

# FLOURISH

July/August 2022

## No more closed doors!

Archbishop says Pope’s challenge is very clear – ‘The Church must welcome everyone and never resort to condemning people’

**A**RBISHOP Nolan has received the *pallium* – a small collar-like vestment worn only by Metropolitan Archbishops – from Pope Francis at a solemn Mass in the Vatican, and pledged himself to make the Holy Father’s call to action his own.

The Archbishop was one of 36 new archbishops from

**BY RONNIE CONVERY** round the world who gathered with the Pope in St Peter’s Basilica in a powerful expression of unity and solidarity with the Holy Father. The Archbishop told Flourish: “It was a very powerful and moving moment to be

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Vatican Media



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# A summer of ordinations

**GLASGOW is set to welcome three new priests and a permanent deacon this summer ... the first time for many years that four ordinations will take place over such a short period.**

It also marks the first time that Archbishop Nolan will ordain new priests and deacons since taking up his appointment in February.

Speaking ahead of the ordinations, the Archbishop said: "It is a great joy to be able to ordain new priests and deacons this summer. Their commitment and enthusiasm will be a great boost for the Archdiocese, and especially for the parishes they will serve."

"Although this is a bumper year for ordinations, the coming years are not so positive so I would urge people to continue to pray for new vocations and to encourage anyone who may be considering this call to find out more."

"We need to priest and deacons to bring our people the nourishment of the faith and to reach out to the peripheries as Pope Francis encourages us, to bring God's love where it is most needed."

Deacon Edward Toner, 27, who studied at the Scots College in Rome, will be



Rev Edward Toner

the first to be ordained at a Mass in his home parish of St Paul's, Shettleston at 7pm on Friday 8th July.

Speaking in advance of his ordination he said: "It's been quite a journey from seminary to my ordination but the day is almost here."

"Since I was a wee boy I always spoke about wanting to become a priest, but it wasn't until I was leaving school and starting University 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 really helped me to open myself up to God's will and to start considering a priestly vocation."

"I am looking forward to celebrating with my friends and family but above all I



Vicar General Mgr Hugh Bradley meets ordinands Frank McKendry (left) and Douglas Green (right) in Rome

can't wait to begin my work as a priest in a parish. Please pray for me."

Deacon Douglas Green, 58, who studied at the Beda College in Rome, will be ordained to the priesthood in September.

Douglas, a convert to the Catholic Faith, and former member of the choir at St Andrew's Cathedral, his home parish before he entered seminary, said: "When I was ordained a deacon last year I said that I would continue when I am ordained a priest, to put my whole heart, soul, mind and might into serving God and all his

people."

"As priests and deacons we never stop learning and with God's help I want to do that wherever I am sent to serve after my ordination which I'm looking forward to very much"

Later this month, on Friday 22nd at 6:30pm, the Feast of St Mary Magdalene, Deacon Frank McKendry, 66, who also studied at the Beda College Rome, will be ordained at his home parish

of Holy Cross, Croy where he assisted Parish Priest Father Joe Sullivan during his placement.

Frank, a chartered surveyor who worked throughout Europe and the Middle East during his career in the international oil and construction industry, said: "I'm sure my ordination will be an unforgettable and emotional experience to be in a parish I know so well among and friends I've known for years."

"I'm looking forward to the day itself but above all to serving God and his people wherever I am asked to go."

On August 21 former community nurse Paul Brady, 61, a father and grandfather from Kilsyth will be ordained a permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese at St Robert Bellarmine, Househillwood, where he has been on placement for the past year.

Paul said: "I have been a member of the Knights of St Columba for many years and a few years ago I felt I wanted to deepen my faith in some way but I wasn't sure what direction to take."

"I talked about it a lot with my brother Knights and a couple of them said I would make a good deacon and the more I thought about it the more sense it made."

"I decided to begin the process four years ago and now I can't believe that my studies have ended, my placement is almost complete and that I will be ordained in a few weeks."

"My family and the Knights have been a great support to me and I want to thank them for that."

## Special thanks to Fr Willie

**Fr Willie Monaghan, Parish Priest of St Agnes Parish in Lambhill had a surprise prepared for him as he turned 75 recently – a special celebration to mark his commitment to the St Vincent de Paul Society.**

Fr Willie became the SSVF Glasgow's spiritual director in 2000 at the start of a new millennium, a role Father Willie took up from the late Fr Willie McLellan of fond memory.

Fr Monaghan began his service in the Archdiocese almost 50 years ago, serving first as a deacon at Corpus Christi and then, following ordination in 1974 serving in no less than seven parishes before arriving at his eighth and current parish of St Agnes Lambhill.

His first parish as curate was at St Margaret's Clydebank. St Bartholomew's Castlemilk came next then Our Lady of Fatima. Then he was back in Cast-



Bernice Brady presents Fr Willie with his scroll

lemilk at St Martin's, then onto St Kessog's in Balloch, St Gabriel's Merrylee and finally St Agnes. Not bad for a young man who after leaving school started work as an apprentice butcher.

A spokesperson for the St Vincent de Paul Society said: "Father Willie has shown a great loyalty to the society, celebrating Mass for us both at our annual Mass and our Requiem Mass and others in between – especially remarkable as his health

over the last years has put an extra toll on his priestly activities."

"So it was with great pleasure that the society met with Fr Willie recently to present him with a papal blessing on the occasion of his 75th birthday from the Glasgow Archdiocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

"We enjoyed a cup of tea and some French fancies and a reminiscence of his experiences as a priest throughout his ministry. We wish him many more!"

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# Carmelite nun's hymn for Carfin

**A CARMELITE nun has written a deeply moving hymn to celebrate the centenary of Carfin Grotto – despite never having visited the shrine!**

Entitled *Our Lady of Carfin*, it will be sung for the first time at the Mass of Celebration later this year and it is designed to serve as a pilgrim's spiritual and practical guide to the grotto's major shrines.

Sister Josephine O'Connell, 75, who has been a Carmelite sister for 57 years, made online visits to the shrine to familiarise herself with the most visited shrines to give her inspiration for her hymn.

Sister Josephine, who is a member of the community at the Carmel Monastery in Dysart, Fife, then collaborated via Zoom with Kevin James Cameron, musical director for Motherwell diocese, who wrote the music.

She said: "I wanted to write a hymn for pilgrims because Carfin is and always been a place of pilgrimage."

"Although I have never been to Carfin Grotto, what I have read and seen on line

BY BRIAN SWANSON

was very moving – such a peaceful place of faith – and so when it came to writing the words down they just seemed to flow – God was surely over my shoulder inspiring me."

Sister Josephine, originally from County Clare in Ireland, moved with her parents to England when she was four, and by the age of 18 she had entered the Carmelite community in Liverpool.

In 1994 she transferred to the community at Dysart and during the 2019 visit of the relics of St Therese of Lisieux she was asked by Father James Grant, Guardian of the Grotto, to write a new hymn for the Carfin Anniversary celebrations in October.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has already announced that the grotto will be officially designated as Scotland's National Marian Shrine to co-incide with the visit of the relics of St Bernadette to the Grotto – the only site in Scotland to receive them during a rare UK



visit.

Sister Josephine added: "Father Grant had heard something else I had written – I've written verses and hymns all my life – and he was kind enough to say he liked it and so I was very happy to write a new hymn for the celebrations – I thought it was a great honour."

"But really it's Kevin who should get the credit – he's a lovely young man and he has written a really beautiful tune to go with it."

"I don't know yet if I will

attend the Mass in October but the rest of the sisters and myself will watch on line and that will be the first time I'll hear it sung."

Kevin said: "The tune I've composed is very strong, very Scottish sounding, and with Sister Josephine's words I'm sure people will find it inspiring."

"We have already sung it at various services at Carfin to get people used to singing in at the anniversary mass and it's proving to be very popular."



## Our Lady of Carfin

**1** From bare waste ground, from faith alone  
In priest and local peoples hearts,  
There rose a Shrine that, stone by stone,  
The strength of lab'ring love imparts.  
The love of Mary and her Son  
Would grow and flourish here within  
Until a century had run,  
Blessed by Our Lady of Carfin.

**2** To Mary's Shrine we make our way.  
"Behold thy Mother" Jesus says.  
With Bernadette we kneel and pray;  
Those eyes of mercy sweetly gaze.  
Then Mary takes the pilgrim's hand  
To meet the saints, our friends and kin,  
And in their midst with joy we stand  
Around Our Lady of Carfin.

**3** Dear saints of God, our childhood friends,  
We feel your presence and your prayer,  
And love the Chapel home that lends  
Your Relics dignity and care.  
Our Lady guides us further, till  
Therese's shrine comes into view.  
With child-like trust and ready will,  
We tread her Little Way anew.

**4** From saints Our Lady leads us on  
Towards the Pilgrim's one desire,  
Where He, the Father's only Son  
Reigns in the Monstrance, Heart afire.  
Here too His Off'ring is renewed,  
The Sacrifice that wipes out sin.  
And we receive His Flesh and Blood  
To fan the flame of love within.

**5** O Blessed Lady of Carfin,  
Guide all our pilgrim paths and ways  
To Jesus' Heart, to dwell therein  
And love and serve Him all our days.  
Then when we stand at Heaven's door,  
Our gaze will meet your smiling eyes,  
Hand clasped in yours as oft before,  
We'll meet your Son in Paradise.

## Student award remembers Fiona

**THE happy faces say it all as these students from The Space, a Catholic outreach initiative founded by the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, in the heart of the city's Govanhill area, receive awards and certificates for literacy after weeks of study to learn English.**

But there was sadness too because the ceremony included the presentation of what will be a new annual award to the Student of the Year in memory of former project manager Fiona Boyd who died from cancer last year aged 57, after five years of devoted service. Fiona was the driving force behind the literacy programme.

### Tribute

Known as the FiBo award – reflecting the way she signed her name on letters and emails – it was presented by her husband Rev Kenny Boyd, minister of the local Free Church of Scotland, to Margita Ujiakyova, a great-grandmother and grandmother of 10, originally from Slovakia.

