are now being made for that event.

"We ask all the faithful to pray for the success of this initiative in the life of the universal and local Church, and above all to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit and listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through all of us in the Body of Christ."

Digital boost for Fertility Care team

THIS past year has taught us to re-evaluate the way we use our precious time.

People have made career changes and picked up new hobbies. After a year of isolation, we understand the importance of working with a team while also helping others in need. Fertility Care Scotland has not only seen an unprecedented rise in demand for our Natural Fertility Clinics, but also a rise in people wanting to train to teach. Whether you are a current user or are brand new to the method, anyone can train to teach and share this vital knowledge! Contact us at info@fertilitycare.org.uk to join our team.

Ashlee Lally
FCS Office Administrator

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My dear elderly friends...

Continued from page 1

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic...

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: "I am with you always". He says this to you, and he says it to me... May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me

that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today.

Eternal

I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retire-

ment age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, ... No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory

alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others.

I also think of my own grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Prayer

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: "The prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others."

He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need.

FRANCIS

Dumbarton teacher John is the new Lord Speaker

MY faith is deeply rooted in the community in which I grew up. I was brought up in a Catholic family, attended Catholic schools and went to Sunday Mass in my local Catholic church, St Patrick's Dumbarton.

I received all the sacraments from baptism to marriage at that church and I consider myself fortunate to have been supported throughout my childhood by so many good friends, teachers and, of course, my family. I am now a parishioner of St Michael's Parish in Dumbarton – the same parish I have attended for over 40 years. I am the first Catholic Lord Speaker and my faith is an important part of my life.

What was your motivation to enter politics?

Most politicians, when asked what motivated them to enter politics, say that they were motivated by a desire to change things for the better – that was definitely the case for me. I think that politics is fundamentally about helping others and the words of President John F Kennedy come to mind when he said, “ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” I have tried to do this throughout my political life, primarily through serving my constituents, something which is equal to, if not more important than what goes on down on Westminster.

Consensus

Institutions like the House of Lords, by their nature, contain diverse sets of opinions, and one of my jobs is to bring people together and build consensus so that this we work effectively towards a common goal.

In my opinion, Pope Francis' words in *Fratelli Tutti* capture the political vocation perfectly: “Politics is something more noble than posturing, marketing and media spin. These sow nothing but division, conflict and a bleak cynicism incapable of mobilising people to pursue a common goal. At times, in thinking of the future, we do well to ask ourselves, ‘Why I am doing this?’, ‘What is my real



Former Labour MP Lord McFall, who represented Dumbarton constituencies for 23 years, has been elected Lord Speaker of the House of Lords – the first Catholic to hold the position. In an exclusive interview with *Flourish*, Lord McFall, the son of a school janitor and a parishioner of St Michael's, Dumbarton, tells *Brian Swanson* how his Catholic faith shaped his personal political life ...

aim?’ For as time goes on, reflecting on the past, the questions will not be: ‘How many people endorsed me?’, ‘How many voted for me?’, ‘How many had a positive image of me?’

Good

“The real, and potentially painful, questions will be, ‘How much love did I put into my work?’ ‘What did I do for the progress of our people?’ ‘What mark did I leave on the life of society?’ ‘What real bonds did I create?’ ‘What positive forces did I unleash?’ ‘How much social peace did I sow?’ ‘What good did I achieve in the position that was entrusted to me?’”

Can religion and politics co-exist?

I know that there are those who say religion and politics must be kept separate but in my view they are intertwined. When Pope Benedict XVI addressed both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall during his visit to the United Kingdom in 2010, he spoke powerfully about this very question. He said: “I would suggest that the world of reason and the world of faith – the world of secular rationality and the world of religious belief – need one another and should not be afraid to enter into a profound and ongoing dialogue, for the good of our civilisation. Religion, in

other words, is not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation.”

I couldn't agree more with those sentiments and I have always valued the contribution of faith communities and people of faith to political life and, of course, the work of Parliament.

Impact

To take one example, there is no more pressing threat to the world today than climate change and the Church has an important role to play in shaping the global political response. As the Bishops of England and Wales and Scotland said in their Pastoral Letter for Pentecost Sunday: “...The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth ... In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global

politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.”

Will your faith guide the decisions you make in your role as Lords Speaker?

Politics is not for the fainthearted! And there are often tough decisions to be made, important decisions which affect the reality of people's lives.

Faith

My faith has strengthened me during numerous trying periods over the years. Despite the difficulties, I would still encourage young people to become involved in politics as a powerful force for the advancement of the common good.

What is your favourite quote from the Bible, a saint, or religious leader?

I often think about the words of St Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel at all times and, if necessary, use words.”



LORD McFall, 76, who is married with a grown up family of four, is a former pupil of St Patrick's High School in Dumbarton which he left at 15 to work as a gardener with Dumbarton Town Council, before going on study for a university degree, later becoming a chemistry and maths teacher.

His mother, Jeannie, owned a shop in College Street, Dumbarton, and his father John, was a school janitor.

As John McFall MP from 1987–2005, he represented the constituency of Dumbarton and from 2005–2010, following boundary changes, West Dunbartonshire.

He is best known for the tough line he took while chairing the Commons Treasury select committee during the 2008 financial crisis.

He was elevated to the House of Lords when he stepped down as an MP in 2010 taking the title Lord McFall of Alcluth.

Before the election, in which he defeated two rivals, he served as deputy speaker to Lord Fowler who resigned to return to the back benches in the House of Lords.

Pope's plea: rediscover the beauty of friendship

IN July, we are invited to pray that we may be courageous and passionate creators of dialogue and friendship.

All the monthly intentions in 2021 are expression of the Pope's plea for fraternity and here is another example. He's inviting us not only to remember dialogue and friendship and to live accordingly, but more than that – we are to design and plan ways of building friendship.

Our adult responsibility

Each day, there are more and more concerns to bring to our prayer, things we know that we need to talk to God about. At times, we forget our adult Christian responsibility, instead asking God to fix this or that situation. Then we remember, usually, that the purpose of our prayer is to open ourselves to the grace and strength to mobilise ourselves for Christ's mission of worldwide compassion.

It's the opposite of leaving it all to God but doing nothing ourselves! When the Holy Father offers, through his Prayer Network, specific prayer intentions, such as this month's for Social Friendship, he is inviting us, in short, to do something about it!

Pope's prayer intention for July



A spirit of human communion

The Pope's encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, gave us a clear call to action, noting that the "effort to build a more just society implies the capacity of fraternity, a spirit of human communion".

The era we're living through, which might be coming to an end without our realising it, is marked by polarisation and conflict. But there is also a great deal

of selfless fraternal service evident.

We are faced with massive problems for all of humanity. Inequality in vaccine distribution is now shockingly bad while the forthcoming, crucial COP26 conference will highlight how close we are to environmental disaster.

These are but two of many concerns that require our prayer, our passion and our courage, now. In places,

quietly and humbly, it is already happening.

Three proposals for July

What might we do, if we take up the Pope's challenge this month? Here are our usual three proposals, in which we recover an old tradition promoted by the Apostleship of Prayer over many decades – the Three Challenges for the month.

1: Spend an extra few moments, this month, pon-



dering and praying about a situation that you know well, where there is conflict – social, economic or political. As you begin, be conscious of the nearness of the Spirit of God. Let one situation in particular arise in your little time of prayer then take great care to notice whatever feelings arise in you as you do so. Speak to God about whatever you notice, without analysing or judging what comes up. Be aware of what moves in your own heart as you do so.

