

# FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow June 2021

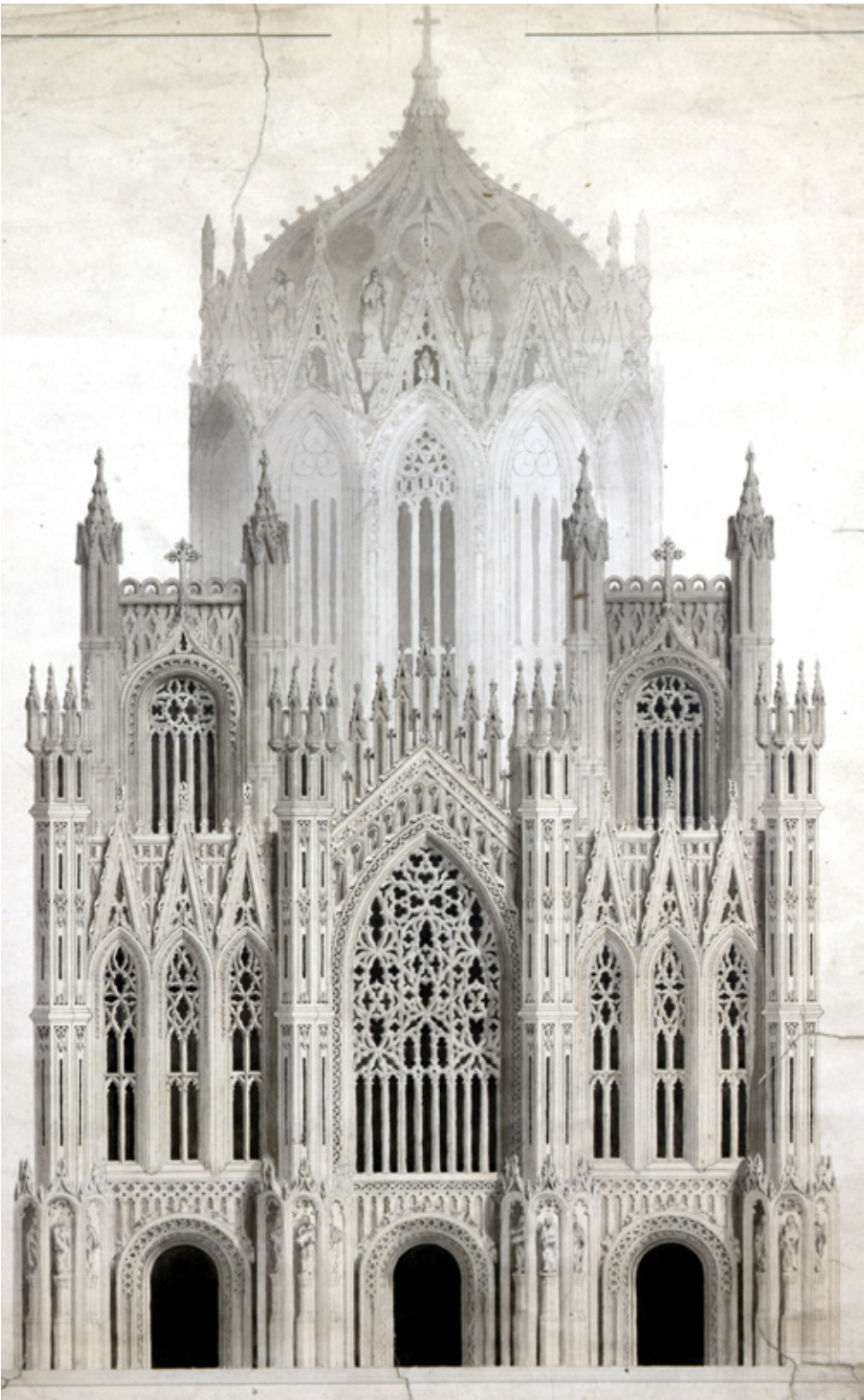
## Revealed: Glasgow's unbuilt cathedral

BY RONNIE CONVERY

**NEW** research has unveiled plans were drawn up almost 200 years ago for a magnificent Catholic cathedral for Glasgow on the site of the current St Mary's church in Calton.

Shown here for the first time, the planned cathedral façade would have been one of the most dramatic in the city.

The discovery was made by Archdiocesan archivist Dr Mary McHugh after extensive work on original papers revealed a design for a striking façade for a St Mary's 'cathedral' which was never built.



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# Bishops' new care of creation office

**INSPIRED** by *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis' landmark encyclical letter on care for the environment, Scotland's bishops have unveiled a bold new plan to help parishes dramatically reduce their carbon footprint with the launch of a Care of Creation Office.

Headed by Father Gerard Maguinness, General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference, its task will be to take a co-ordinated approach to advise and encourage dioceses and parishes to find ways of moving toward carbon neutrality.

In the coming months it is thought that a series of audits will take place as a first step to gauging the scale of the challenge.

It comes as speculation grows that His Holiness is planning to attend COP26 in Glasgow in November.

Hopes of the first visit of a Pope to Scotland since Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 were boosted by President Biden's climate change envoy, John Kerry, who revealed last month that Pope Francis



BY BRIAN SWANSON

cis intends to come to Glasgow in November.

Speaking after a private meeting with Pope Francis, and without revealing further details of their conversation, Mr Kerry told Vatican Media: "His will be a very important voice leading up to and through the Glasgow conference, which I believe he is planning to attend."

Referring to *Laudato Si*, which inspired Scotland's bishops to set up the new office Mr Kerry said: "It is really a very, very powerful document, eloquent and morally very persuasive. The Pope is one of the great voices of reason and compelling moral authority on the subject of the climate crisis."

Bishop William Nolan (pictured right), the Bishop of Galloway and President of the National Justice and Peace Commission said: "God has honoured us by giving humanity the task of being a co-operator in the work of creation. We hope our lives enhance and build up that creation, and pray that the meeting of world leaders in Glasgow later this year bear fruit for our planet."

The announcement of the new office coincided with a National Pastoral letter from Scotland's Bishops distributed to all parishes on the theme of caring for creation.

The letter reads: "God's creation is a great gift to all humanity, and humanity itself is an integral part of that creation. We are blessed by having the earth for



our common home. It is a place of great beauty, teeming with life of all kinds, a world full of wonderful resources which enable us not only to live but to enhance our way of life. In nature, God's glory is revealed for all to see.

"The earth, our common home, is given to all of humanity and its resources are not just for us to use now but to be preserved and passed on to future generations."



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Mrs Marie Sandison is Clinics and Training Co-ordinator for Fertility Care Scotland.

Mrs Ashlee Lally is the FCS Office Administrator.





Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls

# Rome ordination joy for Glasgow's new deacons

BY BRIAN SWANSON

**ONE of the most magnificent and ancient basilicas in Rome was the setting this month for the ordination to the diaconate of two seminarians from the Archdiocese.**

Douglas Green, 56, and Frank McKendry, 64, were due to be ordained at St Paul's Outside the Walls, one of the Eternal City's four papal basilicas along with Saint Peter's, Saint John Lateran, and Santa Maria Maggiore.

The basilica is the burial place of St Paul, is second only in size to St Peter's and famed for its unique mosaic portraits of all the popes in history displayed around the interior of the church.

For the past three years, Douglas, a former housing officer and member of St Andrew's Cathedral Choir, and Frank, a quantity surveyor and parishioner of Holy Cross, Croy, have been studying at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome which trains mature seminarians for the priesthood.

Their ordination, by Cardinal James Harvey, Archbishop of the Basilica, represents the next step in journey towards priesthood during a Mass in which numbers are limited because of Covid restrictions.



Frank McKendry



Douglas Green

Canon Philip Gillespie, rector of Beda College, said: "Douglas and Frank will be returning to Beda in October as they begin their final year at the College – please God their priestly ordinations will take place in the summer or autumn of 2022."

Speaking in advance of his ordination, Frank, who spent most of his working life overseas on multi-million pound construction projects (including stadiums for the World Cup in Qatar), said: "Over the years I found that my daily prayer life and my desire to attend Mass daily had substantially increased."

"In 2016, I talked to the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese and later com-

pleted three applicant weekend meetings where I met other men who were thinking about the priesthood.

"I then completed a six-month introductory period for vocations to the priesthood in the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, Spain in 2017 and that gave me the necessary time to step away from my working life and helped me further discern the call to priesthood before I was fortunate enough to be accepted to study at the Beda College."

He added: "I hope that my ordination to the priesthood will take place in the Glasgow during the summer of 2022, but before that I'll be back in the Archdiocese for my summer placement in St. Brendan's, Yoker where

I look forward to being of service to the parishioners and to Father Joe McAuley.

"I have really appreciated the prayers and good wishes of the people in the Archdiocese during my period of formation both at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca and in the Beda College in Rome. Please continue to keep me in your prayers."

Fellow seminarian Douglas Green, who is from Toryglen and a convert to Catholicism, said: "For me, it has been a journey that began long before I entered seminary. Seminary has allowed me to focus on the areas that, God willing, will help me be a good priest. Before I entered the seminary in Salamanca, I was interviewed by Archbishop Tartaglia, who was very supportive and helpful to me, which gave me great encouragement and like everyone else who knew him.

"I was saddened to hear of his death back in January."

Douglas, whose summer placement will be with Father Liam McMahon at St Michael's, Parkhead, said: "Life in seminary has given me a good, firm foundation from which to enter the priesthood. Discernment does not stop after you leave the seminary and become a priest – it will continue for the rest of my life."

## Ordinariate has been given its own special tartan



**A NEW tartan has been produced for one of Scotland's newest Catholic groups.**

The Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham was established by Pope Benedict XVI to welcome convert Anglicans and Episcopalians to the Catholic Church while allowing them to continue to use some of the liturgies which form part of their heritage.

With several priests working in Scotland, they thought it was time to "inculturate" with a tartan of their own!

Head of the Ordinariate, Mgr Keith Newton is seen here proudly wearing an Ordinariate tartan scarf, a gift from the Ordinariate in Scotland, standing outside the door, not of "Number 10" but of 24 Golden Square in London, the HQ of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Fr Len Black, one of the Ordinariate's Scottish clergy said: "It has been a long, but very successful project to have the tartan woven. First, there was our Kickstarter campaign which was launched on All Saints' Day 2010, ending on St Andrews Day, a month later. Our intention was to raise £2,700, but in fact we raised more than £4,700, much to our great surprise."

"The events of the past

year meant inevitable delays in producing the tartan. But now it's here and the various garments ordered are now being made up. Soon they will be winging their way to those who made pledges to support our appeal. We are most grateful to all who supported us".

Now, however, the Ordinariate tartan is available to everyone through the website [www.ordinariate-tartan.com](http://www.ordinariate-tartan.com) where you can buy either a length of tartan or various products from scarfs to waistcoats to ladies wraps and ties, all beautifully made.

Fr Len added: "The design of the Ordinariate Tartan takes inspiration from the Coats of Arms of each of the three Ordinariates and also from the symbolism used in the design of vestments for the clergy of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham."

"The four principle liturgical colours of the church year, green, white, red and purple, have been included, with green being the dominant colour as it is used for most of the year".

You can find out more about the Ordinariate in Scotland at [www.ordinariate.scot](http://www.ordinariate.scot) and about the tartan, the story behind its design, what each of the colours means as well as placing orders, by visiting [www.ordinariate-tartan.com](http://www.ordinariate-tartan.com)



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# Pope's plea for prayers for those getting married

**IT'S June, traditionally the month of weddings, mid-summer and warm sunny days; and the Pope's intention this month is for young people who are preparing for the sacrament of marriage.**

The Pope asks: "Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience".

In this second year of the pandemic, this Intention has an additional resonance for many young couples whose wedding plans have been disrupted and postponed, often for many months, sometimes for the second or third time. Joyous celebration of the big day, with friends and family, has not been possible for a whole year.

### SWIM AGAINST THE TIDE, SAYS THE POPE

For many couples, June was the month for their wedding. Christian marriage, a sacrament in our faith, has now become unfashionable.

Our prayer this month reminds us of the need to support young people who courageously want to follow this sacramental pathway. Their conscious decision to celebrate marriage, and lifelong dedication to each other, is more than ever a choice to go against the cultural tide that views this, or any commitment, incredulously.

Pope Francis spoke directly to this scepticism when he spoke to the young volunteers at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, directly addressing the view that marriage is now "out of fashion".

He asked those young people, "Is it out of fashion? In a culture of relativism and the ephemeral, many preach the importance of 'enjoying' the moment. They say that it is not worth making a life-long commitment, making a definitive decision, 'forever', because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. I ask you, instead, to be revolutionaries, I ask you to swim against the tide ...".

Continuing, he identified our culture's belief that they were "incapable of responsibility ... incapable of

BY FR DAVID STEWART SJ true love. I have confidence in you and I pray for you."

This month, the Holy Father is inviting all of us, as the Christian community he mentions in the Intention, to make that same prayer for young couples.

### THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

June was always the month of particular devotion to the Heart of Christ in our churches, schools and homes. This might have been forgotten or lost in many places but the boundless compassion of the pierced heart of the Saviour has not come to an end.