Paying tribute to his late wife, Kenny, who has worked closely with The Space since it was founded in 2013 and whose church donated land allowing the charity to buy

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

the building that became The Space, said: "Everything Fiona did, with Glasgow City College, our church next door or The Space, she did it for the love of Jesus and that's a two-way thing – it was Jesus' love for her that caused her to love Him and others and she did everything out of that love."

### Honour

Margo Uprichard, CEO of The Space, said: "It is important that we honour our Fiona – Fibo – because her achievement was immense."

"With Fiona there was always joy in everything she did – if ever there was someone who received joy from the Spirit that someone was Fiona, and everyone who know her was also touched by it."

Margo added: "True to our Vincentian way, we recently started a new initiative in partnership with City of Glasgow College, called 'Working Together', to help people develop employability skills, learn to work as part of a team and a focus on ESOL."

"They really want to learn and their enthusiasm is im-



Margo Uprichard, CEO of The Space and Rev Kenny Boyd present the FiBo award to Student of the Year Margita Ujiakyova

pressive to say the least."

"The next step for the 16 women in the group is to produce a recipe booklet they are putting together called Flavours of the World which will be published in the autumn."

### Support

Despite the challenges of the pandemic Margo and her colleagues were able to support 388 families to address 5300 issues, of which 2000 related to crises such as a need for food, clothing, and bedding, 440 related to

finance and debt; 445 were housing and health issues and there were 900 visits to the project community shop.

Margo said: "It was extraordinary how, when the situation was critical, people did not seem to notice ethnic difference and now for some this softening of attitude has remained."

"It was a clear demonstration of how when life is hard for everyone people recognise our shared humanity as opposed to focusing on what makes us different."



# Pope pulls no punches in his challenge to new archbishops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

present with the other archbishops from every corner of the earth to pledge our fidelity to the Pope and to hear his powerful message.

"It was a message not only aimed at the new archbishops around him but to the whole Church. The Pope was strong in his appeal ... no closed doors. The Church is open to everyone. That's a powerful message that we can all take to heart."

Like Saints Peter and Paul, the Church must go out to evangelize and not be bound by the chains of routine and spiritual mediocrity that stifles the Gospel message, Pope Francis said.

At times, Christians may be overcome by laziness and "prefer to sit and contemplate the few sure things that we possess, rather than getting up and looking to new horizons, toward the open sea," the Pope added.

The Holy Father said the ongoing Synod process - which was involved discussions and discernment in every diocese - is a call for the church not to be "turned in on itself, but capable of pressing forward, leaving behind its own prisons and setting out to meet the world."

The feast day celebration in St. Peter's Basilica began with the traditional blessing of the pallium.

The pallium symbolizes an archbishop's unity with



the pope and his authority and responsibility to care for the flock the pope entrusted to him. The palliums are made from wool shorn from lambs blessed by the Pope each winter on the feast of St Agnes and reared by nuns in Rome. They lay on the tomb of the apostle Peter overnight before being blessed and handed over to each new Archbishop by the Pope.

It is anticipated that Archbishop Nolan will be formally vested with the new pallium by the Papal Nuncio in Glasgow later this year.

According to the Vatican, archbishops from 32 countries came to Rome to receive the pallium, including prelates from Africa, Asia, Latin America as well as European churchmen presiding over archdioceses such as Paris, Tuam, Turin, Cardiff and Glasgow.

The Pope's homily was hard hitting. He said: "At times, as a Church, we are overcome by laziness; we prefer to sit and contemplate the few sure things that we possess, rather than getting up and looking to new horizons, toward the open sea. Often, we are like Peter in chains, imprisoned by our habits, fearful of change and bound to the chains of our routine."

Departing from his prepared remarks, the Pope emphasized the need for the church to welcome "the blind, the deaf, the lame, the sick, the just, the sinner; everyone. Everyone!"

"In the church, there is room for everyone! And manytimes, we have become a Church of open doors but to bid farewell to people, to condemn people."

"Yesterday," he said addressing the archbishops,

"one of you told me that for the Church, this isn't a time to say farewell, it's a time of welcome. If they haven't come to the banquet, we must go out to the street," he added.

Speaking off the cuff, the pope warned of the dangers of "falling into clericalism."

"Clericalism is a perversion; the priest who behaves in a clerical manner has taken a wrong path. Clericality are even worse. We must be attentive to this perversion of clericalism," he said.

Addressing the archbishops appointed over the past year, Pope Francis encouraged them to be "vigilant sentinels" over their flock.

"As good shepherds, you must be in front of the people, in the midst of the people and behind the people," the Pope said, "but always with the holy faithful people of God."

## PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask a special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place in within your heart where your father sees it, then with his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen.

Say it three times for three days and your favour will be granted.

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# Synod report calls for a more welcoming and a more listening Church

BY FR JOHN CAMPBELL

**ALL nine Deaneries in our Archdiocese made a submission to the synodal process.**

Individual people also made their thoughts known. Primary and Secondary schools were invited to respond and many did. Groups within our diocesan family contributed, the Deaf Community, SPRED, Una Voce, and many more.

Thank you to all who contributed, as individuals or groups! Thanks to our Deans for arranging the Deanery Synthesis and to our Diocesan Team for the work they put in to bring the whole thing together. My grateful thanks to Gillian Graham,

The Synod report is presented to Archbishop Nolan  
Picture by Paul McSherry



Agnes McGown, Marrisa Coll, Palo Dzurjanik, Sheena Gault, Lyndsey Short, Frank Mac Donald, Bart Mc Gettrick, and John Kennedy.

Throughout this process these past few months, it's so blatantly obvious that many of our people are so grateful for the faith they have been given. They appreciate our parishes, they appreciate our schools. And they want better.

## Care

They care about their parishes, they care about those who do not get the same out of the gift of faith they have, and they are opened-hearted and opened-handed and wish them to get from it what they get from it. This document is a huge testimony to the faith of the people of Glasgow.

**But our faithful people know all is not well – they desire change, not for change's sake but for the sake of the gospel – and its credibility. Our people want an inclusive church, a dynamic church, an open church. A church involved with the big questions of today, not hiding in a false notion of the past and arguing over minutiae.**

There is a desire for development, for growth, for faith, for God.

We need to harness this

desire at parish level, at school level, at deanery level at diocesan level and at the level of the universal church.

Perhaps parishes could re visit their own contributions looking for quick fixes addressing suggestions that have surfaced at parish level. Deaneries too could revisit their submission and identify ways for parishes to work together in the locality. Many noted they enjoyed the experience of parishes coming together to synthesise their deanery response in the style of the previous "Extended deanery meetings" involving both clergy and laity in the process.

When the document was handed to the Archbishop at a beautiful sung Evening Prayer for Corpus Christi in our Cathedral, expertly led by the Saint Mungo's Singers, Archbishop Nolan reflected on how it's easy to accept that Jesus is present in the Eucharist but maybe we are not so used to reflecting on the Holy Spirit dwelling within and working in each other.

We have shared and talked, reflected and prayed. Now it is time to move with the Spirit's guidance and continue to walk together as companions on the way guided by the Holy Spirit of God.

## Snippets of the Synod

**THE synod document runs to 10 pages and makes many suggestions. Here are a selection of the insights and conclusions – one from each topic covered:**

**1** As a Church we wish to welcome those who are divorced, those who have had abortions; those with alternative sexual orientations, those who lack the inner conviction of realising that they have faith; none is to be ignored. The Church reaches out to everyone.

**2** In the modern world there are many ways of knowing about God. In the main people come to know God through relationships with others but opportunities for this at parish level for some are fairly limited.

**3** The importance of the laity speaking out is so that there are voices of "the whole Church" – avoiding the perception of clericalism and the voice of the Church being only that of the magisterium or ordained clergy.

**4** Some 60 years after Vatican II much more has to be done to encourage the authentic active participation of the faithful both within Mass and in celebrations other than Mass. Some people still understand "active participation" too reductively (i.e., only in terms of exterior activity).

**5** By our baptism we are welcomed into the family of the Church, and this brings with it certain responsibilities. Those responsibilities are not to be undertaken as passive spectators attending services (e.g., Sunday Mass) out of a sense of obligation, but to be active participants offering what gifts we have to the service of the community and so of God.

**6** The Church should increasingly consider itself as a Church of dialogue, speaking out from

the basis of the values of the Gospel. It seeks to be not just an agent of change, but a spirit of change in an often-hostile world. It must include young people in that dialogue; and there is almost a sense of a lost generation who do not fully understand the richness of the teaching of the Church.

**7** Too much is left to the priests and other individuals to motivate this spirit of ecumenism. It is an area in which the laity could and should be more actively engaged.

**8** The shortage of priests and ordained ministers in our parishes calls on the need to review parish, deanery, and diocesan structures and practices. It is clear that this shortage coupled with the increasing average ages of priests adversely affects their capabilities to undertake some pastoral du-

ties of some priests, and this should be the subject for wider open discussion inside the Church and the diocese.

**9** There is a feeling that decisions concerning the Church are taken by the parish priest or, as appropriate, by the Archbishop (and his advisers). It is rare to feel that there is any corporate decision-making, and deaneries are rarely used for decisions. For there to be more distributed decision-making would require a change of culture.

**10** Forming ourselves in synodality allows us to discuss and debate the key issues which face the Church, and which sometimes cast a bleak shadow over it. We need to have confidence in our faith and speak out to achieve justice where there is injustice and bring hope where there is none.

■ The full synod report can be read on the Archdiocesan website – [www.rcag.org.uk](http://www.rcag.org.uk)

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Pictures by Paul McSherry

**SUNSHINE** marked this year's Feast of Corpus Christi, and parishioners took advantage of the conditions to celebrate their faith in the open air.

At Carfin, Bishop Toal led a massive Corpus Christi procession led by first communion classes from across Scotland and altar servers from parishes throughout the central belt.

The day also saw the

unveiling of a statue of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the British-Italian teenager recently beatified by Pope Francis whose Eucharistic devotion was at the heart of his spiritual life.

Youngsters from the Glasgow and Motherwell dioceses lined up to have their picture taken with the 'internet saint' who is sculpted with a mobile phone in his hand with their own mobiles at

the ready!