2: In your parish or worshipping community, whether you can meet physically yet or online, introduce others to this month's Intention and invite them to name a situation of conflict – it could be local, national or international. Get a discussion going about how the group could be "architects of dialogue and friendship". Take great care of each other as you do so because many of us will feel anything but courageous or

passionate, especially after the time we've had! We must remember, too, that issues that might surface will likely touch on deeply-held feelings and convictions so everyone must be compassionate, listening carefully and being slow to judge.

3: Look, or look again, at the recent little book "Let Us Dream – the Path to a Better Future" co-written by Pope Francis. A guide for readers and reading-groups is available – see <https://northamptondiocese.org/wp-content/uploads/Let-us-Dream-EasterResource.pdf>

Online resources

Join our new mailing-list – we promise not to bombard you with emails! We'll send only one or two each month. See our new website where you'll find a link on every page which takes you to the sign-up page – www.praywiththepope.net.

Parish CD now on sale

A PARISH musical group has produced an album of much loved hymns to bring hope and spiritual comfort during and after lockdown.

Founded 10 years ago at St John Bosco Parish, New Stevenston, the four women and three men who make up Caraid – Gaelic for friend – decided to record the album of 12 hymns after the success of two videos they made last year.

Founding member Brenda Murphy said: "During the terrible year that we have all suffered as a result of the pandemic, we wanted to offer some hope to all our parishioners and friends who were unable to attend Mass at Christmas so we came up with the idea of making a video

of Christmas Carols which was available to stream on YouTube.

"We were delighted with how successful it was and that so many people liked it that we decided to make another in time for Easter."

Once again Caraid enlisted the expertise of Bellshill's own Sancta Familia Media, who specialise in covering faith-based events.

Brenda said: "People seemed to like what we did and gave us such a warm and positive feedback and from that we decided to producing a charity CD of our 12 favourite hymns. We made some individual choices and some as a group and called the CD 'Reflections' because that's what many of us have done during the lockdown period."

The album is available to download from iTunes/Apple Music, Amazon Music, Deezer and Spotify with all proceeds going to charity. There are also a limited number of £10 CD's available to order. To do so contact mtoolan1711@hotmail.com



News and views for
FLOURISH
Editor-
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Two great global organisations are headquartered in Rome, the Catholic Church and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

I've always thought there's something symbolically appropriate about that, because Rome is at least as much about food as it is faith.

Actually, that puts it poorly. Better said, Rome is a place where food and faith belong together, where the kitchen and the altar express the same basic sacramental instinct.

The point comes to mind in light of a *Crux* interview yesterday with Father Augusto Zampini, a Vatican official currently organizing a series of webinars intended to highlight the problem of global hunger. As part of the conversation, Zampini felt compelled to explain why the Church has a legitimate spiritual interest in food.

Frankly, I was a bit startled, because it never would have occurred to me that the Church shouldn't be interested. On the contrary, I've always believed that one marker of someone who's fully assimilated the Catholic faith is a passion for food.

Nowhere is the logic clearer than here in Italy, where Sundays are traditionally devoted to two time-honored sacred rituals: Mass and lunch, and the entire family is expected to show up for both. In truth, from Italy you could write an entire history of the Catholic Church in the form of a cookbook.

For the record, that's not an original idea. Several years ago two Italian priests, Fathers Andrea Ciucci and Paolo Sarto, published a book called *Mangiare da Dio*, featuring recipes for the favorite dishes of fifty popes.

Case in point: Spaghetti *alla papalina*, a dish I've known for years but only recently made for the first time. Literally, the name means "spaghetti with the pope's skull-cap." It owes its origins to the 1930s, when then-Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, Secretary of State under Pope Pius XI and the future Pope Pius XII himself, made a request of his favorite Roman eatery, La Cisterna. Pacelli was a native Roman and loved the city's signature pasta dishes, but he also had something of a delicate stomach. He thus asked the cook if he could make a

Rome is a place where faith and food belong together



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

càuda, a sort of hot gravy that's a classic of the Piedmont, the northern Italian Alpine region from

which his grandparents hail. The gravy is based on anchovies, garlic and oil, and is usually served over vegetables.

It's no accident that Francis's favorite movie is about a meal, "Babette's Feast," which he's called "a hymn to Christian charity [and] to love," nor that the pontiff recently did a dialogue book with Carlo Petrini, founder of Italy's "Slow Food" movement that defends regional traditions against the encroachment of fast-food culture.

Personally, one of the ironic gifts of the coronavirus lockdowns of the last few months is that they've given me a chance to sharpen my own skills in the kitchen. The idea of passing months without my favorite Italian dishes due to restaurant closures was intolerable, so I had to step up, learning how to make a decent *bucatini all'amatriciana*, for instance, and a passable plate of *scaloppine* to follow.

That experience has taught me that cooking is actually a school of spirituality in addition to technique and craft. For one thing, it's brought home the importance of patience, which is not a virtue in which I typically excel. Yet there are some things in the kitchen that simply can't be rushed, and efforts to do so end in ruin.

It also teaches the value of simplicity. The classic pasta dish *cacio e pepe*, for instance, is indescribably delectable, yet it consists of just two basic ingredients: Pecorino cheese and fresh pepper (in addition, of course, to water and pasta). Italian cooking in particular captures the truth that genius isn't always a matter of multiplying ideas – the usual American instinct – but of finding one, and then refining it to absolute perfection.

As a footnote, cooking also gets across

that simplicity and complexity often go together. One of my favorite Italian chefs, Luca Pappagallo, likes to say that apparently simple dishes are actually hideously complicated, because even a tiny mistake along the way can have massive consequences.

Cooking also fosters a healthy respect for what Catholic tradition would call the *sensus fidelium*, especially because so many of the dishes we now think of as luxuries began as the food of the poor. *Cacio e pepe* originated with shepherds in the Lazio region surrounding Rome, who only had cured pork and pepper to work with over an open fire. *Coda alla vaccinara* and *pajata in umido*, featuring oxtail and veal intestines respectively, now considered classics of fine Roman dining, were developed by the urban underclass who couldn't afford decent cuts of meat from the butcher's shop and had to make do with castoffs.

These reflections are simply by way of saying, it makes all the sense in the world that the Vatican should be fighting against hunger and for food security. If any religious tradition on earth grasps the transcendent value of food, it's Catholicism.

The difference between FAO and the Church, I suppose, is that the former's mission is simply to make sure everyone has enough to eat. For Catholicism, it's equally important they eat well... because, as Pope Francis reminded Petrini, the sensory pleasure of a good meal is a taste of the divine.

■ Follow John Allen on Twitter: @JohnLAllenJr

This article also appears on the *Crux* homepage www.cruxnow.com

CRUX
Taking the Catholic Pulse

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

CRUXNOW.COM

Powerful lesson of the icon of Our Lady of Aberdeen

VISIT the church of Notre Dame du Finistère in Brussels and in the Lady chapel you will see a venerable statue of Virgin and Child carved in woods of oak and beech.

The locals will tell you it is entitled, Notre Dame du Bon Succès – Our Lady of Good Success... but that's not the whole story.

The little statue is thought to date possibly from the 15th century. Its story is long and complex including lengthy troubled periods where it disappeared from view.

We, in Scotland, are more familiar with copies of the

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

statue under the title, Our Lady of Aberdeen and we celebrate her feast day on 9th July.

Bishop Gavin Dunbar who was Bishop of Aberdeen and an exceptionally devout priest with great devotion to the Blessed Mother, brought the statue from St Machar's Cathedral to a chapel beside the newly built Bridge of Dee at a site inspired by Our Lady.