This year, the Solemnity fell on June 11th. When we pray with the Pope, considering each monthly Intention that he offers us through this, his personal prayer network, one of our desires is to place our hearts next to Christ's own sacred heart and thus learn something of that compassion for the world, for all of creation. That pierced heart overflows with compassion for all of creation.

### THE MORNING OFFERING

Praying a Daily Offering each morning, a long-honoured practice, is how we bless the new day, offering it, everything we do, everyone we meet, to Christ. The Morning Offering, for generations, has been explicitly to the Sacred Heart. By remembering in our Morning Offering the challenges facing humanity that the Holy Father presents to us each month, we will begin to see ways that we can turn our faith into action.

Here is a contemporary version, one of many available, that you might like to



try:

Good Father, I know you're with me. Here I am on this new day. Put my heart once more next to the heart of your Son Jesus, coming to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and his apostle, available for your mission. I put this day into your hands; my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and I have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this worldwide prayer network. With Mary, I offer my day for the mission of the Church and the intention of the Holy Father for this month – Amen.

### TWO PROPOSALS THIS JUNE

1: Remember to pray for young people preparing to marry, especially if their

big day has been delayed. We are praying that their marriage will be marked, in the words of the intention, by "generosity, faithfulness and patience".

2: Refresh your own devotion to the Heart of Christ by making the Morning Offering each day of June.

### ONLINE RESOURCES AND CONTACT DETAILS

The Pope's Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) has a new website for England, Wales and Scotland on [www.praywiththepope.net](http://www.praywiththepope.net). We have a new mailing-list that you can join – click the button on the site. We won't bombard you with mailings!

Find us also on social media. Click on the many ways available to become an Apostle of Prayer. Order some of our prayer-cards and materials – packs including the Daily Prayer Pathway, the Ignatian Examen, the Daily Offering and our 10 Minutes, 10 Prayers cards can be sent gratis, £2 P&P contribution invited (UK nations only). Our popular Click-to-Pray website offers you a Morning, Noon and Evening prayer pathway each day.

■ Please note our new office address – we're now at **Edinburgh Jesuit Centre, 28 Lauriston St., Edinburgh EH3 9DJ**. All contact details are on the website.





# A Calton cathedral for Glasgow?

Continued from page 1

**M**ARY McHugh's investigations suggest Church authorities in the 1840s planned to use the Calton building as the mother church of the Archdiocese as and when the hierarchy would be restored to Scotland (which happened 30 years later.)

Both the *Glasgow Herald* and *The Tablet* record the opening of St Mary's on the Feast of the Assumption, 15 August 1842.

The language of the time is powerful: "The solemn service was performed by Bishop John Murdoch [coadjutor-bishop of the Western District of Scotland], assisted by the Revv Messrs Bremner, Wallace, Smith and Stewart; and the sermon preached by Father Matthew, the temperance campaigner, in the presence of the Vicar-Apostolic of the Eastern District of Scotland, Bishop Gillies..."

Given the Calton's traditions over the years, many will smile wryly at the choice of a temperance campaigner as the opening day preacher!

*The Tablet* describes St Mary's as follows: "A simple Grecian oblong, 128 feet by 72 (exclusive of the porch and vestries), surmounted by a pediment, from which rises a belfry, containing a bell, equal in size but superior in tone to most of the City churches. The exterior is plain, bold, and massive, approaching to the monastically austere."

The description continues: "The interior contrasts with the exterior: here all is rich and glowing; it forms (including the organ gallery) an area of 122 feet by

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

66; accommodating about 1400 persons...The whole interior is painted in oil."

St Mary's was altered in 1877. The *Scottish Catholic Directory* commented: "The Church has lately received very material improvements under the direction of Mr Goldie, of the firm of Messrs Goldie & Childe, London. The former gloomy and confined sanctuary is now replaced by a chancel, 35 feet by 30; a sacristy, 30 by 15, fitted up with every convenience has been formed; and instead of side altars hidden away below the galleries, there are now two very beautiful side chapels."

It appears to have been the extensive changes of 1877 which led the St Mary's Centenary History of 1942 to misidentify Mr Goldie of the firm Goldie & Childe as the original architect of St Mary's.

Yet as Dr McHugh points out after her research, "in 1842 when the church was opened, George Goldie would only have been 13 and his partner Charles Edwin Child(e) was not yet born!"

So who built St Mary's? And was it really planned as a Cathedral as the Catholic community awaited the restoration of the hierarchy?

Mary said: "The identity of the original 1842 architects/builders of St Mary's was an apparently insoluble mystery until a contemporary account of the opening in 1842 was identified in *The Tablet*. After a detailed description of St Mary's, in its final paragraph, the *Tablet* article comments that the building has been erected under the superintend-

ence of 'Messrs Foreman and Cameron'. The cost was about £10,000.

"The *Dictionary of Scottish Architects* describes Foreman and Cameron as a Glasgow architectural practice, which existed only between 1842-1844.

"The firm's apparently short life-span helps to explain why they almost completely disappeared from view, and were not around to contribute to subsequent repairs and renovations of St Mary's."

St Mary's roof and ceiling collapsed in the mid-1860s, and Goldie is credited with having introduced side-galleries to provide the necessary support. It is one of the quirks of history that St Andrew's, built with galleries (of which the only remaining evidence is now the organ loft and the missing staircase where the 'shop' now is), had its galleries removed by the architect Peter Paul Pugin, whereas the opposite happened in St Mary's.

But, and perhaps most intriguingly, Foreman and Cameron, apart from St Mary's itself, have left one other legacy, which is a signed design dated 11 July 1842 and held by the Royal Incorporation of British Architects (RIBA) for the west elevation of 'a Cathedral'.

So, was St Mary's intended to be the Catholic Cathedral in Glasgow?

Mary explained: "St Mary's is orientated East-West, and has a west front as Cathedrals tend to have. St Andrew's in Clyde Street is on a north-south axis facing the river, so the 'cathedral' design was not intended for St Andrew's."

"And St Mary's was built with a burial vault/crypt which St Andrew's lacked. The builder of St Andrew's, Rev (later Bishop) Andrew Scott, who was Vicar-Apostolic of the Western District until his resignation in 1845 and death in 1846, and Bishop John Murdoch, are, in fact, buried in the crypt in St Mary's."

Mary told *Flourish*: "There is increasingly strong evidence that St Mary's was built to be the Cathedral. So, when on August 14th 2009, St Mary's was created Pro-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Glasgow and served as Pro-Cathedral until 10th April 2011 when St Andrew's was reopened after renovation, St Mary's perhaps got the opportunity to more closely fulfil what seems to have been in 1842 its originally intended destiny."