Meanwhile at Croy, Archbishop Nolan got a taste of his first Corpus Christi day in the village which is famed for its procession to mark the feast.

Parish Priest Fr Joe Sullivan welcomed the Archbishop to Holy Cross Parish and oversaw the procession through the streets which ended with benediction in warm sunlight.

# Sun shines on Corpus Christi celebrations



## Jean's birthday treat marks 102 years well lived



**T**HERE wasn't a cake big enough to hold all 102 candles that would have been needed to mark the birthday of Jean Johnstone, a resident at the Little Sisters of the Poor's St Joseph's Home in Robroyston.

She is seen here with Archbishop Conti – a mere boy at 88! – for whom she

worked for many years while he was Bishop of Aberdeen, helping out too to cover sickness and absence even though well into her 90s when the Archbishop moved to Glasgow.

Educated at convent school in Aberdeen, Jean taught for a while and having seen an advert from Missionaries in Canada

volunteered to work there in remote areas of the country.

On her return to Scotland she worked for many years for the then-Bishop Conti in Aberdeen.

A Benedictine Oblate of Pluscarden, Jean is still fit and active and was delighted to meet the Archbishop on her birthday.



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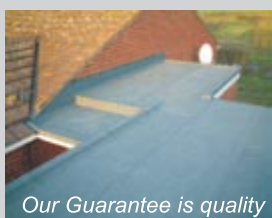
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**A**VISION of the universal Church in miniature took place last month when Father Jim Lawlor, parish priest of Immaculate Conception Maryhill organised an International Mass – and parishioners from 28 different nations, many wearing traditional dress, turned up.

Father Jim said: Throughout our history our parish has always had a proud tradition of welcoming folks from different parts of the world and we celebrated this with an annual international Mass but we had to put it on hold for the past two years because of Covid.

"I was delighted and a bit surprised to find out that we have 28 different nationalities represented, including families from Eritrea and Yemen, El Salvador, Nigeria, Uganda, Togo and Peru."

The International Mass was followed by lunch which included traditional meals provided by the families represented.



# Smiles all round at Renton jubilee

**A**s with so many other long-awaited joyful events the spectre of Covid hung over plans for the Golden Jubilee of St Martin's, Renton, due to take place on December 2020 but postponed until 18th June – and when the big day finally arrived what a happy, faith-filled occasion it was.

On a day of brilliant sunshine and in the presence of Archbishop Nolan, who was chief celebrant and making his first visit to the parish, parishioners young and old filled the church for the Mass of Thanksgiving.

They were joined by a number of priests who had close connections with the parish stretching back several years.

They included Canon Peter McBride, parish priest of St Peter's, Partick, who describes himself as a 'son of the parish' who was clearly delighted at being back 'home' again in the church where was ordained in 1981.

St Martin's Parish Priest Father Anthony Ejikeme, who has served the parish



Picture by Paul McSherry

for the past seven years said: "It was a wonderful day for sure – everyone has worked so hard to make it special."

"The Archbishop never stopped smiling – he was really happy to be here and we're so happy to see him."

Archbishop Nolan, in of-

fering his congratulations to the parish, remarked on the large number of young people in the congregation and urged them to continue living a life in which faith, love of God and neighbour always came first.

## Broomhill's anniversary marked with Mass



**ARCHBISHOP Nolan has given his heartfelt thanks to parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Broomhill, who marked the parish's 60th anniversary by raising an impressive £4500 to help refugees and asylum seekers in Glasgow learn English.**

Making his first visit to the parish since his appointment as Archbishop of Glasgow, Archbishop Nolan, whose support for refugees is well known, praised the parishioners for their 'great gesture of kindness.'

He added: "It is our duty as Christians and Catholics to help those who come to our country to seek a better life – your great gesture

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

of kindness is a wonderful way of doing that in a very practical sense by helping them to learn English."

A cheque was handed over at the end of the Mass to Father Gerard Mitchell SJ, parish priest at St Aloysius, Garnethill, where the highly successful volunteer-run ESOL School has been operating for the past six years, welcoming 3000 asylum seekers and refugees in that time, many of whom have gone on to college and university.

Parish priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Father Benneth Onyebuchukwu,

said: "I know very well how important it is to learn another language because when I came from Nigeria to study in Rome I had to learn Italian – it was hard but empowering."

"To be able to speak the language of the place where you come to is freedom, as those who learn English at St Aloysius will discover."

"In April we formed a committee to raise funds in our jubilee year and to decide who the money should go to. One of our parishioners knew of the work of the ESOL classes from a friend who volunteers there and was decided that the money should go to them."

"As the Archbishop said, it was a wonderful gesture."

## Day of joy for teachers of 2022



Picture by Paul McSherry

**AFTER two years of 'online' graduations Scotland's new generation of Catholic teachers were delighted to be able to gather again in the stunning setting of Glasgow University to mark their big day.**

Archbishop Nolan celebrated Mass for the new teachers in the Bute Hall of the University of Glasgow, at the award ceremony for the Postgraduate Diploma and

Certificates in Education.

In a powerful message to the new teachers the Archbishop urged them to aim high ... to see their work not only as laying bricks in the educational edifice of each child but as building a Cathedral in each pupil entrusted to their care.

The new teachers will take up classroom roles in August at the start of the new term.



# Archbishop denounces 'shameful' plan to send refugees to Rwanda

**ARCHBISHOP Nolan has spoken out against UK Government plans to deport people seeking asylum to Rwanda.**

Last month the European Court of Human Rights stepped in at the last minute to halt plans by Home Secretary Priti Patel and Prime Minister Boris Johnson to send asylum seekers to the African country despite worldwide criticism of the scheme.

Archbishop said: "The policy of forcibly deporting to Rwanda people who have come to this country in search of safety and security is morally wrong."

"It is an offence against human dignity and against all the best traditions of welcome of this country."

"I share Prince Charles' revulsion at the news that these forced deportations are to go ahead."

"They represent a new low in the UK's recent policy of creating a hostile environment for people arriving in this country and the practice should be halted immediately."

Later the Archbishop visited the Dungavel detention centre where refugees are being held while they await their fate. He signed a card of good wishes and handed in a food parcel as a gesture of solidarity.

**He said: "I am shocked and appalled that the British Government could have come up with such a scheme. It seems so incredible and so unwelcoming. Here we have people in need, people fleeing warfare and danger and this is how we treat them?"**

## Shocked

The Archbishop's stance was backed by Bishop Brian McGee of Argyll and the Isles who issued a statement reminding the Government that families throughout the country had forebears who were economic migrants.

Condemning the UK Government for what he called its 'day of shame' he said: "My history is no different from that of most Scottish Catholics, for most of us descend from immigrants. Very few of them would have



Picture by Paul McSherry

passed today's stringent Home Office tests! It is hypocrisy to deny others the opportunity afforded to us. What would our forebears think of us? To close our eyes to the desperate and the poor is to deny the Christ we profess to love."

The leaders of Pax Christi UK, including Flourish columnist Marian Pallister, issued a statement urging people to take action to prevent future deporta-

tions. They said: "The protest journey is just starting. The Home Office intends to push forward its Rwanda policy and to make it illegal to seek asylum in the UK, which goes against international law. We would encourage people to pray for those under threat of deportation, and to act by writing to their MPs, signing the petitions seeking a change of policy, and demonstrating non-violently in public arenas".

## Glasgow Holy Land pilgrimage planned for September

**A**n opportunity to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus' is being offered this autumn with a Glasgow pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrimage will be led by former Lord Provost Alex Mosson and Fr Michael Conroy both of whom are also Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The trip will run from September 9-16 and the cost for the eight day pilgrimage is £1350.

Departing from Glasgow the outbound flights will go via Heathrow to Tel Aviv. Among the highlights will be Mass at the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, a civic reception offered by the city council in Bethlehem (Glasgow's twin city) and trips to the Dead Sea, Jericho, Cana and Nazareth.

Alex Mosson told *Flourish*: "We have been organising pilgrimages from Glasgow since the time of Archbishop Conti, and over the last decade and a half thousands of people have experienced the extraordinary atmosphere of the Holy Land."

"Covid forced us to put the last few years on hold but we are now able to offer a new pilgrimage which I hope people will be glad to participate in."

"Anyone interested in finding out more can call me – no obligation attached – on 0141 954 3360."



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# New documentary reveals Church role in welcoming Irish famine survivors

**A NEW documentary has been launched online which tells the moving story of the struggles of poor Irish immigrants to Scotland during the Great Famine of the mid 19th century and the assistance offered to them by the Church.**

Presented by Sir Tom Devine, the documentary tells the story of heroic clergy who tended the sick and dying, putting their own lives at risk during the chaotic years of the 1840s as hundreds of thousands of Irish people – often already very ill – arrived in Glasgow.

Living in appalling conditions, typhus took hold and priests struggled to administer the sacraments to the dying.

In a letter featured in the documentary, Bishop Murdoch – the prelate in charge of the city – spoke of the crisis which had taken hold at what is now St Andrew's Cathedral.

He wrote of dealing with 80–100 sick calls a day, while four priests were seriously ill and probably dying of typhus after attending to the hungry sick. Such was his concern that he said the clergy were at risk of being

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

wiped out by disease and exhaustion.

In *The Famine Irish in Glasgow* Sir Tom explains how the Irish

poor were viewed and treated by the authorities, and by other important institutions and organisations.

Sir Tom's four grandparents emigrated to Scotland from Ulster in the 1890s and in the video he discusses this and his upbringing in Motherwell.

Dr Martin Mitchell, who also takes part in the documentary, said: "Refugees from the Famine in Ireland first arrived in Scotland in significant numbers in late 1846 and from then until 1851 around 80,000 Irish settled in the country. Most of the impoverished Irish landed at Glasgow – in 1847 alone over 50,000 entered the city.

"The Glasgow authorities, and the middle class in general, were extremely alarmed by this influx, as it coincided with high levels of unemployment in the city and with the arrival of a smaller number of paupers escaping the potato blight in the Western Highlands

and Islands of Scotland. The Famine Irish were mostly responsible for the increase in begging and overcrowding in Glasgow and were blamed for the typhus epidemic in the city in 1847 in which thousands of the new arrivals died.