In the 16th century, at the time of the Scottish Reformation, for safe-keeping, it is claimed that the statue

was in the hands of the Gordons of Strathbogie. In 1625 it was sent to the Low Countries – thus its presence in Belgium.

This month's art of the month is an icon, the work of Aidan Hart, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, whose work can be found in cathedrals and monasteries throughout the world. He very generously gave permission to *Flourish* to reproduce this image and, indeed, sent a digital image for our use. The iconographer sees Our Lady as a fruit of the incarnation. Mary is presented as a royal person with crown

and sceptre, holding on to Jesus' foot, with true maternal care for the safety of her baby.

She seems to gaze into the future, perhaps hearing again the words of Simeon about the piercing sword and the Child's rejection. Jesus holds on to his Mother's veil, blessing her and blessing the world. Between Mother and Child, there is such tenderness and devoted love no matter the trials and tribulations that will come their way.

■ More art by Gavin Hart at www.aidanharticons.com



Imminent threat of euthanasia bill



Mary's musings

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

ANOTHER parliamentary session, another bill to legalise assisted suicide.

To be fair it's been six years since the last members' bill went before the Scottish Parliament. If it's not a hardy annual of the parliamentary calendar that's not a mark of the vigour of the lobby. Let's be under no illusion, the campaign in that time has been relentless.

Since the 2015 defeat by 82 to 36 the lobby has been working steadily to sway public opinion. High profile challenges, mercy dashes to end-of-life facilities in Switzerland and relentless media coverage of the hard cases we know will make bad law.

This time around the bill is being proposed by Liberal Democrat MSP, Liam McArthur who is arguing assisted suicide is about "safe and compassionate assisted dying" as opposed to "a prolonged and painful death." Put like that it's no wonder he and his allies can claim 9 out of 10 of Scots support the proposed legislation. The reality is quite different.

For a kick-off, what was

the question asked in the survey that elicited such emphatic support? I'm thinking something as simple as "would you rather die in peace and dignity than in agony?" My answer to that would be a resounding yes.

In the House of Lords Baroness Meacher is also bringing a private members' bill. She offers the assurance that two independent doctors and a high court judge would have to sign off on each request. Shades of the 1967 abortion law there, and look where that has taken us.

Abortion was legalised more than 50 years ago on the basis two doctors certified the pregnant woman was at risk of grave permanent injury to her physical or mental health. Now you can buy abortion pills over the internet, any hour of the day or night.

The issue of dignity, the very word itself, is at the heart of the assisted suicide lobby. It is there in the names of many of the organisations. Dignity in Dying, Death with Dignity, Dignitas.

Arguing that assisted suicide is the way to ensure



death with dignity is to conflate loss of independence with loss of dignity. No longer being able to perform the basic tasks of personal care is not what any of us wants to contemplate while in decent health but losing one's independence is not the same as losing one's dignity. With proper care dignity is always respected and preserved.

I've had the privilege of seeing death and dying in both professional and personal capacities. In St Margaret's Hospice I witnessed patients face death in peace and dignity with families supported in those days and for as long as they needed afterwards.

In the space of a fortnight, nine years ago this month, in Nazareth House, my dear aunt's life came to its natural conclusion, and my beloved mother's life ebbed away after a stroke following a few years living with dementia. Sad as it

was at the time, I now look back on that time as among the most blessed of my life. What the sisters and staff gave my family is a gift that will remain with us.

Liam McArthur and his allies will need to be on their mettle for this fight. He is being robustly opposed by the mighty character that is Pam Duncan-Glancy. Regardless of party politics there was much cheering when she entered Holyrood in May this year. The first permanent wheelchair user to be elected to Holyrood, she is a powerful voice for the disabled and the vulnerable. Her tiny frame belies her strength and she will bring some heft to the debate.

The only way we can see the bill rejected is if we take every opportunity to counter the fallacious arguments for assisted suicide. We have a moment here, not much more, when we can stand up and be counted.

POEM OF THE MONTH

This poem entitled "A Mother Understands" is the work of the Rev. G.A. Studdert Kennedy, an Anglican Chaplain of the Great War, held in great affection, who became known to the troops as "Woodbine Willie."

Dear Lord, I hold my hand to take
Thy Body, broken here for me,
Accept the Sacrifice I make,
My body, broken, there, for Thee.

His was my body, born of me,
Born of my bitter travail pain,
And it lies broken on the field,
Swept by the wind and the rain.

Surely a Mother understands
Thy thorn-crowned head,
The mystery of thy pierced hands —
The Broken Bread.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

We beseech, O Lord, your mercy, that we, who rejoice in commemorating Our Lady of Aberdeen, may – by imitating her – serve worthily the mystery of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Cardinal Winning 20th anniversary

Remembering the Cardinal

CARDINAL Thomas Winning once visited the House of Lords to meet Derry Irvine, the Lord Chancellor.

After a long wait in the outer chambers, Winning spotted Irvine striding towards him, woollen wig flowing, ruffled shirt tucked in place, breeches and silk stockings meeting neatly at the knee and patent leather shoes buffed to a brilliant shine. As Irvine passed, giving Scotland's cardinal only the smallest of nods, Winning muttered to his companion: "if that's the Lord Chancellor, can you imagine what God looks like?"

It is now 20 years since Thomas Winning's death. His sudden demise in June 2001 put an end to an impressive, but at times complicated and controversial career and reunited him with the God he had served all his life. As his biographer I was surprised by the depth of my emotions at his passing. My father, ever practical, attempted to cheer me up by stating, 'at least you know how the book ends.'

Thomas Winning was a fascinating character and I still think fondly of our many interviews, which always took place on a Sunday morning, in the sitting room of the Oaks, the arts and crafts home, in which he lived on the south side of Glasgow. I would fax (yes, it was that long ago) questions over to his office a few days before and he would do his best to research and remember the period up for discussion. In the early days he would try and engage with me with small talk about Celtic, his abiding passion, till it quickly became apparent, I had no knowledge and even less interest in football and so instead we would settle down to our own 90 minute game of competitive questioning.

Yet I was nearly always surprised at his candour and honesty over the weeks, months and years in which we spoke. Only once was there a minor fall-out when, far into the project, he got cold feet, concerned about his candour and insisted on a written document on his right to read the final manuscript. I knew things were back on track when I attended a talk by George Weigel, the biographer of Pope John Paul II, at a Glasgow hotel. As I walked in, I

received a punch to my kidney from behind. Surprised I looked round and it was Cardinal Winning, smiling his crinkled Robert de Niro smile and joking: "are you looking for tips?"

Thomas Winning had bold plans for the Archdiocese of Glasgow and they did not always work. He wanted to build the City of God on the streets of Glasgow but his Pastoral Plan for spiritual renewal, in which the laity would work in small groups, across the city's parishes was wildly ambitious but failed to attract the enthusiasm of many of his priests and parishioners. His expansion into social care saw the diocese end up with a debt of £10 million. This took years to correct but it was his very lack of fiscal prudence that enabled him to launch, perhaps his most successful scheme, the Pro-Life Initiative, in which the diocese offered financial and practical support to women facing crisis pregnancies. This even earned the surprising support of Germaine Greer, the feminist academic, for providing "real choice".

Of course he made mistakes: his handling of the case of runaway bishop Roderick Wright led to damaging publicity, and his view, shared by almost every bishop in the Church at the time, that abusive priests should not be reported to the police by the diocese but dealt with 'in house' now seems hard to imagine.