## George's musical legacy

**A** LONG-LOST tape of a war veteran from Glasgow playing his favourite piano tunes, found in his family's attic 40 years after it was first recorded, is being sold to raise funds for cancer charities.

George De Felice made the tape for his family two years before his death from cancer in 1983.

Now his daughter Hilda, a former head teacher at St Luke's Barrhead, who also lost her only siblings Celia and Michael to cancer, has had the tape professionally converted to a CD, entitled it "Across The Years" and is selling it to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

She said "Just after Mussolini declared war on Britain and France in June 1940, Dad joined the British army and was followed for the first six months in case he was an enemy of the state."

"Fortunately for him, the powers-that-be realised he couldn't have spied his way out of a paper bag and promoted him to Lance Corporal."

"As a talented pianist, Dad had teamed up with other musicians in the Royal Army Service Corps and they played regularly at army functions, a diversion that kept him sane during the five years of the war."

"My husband Gordon had a video camera and we just hijacked Dad one afternoon in May years ago and got him to play continuously for 58 minutes onto a VHS video tape."

"He played his favourite Italian pieces, opera, jazz and classics and although



BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

he was past his technical best by the time, having had a major operation a year earlier, he still had the ability to 'turn a song' with flair and passion.

"We had almost forgotten it until I was clearing out some boxes from the loft when I found the tape and took it to a company in Glasgow to have it transferred to a CD format which we are now selling to raise money for Cancer Research UK."

Hilda has also written a play with young Scots-Italian actor, Lorenzo Novani, called "Loving the Enemy" which turns the spotlight on the anti-Italian sentiments her father faced during his time in the British army.

Three pieces of music from George's CD were used in the sound track when the play was staged at Websters Theatre, Glasgow and at the Edinburgh Festival two years ago. New venues are planned, including one in Barga, once Covid restrictions are removed.

George's background followed the familiar pattern of many Italian families

who came to Scotland in search of a better life.

He was youngest son of immigrants Antonio De Felice and Annunziata Silvani from Picinisco and Atina, near Monte Cassino. They married in Atina before setting off for a new life in the UK.

They settled in Glasgow and had four sons and a daughter before George was born in 1910 in Belleisle Street, Govanhill, beside Holy Cross Church and round the corner from the family owned Cathkin Cafe in Cathcart Road.

He and his wife Vera were married in the original Christ the King Church - where the present day hall now stands - bringing up their family and attending the church regularly for many years.

The priest who married them was the much loved Father (later Monsignor) Gaetano Rossi.

The link with Monsignor Rossi continued years later when he celebrated the marriage of both Hilda and her sister in the present Christ the King.

■ **To obtain your copy of the CD, priced £10 plus £1 postage, email Hilda at [hildadefelice@gmail.com](mailto:hildadefelice@gmail.com)**



Architectural drawing by Foreman & Cameron, 1842. Picture courtesy of RIBA.

Top right: St Mary's inauguration as Pro-Cathedral in 2009



# St Matthew's new design is shortlisted for award

**ST Matthew's Church Bishopbriggs, which recently reopened after a £1m-plus refurbishment which took five years from planning to completion, has been short-listed for a prestigious design award.**

The judging panel for the Scottish Design Awards 2021 nominated St Matthew's in the Building Re-use category which also includes the Louisa Jordan Hospital at the Scottish Events Campus which was converted in response to the Covid outbreak, distillery buildings in East Lothian, and warehouses in Leith.

The new look St Matthew's

is the work of renowned architects Page\Park, who were also responsible for the refurbishment of St Andrew's Cathedral.

In its submission to the

judges the firm noted: "This extension had the benefit of increasing the amount of light into the sanctuary via a new

lantern window, which has made the church more visible in the town and given it a greater civic presence."

Canon Robert Hill, Parish Priest at St Matthew's said: "It's a great honour for the parish to be nominated for this award no matter the outcome because we are the same category as some outstanding entrants."

"It is also good for our architects who were quite outstanding throughout the whole process from start to finish."

The winners will be announced at a virtual awards ceremony on July 15.



## Freedom of speech cannot be cancelled



### Mary's musings

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

**FIRST there was Feng Shui, then there was Hygge and more recently, Cheugy. Before you attempt to understand these concepts you've got a battle on your hands with their pronunciation.**

Feng shui (foongh shwa, although more likely feng shooley if you live in Glasgow) has always left me cold. You need to learn a whole new language to begin to get a feel for it. It's all about commanding positions and some other stuff I've not got the will for.

Don't even consider it if your stairs don't directly face your front door because you're snookered. And don't think you can Feng Shui the place and then chuck the Feng Shui-non-compliant stuff in the glory hole under the stairs because the bad karma will find you.

I say this in with all due respect to practitioners of Feng Shui since I'm very much a 'whatever floats your boat' kind of girl. But with its Taoist principles it's not the best fit for the likes of me who grew up with her parents' prayer

books and spiritual reading piled up at the side of the fireplace. Definitely not Feng Shui.

Then there's Hygge (pronunciations vary more than you could believe so I'm won't going to go there). This is the Danish and Norwegian art of keeping cosy. 'It's the little rituals that create a sense of comfort and conviviality...' Sounds like any given Friday night when Himself cracks open the dry white and puts a bag of Golden Wonder in a fancy dish.

Danes are among the happiest people on earth so they must be on to something. They're not too chuffed it's been hijacked by consumerism and is now synonymous with the flogging of any vaguely cheery item.

Continuing with lifestyle trends we have cheugy (chew-ghee). It ever there was an ugly word this is it. It oozes judgement and scorn. And that's pretty much it. If you're 'cheugy' you're the opposite of trendy. You're passé, past your best.

The word was coined by an American student



St Martin de Porres

who couldn't find a word to describe her feeling and 'cheugy' came to mind. In my day, we reached for a thesaurus but, hey, this is the world we inhabit.

Which brings me to woke. Being woke is being alert to injustice, and racial and social discrimination. So present is it in our cultural psyche it became Word of the Year 2019. But unlike lifestyle terms such as Feng Shui et al this is an ideology which is here for a while and can be dangerous to the point of tyrannical.

The extreme exponents of woke culture, with their virtue signalling, seem to think they invented concern for social justice. They are ever-alert to perceived injustices, occupying the high ground of superiority from where it is in their gift

to 'cancel' dissenters on any given issue.

It strikes me that unless we stand up to certain manifestations of woke-ness we will have young people too afraid to make a point for fear of causing offence. If we are not careful our children will grow up not being able to think for themselves. They will ally themselves to the pack rather than face being 'cancelled'. The repercussions for society will be immense.

Last year when Black Lives Matter went viral after the unspeakable tragedy of the death of George Floyd, 'taking the knee' was passionately embraced by footballers. Well, here's my take. I'll see you BLM and I'll raise you St Martin de Porres. I mean, of course, the movement not the sentiment.

