

# FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

June 2020



## Opening day hope for digital Church

**THIS** remarkable collage of the life of the Church in the Archdiocese of Glasgow is a powerful reminder of the extraordinary time in which we live ... For almost three months our spiritual lives have depended not on reception of the sacraments, but on access to wifi and smartphone data.

Across the country, parishes have found innovative ways to stay in touch and to reach out, using technology to engage with parishioners and others curious to know what Catholics believe.

It has been a time of sac-

BY RONNIE CONVERY  
EDITOR

ramental starvation but pastoral creativity.

When we look back at this time of trial few sights will remain so firmly etched in our minds than the "Closed" sign on church doors.

Catholics see their parish churches not as museums or monuments, but as an extension of home ... a place of security and familiarity. A space made special by the flickering glow of the sanc-

tuary lamp, the consoling smile on the statue of Our Lady, and, especially, by the Presence of God Himself in the tabernacle.

Never in our lives have we missed that space, that warmth or that Presence more than in the last three months.

June brings with it the hope – but not the guarantee – that the doors of our churches may soon open once more (the Scottish Government's Phase two which would allow the reopening of places of worship is scheduled for June 18 at

the earliest).

If those doors open, we will need to adapt to a new way of going to church. Social distancing stickers and hand sanitizers, booking visits in advance and strict cleaning schedules will all become the new norm ... but maybe, just maybe, these new disciplines will make us appreciate more than ever before the great treasure that we enjoy of having the house of God in our housing estate or main street.

A new generation of volunteers will be needed for this great effort. Older pa-

rishioners can no longer carry out the cleaning and marshalling that will be required. Catholics of a younger demographic will be needed to work in a new partnership with priests to ensure our churches can reopen safely.

### Awe

If, and when, we enter our churches for the first time, let us do so with a renewed sense of awe.

Many churches have the phrase "*Hic est domus Dei et porta caeli*" carved above the door – this is the house of

God and the gate of heaven.

Let us remember these words when, God willing, perhaps even later this month, we are able to return to our parish church, with emotion, and with care.

And let our first act be to kneel before Jesus, really and truly present in the tabernacle, and whisper a word of gratitude ...

To paraphrase the words of St Josemaria Escrivà: "When you approach the tabernacle remember that He has been waiting for you not just for three months, but for 21 centuries."



# Priest's plea for help as prisoners suffer extra hardships in pandemic



Picture by Paul McSherry

**INMATES at Scotland's largest jail are having to cope in a 'fragile' atmosphere during the current Covid-19 crisis, according to Barlinnie Prison chaplain Father Paul McAlinden.**

He said: "For obvious reasons prisoners are spending more time in their cells and probably feeling the effects of the lockdown more than the general public.

"I'd describe the atmosphere as fragile and I know there have been a few scuffles here and there and other incidents as well, none of which have been serious."

During the period of suspension of prison visits and education classes, curtailed recreation and the closure of gyms, dedicated chaplains like Father McAlinden, parish priest at St Augustine's Milton, are still able to administer to the spiritual needs of inmates and staff at the prison.

With the chapel closed, like other places of wor-

BY BRIAN SWANSON

ship, Father McAlinden delivers a brief homily and weekly readings on the prison's own radio station called, with typical jail humour, Barbed Wireless.

Father McAlinden added: "I'm in Barlinnie for ten hours a week working closely with my fellow chaplains from the Church of Scotland and the Muslim community.

"Many people don't realise that as chaplains we are there for the whole prison – staff and inmates alike.

"It's a hard time for the staff as well, with new, longer shift patterns and a number of officers off sick.

"My role as a chaplain is to be a non-judgemental listener and that can cover so many different aspects of an inmate's time in prison. A few want to talk about their spiritual welfare, of course, but mostly, especially with no visits at the moment it's

the more immediate things that concern them.

"For example many prisoners, especially those on remand, need reading glasses so I have put a notice in the our bulletin at St Augustine's asking parishioners to donate pairs of the kind that you can buy very cheaply in most shops nowadays. I'm confident of a good response."

Barlinnie Prison (left), which had the honour of being the first place in the Archdiocese to receive the relics of St Therese of Lisieux during last year's Scotland wide pilgrimage, is due to be replaced with a new prison on the site of the former Provan Gasworks although no starting date has yet been announced.

■ As *Flourish* went to press a total of six inmates at other Scottish prisons had died of suspected coronavirus. No cases have been reported at Barlinnie.

## Fr Joe reveals his secret skills as lockdown closes barbers

**PARISHIONERS of Our Lady and St George, Penilee, have two reasons to be cheerful despite the pandemic.**

A mystery donor has gifted £1000 for the upkeep of the church – and Father Joe Boyle has been raising a smile with an account of his efforts at a DIY haircut.

Father Boyle said: "Someone, and I can't say who because I don't know who, put a cheque through the door with a note saying it was for the church funds but with no specific request.

"It was a very kind gesture and much appreciated because like all churches we're are struggling a bit at the moment."

In the same parish bulletin that he revealed the £1000 gift Father Boyle also described his attempt at giving himself a hair cut during lockdown.

He wrote: "As a youngster my father used to cut the hair for all the family and it wasn't long before I was cutting hair myself. I started at the age of 13 when I was in Langbank, the junior seminary.



Short back and sides for Fr Joe

BY BRIAN SWANSON

My best pal (now a sagacious parish priest!) and I were often up to mischief and when his hair was growing long I suggested that I cut it. It turned out ok and that gave me confidence.

"Next I suggested that he would look good if his hair was black instead of brown. There was no dye available so we thought black shoe polish would do the trick! The Master of Discipline at the time was the late Fr James Friel and when he set eyes on the black hair he gave him two hours to restore the original colour.

"My friend still has a good head of hair which I put down to my good management in those early years. I

was not so fortunate.

"By the time I got to Cardross, the senior seminary, I was cutting hair quite regularly for a few of the other students."

"So last week with no sign of lockdown ending and not having a haircut since January, I decided to take things into my own hands.

"I have been told to look my best for the weekly video recording in preparation for Sunday's gospel and it was mentioned that the sunlight on the shining high forehead was a bit of a distraction.

"It now looks ok from the front but so good from the back. I have no intention, however, of using shoe polish to improve my appearance!"



### Teaching in Catholic Schools

Would you like to be a Catholic teacher in the Catholic sector? At the School of Education at the University of Glasgow you can take the Catholic Teacher's Certificate as part of our teacher education degrees, Masters in Education (MEduc) or Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). Your school placements will focus on the Catholic sector and you will benefit from the expertise of our professional and academic colleagues. You can enjoy being part of the wider University community, particularly its lively Catholic chaplaincy.

Check out our website at: [www.glasgow.ac.uk/education](http://www.glasgow.ac.uk/education)



# Glasgow's Vietnamese Catholics' amazing gesture of kindness



**N**AIL bar workers from Scotland's Vietnamese Catholic community, who regularly celebrate Mass at Blessed John Duns Scotus in the Gorbals, have gifted thousands of face masks and gloves to three nursing homes in the Archdiocese.

The equipment is routinely worn by members of the community who work in nail bars and beauty salon which are currently closed because of the Covid-19 crisis.

But when the community learned about the acute shortage of PPE in nursing homes in the Archdiocese they used their contacts to quickly secure £5000 worth of medically approved masks and gloves which have now been delivered to St Joseph's, Robroyston, Nazareth House, Cardonald and St Francis Nursing Home, Govan.

Father Eddie Highton, parish priest at Blessed John Duns Scotus was instrumental in organising the delivery of the equip-

## EXCLUSIVE

BY BRIAN SWANSON

ment after the members of the community approached him for help.

He said: "I was happy to do what I could but they must take full credit for having the idea in the first place and for raising funds to buy the equipment they donated."

"We host the Vietnamese people for their Masses when their Chaplain Fr Yen comes up from Birmingham every two months or so."

## Wonderful

"It is a wonderful affair with such a large gathering of young people from all over Scotland – it is rare to see someone over 40 with most of them in their twenties. They are very vibrant and very devoted Catholics."

"Because of social distancing rules they cannot work but they were very keen to find a way to help. Their generosity in giving these

masks show their commitment to this country and their participation in the life of the community."

Sister Lisette Prele, manager of St Francis Care Home said: "In these challenging days of Covid-19 we were delighted to hear from Fr Eddie that the Vietnamese community of Scotland wanted to donate much needed face masks to our home."

"We are eternally grateful to them and will remember our Vietnamese family always in our prayers."

St Francis Nursing Home opened in 1946 as a maternity home – Archbishop Tartaglia was born there – but in 1988 due to a falling birth rate the Franciscan sisters who ran it decided there was a greater need to care for the elderly.

A new purpose-built home was built a few hundred yards from the maternity building to accommodate 40 residents. It was officially opened by Cardinal Winning in June 1996.

**S**EAFAREERS could easily be forgotten about during the current Covid-19 crisis which has left around 2000 foreign seamen stranded at ports throughout the UK.

While the situation is not so marked in the West of Scotland, Stella Maris, the Catholic charity for seafarers founded in Glasgow a hundred years ago, remains as committed as ever to helping them during these troubled times.

Deacon Joe O'Donnell, the charity's Senior Regional Port Chaplain for Scotland, is a friendly face for those who find themselves cut off from families and loved ones thousands of miles from home.

Deacon Joe, from St Mungo's church in Townhead Glasgow, devotes his time during lockdown offering practical and spiritual assistance to try and alleviate unexpected issues arising since the outbreak of Covid-19.

He said: "During the pandemic we are all encouraged to isolate but in reality isolation is nothing new to seafarers who are normally away for a year at a time."

"Stella Maris continues to provide support for them, by way of providing welfare packages during this pan-

# Stella Maris keeps hope afloat as seafarers are stranded

BY EUAN MCARTHUR

demic in compliance with Government guidelines and with the permission of the ports concerned.

"For example, this can also be done via the internet or by phone. That explains why there have been more requests recently for top-up vouchers."

"Something that we also do, is encourage live streaming of Mass because prayer is so important to seafarers so far from their homes and families during challenging times."

"When storms hit and people are taken over by worry, prayer can be the stability needed."

"We can provide equipment for seafarers to allow them to keep in contact with loved ones back home which it goes without saying is very important for their wellbeing."

Observing social distanc-

ing rules, Deacon Joe recently travelled to Troon to come to the aid of some foreign fishermen who found themselves staying longer than normal in the port due to the effects of the pandemic.

He said: "Only recently, I took food supplies to fishermen on the West coast and while I was there they too asked me to find a bike for them which meant they can share it so they can go to get

the essentials they need."

"Of course, there is a lot of uncertainty out there. But one thing for sure is we will continue to support our seafarers in the coming months in any way we can."

**■ Euan McArthur is Scottish Development Officer for Stella Maris. To find out more about its work visit [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk)**





# Jean is hard at work at 100 years young

**WHERE in Glasgow would you find a lady who has a medal from the Pope, a card from the Queen, and at the age of 100 is still active, looking after a shop making money for the missions?**

Answer: At the Little Sisters of the Poor in Robroyston.