"The authorities in Glasgow adopted a number of measures to deal with a crisis which threatened to overwhelm the city. At the beginning of 1847 a soup kitchen was established, and this was soon feeding between 4,000 and 5,000 people a week. Temporary poor relief was given to the destitute Irish, and temporary fever hospitals were eventually opened. Thousands were sent back to Ireland by the civic authorities.

"Indeed, between 1847 and 1852, 41,275 destitute Irish were shipped back to Ireland from Scotland – the overwhelming majority from in and around Glasgow".

He adds: "Famine Irish immigrants attracted considerable hostility from sections of Scottish society and this contributed to an increase in both anti-Catholic and anti-Irish sentiment in the country.

"One of the most remarkable legacies of the Famine Irish influx to Glasgow was the establishment of Celtic Football Club... The driving force behind the establishment of the club was Brother Walfrid, a member of the Marist Brothers. Born Andrew Kerins in Ballymote, County Sligo in 1840, Walfrid lived through the Famine years in Ireland before moving to Glasgow in 1855.

"Every year since 2009, Celtic FC, a club founded by and for the Irish of Glasgow, honours Ireland's National Famine Commemoration Day with special crests on the players' jerseys that are then auctioned to raise funds for charity. It is a fitting tribute to the Famine Irish in Scotland in carrying out the club's charitable mission today".

■ **The documentary – *The Famine Irish in Glasgow* – is part of a wider series of documentaries part sponsored by the Irish Government and private foundations. It can be seen here: <https://www.strokestownpark.ie/famine/roadshow/>**

The Irish Famine memorial at St Mary's, Calton



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

FOR WOMEN  
EXPLORING  
FRANCISCAN  
VOCATION

## Italian Garden marks anniversary... in the rain!

Picture by Paul McSherry



**IT WAS raining then and it's raining now ... 11 years to the day since the opening of the Italian Cloister garden next to St Andrew's Cathedral, Archbishop Conti returned to offer Mass and bless the central monument.**

The anniversary – which should have commemorated the first decade of the garden – was delayed a year by Covid.

Members of the Italian Garden Improvement Group were on hand – despite the rain – to show over 200 visitors round the space and explain the significance of the dramatic central monument created by Roman artist Giulia Chiarini which com-

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

memorates the sinking of the ship *Arandora Star* in 1940.

A group of pupils from St Marnock's primary school in Pollok took part in the short ceremony and enjoyed visiting and finding out about the Garden and its story.

Archbishop Conti said: "I am convinced that as the years pass the beauty and originality of the central monument will be ever more appreciated and that it will become a must-see stop for visitors to Glasgow.

"The Cloister Garden was conceived as a space of welcome, a place to reflect and heal memories and it has admirably served that pur-

pose over the years.

"Despite the rain – which matched the torrential downpour of the opening night – I was delighted to be able to return after 11 years to meet some of the people who helped make the garden possible and those for whom it has come to mean so much."

Ronnie Convery, who chaired the Italian Garden Appeal said: "Over the years the garden has become a focal point for visitors. Some come out of curiosity, others to remember a loved one.

"The monument continues to draw widespread admiration for its originality and beauty."





**To no one's real surprise, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi received communion during a papal Mass last month marking the traditional feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. Pelosi, her husband Paul, and other family members happened to be in Rome on vacation and decided to attend the Mass.**

The act of receiving communion, first reported by Crux, came after a meeting between Pope Francis and Pelosi earlier in the morning in which Pelosi reportedly received a papal blessing.

To be clear, Pelosi did not receive communion directly from Pope Francis, who did not preside over the liturgy due to his ongoing knee issues, but rather restricted himself to delivering the homily. Instead, like everyone else, Pelosi took communion from an unidentified priest assisting at the Mass, who very well may not even have known who she was.

Nevertheless, the fact that Pelosi received communion at a papal liturgy will doubtless be seen as an indirect rebuke of Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco, who recently banned Pelosi from communion in the archdiocese over her support for abortion rights. Of course, Cordileone's edict applies only to the Archdiocese of San Francisco, and does not dictate policy in the Vatican itself.

The contrast between "banned in San Fran" yet "welcome in Rome" is destined to mark another twist in the ongoing tensions in the United States, and between the U.S. and Rome, over how the Catholic Church should respond to members of its own flock in positions of political leadership who defy church teaching, which is especially keen in the wake of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

Three observations suggest themselves.

First, whatever one makes of Pelosi getting communion on Wednesday, it's hardly unprecedented.

For instance, during the Great Jubilee year of 2000 presided over by Pope John Paul II, the mayor of Rome was a centre-left practising Catholic named Francesco Rutelli. He took the standard Catholic Democrat line, which was personal opposition to abortion but unwillingness to

## Vatican has no sympathy for 'communion wars'



criminalize it. Rutelli attended virtually all of the important papal Masses during the Jubilee and always received communion, sometimes from the hands of John Paul II himself.

Second, there is a longstanding contrast between European and American Catholic sensibilities when it comes to the abortion issue. To put it simply, in America abortion remains a "live issue," one over which both the general population and the political class remain bitterly divided.

In Europe, on the other hand, the legalization of abortion was decided democratically long ago, and it's now considered largely a settled question. Italy, for instance, legalized abortion in 1978 and went through a tumultuous popular referendum on the subject in 1981, which ended by upholding the new law.

Since then, the motto of Italian politics has been that the abortion law non si tocca, meaning "it's not to be touched," because it's perceived as representing a social consensus. That position, more or

less, is shared by both left and right.

Were Italian bishops to begin denying communion to every political leader unwilling to challenge that consensus, it's hard to know where it might stop. So far there's little indication that the U.S. Supreme Court decision, which has energized the pro-life movement in the States, has significantly affected the European political landscape.

**Third, it's clear that Pope Francis and the figures who make up his leadership team are conceptually opposed to the idea of deploying the Eucharist as a weapon in what they perceive to be essentially political causes.**

Prior to a vote by the U.S. bishops last May to move forward on a document on the Eucharist, in which some felt the bishops might adopt language hostile to giving communion to politicians such as Pelosi and US President Joe Biden, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith dispatched a letter warning that such a policy could become "a source of

discord rather than unity within the episcopate and the larger church in the United States."

Pope Francis himself has said that he's never denied communion to anyone, during one of his airborne news conferences later in 2021. The clear thrust of messaging coming from the Vatican under Francis is against communion bans, an impression reinforced by the bishops and cardinals Francis has elevated in the United States, all of whom take a more moderate position on the issue than Cordileone.

What's important to note now is that today's apparent rift between Vatican practice and the Archdiocese of San Francisco is hardly the last time this issue is likely to emerge. The net effect of the Dobbs v. Jackson decision is to remove the abortion debate from the judicial sphere and place it squarely in the political, especially at the state and local level.

As a result, American bishops who heretofore have been able to sit out the communion ban question will now be pressured to make decisions about Catholic governors, state legislators, potentially even mayors and city council members.

In theory, Pope Francis could make things simpler by issuing a decree one way or the other – either pro-choice Catholic politicians should, or should not, be denied communion. Yet he's shown no appetite to do so, insisting that such decisions have to be made by local pastors.

As a result, the short-term prognosis probably is for heartache ahead. The one fixed point is that, should other American bishops opt to take the same stand as Cordileone with their own local political class, they probably shouldn't expect explicit Vatican support for doing so.

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY – 26 JULY 2022

# Pope: No one prepares us for old age – but it's a blessing

Pope Francis has written a message to the elderly and grandparents of the world urging them to use the gifts of their experience to support the Church and their families.

The Holy Father addresses his own generation (he is 85 years old) to remind them that those in old age have an important mission in life.

This Day of the Elderly and Grandparents was established last year and is to be celebrated every year throughout the Church on the fourth Sunday of July, around the feast of St. Joachim and St. Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year it will take place on July 24.

**M**ANY people are afraid of old age. They consider it a sort of disease with which any contact is best avoided. The elderly, they think, are none of their concern and should be set apart, perhaps in homes or places where they can be cared for, lest we have to deal with their problems.

This is the mindset of the “throw-away culture”, which leads us to think that we are somehow different from the poor and vulnerable in our midst, untouched by their frailties and separated from “them” and their troubles.

The Scriptures see things differently. A long life – so the Bible teaches – is a blessing, and the elderly are not outcasts to be shunned but living signs of the goodness of God who bestows life in abundance. Blessed is the house where an older person lives! Blessed is the family that honours the elderly!

Old age is not a time of life easily understood even by those of us who are already experiencing it. Even though it eventually comes with the passage of time, no one prepares us for old age, and at times it seems to take us by surprise.

The more developed societies expend large sums on this stage of life without really helping people to understand and appreciate it; they offer healthcare plans to the elderly but not plans for living this age to the full. This makes it hard to look to the future and discern what direction to take.

On the one hand, we are

tempted to ward off old age by hiding our wrinkles and pretending to be forever young, while on the other, we imagine that the only thing we can do is bide our time, thinking glumly that we cannot “still bring forth fruit”.

Retirement and grown children make many of the things that used to occupy our time and energy no longer so pressing. The recognition that our strength is ebbing or the onset of sickness can undermine our certainties. The fast pace of the world – with which we struggle to keep up – seems to leave us no alternative but to implicitly accept the idea that we are useless.

Yet long with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still. We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!

For this reason, we ought to take care of ourselves and remain active in our later years. This is also true from a spiritual standpoint: we ought to cultivate our interior life through the assiduous reading of the word of God, daily prayer, reception of the sacraments and participation in the liturgy.

In addition to our relationship with God, we should also cultivate our relationships with others: first



of all by showing affectionate concern for our families, our children and grandchildren, but also for the poor and those who suffer, by drawing near to them with practical assistance and our prayers.

These things will help us not to feel like mere bystanders, sitting on our porches or looking out from our windows, as life goes on all around us. Instead, we should learn to discern everywhere the presence of the Lord.