Born in 1579, the unwanted son of a Spanish knight and a freed African slave he lived a life of heroic virtue devoting himself to the care of the poor and sick. His example has stood the test of time.

At the heart of the practice of our faith has always been concern for others. We were educated at our mother's knee in the need to support those less fortunate regardless of creed or race or skin colour. When we said our night prayers as little children we were taking the knee. Long before we were told to.

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# A staycation for the soul

**I**n the vocabulary created by Covid19 surely 'staycation' is the most attractive new word!

Restrictions have limited our movement at the very time we've felt most the need for a change of scene. When we were able to easily holiday, I spent time island hopping most of the Cyclades. So when I got the chance to have a staycation I thought it was about time I island hopped in our own country! Recently I spent 10 days

BY FR JIM  
LAWLOR

on the Outer Hebrides and it simply blew me away. Starting in Stornoway on Lewis and Harris, detouring to Scalpay, I zig-zagged down the archipelago, through Berneray to the Uists, Benbecula, Eriskay and finally to Vatersay and Barra. The scenery is breath-taking in its diversity. Wide flatlands to dramatic mountains and ragged coasts. Beaches that stretched for miles, seas of

a colour I can't describe and sand as white as snow! In fact, a barman in a local hotel told me that these islands are just two pullovers away from beating Barbados! It never did get warm! Apart from the natural beauty, and the excellent local food, I was thrilled to encounter our rich history. The enigmatic and iconic Callinish stones, 3,000 BC, are quite moving. The famous medieval Lewis chessmen date from a time these islands were part of Norway and everywhere there were reminders of a sophisticated and spiritual culture. There are monuments to more recent struggles scattered around various islands, recalling the struggle of local people to own the land they worked so hard. And it is a hard life. Raising sheep in very mixed terrain or going out to fish at the mercy of temperamental seas. Yet the people were welcoming, warm and hospitable.

Underneath all of this I was struck by the religiosity of the islands. Even the prehistoric standing stones



or of the fortified brochs have a mysterious and spiritual atmosphere, linked to the natural beauty of their location. In the far north as well as the ruins of Celtic or medieval chapels, there are still strictly Presbyterian 'Free' congregations, chanting the psalms in Gaelic. The further south you go, the more evident is the Catholic presence, again a result of our turbulent and distinctive Scottish Reformation. As soon as you cross the causeway from Benbecula to South Uist there is another great icon – the monumental carving, Ban Tighearna nan Eilean, Our Lady of the Isles. This title of Our Blessed Lady was recognised officially in the Marian year of 1954/55 and Hew Lorimers



sculpture was blessed on Assumption day, 1955.

There are several beautiful parish churches dotted over these islands, open but even in this remote place also affected by Covid19 restrictions. Perhaps the most recognisable Church is Our Lady, Star of the Sea, perched high on the hill above Castlebay and fa-

mously included in series 5 & 6 of the BBC's, 'An Island Parish' (2011). I was delighted to learn that the people of Barra have also erected an image of Mary, on the highest point on the island, honouring her as Reul Alainn A' Chuain, The Star of the Sea. From this vantage point she holds aloft her son who, in turn, is holding high a star to light those on the waves below.

What a blessing to have the chance to be in this beauty and hospitality, a real refresher for the body and a stimulation for the mind. I'm even more grateful that the pace and the peace made this staycation a time for the soul too. I'm already wondering, how soon can I get back again?

## Digital is great. But being together is better!

**FOR the last 18 months Craig Lodge has been a virtual house of prayer.**

It found new ways to offer spiritual accompaniment, online retreats and prayer ministry. Now they are working hard to open the House of Prayer to visitors again on 25th June.

"We actually found ministering online to be a very blessed and fruitful experience – and I don't think we will stop doing it – but we can't wait to have people back at Craig Lodge!" explains Ruth Black, Craig Lodge CEO. "We will run some retreat events in the

autumn but I think for now people just want to have some time with the Lord and some craic with the Community".

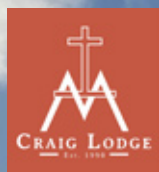
Over the summer Craig Lodge is offering 'Stay & Pray' visits for anyone wanting to simply spend a few days in a prayerful, peaceful place.

As the House of Prayer prepares to open to visitors, Craig Lodge is also getting ready for a new ministry adventure – the Mission House. Starting in September they are offering young adults a 9 month experience of study, formation and

evangelisation training. The aim is to help form the 'Spirit-filled evangelisers' that Pope Francis yearns for.

"We used lockdown last year to hold a Community synod and we discerned that the Lord was calling us into a new more missionary-focused season. The Mission House is our response to this."

**■ To book a stay at the House of Prayer or find out more about the Mission House you can contact Craig Lodge at E: [mail@craiglodge.org](mailto:mail@craiglodge.org). More information at [www.craiglodge.org](http://www.craiglodge.org)**



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## Cathedral Cloister Garden 2011–2021

# The Garden designed to heal memories

Last month saw the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Italian Cloister Garden flanking St Andrew's Cathedral. Covid restrictions meant only a small number could attend the Mass which was celebrated by Archbishop Conti – just as he had 10 years ago to the day.

The sinking of the Arandora Star left a profound wound in the Italian community in Scotland. It was to help heal this wound that Archbishop Conti commissioned the Italian Cloister Garden to be a kind of antechamber to the Cathedral, a place of rest and reflection for all.

In a powerful memoir, printed here in newspaper form for the first time, the late Monsignor Gaetano Rossi, for many years Parish Priest of St Peter's, Partick, recalled the fateful night he was arrested after Churchill's order to "collar the lot".

## Wartime memories of much-loved Monsignor

**At the declaration of war, all the Italians were rather shaken, and the shock was even greater when they realised that they were being interned as enemies.**

They could not understand how the same people, who had been joking and laughing with them in their shops for so many years, now looked on them as dangerous enemies.

With the local people they had established many ties of friendship and even marriage, but overnight they were considered so dangerous that they had to be put in camps surrounded by barbed wire.

But the people who were responsible for running the country had already made up their minds: being Italian was equal to being Fascist, and therefore dangerous enemies. With such "dangerous enemies" in their midst there was no time to be lost. The authorities could not allow time for the "fifth column" to organize itself, and therefore the only solution was immediate and indiscriminate internment.

The Italians were lifted without delay from their families and homes without giving them time to make any arrangements. Some of them were taken into custody from their place of work, without having the possibility of saying "goodbye" to their families.

After the internment they were not allowed to communicate with the outside



world for 15 days, so some families were left without any information of any kind. It was a very hard and merciless blow for those Italians who overnight found themselves on the opposite side, behind barbed wire, and treated as enemies. They had never been Fascists, but simply Italians.