Yet Winning the man, separate from the public figure, was all too human. And he also had a complicated relationship with God. When it was whispered that the diocesan debt might mean that he would be overlooked for the red hat of a cardinal he prayed for the strength to cope with his disappointment. Many times during our interviews I attempted to get him to open up about his prayer life, but it was only after his death that I was given access to a journal in which he had noted his reflections during a religious retreat, and there his spirituality revealed itself a little more...

Like many people, Cardinal Winning never felt good enough for God, never felt that he could achieve his goals, a position he hid behind a thick West of Scotland carapace of toughness. He compared himself unfavourable to Cardinal Basil Hume, who, he believed had a 'Ready Brek' glow of spirituality that he himself lacked. But Winning had other qualities: he was a spiritual pugilist, raised in a crucible of anti-Catholicism who over the course of his career elevated the Catholic Church out of the ghetto and into the mainstream.

Yet at one religious retreat at the House of the Sacred Heart, a retreat home buried in the English countryside, he was finally able to open up both

emotionally and spiritually. To forget about his position within the church and recognise that he was, like everyone else, a simple pilgrim. The spiritual exercise involved imagining himself among the crowds when Jesus healed a sick and lame man...

As I wrote in *This Turbulent Priest*: "The layers of loneliness that accumulate from the long-term exposure to an isolated position began to strip away and the warmth of the environment and the dynamism of the

ideas seeped into his soul." As he told me: "It was part of a big opening for me. It was a turning point in my philosophy of pastoral work. I thought I was open, but during the retreat it was as if you had taken a tin opener and opened yourself up. It was as painful as that."

Looking back over the 20 years since his death, when I think of Thomas Winning I don't think of the big achievements or the dark moments of office, but of the man struggling to do what he believed to be right

by his faith and unsure, even to the end if he had earned his heavenly reward.

Twenty years on I like to think that Thomas Winning now knows what God looks like.

■ **Stephen McGinty is the author of *This Turbulent Priest: The Life of Cardinal Winning*, published by HarperCollins. His latest book, *The Dive: The Untold Story of the World's Deepest Submarine Rescue*, was published on 10 June, also by HarperCollins.**



Stephen McGinty

Stephen McGinty wrote the official biography of Cardinal Winning, *This Turbulent Priest*. 20 years on he reflects on the life and times of Glasgow's only Cardinal.

Cardinal Winning 20th anniversary

A good shepherd with big ideas and a big heart

IT was like any other Sunday morning, except it wasn't of course, I had gotten up, washed and dressed and headed out to Burntisland for an ecumenical service, so far: so much the same.

Normally I would have stopped at Cardinal Winning's house to pick him up for whatever it was we were doing that day; but not today, not this Sunday, today I was driving straight to Burntisland and I would be preaching, not the Cardinal.

He had had a heart attack the previous week and was at home, having been released from hospital on the previous Friday. I would be returning from Burntisland and saying Mass for him and his housekeeper, Mrs McInnes (Mrs Mac) in his private chapel. I had done the same thing yesterday morning and would do so for the foreseeable future until he was fit again to say Mass for himself.

Frightening

It was frightening to think that the Cardinal's diary had been wiped clean until the end of November: those of us who knew him knew he would never tolerate it but, we could but hope and pray. He was at this point determined to do what he had been told to do and his family, friends and staff were equally determined to help him do what he had been told to do.

His heart attack on the previous Friday June 8, had been a massive surprise. He had left his office in Clyde Street to head to a pastoral planning meeting in Pollokshields but he did not arrive there since he had asked Mrs Mac to get him an ambulance to hospital and there he was diagnosed as having had a heart attack and was resuscitated.

Agnes, Cardinal Winning's niece had called me at Clyde Street to check on her uncle and I blithely reassured her that he had been in the office with me and that we had had lunch together along with another priest who was being given a new assignment. He was



Mgr Peter Smith

Monsignor Peter Smith was Chancellor of the Archdiocese throughout much of Cardinal Winning's time in office. In this personal reflection he recalls the day 'Thomas Joseph' died and reflects on how he lived.

fine I told her, no problem, I told her.

I knew though that Agnes was no panic-merchant and so I phoned Father Paul Murray to be certain that the Cardinal had arrived – and of course Paul told me that he hadn't.

Along with Mgr Jim Clancy, the Vicar General, I headed to the hospital to check on how he was doing, staying only a few minutes before heading off to let him sleep. A week later I was able to take him home and arrange to return on Saturday morning to celebrate Mass, which I did.

We then had a good old blether over some tea and I returned home pledging to return on Sunday after I had delivered his Sermon at Burntisland.

Ministry

The sermon was to mark the 400th anniversary of the commissioning of the King James Bible and he was delighted that he had been asked to preach. I carried his sermon with me, prepared and ready so that the people there would listen to what the Cardinal wanted to say on that occasion.

And of course many people over the years had come to hear him and his opinion. It was very much a mark of his ministry over the years that he spoke out about those things which concerned Christians and the wider caring community.

He always had something to say about the issues of the day and what he had to say stirred people up to express their opinions also. He didn't restrict himself to the traditional moral issues of our day but expanded well beyond these – he challenged the people of Glasgow about their attitude to immigrants just as easily as he challenged their attitude to the unborn child and to the expectant mother.

It wasn't enough for him to stand up and say no to abortion, no, he had to make a friendly, welcoming offer to expectant mothers – come and get help from us. And so, the Pro-life Initiative would begin.

Support

He looked around Glasgow and saw immense social needs and rather than simply being shocked he resolved to offer something to those in need: and so began the Archdiocesan Social Services office, providing support to those in need.

The saying goes that it is better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness, and certainly for Cardinal Winning that was always the case.

He wasn't afraid about how social services would be funded or how it would work, he just said, "Let's do it!" The Pro-life Initiative horrified many who saw it running out of money and becoming a burden on the



Pictures by Paul McSherry

diocese. Under the guidance of Sister Roseann Reddy, it carries on to this day. And yet, on the night of his pro-life initiative speech, I had to phone Roseann and ask if she felt like running this initiative for him. Roseann was far from surprised!

This was another aspect of his faith: faith not simply in God but faith in people too – "Just ask, they'll do it" and you just asked and they did. It never failed to surprise me how often I asked in his name for help and how often the answer was yes.

"The love of Christ impels us" was not simply his heraldic motto, it was a value that ruled him. It was never enough to simply speak out the gospel, the gospel also had to be lived. And so his ministry was active and involved and public.

It must surely have been this dedication to word and action together that brought to Pope John Paul II, the idea of raising him to the College of Cardinals, and boy was

that a dramatic time!

He frequently did not come to the office on a Thursday and dealt with material sent to him at home as well as catching up on reading and being up to date. Fridays therefore could be busy!

One Friday he made me sit at the desk and would not engage on other topics. I was then told that what I was about to hear was under Pontifical Secrecy and only Father Tom Connelly and I would know this until Sunday 30th October 1994. He then said to me "The Red hat is coming to Glasgow."

Talk about being obscure! It took me a moment to twig... the red hat was the cardinal's hat and if it came to Glasgow it would be on his head. The Pope was making him a Cardinal!

Anyone else would have given that personal thought first place – "The Pope is making me a Cardinal!" but not for Thomas Joseph... for him, Glasgow was being

honoured, Glasgow would find itself with a place on the world stage, Glasgow was the centre, not its Archbishop, certainly not the person who held that office.