Old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness: a new mission awaits us and bids us look to the future...

Our world is passing through a time of trial and testing, beginning with the sudden, violent outbreak of the pandemic, and then by a war that is harming peace

and development on a global scale. Nor is it a coincidence that war is returning to Europe at a time when the generation that experienced it in the last century is dying out.

These great crises risk anaesthetizing us to the reality of other “epidemics” and other widespread forms of violence that menace the human family and our common home.

All this points to the need for a profound change, a conversion, that disarms hearts and leads us to see others as our brothers or sisters. We grandparents and elderly people have a great responsibility: to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren.

We ourselves have grown in humanity by caring for others, and now we can be teachers of a way of life that is peaceful and attentive to those in greatest need. This attitude may be mistaken for weakness or resignation, yet it will be the meek, not the aggressive and the abusive, who will inherit the earth.

One fruit that we are called to bring forth is protecting the world. “Our grandparents held us in their arms and carried us on their knees”; now is the time for us to carry on our own knees – with practical

assistance or with prayer alone – not only our own grandchildren but also the many frightened grandchildren whom we have not yet met and who may be fleeing from war or suffering its effects. Let us hold in our hearts – like Saint Joseph, who was a loving and attentive father – the little ones of Ukraine, of Afghanistan, of South Sudan...

Dear grandparents, dear elderly persons, we are called to be artisans of the revolution of tenderness in our world! Let us do so by learning to make ever more frequent and better use of the most valuable instrument at our disposal and, indeed, the one best suited to our age: prayer... Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts.

Let us celebrate it together! Let us make sure that no one feels alone on this day. Expecting a visit can transform those days when we think we have nothing to look forward to; from an initial encounter, a new friendship can emerge. Visiting the elderly who live alone is a work of mercy in our time!

To all of you, and to your loved ones, I send my blessing and the assurance of my closeness and affection. And I ask you, please, not to forget to pray for me!





## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

# 175 years of service celebrated by sisters of Scotland's only 'home-grown' religious order

Coming to the East End of Glasgow from France in 1847, Mother Veronica Cordier and Sr. Adelaide Vaast began their work by educating and caring for poor and needy children and families, including the growing number of Irish immigrants. Their religious congregation – the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception – is the only one founded in Scotland.

**G**lasgow's own sisters mark a historic milestone this summer as they celebrate 175 years since their foundation.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception – remembered by many as the 'Charlotte Street nuns' – were founded in 1847, making them the second oldest women's religious Congregation in Scotland, predating by some years the earliest foundations for men.

But unlike all the others, which were established as branch houses of Congregations already in existence abroad, the Sisters are the only Congregation in the post-Reformation Catholic Church founded in Scotland. Today they have communities in seven countries, spanning four continents.

Sister Margaret McGrath sees the anniversary as a good moment to look back – and forward. She said: "Our history is a human one, a story of people, living in community and working in the world. Though shaped by its social and religious context, it is nonetheless a story of communities of persons, of the journey of the individual, of the impact of mind upon mind and heart upon heart".

Coming to Glasgow's East End in 1847 from France, Mother Veronica Cordier and Mother Adelaide Vaast began the work of the Congregation by educating and caring for poor and needy children and families, including the growing number of Irish immigrants.

The first eight novices were professed in St. Andrews Cathedral in 1851 and from that point Glasgow's own Franciscan Community was firmly established. The ministry which began in Scotland,

flourishes here to this day – sisters teaching, nursing, engaged in pastoral work and witnessing by their presence in parishes.

In 1950, answering a request by the White Fathers, sisters left Scottish shores for Nigeria over 70 years ago.

Today, the Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception in Nigeria are trained in medicine, education, pastoral, and social care and communications. This enables them to help with the development of their own areas. They are currently ministering in several Nigerian dioceses.

Sister Margaret added: "Our sisters have been active in the United States for over 50 years, in teaching, nursing and social outreach.

"In the last 30 years we have responded to the needs of a changing world by establishing a Centre in Kenya where hundreds of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS are able to live with hope while coping with the ravages of this disease. Our Kenyan sisters are also teaching, nursing, directing communications, involved in pastoral and social care, and working on organic and self-sustaining farming.

"Continuing our commitment to lifelong learning, we have, since 2016, established a community of sisters in Bridgetown, Barbados, teaching in St. Patrick's Primary School and involved

the Diocesan Catechetical Programme.

"Our Mission Development Office is in Dublin and our sisters are in the Scots College, Rome.

"In Scotland, we continue to be involved in pastoral outreach, nursing and witnessing by our presence in the communities we serve. The circle is complete as our last sister teaching in Scotland continues a legacy built on the shoulders of generations of courageous and generous women".

175 years after their foundation 'Glasgow's own religious congregation' has a presence across the globe. In Europe there are around 20 sisters, in the USA four sisters. Barbados has three sisters. But it is in Africa that the growth in vocations is strongest – Kenya has 25 sisters and Nigeria 85. These numbers include sisters in temporary profession. There are, in addition, a number of novices, postulants and aspirants in both Kenya and Nigeria.

This anniversary will see an important milestone for the Franciscans. From July 16 to 24, they will hold their 32nd General Chapter. It will take place in St. Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, with 24 sisters representing all the countries mentioned above. The Chapter takes place every six years and will see the election a new Superior General and Council as well as the development of plans looking to the future as the Franciscan Sisters – women of the 21st century – prepare for the next chapter of their adventure of faith.



BY SISTER MARGARET MCGRATH



New sisters' Profession in Kenya



Charlotte St chapel



Mother Veronica Cordier



THEN

An early photo of the first Glasgow Franciscan Sisters

**1847**

Sisters Veronica and Adelaide, journeying from Tourcoing in France, arrived in the "Scottish Missions".

**1950**

First Missionary Sisters travelled to Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa.

**1971**

The sisters answered a call to ministry in the United States of America.

**2010**

Closer to home, the Sisters began ministry in the Scots College, Rome.

**1947**

The sisters first went to Ireland.

**1960**

A new community was established in Cinderford, England.

**1990**

Once more to Africa, this time to Kenya, East Africa.

**2016**

New Mission to Barbados, West Indies.



Vocations are numerous in Nigeria for the Sisters

NOW

## Impact of heart on heart

**A**rchbishop Conti joined the Franciscan sisters for a mass to mark the 175th anniversary of the foundation last month.

He spoke warmly of their contribution to the life of the Church, and focused on their story through the years.

"It is divine love that is behind God's providence in the foundation of the congregation, and divine love that possessed Mother Veronica Cordier and Mother Adelaide Vaast to come to Glasgow in 1847. It was 31 years after the opening of St. Andrew's Church in 1816, now our Cathedral, and 31 years before the Scottish Hierarchy was re-established after the "disruption" of the Reformation. "Disruption" was Pope Benedict's word to describe the truly revolutionary effects of the banning of the Mass, the proclamation of a new confession of faith, and the outlawing of recourse to the Apostolic See of the Popes, the successors of Peter on whom Christ Jesus had built the Church...

"The two sisters who came to Glasgow were women religious of a restored Church in France after the French Revolution. This is also true of other religious establishments in Scotland in the same century: The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in 1856; The Little Sisters of the Poor in 1862; and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in 1894, and shortly afterwards, the Sisters of Nazareth in 1904 arriving from an English establishment.

"In France the sisters were addressing the poverty which followed the Revolution and which was a major cause of it. And those who followed were responding in Scotland to a like historic situation; the gulf between the aristocracy and the people, between the crown and the common folk, was immense...

"Poverty, remember, is not restricted to a dearth of physical needs but also of educa-



tional, cultural, religious and social wants. And both in France and in Scotland (and elsewhere on the Continent of Europe,) the Catholic Church, even when it was poor itself, sought to redress the situation.

And who were in the forefront of addressing those needs? In addition to faithful members of the clergy, including in Scotland, and elsewhere, refugee clergy from France – the Clergy suffering greatly at the hands of the revolutionary forces – the pioneers were religious women.

"And who led the field in Scotland? Two French women, and the first eight novices professed in St. Andrew's Church, not yet a Cathedral, in 1851; they were the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception.

"One of your number preparing an article to mark the anniversary states simply "Mother Veronica Cordier and Mother Adelaide Vaast began the work of our congregation by educating and caring for poor and needy children and families, including the growing number of Irish immigrants" and she adds: "the ministry which began in Scotland", yes here in Glasgow, "flourishes here to this day – sisters teaching, nursing, engaged in pastoral work and witnessing in parishes".

If we were to seek the evidence of their presence in our midst we would not be looking for their churches like those of the Jesuits and the Passionists and the Franciscans, though that of the latter is now in secular use and replaced by a modest building in the Gorbals. We would find the evidence of their presence, though not uniquely so, in the communities and persons who live in the simplicity which characterised St. Francis. "Our history" says the writer of it, "is a human one, a story of people, living in community and working in the world...the impact of heart upon heart".

## Full Circle

by Sister Margaret McGrath

Immortalised in glass photographs –  
two post-Reformation pioneers  
arrive on Scottish shores  
throwing wide the doors  
of promise for the poor.  
Strangers in a foreign land –  
speech they could not comprehend,  
angels in disguise,  
opening the eyes  
and ears of children to the world.  
Glasgow's East End decimated –  
cholera culling Adelaide's life.  
Veronica rising from the dying embers,

a founding-Phoenix, who remembers  
why she came.  
Daughters of St. Francis  
generations through the years.  
whose message sailed across the seas  
to other lands, passing a torch of learning  
and so much more to younger hands.  
Immortalised in digital frames  
an unbroken circle of dedication  
to education in all its forms –  
to love and shelter in every storm.  
Through every season the echoed call –  
My God and My all.





# Caritas awards presented to our young heroes



**THE** venue was smaller, the numbers fewer but as the disruption of Covid begins to fade to a folk memory, the Caritas Awards ceremony 2022 held in public for the first time in three years, was as joyfully faith-filled as ever.

It was a first too for Archbishop Nolan who offered his reflections to around 300 final year pupils from the Archdiocese at a service in

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

St Andrew's Cathedral.