Jean Johnston is essentially an Aberdonian, which, she jokes, in part is why she is entrusted with the shop at the Little Sisters! She never misses a chance! If, when we are set free to travel again and you are going to Robroyston's St. Joseph's home, make sure you have some spare cash with you!

Jean is the former housekeeper from Aberdeen of Archbishop Conti and was delighted when on her 100th birthday the Archbishop led the tributes.

## Delighted

She came into Archbishop Conti's life, when he was Bishop of Aberdeen (1977 – 2002). He had to leave his parish which was in Caithness. From Wick and Thurso he came to Aberdeen, from the far country to the city, to a Bishop's House which had been empty for the best part of a year, and not yet ready for habitation. Nor was there a housekeeper. A kindly woman helped out for a while, and did more by recommending a friend of hers who was returning to Scotland from Canada.

That friend was Jean Johnstone who after a career in catering, and teaching homecraft in her native



Aberdeenshire was looking forward to her eventual retirement.

Jean said: "I have always liked to help in the Church even though it might only be seeing that there were fresh flowers on the stand with a statue! So when in 1966 I read about a teacher from Scotland going as a volunteer to help Catholic schools come up to stand-

ard in British Columbia...I think the Holy Spirit put the idea in my head...and so in due course I had the information I needed...and I went to work in catering and was put in charge of the large kitchen and dining hall just outside the town of Prince George where the children were housed in hostels. It was quite an experience!"

One year became two

years. "I said I maybe give them another year when I retired but they wanted it straight away.

## Canada

"Then a nun from a Canadian Order asked if I would like to stay in Canada as she was looking for someone to take over the running of the staff and visitors' cafeteria at St. Vincent's Hospital in

Vancouver".

And so from 1970 – 1980 she worked in Vancouver. "On reaching 1980 I was now 60 years and could draw my state pension. However retirement was off again as I helped Bishop Conti of Aberdeen and also when (22 years later!) he became Archbishop of Glasgow".

Rather modestly Jean sums up the help she gave in those years in Aberdeen and Glasgow as "various work, catering, and entertaining (for the clergy) and staying in the house if he had to be in Rome".

## Outstanding

Archbishop Mario said: "Jean hardly does herself credit, since not only were the occasional meals for the clergy in the Bishop's House outstanding examples of domestic catering, much appreciated by the diners, but when she was at home in the flat she acquired for herself in Fochabers, local retired clergy benefited from her "doggie bags", and the monks at neighbouring Pluscarden Abbey of which she was an Oblate, welcomed the help she gave at the Women's Hospice.

"In her new home parish she looked after the weekly news sheet, and again the flowers, of which she was by now an expert arranger. She assisted in the sacristy, helped with the church cleaning, and acted as a lay minister of the Eucharist.

She later assisted in then Bishop Conti's move from Kings Gate to Queen's Cross, to the former Convent of

the Sacred Heart where she had had her education, a place she loved. In the light of all this activity, Jean was awarded the Medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice."

In 2016 at the suggestion of Archbishop Conti and the welcome of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Robroyston Jean achieved the retirement she sought, well almost! She sums up these latter years with the sentences: "I work now in the Mission Shop. I am now a hundred years but still enjoy helping the Church. Keeps the brain from getting too rusty!"

Despite the lockdown and contrary to Jean's expectations the Sisters at St. Joseph's home gave her a day to remember, as the Superior, Sister Marie-Claire describes: "At the party we got her to open all her gifts and she was thrilled with her whisky from the Archbishop and the beautiful flowers. She also got her card from the Queen which now has pride of place in her room.

## Thrilled

"I think Jean really thought that we were not going to do anything for her because of the lock down but the day turned out really well and although she was very tired at the end of it she was also very happy and that's all we could ask for.

"So thankfully we were able to make the day very special for her. She is truly a special person. She is still down in the mission shop every day. We can't believe she is actually 100 years old!"

# Thanks a million to welcoming chaplain Stuart

## Tributes paid as University chaplain retires

**WARM tributes have been paid to Church of Scotland minister Rev Stuart McQuarrie who has retired after almost 20 years as chaplain to Glasgow University.**

Rev McQuarrie, a former Glasgow councillor who was born and brought up Easterhouse, played a leading role in helping to arrange Nelson Mandela's visit to the city in 1993 and has been a great friend to the Catholic Chaplaincy and the Archdiocese during his tenure, introducing Masses and other liturgical services into the University Memorial Chapel on a regular basis for special occasions.

For generations of graduates the 67-year old will be fondly remembered for the support he gave to students of all faiths and none during his years as a University Chaplain.

## Exceptional

University Principal, Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli, said: "As chaplain Stuart he has been there through all the many good times; graduations, student events, wedding ceremonies and all manner of activities in the chapel and around our campus.

"But he also provided exceptional support and pastoral care to students,

members of staff and the wider university community at times of difficulty and distress.

"I want to add my own tribute to the way he has undertaken his duties and to note that he has gone well above and beyond what would have been expected.

"He will be very much missed by me and our wider university family."

Father Ross Campbell, Catholic chaplain at the university and director of Vocations of the Archdiocese, said: "I know from my own experience and talking to previous chaplains that Stuart has always been a good friend to the Catho-

lic Chaplaincy and that has always been very much appreciated.

"On behalf of the Chaplaincy and everyone at Turnbull Hall I wish him a very happy retirement. We are very grateful for his support, friendship, practical advice and wisdom over the years."

And noting that Rev McQuarrie is also chaplain to Rangers FC, Father Campbell couldn't resist adding: "We are just sad that he won't be here when Celtic win 10-in-a row!"

Stuart said: "I feel a great sadness about leaving the university but time and tide wait for no one."



Fr Ross crowns Rev Stuart



# St Nicholas Care Fund responds to pleas to feed 'the hungry on our own doorstep'

**THE big-hearted generosity of parishes and schools across the Archdiocese has changed the lives for countless local people during the Covid pandemic after the St Nicholas Care Fund handed out almost £30,000 to feed hundreds of desperate families in the first three months of lockdown.**

Under normal circumstances applications for funding rarely request assistance to buy food for struggling families and individuals.

However figures released by the fund, founded in 1992 by the late Cardinal Thomas Winning, show that almost all of the £35,000 total given



BY BRIAN SWANSON

in grants to local charities since the end of March went to organisations throughout the Archdiocese who provide meals for hard-pressed families.

The remainder of the total went to a charity which

provides mattresses, starter packs and pre-paid energy vouchers for recently released prisoners and another group which supplies baby items for new parents.

One of the first churches to receive a grant was St Brigid's, Toryglen, which was given £3000 to feed vul-

nerable families.

Parish priest Father Gerard Byrne said: "The grant means that with continued donations of food from our parishioners, we are now able to provide 150 food parcels every fortnight, and deliver to another 20 particularly vulnerable individuals and families every single week. We are so grateful for the support received from the St Nicholas Care Fund, without which this outreach would not have been able to continue."

"Initially by using parish funds, and with £250 from our SVDP group, St Brigid's was able to commit to providing 50 food parcels every fortnight. The need became greater as the lockdown continued, however, and although we received donations of food from locals and money from as far away as South Uist and Canada our funds quickly depleted.

"We are so grateful for the support received from

the St Nicholas Care Fund, without which this outreach would not have been able to continue."

Kathleen McBride, principal teacher of nurture at Lourdes Secondary, who received £2760 to buy food parcels said: "At a time when so many families are facing huge difficulties we were so grateful to receive assistance from the St Nicholas Care Fund which allowed us to demonstrate the Gospel value of love and reach out to our families to offer support."

Geraldine Millar, head teacher of St Pauls Primary, Shettleston, whose school received £1000 to buy kitchen utensils and ingredients to help families cook meals at home, said: "The grant has been a great boost for our children during the pandemic. We can't thank the St Nicholas Care Fund enough for their grant at this difficult time."

Other grants to provide

meals included £5000 to Cumbernauld Together, operating out of Sacred Heart, Cumbernauld and £5000 to St Gregory's Wyndford.

Available funds are not limited to Catholic organisations – Springburn Parish Church also received a £5000 grant.

Fund administrator Sheena Kenny said "Communities were quick to identify that during lockdown the greatest need was to provide food in various ways and to different groups

"We were delighted to help them at this most difficult time."

"I'd like to thank the trustees and all those who helped process the applications so quickly and of course to thank parishes who are finding things difficult themselves for their continued support"

■ For details of how to apply for grants email [Sheena.Kenny@rcag.org.uk](mailto:Sheena.Kenny@rcag.org.uk)

## The Space for care

**THE Govanhill based Louise Project, an initiative of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, has moved swiftly to increase the number of services it offers to families struggling during the current Covid-19 pandemic.**

Operating from The Space in Belleisle Street it was formed three years ago to offer support primarily to isolated Romanian families in Govanhill, whose needs have been magnified by the current crisis.

In response volunteers have launched a crisis sup-

BY BRIAN SWANSON

port service, a pastoral care line and an online information service for people experiencing poverty and hardship.

Margo Uprichard, CEO of The Louise Project, said: "We can expect to see an increase in the number of families struggling with poverty as those who did not previously access support services face economic pressures.

"Families may also experience levels of stress and anxiety that can lead to poor

mental health, so we have changed how we respond to poverty by expanding our support services and broadening their outreach."

Funding for the increased services has been made possible with emergency grants from Foundation Scotland Response Fund and Cora Foundation Wellbeing Fund.

Other new services include a doorstep delivery service providing essential food; supermarket vouchers for fresh food and cleaning products and utility vouchers for gas and electricity.

News and views for  
**FLOURISH:**  
[flourish@rcag.org.uk](mailto:flourish@rcag.org.uk)



**St Nicholas Care Fund**  
A charity of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

The St. Nicholas Care Fund would like to thank our supporters for their generous donations. You have helped us to award £35,610 to a range of organisations and schools currently giving practical support to the people and communities most in need during this period of lockdown. Funding applications continue to be accepted and assessed as soon as they are received.

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

**Archdiocesan Appeal Text**  
**RCARCHGLA to 70085 to donate £5**

**blaney carnar**  
SOLICITORS  
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY LAWYERS  
Standard Buildings, 94 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6PH  
Telephone +44 (0) 141 248 8111 Fax +44 (0) 141 221 8420  
E-mail [mail@blaneycarnar.com](mailto:mail@blaneycarnar.com)

## Provost's thanks to East End



**A**FOOD bank run by two East End parishes has slashed red tape to make sure that there is no delay in getting supplies to the needy.

The initiative run by volunteers from St Joseph's, Tollcross and St Joachim's, Carmyle, was formed nine months ago and right from the start operated on the simple principle of need, without people filling in forms or producing vouchers.

Canon Andrew McKenzie,

parish priest of St Joseph's said: "If you're hungry we will feed you – it's as simple as that. We don't ask for proof that you live in our area, we don't need to know names and we don't have forms to fill out."

"In the beginning the foodbank was relatively quiet but since this emergency began we have been extremely busy. We have had great support from individuals and businesses and we are very grateful to them."

Among those who brought recent donations were two bin men from the city's cleansing department who delivered two wheelie bins of food collected by colleagues.

Joining them was Glasgow's Lord Provost Philip Braat who was full of praise for the hard work and dedication of the volunteers.