My own personal case is a good example. I had arrived from Italy in September 1937 to complete my ecclesiastical studies in Scotland. I had never been a member of any Fascist organisation or group (which was obligatory in public schools), because as a student for the priesthood I was not allowed any political activity.

When war broke out between Italy and Great Britain I was on holiday in Lytham St. Annes, near Blackpool, in the company of two other priests.

About three o'clock in the morning I was awakened

Every Italian citizen aged over 16 was rounded up and taken away. Many were, within a few weeks, loaded onto the former liner, the Arandora Star, for immediate deportation.

Just a few hours into its trip, the ship was sunk by a German torpedo. It was not carrying the required Red Cross symbol which would have marked it as a civilian liner carrying prisoners. Lifeboats were chained up and the civilian prisoners were locked under deck.

The names of the Scots Italian prisoners who died that day appear on the marble plaque in the Cathedral Italian Cloister Garden, and the stunning central monument, with its mirrored plinths, is the world's largest memorial to the victims.

up by a policeman, who appeared at my bedroom door, and he ordered me to get dressed. I told him that I would like to speak to my two companions who slept in another room.

With some difficulty he allowed me to say a quick "goodbye", and he followed my every movement.

My two companions did not understand anything of what I said ... They were refused permission to see me at the Police Station, so that when they returned to Glasgow they were unable to give any information to my superiors [at the Archdiocese].

When I arrived at the police station I was told to sit on a wooden chair in the middle of the room, and a policeman, with gun in hand stood before me. This was in the early hours of the morning and as time went on I felt the need to go to the bathroom. I was given permission and as I moved towards the W.C. I noticed that the policeman was following me with a gun at my back, and the gun stayed there during the whole operation...

[Monsignor Rossi was sent with other Italian nationals to a prison camp in the north of England. While there he worked hard to give the men hope, helping to organise sport and work activities. Less than a month after their arrival however, the tragedy of the Arandora Star took place.]

... One morning a lieutenant called me aside in a small room. He was a nice

big man who originally came from Greenock but at that time was resident in Blackpool. He was nearly crying and with a broken voice he told me You know, padre, a number of our friends are dead. ...he explained that the first group of internees had left Liverpool to go across the Atlantic and during the journey the ship had been torpedoed by a German submarine and many lives had been lost.

It was the 2nd July 1940 in the early hours of the morning when the ship was about 200 miles off the Irish coast. Many of those lost had left from our camp. He said: "And to think that they were such nice men".

When more news began to arrive about the sinking of the ship I was given the job of sorting out the documents of the survivors and the missing persons.

Behind my table there was a large, simple bookcase, which contained folders containing the documents and some personal effects of the internees. It was not a pleasant job, because now and then I came across the names of some of my friends ... That event and that search left a mark on me."

■ **This extract is from the book "Memories of 1940" edited by Professor Eileen Anne Millar, who also oversaw the choice of verses on the mirrored plinths in the Cathedral Cloister Garden.**



Archbishop Conti with relatives of those who died in the Arandora Star tragedy and members of the Garden Improvement Group

Picture by Paul McSherry

## A Garden visit

**THE garden has as its focal point a striking monument, a labyrinth in mirrored plinths with inscriptions from the Sacred Scriptures and the great Italian poets, designed by Roman architect Giulia Chiarini.**

A 200 year old olive tree, gifted by the people of Tuscany has also been planted and a fountain and stream traverse the central space.

Around the walls, granite plaques tell the story of the Cathedral, of the Catholic revival in Scotland and of the Arandora Star tragedy. The installations were funded by donations from the Scots Italian community.

The Cloister Garden is a special place to remember all our loved ones who have died.

### A visit to the Monument ...

Leaving the Cathedral from the side doors, the visitor is invited to walk forward into the mirrored labyrinth.

Seeing one's own reflection, and reading the texts, one is reminded of one's own mortality and the lives of those who have gone before us. The sense of disorientation created by the surrounding reflections is designed to recreate the confusion of those on the Arandora Star as they fought to escape the sinking ship,



while the flowing water reminds us of baptism and new life.

The final quote from Dante "In his will is our peace" speaks of Christian faith and the triumph of hope, while the last element of the installation – the olive tree – is the symbol, par excellence, of reconciliation and peace.

The words chosen for the central monument are taken from Sacred Scripture and the works of the great Italian writers. The selection below is designed as an aid to reflection for visitors to the garden.

*Believe in God and believe also in me  
I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me. (John, 14:1, 6)*

*I know it is time to leave; I know it is late;  
but let me stay and watch a little longer.  
(Pascoli)*

*The water that I shall give will become  
a spring of water within,  
welling up for eternal life. (John 4:14)*

*Lord, you know so well that my hope lies in you alone. (Petrarch)*

*...infinite goodness has arms so wide that it welcomes all who approach. (Dante)*

*In His will is our peace: that sea to which everything flows. (Dante)*

## A place to remember: Ralph's story

**WHEN the Italian Garden and Arandora Star Memorial was opened on the 16th May 2011 my heart was bursting so loud I was sure everyone around me could hear it!**

A beautiful memorial garden had been created with a truly unique mirrored plinth centrepiece, but for me the most important feature of the garden was the name plaque located on the east wall listing the names of the 94 Italian men from Scotland who had died on the Arandora Star on the morning of the 2nd July 1940.

One of those names on the wall plaque is Quinto Santini my maternal grandfather – and on this day just over 70 years since that fateful event here was his name along with the names of all the others in this special place.

I had grown up in Scotland in a very Italian family and for as long as I could remember I knew all about the tragedy of the Arandora Star and how Italian men who had been living in Britain were arrested when Italy declared war on Britain and France on 10th June 1940. I knew this once



magnificent luxury cruise liner Arandora Star had been torpedoed by a German U-boat and sunk just off the north-west coast of Ireland on its way to Canada. And most importantly I knew that one of those men who had died had been my grandfather!

But this was an unknown tragedy or forgotten story outside of the Scottish/Italian community, because, in the war there had been many, many, tragedies this was just another one – but this tragedy had touched almost every Italian family at that time.

Now step forward the hero of this story 70 years after the tragedy – Archbishop Mario Conti who had the

imagination and idea to create an Italian Garden and Memorial to all of those who died aboard the Arandora Star from a bit of land adjacent to Glasgow's St Andrews Metropolitan Cathedral.

For over 70 years the families of the dead had never been able to grieve properly – there were no death certificates and certainly no bodies except for the few that washed up unidentified along the west coast of Ireland and some outlying Scottish Island Beaches.

But now there was the magnificent, special and unique place – the world's largest permanent memorial to the victims of the Arandora Star – a total of 805 men died that day 80 years ago.