And in a ringing endorsement for the many acts of love and charity that the young people had carried out in their schools, parishes and the wider community during the year of working towards their awards, he told them: "You are the creators of a better world."

That was the kind of remark that would have been greeted with foot stamping, whistles and applause in the 3000-seater Clyde Auditorium where the awards ceremony are normally held.

They are faith sharing joyful rumbustious affairs, attended by proud parents, all the Scottish bishops, government ministers and local dignitaries, with light shows and entertainment.

But with long-term planning needed and uncertainty lingering over Covid it was decided to present the Caritas medals in individual dioceses this year giving the ceremony in St Andrew's Cathedral the intimate atmosphere of a family gathered together to give thanks for faith strengthened and renewed by acts of kindness and charity.

These included organising food banks which began during the first Covid lockdown and still exist as a lifeline in many parishes, founding and leading school prayer groups, visiting the sick,

raising money for charity and working with refugees and the homeless.

Addressing the young people directly Archbishop Nolan went on: "The great thing about the Caritas Awards is that while you have been engaged in attentive acts for others, showing love to them, you have learned so much about yourselves and what you are capable of."

"Who knows where your experiences will take you but one thing is certain – you have been and will make a difference to the world by continuing to follow the message of Jesus."

Earlier the pupils, head teachers, and school chaplains were welcomed to the service by RCAG Youth's Mairi-Claire McGeady who said: "As your sister in Christ, I want to thank each of you for the part that you've played, most especially over this year, in loving others as Jesus has called you to, through each individual choice to serve someone else in your local community."

"At times we can think that our actions don't matter, that they are so small that they can't possibly be making a difference. However, I want to encourage you that God has created you, called you by name and entrusted to you a mission that is unique and unrepeatable."

"That means that no matter how small, each love fuelled action you take, has eternal consequences and changes this world for the

good ...

"Today we are gathered to give glory to God for the gift that each one of you are as his beloved sons and daughters and in thanksgiving for how each of you, action by action, have been playing your part to share His love with your neighbours and build his kingdom on earth."

"We are also here to pray for you as you embark on this next season of life with Jesus, that you may know His closeness and blessings and that you may continually choose His life-giving love."

The Caritas award scheme, organised by SCES, the Scottish Catholic Education Service, was initiated following the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Scotland in 2010.

The Holy Father had urged young people in Scotland during his trip to become 'saints of the 21st century' by volunteering time in their school and faith communities, offering practical support to others, and by demonstrating that these actions of loving service are inspired by faith in God.

On the evidence of the faith displayed in the Cathedral at Caritas 2022 his simple yet heartfelt description "Love – Caritas – is an extraordinary force" which has provided encouragement to the hundreds of young people who have taken part since the beginning will surely continue to inspire future generations.



For the third consecutive year Covid-19 complications have prevented the Archdiocese from holding its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, this year we are celebrating at Carfin Lourdes Grotto a Mass on Glasgow Fair Sunday. There will be sacramental anointing of the sick and the opportunity for those attending to use the wonderful facilities at Scotland's National Shrine in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. We are delighted for the first time to be led in this domestic pilgrimage by Archbishop Nolan.



## Caritas legacy of Benedict's visit

**THE Pope Benedict XVI CARITAS AWARD encourages and promotes the ongoing faith journey of young people. It recognises that some are already active and committed within their homes, schools, parishes and dioceses and it invites others to respond to God's call of love. It supports and celebrates the faith witness which young people give within their communities.**

Introduced in 2011, as part of a legacy of the UK visit of Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010, the award asks young people to use their faith learning as a starting point for further faith reflection, leading to actions which show their faith in action. Participants in the Caritas Award are supported in deciding how they can develop and use their gifts in a way that witnesses to God's love ("Caritas") in their communities.

Any pupil in their final year of school can be enrolled to participate in the CARITAS AWARD. Parishes may nominate young people for the award, where no Catholic school is available to do so. The award is designed to be inclusive of all young people and is open to all pupils who can meet the success criteria for the award. Pupils studying at all levels can achieve the requirements for the award.



### Caritas Prayer

Loving Father, almighty God:

You so loved the world that you sent your son Jesus

so that we might live through him.

Help us to respond to your love.

Grant us understanding of the loving ways of Jesus.

Teach us to see others with his eyes and through your Holy Spirit guide us in our efforts to show love in our daily actions.

Loving Lord, you are love.

Help us, whom you made in your image, to practice love in loving communion with others.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.







# St Paul's



# St Maurice's



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Head Teacher:  
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## Saint Margaret's RC High School



Saint Margaret's RC High School, Airdrie are proud to announce the success of our senior students in achieving the 2022 Caritas Award.

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**FLOURISH**  
congratulates  
all Caritas  
award winners



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

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TOGETHER

## ST ROCH'S



The staff, pupils and partners of ST ROCH'S SECONDARY congratulate all of our young people who gained the Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award 2021-2022, by exemplifying our school motto, *Alios Adiuvare*, Help Others and our school values of FAITH, INCLUSION, RESPECT, ENDEAVOUR and COMPASSION.



HEAD TEACHER: MR. STEPHEN STONE  
40 ROYSTON ROAD, GLASGOW G21 2NF · TEL: 0141 582 0270



## Congratulations to all Caritas Award winners of 2022 from everyone at NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL



*"Our life gives light when it is given in service.  
The secret of joy is living to serve."*  
Pope Francis



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR CARITAS AWARD WINNERS 2021/22



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

**"Grow in holiness: become saints of the 21st century."**  
Pope Benedict XVI



**Congratulations to our Caritas Award Winners of 2022. 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  
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**Congratulations to our Caritas class of 2022 from all within the St Ambrose High School community**



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**65 Townhead Road, Coatbridge ML5 2HT**  
**Tel: 01236 794899 • Twitter: @stambrosehigh**





*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  
Fax: 01236 728660

## 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!



Shortlisted  
**Secondary school of the year**



Congratulations to all the 2022 Caritas Awards winners from the staff, pupils and community of Our Lady and St Patrick's High School, Dumbarton



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www.olsp.org.uk

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## ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL BARRHEAD



Congratulations to all our young people who have achieved the Caritas Award this year. You have embodied our school values of love, faith and understanding through your commitment to our school and the wider community - we could not be more proud of you!

"Grow in holiness: become saints of the 21st century"  
POPE BENEDICT XVI



## All Saints R.C. Secondary

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The staff and pupils of All Saints would like to congratulate our Caritas Award winners 2022.



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  
Website: [www.allsaints-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.allsaints-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)  
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CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR RECIPIENTS OF THE  
POPE BENEDICT XVI  
**CARITAS AWARD**  
2021-2022  
IN VERITATEM



CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL  
BELLSHILL



## St Thomas Aquinas Secondary congratulates all 2021/22 Caritas pupils



St Thomas Aquinas Secondary is dedicated to the promotion of active service and encouraging young people to live out the values of the gospel in their daily lives.

112 Mitre Road · Glasgow G14 9PP  
Tel: 0141 582 0280  
<http://twitter.com/StThomasAqSec>  
[headteacher@st-thomasaquinas-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-thomasaquinas-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)  
Head teacher: Claire McNally



# Nelson Mandela's legacy must be more than just a name on a Glasgow street

**IT'S odd the company our heroes end up keeping. Andrew Buchanan of Drumpellier was a Scottish tobacco merchant who lived from 1690 to 1759 and was Lord Provost of Glasgow from 1740 to 1742.**

Andrew Cochrane of Brighthouse, who lived from 1693–1777, was another 18th-century tobacco lord and slave trade owner, and he also was Lord Provost of Glasgow, serving three times in 1744–5, 1748–9, and 1760–1.

Buchanan Street, Cochrane Street – and then there's Nelson Mandela Square.

It is Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18. His presidency of South Africa ended in 1999 – almost quarter of a century ago already. He passed away in 2013, a nonagenarian in a country at the other end of the earth.

Is there a generation walking the streets of Glasgow who already know as little of him as they know of the two slave-owning, tobacco-trading Andrews



## Marian Pallister

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

of the 18th century?

Don't worry. I am not going to suggest changing the many names of streets in Glasgow (and elsewhere in Scotland) linked to men whose contribution to humanity was far from honourable.

But I would like to think we could use July 18 to make sure that Nelson Mandela remains so much more than the name of a square.

Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity – as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.

He risked death to oppose apartheid, saying at the end

of his four-hour speech to the court where he and other activists were tried:

"I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Instead of a death sentence, he spent 27 years on Robben Island, the hellhole of a prison in the ocean off Cape Town.

During the time he was in prison, people in Scotland campaigned loud and long for his release. The

campaign to end apartheid involved us in boycotting imports from South Africa. Margaret Thatcher, for whom Mandela was a terrorist, was more than annoyed when Glasgow named Mandela Square.

I confess to a very minor vested interest. I wrote a biography of Mandela for a series of books for teenagers about inspirational world figures. No plug – *Nelson Mandela: Robben Island to Rainbow Nation* is out of print now, but I was pleased and proud to be asked.

Amongst his many wise words, Mandela said, "It is easy to break down and destroy. The heroes are those who make peace and build." He intended peace and reconciliation to be his legacy to South Africa.

Many things shape us. Nelson Mandela certainly played a role in making me an advocate for peace. May we remember him as so much more than a plaque on the wall of a Glasgow street.



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# Famine looms on a horrific scale ... and no one is noticing

**WHILE the eyes of the world are, understandably, focused on the brutal war in Ukraine, an even bigger catastrophe is brewing in Africa, the Middle East and beyond – famine on a horrific scale.**

After repeated failures of the rains in successive years, many parts of Africa are facing the worst food crisis in at least forty years. More than 45 million people across the world are already facing famine and, as food supplies run out during the lean season over the summer, many, many more will join them.

We need to sound the alarm for the people we work with, as far too many families are acutely malnourished and suffering from extreme hunger. We are all facing rising food costs but it's the poorest people in the world that will be killed as a result.