Canon McKenzie said: "We were grateful for the Lord Provost's support and encouragement."



# Archbishop's hopes for churches to re-open

**WE can begin to plan for the re-opening of our churches... that was the message of Archbishop Tartaglia during a recent livestreamed Mass from the Cathedral.**

"Things are changing," said the Archbishop.

"We have been advised that churches may open for limited purposes in Phase 2, which will be after the 18th June review, and we may also expect that public Masses and acts of worship may resume with Phase 3 that will follow the 9th July review. Government has stressed that these dates and phases are provisional, depending on how the virus is being controlled.

"Provisional as they are, now, thank God, we have an idea of where we are headed, and we can make practical preparations for the sacramental life of the Church to be resumed.

"We still need to be patient for some weeks yet. During these weeks, we need to pray for those who are vulnerable or ill, for those who are dying and for all those who are involved in the care and protection of our families, neighbours, friends and loved ones. We need to continue to pray too that the rate of infection slows down and the virus becomes less of a risk...

"I think that it is important to put our Mass in the context of our lives today... We participate in Mass so that we can praise and

thank God; so that we can be inspired by hearing the Word of God; so that we can be in communion with Jesus Christ our Lord in the Eucharist and with each other through faith and love; and so that we can draw strength to live an authentic

Christian life of faith, hope and love. That is what Mass is all about.

"In this moment, we are waiting for Government gradually to loosen restrictions on our lives. We are waiting with hope and patience for the time when we

can gather again at Mass. During this time of waiting, it is surely a comfort to be assured that to know God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ is the beginning of eternal life. In his prayer, Jesus is putting us at the very gate of heaven.



## Bishops' plan completed

**THE Bishops' Conference of Scotland has finalised its proposed infection control standards which will govern the reopening of parishes and have sent their guidelines to the Scottish Government.**

President of the Bishops' Conference, Bishop Hugh Gilbert, said: "A great deal of work has been done to provide guidance and support to clergy as they prepare for the phased reopening of our parishes. The guidelines have been prepared to reflect advice given in the Scottish Government's Route Map on the gradual removal of restrictions..."

Bishop Gilbert added:

"We would hope to be able to issue our infection control and liturgical guidelines within the coming week.

### Obligation

"They will highlight the fact that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains dispensed until further notice and everyone is asked to consider carefully whether or not they should return in the early phases.

"We are mindful of our duty of care to elderly clergy and lay people, which together with social distancing reductions in capacity will mean that the availability of Mass may reduce in some areas."

can enter into spiritual communion with Him, which, in a real though mysterious way, is also a foretaste of eternal life. Here once again is the prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori. You can make it your own.

"My Jesus, I believe that

desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen."

# Digital First Communion video goes viral

**A HEART-WARMING video made by parents from two Glasgow primaries to mark what would have been their children's First Communion Day has become a huge hit on social media with more than 17,000 views just days after it went online.**

The video shows individual children from Lourdes Primary and Our Lady of the Rosary, Cardonald receiving and passing on a Holy Communion candle.

Local musician Tony McLean plays guitar and sings the traditional and much-loved hymn "This is my Body" in the background.

**"A word to our boys and girls. The Lord loves you. So do your parents, teachers and all of us ... I have spoken by video-clip to the boys and girls, assuring them that, when this time is over, everyone will have the opportunity to make their First Communion and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation." With these powerful words from his homily to all those involved in Catholic Education, Archbishop Tartaglia brought comfort to all the disappointed children whose First Holy Communions have been delayed in recent weeks by the Covid-19 emergency. Meanwhile some enterprising parents have found their own way of creating precious memories.**

In line with social distancing rules the children were filmed by their parents and the individual segments then edited into a single video.

Stacey Hyslop, whose daughter Eva, aged eight, a pupil at Lourdes Primary

was among those due to receive her first communion last month, first came up with the idea and contacted other parents asking them to become involved.

She said: "I just felt so sorry for all these kids and parents like us who were so looking

forward to their special day and I thought they should have something to look back on in the years to come.

"My mum happened to mention the videos we always take of my son's football team and I thought we might be on to something

here ...

"We came up with the idea of a video of children receiving and passing on the communion candle so I put out a message out on Facebook asking if parents were interested in taking a video of their own children and we got a pretty good response."

"Parents are getting in touch all the time and it's amazing how many people have watched our video."

One of the first to get in touch was Joanne Brady, from the Parent Teacher Council at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary, whose son Kyle also featured in the video.

She said: "The parents

were very supportive from the start. It's a great idea and a complete team effort. Its brilliant that pupils will have something to look back on".

And in another novel touch Canon David Wallace, Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes, where children from the two schools normally mark their big day, arranged for cards printed with their names to be displayed on the pews where they would have sat during the ceremony.

**■ To view the video visit <https://bit.ly/3o8yDdY>**



# Priests take to the streets to bring Church to the people

It takes more than the Covid crisis, lockdown and social distancing measures to stop our inventive parish priests engaging with their parishioners at this trying time. Here's what some of them have been doing over the past few difficult weeks

**FATHER Jim Lawlor, Parish Priest at Immaculate Conception, Maryhill, is taking the lockdown restrictions in his stride ... literally.**

In shorts and trainers instead of clerical clothes he's become a familiar figure on the streets of Maryhill using his daily walk to catch up with parishioners old and new – at a safe distance of course – to record their stories and post them on the church's Facebook page where they are attracting record numbers of views.

Father Jim also found time to discover and share a fascinating story revealing the heroism of a former parishioner in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of Kilmun Street, Maryhill during the Clydebank Blitz of March 1941.

He said: "I was walking in the Western Necropolis after a funeral when I came across 12 graves containing the remains of 62 people, all but one unidentified, who were killed in the bombing of Kilmun Street. Two parachuted landmines decimated the street, hitting tenements, St Mary's school and the church.

"During the night a tram driver and his clippie

worked tirelessly for hours moving the wounded to the tram depot at Celtic Street where people were actually hiding in the inspection pits for safety. It must have been horrific.

"A couple of years ago I was asked to do the cremation service for a wee lady who had been in a nursing home. Her name was Agnes Woodburn, she was 97 and she was the clippie on the tram that night.

"You won't see her name in any of the books about the Blitz but she was one of our own folk and she was a real heroine."

## Opportunity

Fr Jim said: "I'm really pleased that the lockdown has given me the opportunity to share these stories with people here and much further afield.

After Father Jim posted that video on Facebook several local people got in touch to say that the number of dead in for Kilmun Street was 162 while others pointed out that Glasgow artist Ian Fleming, working as a policeman in the area at the time, painted a vivid depiction of the aftermath called Rescue Party currently held in storage by the National

Gallery of Scotland.

Across the river, **Father John Carroll**, of St Mary Immaculate, Pollokshaws and Holy Name, Mansewood, has taken inspiration from the Country and Western song 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree' to invite parishioners to tie a colourful ribbons with names of loved ones on the handrail outside the church.

He said: "During the months of May children and a few adults have been sending me lots of rainbow pictures and they have been a really positive message in these difficult times. We have used them to decorate the sanctuary.

"I got to thinking that it would be a good idea to invite people to write their family names on colourful

ribbon and tie them to the church handrail as a sign we are still here, we are united we are still here are hopeful.

"There's been a great response so far – keep them coming everybody."

At St Brigid's Toryglen **Father Gerry Byrne** told parishioners in his online bulletin that he was delighted to receive the gift of a Papal "Agnus Dei" plaque from

Monsignor Tom Monaghan, who supplied at St Brigid's a few weeks ago.

Father Byrne said: "Agnus Dei discs are regarded as 'sacramentals' so when I go on my 'Boris Walk' every Sunday with our seminarian Aiden I ask people to come to their veranda or garden and if they wish me to bless their household I am delighted to do so."



Ribbons of hope at St Mary's



Maryhill in the blitz



## POEM OF THE MONTH

This poem was written by a Carthusian Monk of the community at Parkminster, England. Carthusians always publish their works under the title, "By a Carthusian" and never by their own names.

### A DRAGNET

A dragnet's as close to nothing as can be  
The better to achieve its goal:  
Catching fish.  
"Follow me! I'll make you fishers of men."  
Such a programme makes one tremble.  
No need if we remember we are a dragnet:  
He's the Fisher of Hearts,  
He knows when each is ripe for netting.  
He enjoys using us.  
The less we are, the more incompetent we feel,  
The better he can use us.  
We cleave to Him convinced our  
nothingness will not frustrate His loving.  
He death, in the eyes of the powers that be,  
was a total failure  
And yet in the eyes of God – spelt success.  
Scripture was fulfilled  
And all were saved.  
Our nothing's divinely willed.

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Lord our God, may the blessed apostles,  
Peter and Paul, support us by their prayers.

Through them you first taught your Church  
the Christian faith.

Provide us now, by their intercession, with  
help for our eternal salvation.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and  
ever.

Amen.



Art of the month

# Even saints can quarrel!

**T**HE month of June comes towards its completion with the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. On that day, many priests celebrate the anniversary of their Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood.

Some priests have a short life. Others labour in the Vineyard of the Lord until old age. Whether, in the words of Queen Elizabeth, our lives be long or short, each priest must strive for holiness if he is to show his parishioners the way to the Lord.

In the Seventh Heaven of his Paradise, Dante writes, "The spirits of men contemplative, were all enliven'd by that warmth, whose kindly force gives birth to flowers and fruits of holiness. (Canto 22, 46-48)

This month's painting depicts two contemplative men: Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the Pillars and Princes of the Church. Did you know that they once fell out? Well, perhaps it would be more correct to say that they had a disagreement!

BY MGR TOM  
MONAGHAN

As non-Jewish people began to convert from Paganism to early Christianity, a dispute arose as to

whether or not these non-Jewish Christians needed to observe all the tenets of the Law of Moses. Paul writes, "When Cephas came to Antioch I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned."

Cephas is the Aramaic name for Peter so there is no question that Paul's dispute was with our St Peter and not some other Peter. The Catholic Encyclopedia states: "St. Paul's account of the incident leaves no doubt that St. Peter saw the justice of the rebuke." Peter, therefore, was open to a fraternal correction ... but Paul accepts the authority of the Primacy of Peter.

After their reconciliation, Peter and Paul eventually taught together in Rome and founded Christianity in that city in which both suffered martyrdom.

All this is captured in this 16th century painting of the saints by the Cretan-Spanish artist El Greco which can be seen at the National Museum of Art in Catalonia.

There is a very vibrant quality in the colours which El Greco adopted during a period when he was working in Venice. Doménikos Theotokópoulos to give El Greco, (the Greek), his proper name, suggests the holiness, particularly of Cephas with an intense blue opening, almost like a halo, in the background clouds.

The crossed hands of the men who don't actually touch, hints, perhaps, at the disagreement between the two. Peter, however, points towards Paul, suggesting that he is correct. Nevertheless, perhaps a little difficult to make out, it is Peter, the fisherman, who in his left hand, holds the keys of the Kingdom entrusted to him by Christ.