I could fill this entire edition with the story of the weeks which followed and took us to the Consistory and the placing of the red hat upon the head of Thomas Joseph Cardinal Winning. Suffice it to say Glasgow had a great time as she invaded Rome and rejoiced in her Archbishop.

But that was then, today was like any other Sunday, I was working for the Cardinal, standing in for him this time, preaching his sermon. Except that it was suddenly not like any other Sunday...

My mobile phone rang and it was Mrs Mac. "Peter," she said "It's happened again." I did not need any other details, though she filled me in on them.

I turned the car around and headed back to Glasgow: The Cardinal was dead.

Cardinal Winning 20th anniversary

A life well lived



THOMAS Joseph Winning was the older of two children born to a Catholic family in Wishaw, in 1925.

His father, the son of an Irish immigrant from County Donegal, had worked as a coal-miner, served in the First World War, and was then employed in the steel industry. On losing his job, Mr Winning invested in machinery for making boiled sweets which he sold around the houses as a way of bringing in money for his family.

Young Thomas attended St Patrick's Primary, Shieldmuir, Craigneuk and served as an altar boy. His secondary schooling was at Our Lady's High School, Motherwell.

After the war ended, he was part of the first group of students to be sent to re-populate the Scots College in Rome. The College had been empty of students since 1939. He was ordained in the Church of St John Lateran, in Rome, on 18 December 1948. His dad sold the sweet making machinery as a way to pay the fare for the family to go to the eternal city for the ceremony.

His first appointment was as an assistant (curate) at St Aloysius, Chapelhall, Lanarkshire, but after a year he returned to Rome to study Canon Law, gaining in 1953 a Doctorate (DCL). Thereafter he served in Motherwell Diocese until 1961. At this point he became Spiritual Director at the Pontifical Scots College and back to Rome

he went. Soon after his arrival, the Second Vatican Council was convened and he was in the eternal city for the various Sessions of the Council. At the same time he continued his studies becoming an Advocate of the Sacred Roman Rota in 1965.

In 1966 he was called back to Scotland where he was appointed to his first charge as Parish Priest in Saint Luke's, Motherwell, where he remained until 1970 when he was appointed as the first Officialis of the newly formed Scottish National Tribunal.

On 22 October 1971 he was nominated Auxiliary Bishop to the Archbishop of Glasgow, and three years later on 23 April 1974 succeeded Archbishop Scanlan as Archbishop.

He played a major role in bringing Pope John Paul II to Britain in 1982, a visit that was almost called off because of the Falklands Conflict that coincided with the visit. Cardinal Winning is thought to have convinced the Pope to continue with the visit which was the first official visit to the United Kingdom by a Pontiff.

On 26 November 1994, he was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II and appointed cardinal-priest of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte. Winning was only the second cardinal since the Reformation to be based in Scotland.

He died on June 17 2001 and is buried in the crypt of St Andrew's Cathedral.

A true champion of all human life

As you enter the building which houses the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative, there are many sights to catch your eye: lots of baby clothes, prams, cots, toys and a whole room dedicated to Winnie the Pooh and his pals.

All very entertaining and an indication of what we do on a daily basis, which is to provide care and support for many pregnant women and their unborn babies and families.

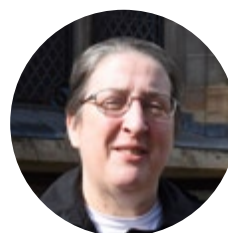
But my favourite thing amid all the baby stuff, is the picture of Cardinal Winning which is right in front of you as you enter. Next to it, and above the entrance to our main hall, is a beautiful painted sign which proclaims the Cardinal's Episcopal motto: *Caritas Christi Urget Nos* – 'The love of Christ urges us on' (2 Cor. 5:14). And indeed it does, as does our love for the late Cardinal Winning and the vision he had for his Pro-Life Initiative.

On March 9 1997, my life, and that of many others, was changed forever when Cardinal Winning made his announcement offering to help any pregnant woman in difficulty. He offered her help and support to enable her to choose life for her unborn child and, as he said, "avoid making the biggest mistake of your life."

Devastating

That day the Pro-Life Initiative came into being but it had been conceived long before in the mind and heart of a man who was passionately pro-life. He was a man who understood instinctively in his deepest core how wrong abortion is and how devastating the consequences can be: fatal for the child and often very devastating for the woman and others involved.

He also knew that we are all affected by the 'culture of death' which surrounds us. He would be appalled to see how far our society has embraced the anti-life culture, but I like to think he would be proud of what we have achieved in his name.



Sr Roseann Reddy

Sister Roseann Reddy worked closely with Cardinal Winning in the last years of his life, after he asked her to run the Pro-Life Initiative which bears his name. Here she reflects on the man she called 'Boss' 20 years since his passing.

Through his inspiration and action, the lives of so many have been saved and cherished.

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of his historic announcement and the founding of the Initiative. Since we began, we have helped over 6500 individual mums and their babies. Some have needed very little help; some have needed massive, long-term support. All have needed love, understanding and compassion, and they have all received it.

Compassion

When the Cardinal asked me to establish the Initiative in 1997, he only gave me one piece of advice. He said, "I want you to become an expert in humanity. I want you to cherish and love these women as Christ and His Blessed Mother would."

25 years later, that's exactly what we continue to do. I know there are at least 170 babies (four born during the recent lockdown) who I simply don't believe would be alive today if it were not for his vision and commitment to uphold the sanctity of life with such courage and love.

On a personal note, I miss his sharp wit and sense of humour. I miss the twinkle in his eye as he said something outrageously funny at the most inappropriate moments, but most of all I miss the fact that he was a giant among men, and he was ours.

On hard days when the going is tough, I often remonstrate with him as I pass his portrait that he's in big trouble when, please God, we meet again.

More often than not, I smile as I pass by and say, "Thank you for giving us this mission, thank you for your faith, your courage and the memories. You truly were a one-of-a-kind and, in your name, we're privileged to carry on your legacy. Our love of Christ and our love of you urges us onward through every difficulty and we are making a difference. Miracles happen every day."



Catholic schools win national recognition

PUPILS and staff at two Catholic schools in the Archdiocese began the summer break on a high note after reaching the finals in a prestigious UK wide educational awards scheme.

Our Lady and St Patrick's Dumbarton were short listed in the hotly-contested Secondary School of the Year category in the annual Times Education Supplement (TES) school awards while Jonny Stone, from St Ninian's High, Kirkintilloch, who has been teaching for just four years, was the only Scot to reach the finals for the UK's best English teacher category.

Chris Smith, head teacher at Our Lady and St Patrick's said "Win or lose, it was a tremendous honour for our school to be the only one Scotland to make it to the shortlist of a highly regarded award scheme especially in a year in which we, like so many others have faced numerous challenges."

English teacher Jonny, 30, from St Ninian's said: "I am elated to have been short-listed for this prestigious award, especially given the calibre of teachers in this category."

"I want to thank our head teacher Paul McLaughlin, who has been a champion of my career since the day I arrived in St Ninian's, and Mary Doherty, my Principal



Teacher, who, aside from being the most inspiring, innovative teacher one could ask to work with, has given me so many opportunities and made me the teacher I am today."

Schools throughout the UK who entered the long running and highly regarded TES competition were invited to submit nominations giving reasons why they should be chosen.

Part of the submission from Our Lady and St Patrick's, which has a role of around 1000 pupils, reads: "We have consistently achieved outstanding academic results, despite being in an area of significant deprivation."