'Famine' is not used lightly. It is defined by the United Nations as the most severe level of food crisis in which at least 20% of the population face an extreme food crisis; 30% of the population is malnourished; two people in every 10,000 die per day; four children per 10,000 under five years old die every day. Current malnutrition rates are far worse than those which would normally trigger massive humanitarian responses, with overall acute malnutrition in places currently reported to be over



## Alistair Dutton

Chief Executive of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)

60%, compared to an emergency threshold of 18%, and severe acute malnutrition rates of 21% compared to its emergency threshold of 2.3%.

The most basic causes of this are a failure to invest in food security and farmers' ability to grow food reliably, and a global food system which undermines countries' food sovereignty and ability to provide for their own population. Needless to say, food security and sovereignty have been made much harder by changing weather patterns, which are becoming far more erratic and hostile, with increasingly frequent and severe droughts and floods, often in quick succession.

Compounding these long-term trends, the war in Ukraine has fractured global food and aid supplies, and caused food prices to rise dramatically. Food supplies are trapped in Russia and Ukraine, while aid budgets are being diverted to Ukraine and the surrounding countries, and appeals for this crisis are greatly reducing the available funding for

areas where famine is developing so quickly.

We need to wake up to what it means that millions of people go to bed hungry every day. In the countries where SCIAF works, more than a third of children under the age of 5 are chronically malnourished. That means children are not receiving the vital nutrients they need to develop and instead face irreversible damage to their bodies and brains. They deserve a bright future but they aren't even being given a fair chance from the start. On top of this long-term malnutrition, crop failures and extreme food shortages are creating alarming levels of even more dangerous, acute (short-term) malnutrition which causes children to waste away in their mothers' arms.

The people we work with tell us their daily struggles to make sure their families have enough to eat. In South Sudan, husband and wife Darister and Mary live in extreme poverty. Their small plot of land does not provide enough food for their children so instead they work in the nearby riv-



er, collecting sand to sell to construction companies. It is back-breaking work and cost Darister his sight due to a waterborne disease. There are days when they go without any food at all.

We need to act now to address the root causes of hunger. At SCIAF, we feed families and nourish communities. We work with local organisations to provide emergency food to stop people going hungry. But we don't stop there. We help communities find long-term solutions to hunger by providing access to the seeds, tools and

training needed to help people survive the increasingly extreme and erratic weather they face and reliably grow the food they desperately need to feed and provide for their families. These methods work and help stop hunger for those in greatest danger, like those in South Sudan.

I have seen completely barren valleys, with no sign of water, flora or fauna most of the year, literally come back to life; ground water improves, plants start to sprout, trees and shrubs spring up, birds and animals return, and

streams flow almost the whole year round.

So, while we look at the developing global food crisis, we need not despair. We can increase people's food security and help avoid future crises, and we are doing so.

Act against hunger by donating to SCIAF today.

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# Get me to the church on time...

**WHEN I said I would celebrate my forthcoming 60th birthday by attending Mass in 60 churches it seemed like a highly gettable achievement.**

It was January and my birthday is in December so I had almost an entire year to fulfil my intention. Eleven solid months.

Each week a midweek or Saturday Mass in a parish outwith my little circle of regularly attended churches would see me nearly at my target. Add to that, baptisms, weddings, and funerals and I'd be there.

It turns out taking myself out of my comfort zone has required more effort and planning than I'd realised. Several times I've made a plan, driven across the city to my church of choice and a call has come in just as I'm about to step out the car. I've had appointments changed

## Mary's musings

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



from the afternoon to the morning. One time I ran out of petrol. For the rest of the year I'm going to have to up my game!

I've now got a fallback list of churches where I've not been to Mass but I've paid a visit such as St. Columba's Cathedral in Oban. I had to be in Oban unexpectedly so I set off early enough to make the 10 o'clock morning Mass. I could say it was traffic on the A82 but truthfully it was the desperate need to stop in Tyndrum for a roll and bacon that saw me slope into Oban at 10.20.

So the truth of it is it might

be more of a slog than I had anticipated. My intention now is to ringfence Monday mornings for a 9.30 or 10 am Mass.

So far there have been a few funerals, one of which touched me greatly. It was the funeral of a boy I went to school with. We were in the same fourth or fifth year Maths class when his father died in a tragic accident. Our teacher took some of us in the school mini-bus to the funeral. While I clearly remember the journey there and back to the little country town I have almost no memory of the Requiem

St Columba's Cathedral in Oban



Mass which I think speaks of the awfulness of the tragedy.

The heartbreak he and his family suffered stayed with me and although we were more classmates than close friends, and we never met again after we left school, I thought of him from time to time and asked after him if I was talking to any of his relatives.

Recently I learned he had died, like his father, too

young. Along with another school friend I went to his funeral. In a mix-up over the time (entirely my fault) we didn't get to the church until the bidding prayers. Even so we went in to Mass and I was grateful to be able to pay my respects.

By the time Flourish lands in the parishes we'll have been to a wedding in a lovely little city in the north of Spain. The daughter of one of my great pals who is also

one of the very besties of my youngest daughter has settled there and is marrying her beloved.

The marriage will take place in a charming church built on the site of a 15th century church destroyed during the Spanish Civil War.

The rest of the family is packing the sun cream for lazy days on the beach. Me, I'm busy checking out the Mass times closer to home!

## ART OF THE MONTH

# Remembering that Jesus also had grandparents...

**WE are familiar with the genealogy of Jesus via His paternal line but often to the neglect of his mother's ancestry.**

His maternal grandparents have the putative names Joachim and Anne which date from long after the birth of Christ.

The Protoevangelium of James which dates from the second century does not form part of the New Testament but elaborates on the Gospels by telling of the miraculous conception of Mary, of her upbringing by

BY MGR TOM  
MONAGHAN

Joachim and Anne and of her perpetual virginity.

In January 2021, Pope Francis announced the establishment of a World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to coincide with the Feast of Joachim and Anne on July 26 and as a reminder of the important role grandparents play as a link between generations.

Being a grandparent, is a joy like no other. So, Mary's parents are hugely impor-

tant in spite of the fact that we really know nothing about them.

Why, so? Because we see in them the virtues they passed down to their daughter, Mary, who is steeped in the religious traditions of her people. As a young girl, she makes an enormous and historic decision. A decision we recognise as her Fiat (her 'yes' to the angel Gabriel).

She is found by the Archangel at prayer. She undertakes a long journey to give tender care to her cousin. She is a rock in times of crisis. All indicators, surely, of her early training in a loving family.

Joachim and Anne must have carried out their parental duties and practised their faith to have shaped the Mother of their Saviour. They richly deserve their titles of Father of Mary and Mother of Mary who would give birth to their Saviour.

An obscure couple, perhaps, and yet more than 2000 years later, on 26 July each year, we honour them with a feast day.

If your grandparents are living still, give them frequent calls, tell them you love them, give them little treats and listen very kindly to their stories even when

you have heard them many times before.

If they have gone to their reward, pray for their eternal repose. Share stories about them. In their name, be attentive to elderly people you know, especially if they are lonely or housebound.

If you are a grand-parent, always welcome your grandchildren, tell them tales of your childhood and if you can, slip them a little pocket money! Our painting depicts the embrace of Joachim and Anne before the Golden Gate – the *Abrazo de San Joaquin y San Anna ante la Puerta Dorada*. Ambrosius Benson who died in 1550 at the age of 60, was an Italian artist who moved to Bruges where he took citizenship. He became famous and popular in Spain, hence the Spanish title for the painting.

Many of his works are to be found in Spanish museums and churches. The artist portrays the couple as elderly and astonished when, on learning that they are to be parents, they meet and embrace at the city gate. In accordance with the Protoevangelium, Benson depicts them as comfortably provided for and so we see their rich ornamented garments.



The rather sour faces of those nearby are, perhaps, a sign of future sorrows and distress for their much-loved daughter and her Son.

Ambrosius Benson, *Abrazo de San Joaquin y San Anna ante la Puerta Dorada*, 1528

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Let us Pray: Dear Saints Joachim and Anne, you were parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and grandparents of Jesus, in whose veins your blood flowed which afterwards furnished the precious price of our Redemption. Under the maternal care of your glorious Daughter, the Queen of Heaven and Earth our Divine Saviour grew in wisdom and the favour of God was upon him. Pray to Mary for all grand-parents and for their beloved grand-children. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# Let's use the summer break to get better acquainted with the Gospel



Fr Tom Kilbride

**H**ERE in Salamanca, our seminarians have finished their course and left us, to move forward in on their journey of formation and faith. It has been a good session, and good to have a group on site, after two years of "virtual seminary" and classes online.

As always, their packing for home involves a bit of sifting: with things they've accumulated over the months – souvenirs, books, clothes – their suitcases seem smaller than when they arrived! What to take home, what to leave behind? What will be useful for the next stage, what was needed only for this one?

We have a tendency to collect "stuff": some we deem important, some not; some we easily leave behind, some we cling to. What really matters and what we value is a theme which runs through these next few Sundays' readings.

## 16th Sunday of the Year C

Abraham's running about in the First Reading today

leaves us a bit out of breath! Hospitality was (and remains) a huge part of Middle Eastern culture, so Abraham rushes about bringing his strange visitors food and refreshment.

We hear a similar thing in the familiar story of Martha, "distracted with serving" as Jesus is welcomed as a guest. She thinks her sister, Mary, has forgotten the rules of hospitality, but Jesus shifts the focus: don't neglect the guest!

However, the "better part" Mary has chosen isn't just about attending to a visitor: she is "listening to his word". She is not ignoring her sister or choosing to relax while another works. Rather, her attitude is one of faith, recognising "Christ among us", which St Paul in the Second Reading tells us is the heart of the "mystery" he preaches.

The person of Christ and his word comes first. He will inspire our work and our service, sure, but we have to stop and listen to him, sit down and get to know him

first. This is what is truly important, Mary's "better part".

## 17th Sunday of the Year, C

For the second week in a row we meet Abraham in the First Reading, this time "haggling" with God to save Sodom from destruction. His intervention is successful, at least for now.

The story of Abraham's intercession is chosen to illustrate Jesus's words in the Gospel about persistent and faith-filled prayer. We hear Luke's version of the Our Father today, slightly shorter than the familiar one we pray, which comes from Matthew's Gospel.