**Y**ESTERDAY, my wife and I did something we, along with most people in Rome, haven't been able to do since March 8: We went to Mass. (We also went out to lunch for the first time in two months and ten days, enjoying a gorgeous Roman spring day and a fine meal, but that's a story for another time.)

Herewith, a few sights and sounds from the "new normal" on the first day the Church both in Italy and the Vatican began to exit the coronavirus catacombs.

Up and down Italy, mostly small pockets of Catholics attended Mass at one of the country's more than 26,000 Catholic parishes on Monday – small in part because it wasn't Sunday, and in part, too, because some people may have been scared off by fears of long lines, stringent controls and the still-present danger of the disease.

Those who did show up were treated to a patchwork of precautions and new practices.

At a parish in our Rome neighborhood, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Christ the King, the 10am Mass drew a hardy 30 souls, perhaps in part because Monday wasn't just the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. John Paul II but also the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for the church. The parish is entrusted to the Dehonian Fathers.

When we entered, a large bottle of hand sanitizer was positioned in the back of the church – in effect, it's the post-coronavirus version of holy water, since everyone's expected to take some as they come in.

There were signs indicating where people are permitted to sit, on pews that had been repositioned to ensure the minimum meter and a half of distance. Everyone in attendance had masks, with the exception of the vocalist who sang during the liturgy, but gloves were hit and miss.

In theory, the basilica, designed by Italian architect Marcello Piacentini, a doyen of rationalism who was a favourite of Mussolini during the Fascist period, can accommodate 4,000 people, but the pastor, Dehonian Father Albino Marinolli, explained that under the terms of the protocol between church and state, they're now limited to 200. That wasn't an issue Monday, he said, but likely will be next Sunday.

Our celebrant, Dehonian Father Marco Grandi, wore a mask during the Mass, though most of the time it was hanging

## A patchwork of precautions as Masses resume in Rome



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

beneath his mouth so he could hear. He had a bottle of hand sanitizer on the altar and applied it before beginning the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Before distributing communion, Grandi applied a glove to his right hand, which he used to distribute the hosts. (There was a comic moment in which communion was delayed because a string on Grandi's mask broke, and he and Marinolli desperately tried to fix it until a man produced a fresh mask from his personal stash and handed it to Grandi.)

Across Italy, communion practices varied. Traditionalist parishes reportedly still distributed communion on the tongue, though in some cases with the priest applying sanitizer to his hands between recipients. Most places stuck to the communion in the hand rule, though practice varied in terms of whether the priest wears a mask and gloves.

A few places apparently even resurrected the old practice of "Eucharistic tweezers," meaning a small tweezer-like grip with which the priest places a consecrated host in the hands of the recipient. Its use is attested

to in the *Liber de caeremoniis Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae* in the second half of the 14th century, and it's most associated with outbreaks of leprosy and plague.

An example of "Eucharistic tweezers," in this case supplied by the Italian company Desta specializing in liturgical objects and vestments.

How things proceed from here may be heavily dependent on the police response – our pastor, Marinolli, told us officers had already been by the parish to check on compliance with government mandates, and are likely to be out in force on Sunday.

Part of what may have prompted Italians to scrupulosity about anti-infection protocols was Pope Francis, who used his noon-time address on Sunday to urge compliance.

"In Italy, starting tomorrow Mass with the people can be celebrated," he said during his Regina Coeli remarks. "Please, let's follow the norms, the prescriptions they give us, to protect everyone's health."

It did not escape attention that Francis himself didn't quite follow suit in his public Mass Monday, held in St. Peter's Basilica before the tomb of St. John Paul II to mark the centenary of his predecessor's birth.

He celebrated without a mask or gloves and the liturgy was accompanied by a choir made up of religious sisters, while in Italy choirs are prohibited as part of the reopening.

The pope's concelebrants – including Polish Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner; Italian Cardinal Angelo Comastri, head of the administration of St. Peter's Basilica; Polish Archbishop Jan Romeo Pawłowski, the pope's delegate to the Vatican's diplomatic missions; and Italian Archbishop Piero Marini, who served as John

Paul's Master of Ceremonies – weren't wearing masks or gloves either. The small crowd was a mixed bag, with some wearing masks and others not, though all were spaced out in the seats to maintain the recommended distance.

For the record, the pope also did not apply hand sanitizer before the Eucharistic rite. During Masses celebrated at various altars and side chapels in St. Peter's Monday afterwards, most priests did not appear to be wearing masks or gloves, even during the distribution of communion, though most attendees did. People coming in had to pass a thermoscanner confirming they weren't running a fever.

The discrepancies between the Italian rules and Vatican practice sparked a vigorous online discussion, with defenders of the pontiff pointing out the Vatican is a sovereign state and isn't obliged to follow any other country's decrees, while critics charged Francis with incoherence in counselling Italians to follow the rules and then ignoring portions of them himself.

Actually, Pope Francis has never been glimpsed wearing a mask or gloves since the beginning of the pandemic, and visitors either to his residence at the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta or the papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace haven't been required to wear them either – though hand sanitizer has been offered to guests before and after their encounters.

As with so many things, whether that's a reasonable judgment given the highly controlled environment around the pope, or a classic case of "do as I say, not as I do," probably rests in the eye of the beholder.

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

This article also appears on the Crux homepage [www.cruxnow.com](http://www.cruxnow.com)

**CRUX**  
Taking the Catholic Pulse

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

**CRUXNOW.COM**



## Remembering Saint John Paul II 1920–2020

# The day we met a saint

## Four Glasgow priests recall their meetings with St John Paul II

Last month saw the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla. Little could his family or friends have imagined that the child from Wadowice in Poland would go on to become the first non-Italian Pope for 450 years, and be canonised a saint.

This month we recall the 38th anniversary of his visit to Bellahouston, when, on an unforgettable hot summer day, before 300,000 people, the Polish Pope won the hearts of Glasgow... and vice versa.

The late Cardinal Winning loved to tell the story that every time he saw Pope John Paul in the years that followed his visit, the Polish Pontiff would put his hand over his heart and say... “Ah, Glasgow. Bellahouston ... I have it in my heart.”

This month we ask four Glasgow priests, who trained in Rome during the John Paul years to recall their meetings with a saint...

### Fr Nicholas Monaghan

**L**IKE so many, I am sure the recent anniversaries of the birth and death of St John Paul II have brought back memories of his visit to Glasgow.

Even though I was a child I still remember being present for the Papal Mass in Bellahouston Park, not thinking one day I would have the honour of being among those serving Mass for the Pope myself.

I was always aware that being a seminarian in Rome was a privilege, not least because it meant being able to be close to the successor of Saint Peter. While a student at the Pontifical Scots College we were asked to provide servers for the Good Friday liturgy at Saint Peter's Basilica.

Before the celebration began the servers were taken into a room to await the arrival of the Pope inside the Basilica, we were introduced to the Pope as seminarians from the Pontifical Scots College to which he replied ‘Ah, Glasgow!’

The Pope then began his preparation, a moment rarely seen, even then he was immersing himself in prayer as the layers of sacred vestments were placed upon him. I was fortunate enough to be given the role bearing the microphone for the Pope, which was a great job as it meant being next to the Pope every time he spoke; you don't forget holding the microphone for Pope John Paul as he chanted the *Ecce lignum Crucis* during the unveiling of the Cross.

A few years later I was due to be ordained to the Diaconate by Cardinal Winning in Rome. The day before was Easter Sunday and the students had been asked to serve the Mass in Saint Peter's Square. An enormous congregation filled the Piazza which meant that just a handful of us processed with the Pope



across the floor of an empty St Peter's Basilica, a moment both surreal and exciting, before emerging under the facade of St Peter's for the Easter Sunday Mass.

The area around the altar was festooned with flowers so much that it was like entering a garden. The moment was made even more special as my family were there as well as Cardinal Winning.

After the Mass it is customary for the Pope to greet the servers individually and since I was to be ordained the following day I had in my mind to ask the Pope for a blessing, which he duly imparted; a moment of grace I will never forget.

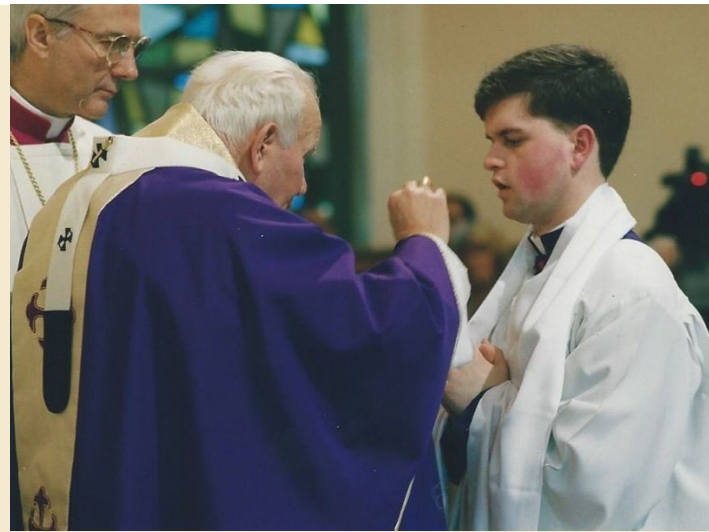
A few days later with Cardinal Winning and the then Fr Tartaglia I also had the joy of presenting my parents

to the Pope at the General Audience: an awesome family photo!

All these experiences have left a deep impression on me. I was always aware Pope John Paul was a man of tremendous sanctity and gifts, which he used to win souls for Christ and inspired many vacations including my own.

After his death I returned to Rome to attend his funeral, where the crowds called for Pope John Paul to be officially declared the saint that many believed him to be.

There was a tradition among those to be ordained to offer their new chalice to be first used and blessed by the Pope, following this tradition I use the chalice blessed by him at every Mass. I met a Saint, and I will always remember.



**W**HEN I was sent to Rome as a 17 year old seminarian I obviously hoped I'd see the Pope, but I only expected to do so from a distance, at a general audience or at Mass in St Peter's, and there were indeed plenty of these occasions.

But Advent 1998, my first Advent in the Scots College, brought a far more special occasion. We were told that St John Paul II was going to visit our local parish, Santa Rosa, just along the road from the College, and that the parish priest there had asked if the seminarians could serve the Mass. This was an unexpected early Christmas present!

This was not a visit to the College but to the parish, and so we didn't know if we would get to meet St John Paul personally or not, since he would no doubt have many parishioners and local dignitaries to greet, but, by good fortune Monsignor Marini (his Master of Ceremonies) did get us the chance to shake his

### Canon Paul Gargaro

hand and receive his blessing before Mass, albeit in a somewhat incongruous way as we were introduced in the corridor as he stepped out of the lift!

The meeting was very quick, and we were soon whisked away to get ready for the beginning of Mass, when the nerves really kicked in!

My job was to hold his crozier, but I had never been an altar boy and had only learned how to serve over the past couple of months in the College and here I was having to hold the Pope's staff, and not only that, I was told that because of his developing ill-health he might need it to hold on to at any point.

I didn't know whether I was coming or going, and if you watch the video it's not hard to spot the mistakes!