"While many go on to University, this year we also had the highest number of pupils in Scotland who had used Skills Development Scotland's 'My World of Work' website to gain an insight into the wide range of career pathways suited to their academic abilities, practical skills and interests."

News and views for
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**ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL
BARRHEAD**



**Congratulations to all the young people
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"Grow in holiness: become saints of the 21st century"
POPE BENEDICT XVI



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**Congratulations
to all the 2020 Caritas
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from the staff, pupils
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Tel: 0141 582 0140
Head Teacher:
John McGhee

**Congratulations from the parents, pupils, parishes,
chaplain and staff of John Paul Academy**



Thanks for shining the light of your goodness and love.

**The staff and pupils of Trinity High school
would like to congratulate all of our Caritas
Award winners. Their efforts have helped to
build God's kingdom of love, justice and peace.**

Head Teacher: Mr Marshall
Glebe Street, Renfrew PA4 8TP
Telephone: 0300-300-1444
@Trinityrenfrew



ACHIEVING
EXCELLENCE
TOGETHER

School gardens will recall life of late Archbishop



THE staff and children of St Cuthbert's Primary in the North of Glasgow have planted a tree in memory of the late Archbishop Tartaglia. The tree planting ceremony took place just before term ended and involved a selection of children from each class.

Children and some staff took turns to read prayers in a service of remembrance.

St Cuthbert's school community was also affected in

recent by the death of one of their young parents.

Nicole sadly passed away around the same time as the Archbishop, so staff felt it appropriate to have her son at the ceremony.

Ceremony

The school's Parent Council have contributed to the cost of a bench, which will be seated next to the tree. We hope that in years to come this area is used by

children and staff to come to for prayer and reflection.

A school spokesman said: "We hope that this area allows our school community to remember the life and service of the late Archbishop."

One child said 'It was really nice to plant the tree to remember the Archbishop who has died. We read lovely prayers and it was also very sunny with the sounds of birds singing in the sky'.



St Mungo's remember a true east end hero

PRIMARY 7 leavers from St Mungo's Primary, Townhead, marked the end of term with a poignant service of remembrance for Archbishop Tartaglia who had been due to confirm many of them last year.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

Bishop Hugh Gilbert of Aberdeen who in his homily at the Requiem, compared the death of Archbishop Tartaglia to a 'great tree felled during a storm'.

And the species of tree chosen also had a special significance.

Catriona Ward, one of the school's principal teachers who helped organise the event, said: "The tree we picked is called *Solanum rantonnetii* and it was chosen because its flowers blossom into a beautiful purple flow-

er, the colour worn by our Archbishop. and was planted in an area of the school which is overlooked by our beautiful St Mungo's church where the Archbishop and his family had many links over the years.

"The idea for the tree planting and dedication came from the RE department of the Archdiocese and the school was very keen to take part.

"It was especially poignant given that the children should have been confirmed by Archbishop Tartaglia in November 2020."

Saint Margaret's High School



Saint Margaret's RC High School, Airdrie are proud to announce the success of our senior students in achieving the 2021 Caritas Award.

'To love another person is to see the face of God.'

Waverley Drive, Airdrie ML6 6EU · Tel: 01236 794888



*We are your soldiers
but are servants of the
true God*

ST MAURICE

Head Teacher:
Kevin O'Connor
Westfield
Cumbernauld G68 9AG
Tel: 01236 794845
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ST MAURICE'S RC HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations to all of our young people from St Maurice's who have achieved the Caritas Award and for your contributions to the school and community. You have embraced 'The Spirit of St Maurice's' in your endeavours, demonstrating success, perseverance, integrity, respect, inclusion and trust!

All Saints teacher retires after 46 years at the same Glasgow school



A TEACHER who has spent her entire career at the same Catholic secondary school has been named winner of Glasgow's Best Teacher competition 2021.

Carol Rafferty, who is Principal Teacher of Pupil Support and teaches PE at All Saints Secondary, Barmulloch has just retired after 46 years of service to the school.

She said: "It is lovely to be successfully nominated for this award and I feel everyone in All Saints should share this with me."

"I have loved working and supporting the young people in All Saints Learning Community. It has been a

BY BRIAN SWANSON
real privilege. Our young people deserve the very best and I hope that over my 46 years of service in All Saints I have met those expectations."

The competition was sponsored by CALA Homes (West), who are currently completing a transformation project of the David Stow Building, Jordanhill.

Liana Canavan, sales and marketing director for CALA Homes (West) said: "The David Stow building is iconic in Glasgow's history and many people in and around the city have strong links to it as the main teacher training college. As we

mark 100 years since it first opened its doors, we feel it is fitting to respect its heritage by recognising the hard work and commitment of teachers in Glasgow today."



All Saints R.C. Secondary

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The staff and pupils of All Saints would like to congratulate our Caritas Award winners 2021.



Special thanks to our parents, parishes and our Chaplain Fr Anthony Gallagher, for their spiritual and practical support throughout this very challenging year.

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0141 582 0010
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Twitter: Follow us @allsaintsrcsec



Congratulations to our Caritas Award Winners of 2021.

We are so proud of you all in what has been a very challenging year.

You have been fantastic ambassadors who have embraced our school values - Respect; Learning; Community & Success.

Good luck in the future.



Head Teacher: Lisa Pierotti
Email: headteacher@st-paulshigh.glasgow.sch.uk
Address: 36 Damshot Rd, Glasgow G53 5HW
Tel: 0141 582 0040
Twitter: @StPaulsRCHS

ST MARGARET MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

CARITAS 2021

Congratulations to our successful Caritas Candidates: Gabriella Anameje, Robin Ashcroft, Danielle Brown, Kieran Burke, Edward Coll, Erin Connolly, Baylee Enright, Aidan Graham, Emmanuel Ibiyemi, Aaron Kerr, Chloe McDonald, Ellie McHugh, Adam McInch, Mirren Murphy, Pauline Oyono, Zara Quinn & Wiktoria Siekierska



[St Margaret Mary's Secondary School](#)

Head Teacher: Mrs E Seery
9 Birgidale Rd
Glasgow G45 9NJ
Tel: 0141-582-0250

Turnbull High head teacher picks up top national award

HER pupils and colleagues at Turnbull High, Bishopbriggs, have always known that head teacher Eileen Kennedy was special... but now it's official after she was honoured with a prestigious educational award.

Following thousands of nominations for the Pearson Teaching Awards from across the UK, Eileen won a bronze award in the category of Head Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School.

Her nomination was widely supported by pupils,

parents, teaching and non-teaching staff at the school as well as by its chaplains Father Nicholas Monaghan and Canon Robert Hill.

A post on the school Twitter page summed up her achievement: "To be short-listed in this prestigious and highly competitive award is a huge accolade, and to win a Bronze Award in this UK-wide competition is a massive achievement. It was so richly deserved. Congratulations to Eileen from everyone in our school community."

News and views for
FLOURISH

Editor-Flourish@rcag.org.uk



Congratulations to all young people who have achieved the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award and who have contributed to their school and parish communities.

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Pope Francis Faith Award joy for primary pupils



It was a proud day for the community of St. Nicholas Primary in Bearsden last month as the successful candidates from Primary 7 received their Pope Francis Faith Award.

The whole school and Parish communities are immensely proud of their young people who have worked hard and shown commitment despite all the restrictions which have been in place.

The Pope Francis Faith Award is an award designed to help children show 'signs of love' in their daily lives and to be active members of their local church.