Captain Moulton, 12 officers and 45 crewmembers (55 of the 174 crew); 37 of the 200 military guard, 243 of the 479 German internees and 470 of the 734 Italian internees (94 of them Italians from Scotland).

The mirrored plinth memorial at the centre of the garden is dedicated to all of those 805 men who died. *Requiescant in pace.*





# Our own faith in God can bring people before Him

**THIS month's picture is a stained glass panel by the Flemish Renaissance painter Jan Rombouts which dates from 1525. It may have been commissioned by a wealthy patron for private devotion.**

The detailing is exquisite. Even the on-lookers in the background are finely etched as are the yellow marbled floor tiles. In contrast, however, the protagonists in our

BY MGR TOM  
MONAGHAN

story, a Pharisee, a Doctor of the Law, the paralysed man and Jesus are richly coloured.

There is also some colour to the two men who are on the roof, lowering down the paralysed man as if to tell us that Jesus did not just see the faith of the person on the stretcher but also noticed the faith of those who

brought him.

Saint Luke in his Gospel (Lk.5.18-26) writes that Jesus saw 'their faith' and not just the faith of one man. They are the heroes of the encounter. They were determined to take their charge into the healing presence of Jesus and nothing was going to stop them.

It was *their* faith that brought the paralysed man to Jesus and to a miraculous

cure.

What this means for us is that we too can bring people in front of Jesus. Our own faith in God can bring people before Him.

Ultimately, yes, they must place their own faith in Jesus, but we can help by bringing them in our hearts and minds before the caring Eucharistic Lord who Himself had received the quiet love of His Blessed Mother.



## Filipino devotions in Glasgow

**THE Pope's plea to pray the Rosary throughout May to end the pandemic held special significance for the Glasgow Filipino community.**

Before Covid restrictions were imposed the community, based in St Columba's Woodside, would honour Our Lady with the Flowers of May festival which includes praying the Rosary daily and culminating in a colourful procession in which a statue of their patron Our Lady of the Rosary

of Manoag is carried at the front of the crowd.

Instead organisers opted for a scaled down version of the event this year.

Rene Galpay, from the community said: "This time we asked young women and children to dress in white and walk to the altar offering flowers to Our Lady.

"We were delighted with the response and it was especially good to see so many parishioners join in our celebrations."

Picture by Paul McSherry



## Aid shame of UK Government

**COVID has a habit of making our predictions look foolish, but right now it seems that the United Nations COP26 Conference on climate change will be blessed by a visit from Pope Francis when it takes place in Glasgow later this year.**

The US climate envoy John Kerry certainly got that impression when he met with the Holy Father last month, telling the press afterwards the Pope 'intends to come' to the conference, and was caught on mic telling aides it was 'definitely' happening.

More officially, Cardinal Peter Turkson, the Prefect for the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Development, said last week that plans were advanced and he was 'hopeful' it would happen.

The COP26 conference is of vast importance to the world, and the Pope's presence would be a powerful statement to world leaders as they attempt to stop climate change from devastating the lives of



**Alistair Dutton**

Chief Executive, SCIAF

millions. The Pope has repeatedly been a prophetic and courageous messenger of the need to protect our common home and his being in Glasgow would focus minds on the urgent need for action.

The UK government is certainly keen to have him here, with COP president Alok Sharma flying out to the Vatican last month for private talks.

While we applaud the desire of Boris Johnson's government to have the Holy Father here, their willingness to roll out the red carpet for the Pope and other dignitaries contrasts sadly with their recent treatment of people in the world's poorest places.

The savage cuts in the

British Government's support for water, education, health care, peacebuilding, livelihoods and emergency response in the world's poorest countries are already having devastating consequences.

A written statement published by HM Treasury on 1st May shows that this year's life-saving and life-changing help for people who live in extreme poverty will be £4.1 billion less than in 2020-21. This is on top of the fall that had already resulted from the shrinking of the economy due to covid, resulting in an £8 billion reduction overall.

The additional cut will have a huge impact on the lives of many – and in reality, will make little dif-

ference to the UK's overall budget. In contrast, we've just increased the defence budget by a whopping £16 billion.

The people affected most by the cuts include those who need polio vaccinations, communities with bad health due to poor sanitation, and mothers giving birth.

The UK government's decision to abandon its legal obligations and turn its back on the poor is a tragic blow to those who are already living on a knife-edge. And this could not have come at a worse time. The World Bank has warned that extreme poverty will rise for the first time since 1998, with the coronavirus crisis pushing 115 million more people into it.

This November, the Pope and other world leaders will come to Glasgow and be greeted with the warmest words by the Prime Minister. But actions speak louder. And it is by how we have treated those with least during this crisis that we will be judged.

## POEM OF THE MONTH

Our poem is entitled "Woman of Silence" by a Carthusian Monk of St Hugh's Charterhouse, Parkminster.

Mary's the silent woman surrounded by stars

Who bears in silence, endures in silence, who awaits in confident peace, gazing heavenwards expecting all from God. He is the great Almighty Power from whom we emerge in love. He is the centre of her gaze, her heart, He from whom all light, all good descends at fitting appointed times. Ours to await in silence gazing with steadfast love and peace. O Mary, teach me silence of lips and heart! Teach me inwardness, the inward gaze

of awe and utter trust! He will respond

Who weaves in Wisdom the work of our salvation. Silence: the altar of total consecration.

## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

God our Father, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. I ask this in the name of your most loving mother, the mother of us all.

Amen.



# Live streaming helps priests give their Sunday best

**A** YEAR ago he would have laughed if someone said that he would be live-streaming religious services... normally with 700 on a weekday and over 1,000 on a Sunday.

Even higher numbers/laptops/people appear when the funeral of a deceased parishioner is "uploaded" to YouTube or Facebook.

The highest number ever was attained for the yearly Religious Procession through the streets of the village of Croy. Normally there would be Primary 4 children leading the procession, the girls throwing petals before the main attraction: Corpus Christi.

This year the Procession itself was minimal but did include footage from previous years and was "watched" by 22,000 while the "reach" was even greater.

Before June 2020 the highest "reach" had been 21,000. The occasion was when the local Celtic Supporters had gone down to Liverpool to place a (blessed) wreath on the weekend immediately after the exonerated of the Liverpool fans at the latest... and FINAL Hillsborough Inquest.

## Stream team

Other highlights include the Primary 7 "Leavers Mass," the Rosary at a local cemetery and a Nativity Play dramatised by the very young. The newly installed "fibre-to-the-premises" made "upload" so much more reliable. The "Stream Team" which enables the high quality production really endeavour to compliment the ministry of the Priest.