It was a great blessing to be able to meet him and receive Holy Communion from him, but the most moving time was at the end of Mass when he – already frail – went across to meet the sick members of the parish, to pray with them in their illnesses, seeing him in a sense carrying their sufferings along with his own.

Seven years later, having been ordained a deacon by then, I was invited, with the rest of the College, to minister on Good Friday in St Peter's basilica, but by that stage St John Paul II was too unwell to even attend and he passed away a week later.

I was able to visit his remains and pay my last respects as he lay in state in St Peter's, along with incredible numbers of pilgrims who stretched round the square and round the whole district, and I was back in the square for the election of his successor Pope Benedict XVI.

But my memories of St John Paul always take me back not to the grandeur of the Vatican but to the very simple setting of our little parish church on a quiet street in the north of Rome where I had been able to shake hands with a saint.



### Mgr Hugh Bradley

**W**HEN I became aware one day last month that it was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla, it set me thinking and remembering this most influential and inspiring man in my life.

For most of my adult life he was Pope; during all my time in seminary, in the Pontifical Scots College in Rome. And to be in Rome at that time, and so close to this now beloved Saint, was an enormous privilege and blessing.

I was blessed to meet him on a number of occasions.

My most outstanding memory was when he came to visit us in the Scots College. He celebrated Holy Mass for us for the feast of the Ascension and stayed for breakfast with us, a breakfast that included fried potato scones. The scones were made by Archbishop Cushley's father, who

was a baker, and brought to Rome to feed the Pope!

After Mass each member of the College community was presented to the Pope and received a few words of encouragement. I was introduced to the Holy Father by Archbishop Winning.

In the attached photo you can see the smiling face of the Pope as he ruffles my hair. Archbishop Winning is behind the Pope's arm and, behind my head you can see a young Fr Bill Nolan, now the Bishop of Galloway.

How excited we were that day. The College was buzzing in the days leading up to the visit and for many days after. And to this day our dear Saint continues to inspire me in my life as a Christian and my vocation as a priest.

### Fr Gerard Byrne

**I** WAS privileged to meet Pope St John Paul II a number of times during my studies in Rome; two occasions stand out for me. The first was when the Bishops of Scotland came to Rome together for their *ad limina apostolorum* visit in 1996.

I had only been in Rome for a period of months, and we were told there was a possibility we might meet His Holiness at the end of the Bishops' meeting. And so we did!

I remember the excitement with which we waited in the apostolic palace to be directed to the Pope's private chapel early in the morning, dressed in the distinctive Pontifical Scots College cassock on which Pope John Paul would always comment.

We were a small group of less than 40. I had the honour of singing the psalm at Mass that day in the Pope's tiny chapel, the lights of which could sometimes still be seen from St Peter's Square. The Pope was already unwell, we knew, but he was not deprived of energy back then.

At the end of Mass we were privileged to meet him personally. The photo had pride of place in my room in college, and I still often look at that photo – although I now cringe at the jacket and tie I chose to wear that day!

The last time I met John Paul II was in 2004, as a deacon, just months before my Priestly ordination.

It was the Easter Vigil, and I was to assist at Mass in St Peter's. The excitement was still as great as it had been seven years' prior, but then it was accompanied with a deep sadness in seeing how much the man I met in my first year in the Eternal City had failed in bodily strength.

By then he needed considerable assistance to vest for



Mass; his speech was slurred and often laboured. We were used to seeing him sit for much of Mass; his cathedra was now a wheelchair – an exact replica of the humble white chair from which he taught us so clearly throughout his Pontificate.

What few saw, however, was that when he “stood” at the altar to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist that night, and throughout his final months, he was lifted upwards and tilted forwards by the chair's complex mechanism, to allow him to continue to say Mass at the main altar. In his final months a man who had been an inspiration to so many of us in his strength became an inspiration in his humble acceptance of weakness.

The Paschal Triduum 2004 was the last that our beloved Pope would celebrate in public.



# When the ivory towers lock down

A student's experience of quarantine in the university chaplaincy Turnbull Hall

**I**N mid-March when a few of my flatmates fell ill with the symptoms of COVID-19, we were forced to go into isolation before the lockdown regulations were implemented in Scotland.

Being a student resident at the University of Glasgow's Catholic chaplaincy, I live in a building with five other students and our chaplain, Fr. Ross Campbell.

Because of his priestly presence, I'm one of the fortunate few lay people allowed to attend daily Mass and receive Communion – a blessing I'm extremely grateful for.

Ten weeks in, the abnormality of spending most of my time with the same six people has now become the new normality. Although community living has come with its own set of challenges (we are becoming slightly delirious and have developed 'interesting' fam-

ily dynamics to say the least), I'm glad to be spending this time not only in the good company of others, but also in the Presence of the Lord.

Many of my friends have not been so fortunate, missing of course the fellowship provided by peers, but above all, starving for the unique intimacy with God found in the Holy Eucharist.

Indeed, so many faithful Catholics, not just in Scotland but across the world as well, have experienced this Eucharistic fast. My own very different experience of the freedom to attend Mass, receive Communion, and pray before the Blessed Sacrament has therefore been a bittersweet one. On one hand, the deprivation of others merits my deepest sympathies; on the other hand, no words can express my gratitude for the gift I've

been given.

Being in lockdown with Christ has been the most amazing and humbling privilege.

Since I have lived in the chaplaincy for the past three years, I've almost gotten used to being able to pray before the tabernacle at any hour of the day or night as I wish. Since the lockdown began, seeing so many of my devout Catholic friends separated from the Eucharist has made me hyperaware of my fortune not only during this lockdown, but over the past three years as a whole.

It's easy to forget that in other parts of the world, Catholics struggle to get to Mass even on a weekly basis because of the persecution they face for their Faith. When we see a glimpse of their yearning first hand, albeit in a completely different scenario, it gives us an opportunity to contemplate the graces which flow so abundantly from the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Given that the Church operates as a single Body, those which are weak or struggling can be strengthened by the intercession and care of fellow members. Therefore, my flatmates and I have regarded our privilege also as a responsibility, and an opportunity to bring the faithful, both near and far, friend and stranger alike, to the foot of the altar at the sacrifice of the Mass.

With little knowledge of how long social restrictions will last, we can only hold steadfast to the theological virtue of Hope.

Every day, the residents of the chaplaincy have been asking the intercession of Venerable Cardinal Francis-Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, who was imprisoned for nine years in solitary confinement under the persecution of the Vietnamese Communist government.

Through his intercession, we have kept the Faithful of the Archdiocese in our prayers, and will continue to do so until restrictions are lifted. When that day finally comes, it will be a great joy for us all to share in Communion in the Life of Christ more fully once again.

Students make the most of quarantine



## The shared journey through suffering

Notre Dame sister's interfaith experience

**People of all faiths throughout the world responded magnificently to the Holy Father's wish to embrace technology for a global day of fasting and prayer on May 14 to end the pandemic. Among those taking part by Zoom in Glasgow was Sister Isabel Smyth, SND, founding director of Interfaith Scotland and the Scottish Bishops' Secretary for interreligious dialogue, who offers her reflections for *Flourish*.**

**T**ECHNOLOGY has come into its own during this time of lockdown. Many of us have learned for the first time to use Zoom and Skype and been grateful to such platforms for keeping us in touch with family and friends.

Others have been able to continue with business as usual as they conduct meetings and conversations – so much so that two new expressions have entered the English language – 'zoomed out' and 'zoom fatigue'.

Faith communities have really benefitted from this technology. It would have been very isolating for people of faith not to have been able to link up with religious services that have been relayed over the internet.

What's been surprising is the number of people who have tuned in to services – at least that's the case for the Christian community. Some churches have had thousands of people tuning in.

The church I've been going to, so to speak, had almost 6000 views linking with a Mass that was said for two young people in the community who were killed in a car accident a few years ago. Somehow the services, conducted from the small oratory or chapel, in the priest's

home have had an intimacy about them.

There have also been a number of interfaith dialogues, most of which I've resisted. But I did participate in what was for me a unique interfaith experience – a joint prayer gathering with a Shia Muslim group, Ahl-alBayt Scotland. That might seem a strange thing to say as I've been to many interfaith services. What's difficult about these very often is that not all faiths are happy praying with others because of tradition, different understandings of God or whatever.

This prayer, organised by the Scottish Catholic Bishops and Ahl-alBayt Scotland, was a response to the invitation of Pope Francis and the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity for a day of fasting, prayer and generosity in the light of Covid 19 on May 14. The committee had come about after Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, signed the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together in February 2019. In that document the Pope and Grand Imam suggested that "as for the future of interreligious dialogue, the first thing we have to do is pray, and pray for one another: we are brothers and sisters!"

other: we are brothers and sisters!"

On May 14 there were many interfaith prayer services all over the world including our short prayer which lasted only 10 minutes. 188 people linked into it and the responses have been very positive.

What made it different for me was that we were able to consciously take a moment of silence and become aware of God's presence with us, a God who is closer to us than our jugular vein, the One in whom we live and move and have our very being.

We were able to be aware of our unity as brothers and sisters in faith as well as our unity with the whole of humanity. We were able to respond to the prayers with Amin or Amen and declare our common commitment to see the best in one another.

I, (and others) found it prayerful in a way I don't with more formal services.

I'm not suggesting we do away with these but the bilateral nature of our prayer helped. We hope it will become a regular feature of our common journey together.

**■ To read the full version of this blog go to [www.interfaithjourneys.net](http://www.interfaithjourneys.net)**

**Froscote Roofing** 

**UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Gutters** *The Felt Roofing Specialists*

**All types of Felt Roofing: Domestic & Commercial**

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

**Free Estimates & Quotations**

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

*Our Guarantee is quality*

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

**DALY GARAGE DOORS**  
*Family Business With Over 30 Years Experience*

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

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

**24 Hour Call-Out**

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

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

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



# Little Sisters of the Poor appeal for aid as virus threat slashes income

**ST Joseph's Care home in Robroyston, which is losing £2000 a week during the current Covid-19 crisis, has launched an urgent fundraising appeal to enable it to continue to care for its residents.**

In the past few weeks the home, run by the Little Sisters of the Poor, has received numerous donations of masks, visors, gloves and other PPE items from individuals and groups including Celtic fans and more recently the Vietnamese community.

And Sister Marie Claire, manager of St Joseph's, is confident that people will be equally generous when it comes to donating cash through the home's JustGiving page.

She said: "Without the help and support of so many people who answered our appeal for PPE we wouldn't be where we are today. The public have been fantastic. We thank very specially the

Catholic Vietnamese Community who donated so many masks to us and to other care homes.

"We are a charity-based care home but due to COVID-19, we have not been able to undertake our usual fundraising which we rely on heavily day to day.

"We estimate to have lost up to £10,000 a month in fundraising since the start of this pandemic's lockdown.

"We are unable to take in any new residents, our PPE costs have risen significantly and agency staff costs have increased by a large amount due to several of our permanent staff members needing to self-isolate."

She added: "With the current situation depleting our funds and an unknown timeline for this pandemic, any donations would be gratefully received to enable us to continue caring for the safety, wellbeing and happiness of our elderly and vulnerable residents, who are

at the very heart of all we do, as well as supporting our wonderful staff.