For example, he leaves out the words "Thy will be done". A famous Rabbi, Abraham Herschel, once noted that the Hebrew prophets were more likely to pray "Thy will be changed" when they were interceding on behalf of people, and perhaps that is what we see both in Abraham and in the parable of the traveller. However, Jesus reminds us that our prayer



The Assumption of the Virgin Mary by Pietro Perugino

through these weeks with Luke's Gospel – is about giving oneself away in love. That brings life and faith in that, Hebrews says, guarantees the blessings we hope for.

## Assumption of Our Lady

We celebrate this amazing feast a day early this year, giving it prominence as a Sunday celebration.

In some ways, Mary represents everything that these recent Sundays have been saying. She is one whose trust in God was total and firm, who listened to his word (like her namesake from Bethany), whose prayer was joyful and constant, and who gave of her whole self for the sake of God's coming Kingdom.

Moreover, on Calvary, she had to let go, sharing in the Cross of her Son and its pain. Because of all that, she was given the honour of being the first to share the glory of heaven, body and soul, as we celebrate today.

She is one whose treasure was truly stored up in heaven, who put aside earthly ambition and self-reliance to trust wholly in God and his plan for her. Blessed indeed is she who believed! Blessed is she who heard the word and kept it!

As our seminarians take their summer break and look forward to a new phase in their journey, we hope they "travel well and travel light" and learn to put Christ and his word at the centre of everything, as Mary did.

Do keep them in your prayers!

should always be humble, trusting that God, our Father, provides us, his children, with everything we need. His will, after all, is our happiness, to be at one with him and each other, as St Paul reminds us today.

So, when we pray the Our Father, our baptismal prayer as God's children, we can trust him to provide for us: persistence in prayer reinforces our sense of reliance on him.

## 18th Sunday of the Year, C

As over the past two weeks, our Second Reading, from Paul's letter to the Colossians, gives us a key to today's Gospel. Paul reminds us that what is real and of value is not anything here, however much we might treasure it, but our life with Christ, hidden though it is.

The man in the Gospel parable thinks only of the present and the visible and puts all his energies there, only to lose it all. Our earthly life is passing and the things we think important – often the things that cause us most stress too – can be just as fleeting.

Our life in Christ is eternal, however, and it is there that we should be building up our treasure, growing each day in grace and virtue.

## 19th Sunday of the Year, C

We continue along the road with Jesus, heading for Jerusalem and the cross. Today, Jesus speaks of the cross in the life of his disciples, by telling us about the

need to step back from our tendency to self-reliance or dependence on things and to have our focus instead on the Kingdom and its values, to put our energies into working for that Kingdom and not for ourselves.

The long speech of Jesus today builds on what has been said over the past three Sundays: trust in God, keep focussed on him and use your life, your time, your energy building up what is truly important, and not worrying about or seeking to acquire only the passing things of this world.

The cross – where Jesus is heading as we journey

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**ALL WELCOME**



**As you may be aware, one of my favourite places to go in Glasgow is the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.**

I was born only a stone's throw away in Partick Bridge Street, and grew up even nearer to the park, in Thurso Street.

Every Sunday we went to the park to play, and we never left without a visit to the art gallery, to see Salvador Dali's Christ of St. John of the Cross; also, to the museum, to see Sir Roger the Elephant, the suits of armour, and all kinds of other delights.

Nowadays I still visit the Dali, but also many other favourite paintings, among them La Faruk Madonna – three religious paintings made by a prisoner-of-war on old flour bags, for a mud chapel. I also like to visit the Mackintosh and the Glasgow Style gallery, and anything new that catches my eye as I walk around.

I was there last month with a visitor, and one of my reasons for going was a curiosity to see an exhibition of photographs of Glasgow from the 1950's to the 1990's by a photographer called Eric Watt. The photographs were mainly taken on the streets, capturing images of people in different parts of the city, and especially of children at play in streets and parks.

# Art galleries remind us of our faith story



## Fr Frank's log

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

Having been born in 1951, I imagined that many of the depictions would strike a nostalgic chord with me, and I was right, the images took me right back to my childhood and early years growing up. The photographs were categorized into various themes and I noticed how the people who had hung the display had been careful to strike a balance, so as not to offend either side of the sad Glasgow divide.

For example, in the section on Faith, the first photograph was of a young girl making her First Holy Communion. The balancing photograph beside it was taken at an Orange Walk. I would have thought there could have been something more appropriate from the practice of the other Christian faiths to strike a balance, and that the Orange Walk might have been better in

some other section. It's hardly comparable with the Holy Eucharist, is it?

In another section, which was either Sport or Leisure, I can't remember exactly, there was a photograph of two Celtic supporters joyfully celebrating, and the balancing photograph below it was of Rangers supporters boarding the Govan Ferry at Partick to head over to Ibrox for a match, all men, all wearing shirt and tie, as was the way of things then.

I was first drawn to this photograph because I couldn't even begin to count the number of times, as a family, we boarded that same ferry to head over to see my dad's family, who lived in Govan. But then I realized that the photograph was taken on 2nd of January 1971, the date of the terrible Ibrox Disaster, when 66 people lost their lives in a crush.



When I looked at the photograph again, it was to wonder if any of those men boarding the ferry were among the 66. Such tragedies transcend rivalries. There were many other brilliant, funny, and evocative photographs, and I would recommend a visit. I think it runs until October. Just tell them who sent you, and tell them to send me the commission!

We also went to the Burrell Collection, re-opened after a five-year closure for renovations and expansion. It was a long time, but well worth it.

Here at St Mungo's Father John is settling into his ministry again, and in mid-June

we will welcome yet another Passionist who will be new to you, Brother Conor Quinn, who will spend around six weeks with us until the end of July.

Conor is from Newtown-hamilton in Newry, County Down. He has been with us for a number of years now and, for the past few years, has been studying theology in Chicago. He is coming home to profess his final vows in Holy Cross, Ardoynne, and St. Mungo's has been asked by our Provincial to welcome him for a pastoral placement in the lead up to that.

After final vows, Conor will return to Chicago to complete his studies and to be ordained a deacon.

Sometime within the next year or two we hope Conor will be ordained as a Passionist priest and, who knows, perhaps even return to St. Mungo's again.

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

**■ Dali's Christ of St John on the Cross will be on loan to Bishop Auckland's Spanish Gallery from July 9 - December 4. One of the most reproduced paintings of the 20th century, Dali's masterpiece has been loaned from Glasgow Life Museums, after the city acquired the artwork in 1952.**

### PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask a special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place in within your heart where your father sees it, then with his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

*Say it three times for three days and your favour will be granted.*

*Never known to fail, must promise publication of prayer.*

**FAREWELLS can be hard. When we love someone who is going away, there's always a sadness, and a particularly heart-wrenching one when that loved one is going away in death.**

Yet, we know from experience that at the end of the day farewells are not so much a death as a transition. One way of being present to each other is ending and giving way to another that is just beginning and will better serve love in the long run.

This may sound abstract. It's not. We experience it daily in our lives.

For example: consider a young woman graduating from high school and moving away from the family home to live on her own. For her parents, this can be painful. Your little girl is no longer your little girl – and her goodbye to you as you drive away from helping her move into her new place will imprint in you that she is no longer little and she is no longer yours.

Something fundamental has changed, and it can be hard to let go of how she had once been present to you. But, she isn't dead. Far from it, rather her life is now opening up to a new richness; she is taking a

## Life is changed, not ended

major and necessary new step in her growth, even as that step includes a major change in how she will now be present to you.

How will she be present to you now that she has left your house and is living on her own?

Paradoxically, she may be more present to you now than she ever was before, though in a different way. Now, as an adult, she has things to give you that the little girl who lived in your house could not give you. Granted, young children can trigger a very special love in their parents, but an adult daughter or son can trigger something else, that's also very rich.

That's why every girl or boy eventually needs to speak to her or his parents the words Jesus spoke to his disciples on the night before he died, it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, you will always have a child in your house, but if I go away, I will come back to you as an adult and bring you a new richness.

The cold separation of a

## Scribblings of the spirit

Flourish's new columnist, Fr Ronald Rolheiser offers practical insights each month into improving our spiritual lives



farewell can eventually give way to a warm, deeper coming together, one that no longer depends on physical proximity. An honest goodbye is a transition, not an ending.

This holds true in an even more poignant way vis-a-vis the farewell that takes place with death. We don't lose our loved ones in death; we experience a transition in their presence.

At a funeral, we are experiencing the same transition of presence and relationship that parents experience when a son or daughter grows up and moves out. At a funeral, of course, the emotional stakes are much higher, but the dynamic is ultimately the same. A fundamental shift is taking

place in the relationship.

In the case of death, it generally takes some time, years perhaps, before we recognize that this was a transition not a death. Allow me a personal example.

When I was 23 years old, in the space of three months, both my father and mother died. They were still young (62 and 58 respectively). Our family was also still young, too young (by our own assessment) to be asked to absorb this.

Hence, initially their deaths were felt as a cold, bitter severing, death rather than transition. However, time heals, and not just because irrespective of the depth of the pain eventually we move on. In our case, time also healed because eventually we began to sense our parents' presence again, in a richer and deeper way than we had known before their deaths.

They went away, but they came back, richer, warmer, and deeper.

In his farewell discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples not to fear or grieve too much his departure. He keeps repeating the words, it is better for you that I go away. If I do not go away, I cannot send you my spirit.

He is like that young daughter who is leaving home to start her own life and is saying a painful goodbye to her parents, but a goodbye that is predicated on the fact that she will now be able to be present to them in a different and very rich way. Her farewell is not a death, but a transition.

Farewells and goodbyes, including those at funerals, are not unnatural relational ruptures that go against God's plan and against how relationships are supposed to culminate. That can be the case, of course, when a farewell or goodbye is occasioned by anger, hatred, abuse, or violence.

However, when the goodbye is the natural outgrowth of the cycle of life itself, the death experienced is really only part of the rich, ineffable, paradoxical mystery of love itself.





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