Pictured are the successful Pope Francis Faith Award candidates, Fr Mackle and Deacon Tommy from St Andrew's Bearsden, Fr Curry from St Joseph's Milngavie and staff from St. Nicholas.




Congratulations to all Caritas Award winners of 2021 from everyone at NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL



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Pope Francis*



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Deacons ordained for a life of service



Ordination day for Glasgow's new deacons – Douglas Green (left) and Frank McKendry (right). Both were ordained in Rome at the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls. The Archbishop of the basilica, Cardinal James Harvey spoke about the significance of it taking place where the bones of St Paul are buried. He also spoke about the role of the deacon in a threefold ministry – of the Word, of the altar, and of charity. He reminded them that it is God's call and God's grace that sustains them and underlies everything in their ministry.

POPE Francis last month met a group of permanent deacons from Rome Diocese and spoke to them about their role, which he said is not a substitute for that of a priest.

"The generosity of a deacon who spends himself without seeking the front lines smells of the Gospel and tells of the greatness of God's humility that takes the first step to meet even those who have turned their backs on Him."

That was how Pope Francis described the role of a permanent deacon among the People of God in the Church.

This month Flourish invited Deacon Michael O'Donnell to reflect on the Holy Father's words from his own experience. He readily agreed....

THE other day I returned home from visiting patients at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. Sadly, it had been a hard couple of days as a number of patients with various conditions had died.

As a Permanent Deacon I am attached to the parishes of St James the Great and St Conval's in Pollok which both have Fr Martin Kane as Parish Priest but my main focus of diaconal ministry is hospital ministry.

In the hospital I engage with all people: patients, families and staff. I receive referrals from the NHS chaplains, wards, parishes as well as from the on-call priests. It is a ministry I have undertaken for just under five years after being appointed to it by Archbishop Tartaglia who felt it was a sign of service for a deacon

to serve in the new hospital alongside the on-call priests.

Since last year the Covid pandemic has been demanding for all and as well as the medical staff I highlight the priests who have been called out at all hours to administer the Sacrament of the Sick to patients in Intensive Care.

Ministry

Diaconate is service and although rewarding it can be challenging too. When I got home, got my coffee I decided to switch off by having a look on Facebook. As I looked there was a post from Vatican News. It was a feature on Pope Francis meeting some of the Permanent Deacons, their wives and children from the diocese of Rome. He talked about the diaconate ministry and how he viewed it. How appropriate and uplifting!

On reading it I felt refreshed as it is essential that the diaconal ministry is seen and used as more than just a liturgical ministry. Service is the essence of it. Deacons are ordained to the ministry of service; a ministry all baptised people are to exercise but the diaconate is affirmed by the sacramental grace specific to ordination. As Pope Francis says "Deacons are ordained not for the priesthood but for service".

The deacon's service is sometimes outwith the parish. It can be in hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, schools, support to families and people who don't necessarily attend church regularly. This service is an essential though humble way to living the gospel and being part of the Church's mission to all.

Fr Jim's walk to help refugees

THE spiritual director of the Scots College in Rome is to walk in the footsteps of a saint to highlight the plight of refugees stranded in Calais and raise £5000 for the centre that cares for them.

Father Jim Walls hopes to cover 290 miles from Iona to Lindisfarne – the same journey made by St Aidan in the 6th century when he converted Northumberland to Christianity and became the area's first bishop.

Father Jim, former parish priest at St Pius X, Dundee, who took up his post in Rome three years ago, began his walk on Sunday June 26 and was due to complete it on July 16.

Money raised will be donated to St Maria Skobstova House, in Calais, which provides accommodation mainly for woman and children refugees.

Father Jim said: "I'm looking upon it as a pilgrimage

in solidarity with those who have to abandon their homes in order to find peace, and yet are often subjected to inhumane treatment in Europe. The pilgrimage starts on Sunday 26th June and is due to finish on Friday 16th July.

"St Maria Skobstova House offers accommodation to refugees many of whom have travelled thousands of miles in the hope of finding sanctuary. The House caters primarily for women and children but also reaches out to the Eritrean refugee community who live in temporary camps that are often vandalised and destroyed by the authorities.

"A friend who regularly volunteers at the House describes with amazement the hospitality that he receives from the refugees (in the form of tea/coffee and whatever food they have) in their makeshift camps as opposed to the reception



they receive from the Authorities.

"His statement that Europe is 'experiencing a crisis of hospitality' struck me profoundly, and the fact that these vulnerable people have something to teach us, or remind us, about hospitality rings true. Some of these people arrive having suffered severe trauma and due to the policies implemented by the authorities are deprived of the neces-

sities of life: shelter, food, clothing, health care etc.

"After a recent visit Bishop Olivier wrote in an open letter: "Migrants in Calais are being treated by the authorities worse than dogs."

More info at www.refugeehousecalais.org

■ To donate visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/in-solidarity>

Please hold refugees in your prayers and in your hearts

WE are incredibly grateful to so many of you who have given generously to help people in Gaza.

With your help, we have raised £76,000 one month on from our appeal. I want to thank you on behalf of everyone at SCIAF for your support. Every donation helps.

Your donations are funding humanitarian relief. This includes medical care, psychological support, food, and other essential items that are provided directly to people in need.

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Alistair Dutton

Chief Executive, SCIAF

Caritas Jerusalem through the global Caritas network to provide these essential services. Caritas Internationalis is the helping hand of the Catholic Church. Across the world, we are able to reach out to those

in need who may be poor, vulnerable or excluded, regardless of race or religion. Together, we are led by our principles of dignity, justice and solidarity to support our brothers and sisters.

It can be difficult to imagine how you would feel if you had to flee your homes for your lives, with only the few things you could grab as you fled and with nowhere to turn. The future lies in front of you full of unknowns.

More than 82 million people in the world have faced this, displaced either in their own countries or are refugees in other countries, including those from Gaza. There are 5.7 million Palestine refugees according to the UN Refugee Agency. That is more than the population of Scotland.

With your help, we are making sure that those facing these circumstances are not alone.

Please hold them in your prayers and in your hearts. And when we meet people for whom this is their story, or even a small part of their story, please greet them with the hospitality I know we show so readily.

Let's continue to reach out to those who need help, with love and hospitality.

To find out more about the help SCIAF provides to people around the world or find out how you can help us, please visit: sciaf.org.uk



Summer Sunday readings are packed with nourishment for the spirit



Fr Tom Kilbride

THESE summer Sundays offer us a chance to think about some central aspects of our life of faith: mission, compassion, and communion.

We will hear an invitation from Jesus to rest from activity – a timely message any summer, but perhaps more so this year when our daily lives have been so disrupted and stressed, while getting away on holiday seems more difficult than

usual!

Jesus invites us over these weeks to “come away for a while” and rest; and that rest, it turns out, is found in him.

Fifteenth Sunday, Year B

Last Sunday the people of Jesus’s hometown couldn’t accept him. Those events are followed immediately by today’s passage in which Jesus sends his disciples out on their first experience of

mission. Not necessarily an encouraging context! Still, it is part of Mark’s vision of things that the preaching of the Kingdom cannot wait: “The time is now!”

Opposition, indifference and rejection are poor excuses to put things off. So, the Twelve go out unencumbered, moving quickly, travelling light. They preach repentance (as Jesus did: “Repent and believe the Good News”) but they also share in Jesus’s healing ministry, casting out demons and healing the sick. The Kingdom is already breaking through!

The prophet Amos (First Reading) likewise takes up a breathless preaching mission but is told in no uncertain terms to clear off! He knows, however, that the mission is from God, and not his own. It must be fulfilled regardless of the consequences.