"Gratefully received donations will help support our ongoing costs, from vital pieces of medical equipment and steady supplies of PPE, to the cost of increased data allowances and electronic devices so residents will be able to attend medical appointments virtually and keep in contact with loved ones who cannot visit them right now.

"It will also support the day-to-day costs of running the home as a charity.

"During this uncertain and unprecedented time, we need your help more than ever to support our fantastic staff and to ensure our residents continue to remain protected, happy and healthy"

■ **Donations can be made via the JustGiving page [www.justgiving.com/campaign/LSPGlasgow](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/LSPGlasgow)**



A RAINBOW OF HOPE... Alvaro and Susan Rossi, husband and wife residents in St Joseph's Independent Living Apartments, created this rainbow collage as a thank you to all well-wishers who have made donations to the home during the Covid crisis and to publicise the new JustGiving initiative. Sister Marie Claire, manager of the home, standing next to Alvaro and pictured with her colleague Sister Ursula said: "It was a wonderful gesture."

## Italian bells toll for much-loved Lisa



**CHURCH bells tolled solemnly from a hillside church in an Italian village as the last surviving member of the Jaconelli ice cream dynasty was laid to rest in Glasgow last month.**

Lisa Jaconelli Melrose, who was just months away from her 100th birthday when she died in Nazareth House, is the last of the original generation of Jaconellis born here but with origins in the hamlet of San Gennaro in southern Italy.

And in a poignant tribute to mark her passing, relatives 1400 miles away

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

arranged for a drone to fly over the church at San Gennaro and film the ringing of the church bells. The video was then uploaded on to Immaculate Conception Parish's Facebook page.

Within hours several parishioners, including many now living abroad, shared their memories of the famous Melrose cafe on Maryhill Road which Lisa and her late husband Jack ran for many years.

One former parishioner,

now living in the USA, wrote: "The Melrose sold fabulous ice cream. It was a real treat if you got to sit in but mostly I was sent out for wafers and a pokey-hat and had to belt it home before they melted. I didn't realise it was the same family as had Jaconelli's at Queens Cross."

A few years ago it was one of just a handful of cafes in Scotland to figure in a definitive guide book to the best Italian cafes in the UK.

Regular customers included Billy Connolly and actor Robert Carlyle.





# Archbishop's tribute to professionalism and care in times of bereavement

**ARCHBISHOP Tartaglia has warmly praised all who work in the funeral sector for their 'respect care and sensitivity' during the Covid crisis as new figures show that burials at Dalbeth Cemetery, owned and maintained by the Archdiocese of Glasgow, are currently showing an almost 60 per cent increase on this time last year.**

And although burial numbers increased during the peak of the pandemic the dedicated staff who look after the 165 acre site have pledged to continue with the same level of care and dedication referred to by the Archbishop.

## Dedication

Archbishop Philip said: "I want to acknowledge the dedication of our people at St Peter's Cemetery, Dalbeth, who are continuing to assure a dignified Christian committal and burial for our dearly beloved deceased relatives, friends and pa-

rishioners. The same appreciation is extended to all cemetery and crematorium personnel across the Archdiocese.

"We cannot forget Funeral Directors, monumental sculptors and personnel across the City and the Archdiocese who care for the deceased with such respect and for the bereaved with such sensitivity."

## Sensitivity

A team of five headed by manager, Ian Ballantyne, maintains St Peter's, operating under strict Government guidelines during burials but always with the greatest respect for the bereaved.

Ian said: "New procedures mean that we carry the coffin to the lair and we lower on our own but at that point we don't wear masks.

"We feel that it's distressing enough without seeing a loved one lowered into the grave by people in masks."

"Numbers are low in

terms of mourners allowed to be physically present but my team is very empathetic and is doing everything we can to support parishioners and their families whilst in our care."

"We advise 20 people at committals, including priest and undertakers, with social distancing at all times and families have been very understanding."

## Trying

Ken Crilley Development Director of the Archdiocese said: "Ian and his team at St Peter's Cemetery have performed extremely well during these trying times. With the massive increase in burials recently, the Cemetery staff have worked flat out to ensure that we have managed to accommodate all funeral requests, in addition to keeping the maintenance of the cemetery to a high standard. The feedback from bereaved families and undertakers has been very gratifying."



## Dalbeth's story

**ST Peter's cemetery was first acquired by the Archdiocese in 1863 but is available for burials of people of all denominations.**

The original Dalbeth House and its surrounding land, originally owned by the Hopkirk family of wealthy Tobacco Lords, was sold in 1841 to the Religious Congregation of the Good Shepherd.

The Sisters transformed the house into a convent, and a small section of the land was turned into a burial ground, known today as Old Dalbeth.

As the cemetery expanded, the larger, more modern section took the name of St Peter's.

Given its proximity to Celtic Park it is hardly surprising that Dalbeth is the final resting place of a number of Celtic greats, including the legendary Jimmy McGrory who died in 1982.

To mark the link, the Celtic Graves Society was founded several years ago, by a group of dedicated fans who help find and maintain the graves of Celtic heroes, and organise regular tours.

**B MAIN SCULPTORS**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

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

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

**£450**

**0141 641 0088**

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO!

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

**www.mainheadstones.co.uk**

PHONE FOR A FREE BROCHURE

## Alex Black FUNERAL CARE

Golden Charter Funeral Plans



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

7 PEELGLEN ROAD DRUMCHAPEL G15 7XN	288 - 290 DYKE ROAD KNIGHTSWOOD G13 4QU	1927 MARYHILL ROAD MARYHILL G20 0BX
TELEPHONE <b>949 1234</b>	TELEPHONE <b>959 1234</b>	TELEPHONE <b>946 1234</b>

## Dignified funerals

At the lowest price locally. **Guaranteed**

Funerals from £1,350 | Direct Cremation from £750



During the Coronavirus pandemic, we can help and support you to arrange an intimate funeral now and a celebration of life at a later date.

Inverclyde | Greenock | PA16 9AA | 01475 888 188  
Inverclyde | Port Glasgow | PA14 5HF | 01475 745 678  
John Kane | Dumbarton | G82 1BA | 01389 733 333  
Jonathan Harvey | Kilbowie Road | G81 6QS | 01389 878 888  
P. B. Wright & Sons | Greenock | PA15 1YD | 01475 724 248  
T & R O'Brien & Son | Glasgow | G20 7QS | 0141 332 1708

[dignityfunerals.co.uk/fdfinder](http://dignityfunerals.co.uk/fdfinder)

**Our Price Promise.** We regularly check our competitors prices and are confident we are unbeaten locally. To give you further peace of mind, we also promise to match any local prices you may find after arranging your funeral with us. We guarantee to match any funeral quote from another funeral director that is within 5 miles of our location. Terms & conditions apply.



## T. McGowan & Sons Monumental Sculptors



FAMILY FIRM ESTABLISHED 1947

### St. Kentigern's Cemetery

109 Tresta Road, Glasgow G23 5AA

Telephone: 0141 946 2429

### Linn Cemetery

602 Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45 9SP

Telephone: 0141 634 8515

### Dalbeth Cemetery

1920 London Road, Glasgow G32

Telephone: 0141 778 4916

### Philiphill Cemetery

Westerfield Road, East Kilbride G76

Telephone: 0141 644 4535

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

**www.tmcgowan.co.uk**



# CEMETERY HEADSTONES **MASSIVE SALE**

NEW STONE/REPLACING AN OLD HEADSTONE



GLASGOW  
STIRLING  
NORTH LANARKSHIRE  
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE  
EAST RENFREWSHIRE  
WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Council fees **NO CHARGE**  
Cemetery fees **NO CHARGE**  
Lettering **NO CHARGE**  
Designs **NO CHARGE**  
Photos **NO CHARGE**  
Putting stone up **NO CHARGE**  
VAT **NO CHARGE**  
Flower pot **NO CHARGE**

Please note: Our team are working on all the new orders that came in online while on lockdown.  
Many thanks.

## **FOR THE FOLLOWING CEMETERIES:**

LAMBHILL	RUTHERGLEN
ST KENTIGERNS	WESTBURN
LINN	COLTSWOOD
ST PETERS	BEDLEY
DALBETH	EASTFIELD
CADDER	KILSYTH
OLD AISLE	CARDONALD
LENNOXTON	NEILSTON
LANGFAULDS	MEARNS
KILLEARN	EAGLESHAM
BALFRON	ST CONVALS
STRATHBLANE	ARKLESTON
RIDDRIE	HAWKHEAD
JANEFIELD	ELDELSLIE
TOLLCROSS	SANDYMOUNT

COMPLETE STONES FROM

# £995

MON-THURS: 10 TO 6 • FRIDAY: 10 TO 5  
SAT: 10 TO 3.30 • SUN: 11 TO 3.30



**THE SCOTTISH  
GRANITE COMPANY**  
MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS

5 CROSSHILL ROAD, BISHOPBRIGGS G64 2PZ  
(BY STRATHKELVIN RETAIL PARK, OPPOSITE B&Q)

**0141 762 3733**



# Coronavirus poses new and dramatic threat to world's poorest

**In any crisis, it's the poorest who are hit hardest and the coronavirus pandemic is no different.**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has devastated Europe, causing tens of thousands of deaths in countries which are comparatively well equipped to handle a crisis of this magnitude. We're yet to see the full impact of the outbreak in the communities SCIAF serves, but, if the virus is equally rapacious in developing nations, the loss of life could be measured in the hundreds of thousands.

The World Health Organisation has estimated that some 190,000 people could die of Covid-19-related deaths in the first year of the pandemic.

As the official international development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland, SCIAF's range of work is broad and our reach is far. Donations from generous schools, parishes and individuals support vital work in diverse communities across three continents. These vary from indigenous groups living the densely forested Choco region of Colombia, to remote, rural villages in South Sudan. Each community now has its own unique set of challenges in facing coronavirus.

We know that refugees living in camps or cramped shanty towns can't self-isolate, and often don't have running water to wash their hands. The simple act of cleaning our hands has been instrumental in preventing the spread of COVID-19 here in Scotland, but for those already living on a knife-edge the lack of water deprives them of this simple protection.

In the Democratic Repub-



**Alistair Dutton**

SCIAF Chief Executive

lic of Congo, where a young population is already experienced in limiting the spread of Ebola, the number of deaths resulting directly from the virus currently appears mercifully low.

However, this must be balanced with the knowledge that within an under resourced healthcare system where testing and monitoring have been low, the figures recorded may not reflect the full extent of the cases and deaths. What we can say with certainty is that in DR Congo, and across all the communities SCIAF serves, infection with coronavirus is only one of the dangers of the outbreak.

For many, the deadlier threat is hunger.

Lock down simply isn't possible for most of the world's poorest countries. For many their existence is hand to mouth. If they don't earn today, they don't eat today, and tomorrow they will have to go back out to try to find work that will give them a day's wage and allow them to feed the family. In this pandemic, as with Ebola and many epidemics before, people often have to choose between feeding their families and risking dying of the virus, or staying at home without food.

In most cases there are no safety nets and no social security, and most states can't provide the necessary help

for their people to survive a lockdown, nor assistance to cope with spiralling food costs. Although this is a global pandemic, right now, the very poorest people are more afraid of hunger than of coronavirus.

Since the outbreak began we've been working continually to support our partners around the world. As the challenges in each country vary, so does the response we're helping to provide.

Our primary aim at the moment is to raise people's awareness and stop the virus spreading, just as happened here in Scotland. In South Sudan we're supporting public health campaigns in vulnerable communities and distributing soap and sanitizers.

As with all our work at SCIAF we're going to great lengths to reach those most in need.

We're reaching children and adults living with disabilities and their carers, to give them advice on keeping safe from the coronavirus, and to make sure they have everything they need to wash their hands.

In the Great Lakes region of Africa, we have longstanding relationships with partners in Rwanda. There, we've found the most effective way to help is to give people the money they need to pay their rent, making sure they can keep a roof over their



PICTURE BY **AMIT RUDRO** FOR CRS/CARITAS BANGLADESH

Families seek refuge in the Caritas Bangladesh cyclone shelter, attempting social distancing, while also trying to keep everyone safe from the deadly storms. Here, woman named Najma with her child seeking refuge in a cyclone shelter.

heads through the crisis. We're also working with our partners to broadcast potentially lifesaving information through local radio stations. Radio messages are an excellent way to tell communities about the importance of hand-washing and social distancing.

With much of SCIAF's daily work now focused on helping protect the most vulnerable from COVID-19, we've launched a dedicated Coronavirus Appeal.

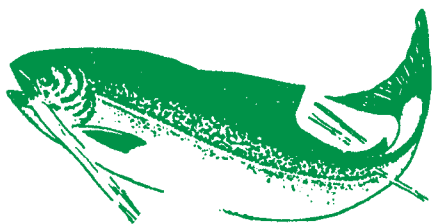
Donations will fund our work helping the poorest to protect themselves from the coronavirus, but also support our long-term work. We've achieved tremendous, enduring success in lifting people out of poverty by providing them the means to support themselves - giving them training and tools to grow food and earn a living.

The coronavirus outbreak may have changed our daily lives, but it has not changed our fundamental commit-

ment to help the poorest of our sisters and brothers. In the uncertain and challenging months ahead, your support means more than ever.

In times like these we place our trust and God and find shelter in Him. Please remember the work of SCIAF in your prayers as we remember you in ours.

**You can learn more about SCIAF's Coronavirus Appeal at [www.sciaf.org.uk](http://www.sciaf.org.uk)**



**Bernard Corrigan Ltd**

WHOLESALE FISHMONGER • POULTERER & GAME DEALER

184-200 HOWARD STREET  
GLASGOW G1 4HW

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

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

FOR WOMEN  
EXPLORING  
FRANCISCAN  
VOCATION



# Mental health matters

My name is Sharon McGinley and I am a qualified experienced Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapist who works in private practice in Glasgow along with working part time in the NHS. I am a Counsellor Member of COSCA and I am bound by their Code of Conduct and Ethics - [www.cosca.org.uk](http://www.cosca.org.uk)

What can we do in this current global pandemic to look after ourselves?

**Accepting** that we cannot change what is currently happening, but what we can do is be aware of the linkage to how our behaviours make us feel. Be in control of the amount of time you engage in social media, watching the news and how this affects you both emotionally and physically. Where do you feel the anxiety? Be conscious of what your body is telling you. Is your heart racing, stomach churning? To help ease these symptoms, be mindful of your breathing. Inhale through your nose for a count of three slowly and exhale through your mouth again counting to three slowly. Repeat this exercise four times.

## Awareness

We cannot control how our lives have changed due to this pandemic but what we can **control is our thoughts in this global crisis**. To quote from the Greek philosopher Epictetus "People are disturbed not by things, but by the views they take of them". Through awareness of how our thoughts make us feel, we can challenge these to more positive helpful thoughts.

**Awareness** is the key to unlocking our distorted thoughts and through recognising whether we are for example predicting, judging or catastrophising, this can assist us in challenging and changing these negative obtrusive thoughts to more positive helpful ones.

## Self-Care

Take this time as an **opportunity to look after self**. Self-care is crucial for building up resilience to life events and there is no time more important than in the now to engage in self-care: it is a priority. Self-care consists of several elements:

- Physical self-care such as nutrition, exercise and sleep.
- Emotional Self-care such as being aware of our emotions for example anger and sadness and how these can be managed. For example, through keeping a **daily journal** to recognise the triggers for our emotions.
- Spiritual Self-care such as awareness of when our minds are racing with thoughts and to try and be still. Engage in activities such as prayer, **meditation**, **mindfulness** and through being still in the now this will quieten the racing mind and provide strength at this challenging time. Take time to assess your self-care by implementing a **self-care plan** and commence small steps to change through looking after yourself. "An empty lantern provides no light. Self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine brightly".



If you find yourself struggling with anxiety, low mood or lapsing into unhelpful ways of coping, please contact me. I provide a free 30-minute telephone consultation to determine if Cognitive Behavioural Therapy would be the most suitable treatment for you.

Due to Covid-19 I have adapted my practice and I am currently offering both telephone counselling and online therapy through via Zoom for clients aged 18 and above.

T: 07979 952920

E Mail: [mhminthenow@gmail.com](mailto:mhminthenow@gmail.com)

f/b: [mhminthenow](#)

w: [www.mentalhealthmattersglasgow.co.uk](http://www.mentalhealthmattersglasgow.co.uk) (under construction)



# A hymn to the gentle peace of the valleys

**Leonard Franchi** writes a hymn to the life of valley villages, from the Vale of Leven to the Valle del Comino

**TO LIVE in a valley is to feel cocooned by the ever-watchful slopes of the surrounding hills.**

Whether the inclines are dotted with houses or isolated farms, the valley-dweller feels the desire to look upwards and sideways, as if to make sure that these familiar forms and their comforting presence have not slipped their anchor and headed, like free spirits, towards the heavens.

Hills and mountains provide shelter and exercise. Few gymnasia, the torture chambers of the modern city, can match the exhilaration of a shared walk with friends up and around well-trod turf. From above we find it hard to resist the temptation to peer into the valley below in search of a house. Our house. The hills of our valleys are like a mother's arms protecting her young child from an



imagined danger. "No need to worry, the fiery dragon is going for its tea now..."

Hills hide the morning sun and offer a grateful glow of welcome when it returns in the evening. From dawn to dusk they form iridescent natural boundaries between people and territory, forging communities and shared memories with their ever-present gaze.

My life is marked by two lush green valleys, one in

'bonnie' Scotland, the other in 'bella' Italia.

In Scotland, I live happily in the Vale of Leven, in a town called Alexandria. My mother, Grace, was born locally in the grounds of what is now a busy petrol station. The friends she made then remain her friends now.

My roots are also in a small village called Villa Latina, in the Comino Valley, in southern Italy. My father, Benny Franchi was born in Vicolo

Franchi, a jagged alley next to the village square. Unsurprisingly, all who lived there were related.

There is no plaque erected to mark the birth of either of my parents or their friends. That is as it should be: like so many great valley-folk they lived a life of quiet service and hard work. Such a life needs no lapidary recognition.

In the cemeteries of such valleys, there lie in peace-



Picture by Anna Plaistow

ful repose those we knew well, those we knew a little and that vast army to whom we said 'hello' (or 'ciao') but, alas, with whom we never shared more than a few such short words.

They are still with us, watching carefully from their hillside perches. From their graves they also add to the 'architecture' of the valley.

The sights and smells of these small communities form banks of marvellous

memories which continue to course freely through my veins. The Orcadian poet, George Mackay Brown got it right: be at peace; interrogate the silence.

His song was for the islands, I sing for the valleys.

■ This article first appeared in the online journal **Adamah**. More articles at [www.adamah.media](http://www.adamah.media)



# Feast days galore mark the Sundays of June



Canon  
Robert  
Hill

**THE Easter season is over, but we don't get to return to Ordinary Time just yet, with the exception of 21 June when for one week only we celebrate a so-called Ordinary Sunday: (the 12th of Year A).**

Otherwise, we have a heady mix of Trinity Sunday, the Body and Blood of Christ, and Sts Peter and Paul, transferred to Sunday to avoid confusion over the Sunday liturgy and clashes with Vigil Masses for the Solemnity. In other words, there is no single theme to the Gospels of this month. So, it's rather difficult to follow a theme from week to week – let's consider then each celebration in its own right.

7  
JUN

Trinity Sunday Year A.

**John 3:16–18**

The celebration of the Most Holy Trinity – one God, three persons, equal but not identical – almost sounds like an Easter celebration; but it always takes place outside of Easter – and always on the Sunday following Pentecost. The Trinity is widely reckoned to be the most difficult to understand mystery of the Christian Church. It's said that we cannot fully understand the complexity of the doctrine because its simplicity is too profound for human minds to grasp. Fortunately, in the liturgy we celebrate the Trinity, so we do not need to grapple too much with its theology. One of the great themes which emerges from the readings for Trinity Sunday for Year A is the sheer wonder of those in Old Testament and New who at some point seem to step back and marvel at the wonder of the infinite, all-powerful God, whom these people have come to know in different ways. Moses marvels at the way in which God reveals himself – as a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger and rich in tenderness: not the standard Old Testament view of God! The second reading ends with a Trinitarian formula which very much resembles the opening greeting at Mass, and in the greatest revelation in today's reading, Jesus reveals to Nicodemus that “God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved”. No human could ever have

Jean Auguste  
Dominique Ingres,  
*Jesus Returning  
the Keys to St Peter*  
(1820).



come up with these definitions simply by working them out. We know of God as Trinity solely because God chose to reveal to us God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

14  
JUN

The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) A.

**John 6:51–58**

We might expect a gospel today which tells us of Jesus' institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, but we don't get one! Instead, and perhaps more importantly, we have a gospel which lays out for us the most important aspects of Eucharist presented anywhere in the Gospels. The setting is

John's Gospel, of course, and the teaching of Jesus on the Eucharist which follows the feeding of the 5,000 is of huge importance for us in trying to understand this wonderful gift that Jesus has given us. Of course the word 'Eucharist' is not explicitly used here. The word itself means 'thanksgiving', and when Jesus took the few loaves of bread, he gave thanks over them and fed 5,000 people with 12 baskets left over. In the gospel for today, thanksgiving is central to the celebration, because what we celebrate in this Feast is the giving by Jesus of his flesh and blood. We are reminded that what we receive sacramentally from Jesus every time

we celebrate and receive Eucharist, is his flesh which is real food, and his blood, which is real drink. To eat the flesh of the Son of Man and to drink his blood, i.e. to receive Eucharist, is to live in Jesus, and for Jesus to live in us. Anyone who does so, says Jesus, will live forever.

21  
JUN

Sunday 12, Year A.

**Matthew 10:26–33**

This is the only Sunday of this month which is not some feast or other!