Now, while the Twelve carry out their mission, Mark recounts what happened to John the Baptist because of his preaching. Clearly God’s messengers – Amos, John, Jesus... the apostles? us? – are not always welcomed with open arms. But the Kingdom must be proclaimed all the same.

Sixteenth Sunday, Year B

We miss out the story of John the Baptist’s death and instead meet the Twelve returning from their mission, excitedly swapping stories. Jesus invites them to rest and recharge (curiously, we often get this reading around the Glasgow Fair weekend – a timely reminder perhaps that holidays are also holy-days and necessary for our spiritual as well as physical or mental health!).

However, such is the breathless pace of Mark’s Gospel, that there is little respite from the work. The crowds are hungry for the message of the Kingdom and thirsting for the heal-



Giovanni Lanfranco, *Miracle of the Bread and Fish*, c. 1620

ing Jesus brings. So, ever the Good Shepherd, Jesus gives himself to them.

Maybe the Twelve do get their rest (they aren’t mentioned at this point), but Jesus knows the work must go on. The mustard-seed is sprouting!

Seventeenth Sunday, Year B

Following on from the previous passage, Jesus responds to the needs of the people who have come to him in the famous miracle of the Loaves and Fish. However, we jump across to the Gospel of John for the story – and, for the next few weeks, we will hear the famous “sermon” of Jesus on the meaning of the bread, blessed, broken and shared, which follows the miracle.

It is almost Passover – a connection with Jesus’s Passion, but also with the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and the famous story of the “manna” they ate in the desert. A small boy has two fish and five barley loaves (a detail John adds, hinting at the bread of the poor) which are used to feed the crowds.

Eucharistic language fills the air: he gave thanks; he shared out; they sat down (the same word used at the Last Supper); there is a “gathering” and “fragments” (our version says simply “Pick up the pieces”), but the original is more evocative, reminding us of ancient names for the Mass. By shifting from Mark’s telling of the miracle (which presents it as a sign of Jesus’s identity and of the

renewing power of God’s Kingdom in the world) to John’s, with its language of sacrament and worship, as well as hints of salvation and promise, we are set up for the beautiful meditation on the Eucharist we will hear over the following Sundays, a meditation we need perhaps all the more after these months.

Eighteenth Sunday, Year B

Our reflection on the Eucharist gets underway as Jesus makes a clear connection between the bread he gives – the “true bread” – and the manna given to the Israelites in the desert (the First Reading from Exodus). Here is something even more wonderful than that miraculous gift, he says.

The people still look for signs on which to build their faith (last week, they came to him because they had “seen the signs” he worked), but Jesus tells them faith has to come from trust, trust in him and trust in the Father. Coming in trust to him, the Bread of Life, we will never be disappointed, never hunger, never thirst.

The manna satisfied for a time, but it did not last even to the following day; this Bread endures for ever.

Nineteenth Sunday, Year B

The people’s grumbling interrupts Jesus’s words, although we don’t hear those precise words in our reading today. What we do hear, however, offers us a beautiful meditation on the Eucharist, but it comes in circles and swirls, John’s typical way of sharing Je-

sus’s words.

In the first part, we twice hear what could almost be an invitation: “come to me”, in the context of seeing and hearing the Father. In the second part, we hear words related to “life” (“live” or “living”) five times over.

Binding these together are four references to the consequences of faith: “raise up”, “eternal life”, “not die”, “live for ever”. And at the heart of it all, a revelation about Jesus: “I am the Bread of Life”. The “I Am” – the words echo the name of God spoken to Moses – comes now in the living bread he gives, his own flesh. Our Eucharist is an invitation to come, to be fed and to find life in Jesus.

These weeks begin with the activity of mission and, after an invitation to rest, lead us to the life we find in the Eucharist.

Our readings over these weeks begin with a “sending out”, and end with an invitation to “come to him” for life. Perhaps that is the movement the Eucharist, our Communion, generates in us: pulsing outward with energy for mission, then drawing us back to the heart, to Christ, for rest and deeper life, before sending us back out again.

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MURRAY

In loving memory of our dear mother **Teresa Bernadette (nee Grace)** who died July 6 1980 and our much loved sister **Marie Veronica** who died July 20 2004.

Loved and remembered always. Leo, Paul and Angela

LIVING in different countries, or visiting different countries for meetings and gatherings, if ever there was a social night and a sing-song, I used to enjoy giving a rendition of the old Glasgow street-song, "Wee Johnny's Lost His Jorrie". I

If you don't know it, essentially it tells the story of a wee boy who thought he had lost a marble (jorrie) down a drain (stank), doon at the Broomielaw (on the north bank of the River Clyde).

He tries to retrieve it using a clothes pole (claes pole), then his brother and sister tied to the claes pole, which he rammed down the stank; and at the end he even uses some dynamite, and blows up the Broomielaw, only then to discover that the jorrie was in his back pocket all the time.

I always thought it unlikely that you could have a marble in your back pocket and not realise it, but that all changed last Sunday when, after the 12 noon Mass, Father Gareth thought he had lost his church keys. Now, we're not talking about one or two keys here, we're talking about a whole bunch of keys of varying sizes.

Father Gareth is always

Locked out in lockdown

very fastidious when it comes to locking doors. He is one of those people who will always go back two or three times to check that he has locked them properly, so the thought of losing his keys was quite distressing for him.

With the help of Deacon Joe, he searched everywhere; all over the church; out in the church porch; the street outside the church; every drawer and nook and cranny in the sacristy; even the safe where the sacred vessels and the tabernacle key are put back; every part of the office; every toilet. He searched all over his car, and checked every pocket of every garment he possessed – except one.

He returned home despondent. Someone must have them, he thought. Would we have to change all the locks? Then, when he sat down in the chair in his room, out at Bishopbriggs, he was conscious of something in his back pocket – and there were the keys. "I never put anything in my



Fr Frank's log

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

back pocket – ever!", he said. Aye right!

Anyway, he, and all of us, were mighty relieved that the keys had been found, and Father Gareth has been in great form ever since, even more so now that Wales are doing so well in the European Championships.

As I write I am looking forward to conferring, for

the second time this week, the Sacrament of Confirmation. Last Monday we celebrated with last year's P7's from St. Mungo's and St. Stephen's Primary Schools who, because of Covid-19, had their Confirmation postponed. In fact, the day the church closed, 19th March 2020, was the very day that the late

Archbishop Tartaglia had been scheduled to come and confer the Holy Spirit upon them. It was postponed another couple of times since then but now, at last, as they near the end of their first year in secondary school, they have been able to conclude this stage of their faith journey, having now celebrated all three Sacraments of Initiation.

I have had the privilege of conferring the sacrament before when a bishop, for one reason or another, wasn't available. I remember a time in Dublin when, instead of delegating the parish priests, the Archdiocese asked a retired missionary bishop to do the Confirmations.

He was a Divine Word Missionary who had been a bishop in Africa and was now retired back home to Ireland. I remember when

he took his mitre out of its case that it was pristine white, and had obviously never been worn.

He told me that he had passed through Rome on his way back and was advised that Pope John Paul II would almost certainly die while he was there, and that he would be invited to join with many other bishops at the Requiem Mass.

He thought that his mitre was rather tatty and so invested in a new one but, of course, the Pope didn't die, not then, and not for a couple of years after. The bishop was glad of the chance to use his new mitre at least once, but equally glad to put it back into mothballs afterwards, and enjoy retirement!

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