We are back to the Gospel of Matthew, and to one of its five discourses (or sermons, if you prefer). This one is the second, and it is frequently called the Mission Discourse. It begins

with Jesus choosing by name the 12 who are not just disciples, but apostles. What's the difference? Well, disciples are like students, pupils, who stay with the teacher to learn from him. Apostles are sent out to proclaim, the message of Jesus himself. The disciples are without limit in terms of numbers; Apostles – usually called The Twelve, are of course twelve in number. Before the Apostles depart in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs them on their mission. First, they are not to be afraid; nor must they fear those who kill the body but cannot fear the soul. Overcoming any potential fear about their mission will enable and empower

them to declare themselves for Jesus is the presence of humans. Jesus will then declare himself for them in the Presence of God the Father in heaven. The same cannot be said however for those who disown Jesus in this life. The setting is nearly 2000 years old, yet the message is as relevant today as it was then.

28  
JUN

Solemnity, Sts Peter and Paul

**Matthew 16:13–19**

Only Matthew gives this extended version of the exchange between Jesus and Peter at Caesarea Philippi. In this version, there is almost a kind of swapping of compliments. Peter says that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. In return, Jesus says “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” This exchange only takes place to this extent in Matthew. It's important to consider why.

Clearly, the issue is greater for the people Matthew was writing for than it was for the other evangelists. The reason is that Matthew's gospel was written to boost the confidence of followers of Jesus who have been expelled from the synagogue. The rabbis who took control of the Jewish religious system once the Temple had been destroyed, claimed that they held the keys to the kingdom of heaven; that they had the power to decide on which teaching about God was valid, and which was not. No prizes for guessing that only their own teaching was considered to be authentic. Matthew boosts the confidence of the formerly Jewish members of the Christian community by quoting the time that Jesus had insisted that he, the authentic interpreter of the Law and the Prophets, had given to Peter the authority to continue this teaching when Jesus was no longer on earth. Jesus is the only one who can teach us all about God. When Jesus then gives that authority to Peter and his successors, we have the guarantee that we always have that teaching with us, until the end of time.



**As I write this I am very aware that the last public Mass celebrated here in St Mungo's was seven weeks ago today, on the Feast of St Joseph, and it is still very difficult to say when the next public Mass will be.**

Those who join us for the Masses streamed from our oratory in Bishopbriggs each day may have heard me tell of a dream I had last Monday night...

I dreamt I was celebrating Mass in St Mungo's with a small group of people, well-spaced out as required, when suddenly the doors burst open and a big group of tourists poured in and started to fill up the benches. In a panic I tried to tell them that it could only be two people to a bench, but to no avail. That then segued into a similar dream, and while I am not conscious of being overly anxious about this, it is obviously playing around in my mind as discussions continue between the bishops and the government as to when, and with what restrictions in terms of public safety, our churches might safely open again. It's not easy.

Yesterday I conducted a cremation for one of our parishioners who had died of the virus, but who also had other serious underlying medical conditions. Only 10 people were allowed into the crematorium chapel where the seats had been arranged to comply with current guidelines. Other people gathered outside.

## A Passionist lockdown



### Fr Frank's log

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

Before the service started, I met a neighbouring parish priest who had conducted the service beforehand. He also happens to be my niece's brother-in-law.

It was good to see him and to have a brief exchange on how things were going. Neither of us was stuck for things to do, but at the same time we were longing to be back in our churches. I also heard from another parish priest for whom we had provided cover while he was recovering from surgery at the end of last year.

He was kindly enquiring how we were, and in fact we ourselves had been thinking of him and hoping he was able to use the quieter lockdown time to make a fuller recovery. Next week I will have a burial with similar restrictions to the cremation.

I was thinking of how each year we have a Mass in November to remember all those who died and were buried or cremated in the previous year, and how

important that will be next November to provide an opportunity for families to grieve together, but that's presuming we are able to gather for Mass by November, which is by no means certain.

The latest from Father Gareth is that he and his mum are well and that they are watching a lot of biblical epics on television. Father Gareth loves his old films and I would say he is piling up a few biblical stories, according to Hollywood, to regale us with when he gets back to celebrating Mass in St Mungo's. We can't wait! Getting the shopping in, he says, has become increasingly more difficult as there seem to be fewer and fewer buses in the Valleys, but they are managing.

Having praised Father Antony's hairdressing skills recently, we have been wondering how Father Gareth's hair is doing as when it gets longer it tends to go very curly, which he doesn't like, so he may be a bit of an awe-

some sight at the moment.

I have to humbly take back what I said about Father Antony's age and condition, after his first jogging venture, as he is now running much more regularly, even in the hottest of weather, and looking fit and tanned. My own running days are definitely over, but I have been trying to get my walk in most days, even if only to counteract the over-indulgence in chocolate. Father Justinian is trying to keep up his daily garden walk, but he has also discovered a cosy spot at the side of the house where he can sit out in the sun and be sheltered from the breeze, so, as long as the good weather lasts, he will take advantage of that.

Meantime, we continue streaming our daily Masses from the oratory and, during Eastertide, we hope to provide a couple of special services. One will be a Service of Reconciliation, incorporating an act of perfect contrition, as we know people are still concerned about not getting to Confession. The other will be a Taize-style prayer focussing on Mary, praying with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for Pentecost. We hope you can join us. As always, protect yourselves, protect your loved ones and others, and protect Christ in your lives.

## JERICHO

### The Compassion of Jesus

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

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

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

## Is God calling you?

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

The Cistercian monks at Nunraw Abbey offer such an opportunity.

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

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

Vocation Director, Nunraw Abbey  
HADDINGTON, EH41 4LW, Scotland  
Or email: nunraw.abbot@yahoo.co.uk  
Scottish Charity No SC022611

## Fr Dominic Doogan RIP: Archbishop's tribute

**LAST month the Archdiocese lost one of its longest serving priests - Fr Dominic Doogan, former Parish Priest of St Mahew's, Cardross.**

In almost half a century of priestly service, Fr Dom served in no less than nine parishes. Due to the Covid-19 emergency, it was not possible to have a proper Funeral Mass for Fr Dominic Doogan, with his coffin before the altar, and with the presence and participation of the faithful, of his brother priests, and of all those who would have liked to be there.

Instead his funeral was live streamed from the Cathedral. Archbishop Taraglia offered the following tribute:

I offer my sympathies and the sympathies of Fr Dominic's brother priests and of the whole Archdiocese of Glasgow to Dominic's brother, Ignatius, and to his relatives and friends,



and to all those who mourn him.

Fr Dominic died in Nazareth House, Glasgow, where he had been resident for the last two years. We offer our sympathies and thanks to the Sisters of Nazareth, to his carers and to the other residents of Nazareth House, not least the priests who live there. I offer our sympathies to the people of St Mahew's Parish, Cardross, the last parish in which Fr Dominic served.

He was Parish Priest there for 9 years until 2018.

He loved it there. He felt safe there. It is a small country parish and it was manageable for him. The parishioners were grateful that he was there. They were kind enough to look after him during a time in his life when his health was giving him quite a number of problems.

Fr Dominic was ordained a priest on 30 June 1971. My predecessor, Archbishop James Donald Scanlan, ordained Fr Dominic in his home parish of St Charles', Glasgow. Fr Dominic thereafter served the Archdiocese of Glasgow as a priest for nearly 49 years, for which we render thanks to God today, even as we pray for the happy repose of Fr Dominic's soul.

I am sure that people across the diocese will have cause to remember Fr Dominic fondly and to pray

for him. He was Assistant Priest in the Sacred Heart, Bridgeton, Our Holy Redeemer, Clydebank, Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald, St Martin's, Renton, and St Peter's, Dumbarton. He also served in St Patrick's, Anderston and in St Columba's, Woodside, while he was Chaplain to Notre Dame High School and to the Hospitals at Yorkhill. He was Parish Priest in St Anne's, Dennistoun, and finally at St Mahew's, Cardross. His was a very varied life of priestly service, and one in which he always rejoiced.

Fr Dominic and I served together briefly from 1980-81 when we were both Assistant Priests at Our Lady of Lourdes. During that year, I learned that Fr Dominic was a very devout and dedicated priest. With great enthusiasm, he supported Catholic Charismatic Renewal and Catholic Marriage Encounter,

both of which were young and energetic movements at the time, and were finding their place in the Catholic mainstream.

He was also a Lourdes Chaplain, a great devotee of Our Lady of Lourdes and of going to Lourdes on pilgrimages. Even when his fragile health might have advised against it, Fr Dominic, with the help of a friend, made pilgrimages to Lourdes to pray at Our Lady's grotto.

There is much to console and inspire us in today's readings. From the Old Testament, we hear that Job's remarkable faith in God, which had sustained him through life, reached beyond the grave. 'I know that my Avenger lives,' he cries, words that can only prefigure the Risen Christ. After my awaking, he declares, 'he will set me close to him, and from my flesh I shall look on God.' What a remarkable affirmation

of the resurrection of the body, surely hope for Fr Dominic and for all of us!

The Gospel should bring joy and hope to all of us too. In the Gospel according to John, Jesus says that anyone who eats his flesh and drinks his blood has eternal life and will be raised up on the last day.

As a priest, Fr Dominic spent his life celebrating Mass and giving the body and blood of Christ to the people. That must surely count for something when he comes into the presence of Christ, his Saviour and Merciful Judge.

Let me leave the last words to the John who was the writer of the Book of the Apocalypse. "Happy are those who die in the Lord! ....Now they can rest for ever after their work, since their good deeds go with them."

Rest in peace, good and faithful servant, Fr Dominic Doogan.





We believe in giving back to our local communities.

That means charities, sports teams and great causes across the UK.



Scottish Ambulance Service



Trossachs Search & Rescue



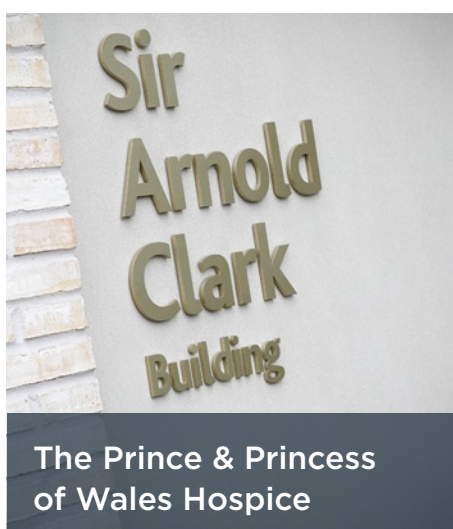
Marie Curie



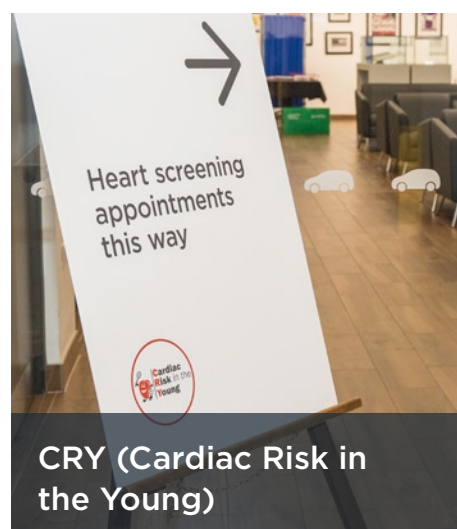
The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home



Gear Up For Sport



The Prince & Princess of Wales Hospice



CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)



Kiltwalk