Meanwhile I was learning other new words too. The "Clap test" made sure that lips and voice were in synch. Similarly every so often a white sheet had to be held up to ensure proper colour on the monitors. There was some masking tape on the floor of the church building to indicate when I was out-of-shot. I was learning which was "Camera 3" and which gave "head shot."

Off-camera we had to ensure that the copyright of music and words was covered. Mostly I didn't need to involve myself with the "tech stuff," I trusted



BY FR JOE SULLIVAN

others and they never let me down. Happily neither did the up-link fail.

The reliability of the "tech" meant I was more conscious of my own presence: what I was offering for uploading. I considered more than ever my wardrobe, ensuring the variety of vestments were on display. I could hear the refrain: "Is that the same outfit he wore last month?"

## Brown

Someone had given me brown socks for Christmas but brown wasn't a liturgical colour. The vessels at Mass were "rotated" as they were gifts and donations from different people and families. Nor is it easy to cut one's own hair... and rush to the barber's before full lockdown arrives.

Every time the priest yawned he could hear in his head the comments of his mother. A yawn captured forever... or should he "photoshop" it or get it edited out?

Moreover what he said when he opened his mouth was also being analysed. In seminary he had learned to speak a bit slower and pronounce better.

However he also had to ensure "good" or "helpful" words of preaching founded on Holy Scripture and the gamut of Catholic Tradition.

The subtleties of Hebrew and Greek were sometimes included. To "till the earth and care for it" involves the same "care" as that referred to in "Am I my brother's keeper?" On occasion works of art were welcomed on screen as were stories from the lives of the saints.

I had always tried to be comprehensive in preach-

# Historic moment as Notre Dame prepares to open its doors to boys

**A**s one era ends at Scotland's last remaining single-sex school, a new one is set to begin. Notre Dame High School in Dowanhill is preparing to accept boys for the first time in its almost 125-year history.

In August boys will be admitted to S1 only with the school becoming fully co-ed over a five-year period. The admission of boys marks the end of local families with girls and boys having to have their children educated separately unless they chose to send the girls to St Thomas Aquinas Secondary.

Canon Peter McBride, parish priest of St. Peter's, Partick told *Flourish*: "We have been well served by St. Thomas Aquinas and Notre Dame for many years, but



it will be a great boost to our parish community to have our children progress together from our parish primary to a secondary school also within our parish boundary.

"I am especially delighted for parents with children of both genders that their children can now be educated in the same Catholic secondary. Our parish has very close links with Notre Dame and I feel this will only increase as more of our young parishioners

BY MARY MCGINTY

play their part in promoting and enhancing the reputation of Notre Dame."

The reception of boys comes after years of discussion and campaigning with robust arguments for both the retention of the status quo and the change to co-ed. Following an official consultation and several open public meetings city councillors voted unanimously in November 2019 to end the single-sex status.

Canon McBride welcomed the lengthy process of integration: "This transition period will challenge staff, pupils and all stakeholders, but central to all must be the overwhelming desire to promote an inclusive, welcoming and Catho-

lic ethos which has been the hallmark of the school for more than a century."

Head Teacher, Rosie Martin, said: "A lot of preparation, engagement and plans have been in place for many months now to make the transition as smooth as possible to the beginning of a new era for the school in August."

"Adaptations to the school building are being made, visits to the school by the new S1 intake and lots of discussions and plans being made by our young people on the ethos and values of our school and our future generation of pupils. This is a very exciting time in our school's history and we look forward to welcoming all our new pupils at the beginning of the new school term."

ing but now these words endured digitally and not just in memory. With such a record what was regularly mentioned could be analysed as well as what was regularly overlooked. The digital record could be analysed and re-analysed, not just now but in the future.

In the medium term the vaccination programme will relax some of the civil regulations and parishioners will physically return to the church building in greater numbers.

## Return

Eventually the live-streaming will no longer be necessary but advisory. The up-loading will probably continue on Sundays, for the Funeral Rites and for other special occasions. A decision regarding weekday Masses can wait until the whole situation in society is clarified.

Five years ago the artiste Lizzo sang about leaving a former "significant other" in her life:

"I do my hair toss, check my nails. Baby how you feelin'? (Feelin' good as hell)."

The "baby" here described has the reverse experience: drawing closer to the most "Significant Other" and "feelin' good as heaven."

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# When wedding patience pays off...

**THE sun was shining which was a great start to the wedding day for the Bride and Groom, Christopher Friar and Sharon (Warden) Friar who got married on May 22 at St Joseph's Parish Milngavie followed by a Reception at Bocclair House, Bearsden**

Both the bride and groom are teachers. Christopher teaches P7 pupils in St Nicholas's primary school in Bearsden and Sharon teaches P4 pupils in St Helen's primary school in Bishopbriggs.

Christopher, his best man Mark, and three groomsmen Alan, Craig and Kieran all waited for Sharon and her bridal party to arrive. There was much excitement in the church – which was very evident even though all were wearing masks and were socially distanced.

The wedding guests were arriving and everyone seemed so happy to be there especially as this was the fourth attempt for the couple to get married due to the Covid situation!

Mark the best man was also the organist and as soon as he started to play the en-

**This month Pope Francis asks us to pray for couples planning to get married. In this feature we follow two Glasgow teachers on their big day.**

trance march, the guests all stood and looked at the Maid of Honour, Rachel and bridesmaid Claire walking forward, and then the beautiful bride Sharon along with her father Harry, entered to the wedding march.



The Mass was so lovely, and personal and everyone really enjoyed the service. The videographer and photographer were very dignified in the church recording the event for future generations while being sensitive to the liturgy.

Margaret, Fiona and the passkeepers in St Joseph's looked after the couple and their guests incredibly well making sure everyone was safe inside the church.

On leaving the church to the final wedding march the couple and the wedding party left through the front doors to huge applause from family, school children, parents, and friends who came to see them, staying across the street in front of the church gates and around the side of the church to socially distance.

After photos outside the church, the couple were off to Bocclair House in their beautiful Beauford Car



The supper arrived later in the evening, which was wonderful too and there was not a person who was not delighted with the choices of food and drink presented to each of the tables, as it was table service only for everyone's safety.

The night ended when all the guests left, and the management and staff at Bocclair House said it had been a pleasure to have taken care of everyone and that it was such a lovely day as all the guests were so incredibly nice to the staff too.

We wish the happy couple all the very best for their future together and there have been lovely messages of support from many people, including, Parish Priest of St Joseph's Milngavie Fr Currie, Glasgow University who have supported this Wedding Feature, as both Christopher and Sharon had both attended the university for their Education degrees, MET Wedding Cars who supplied the wedding car and Bocclair House who certainly gave the happy couple and their guests a fantastic day to remember.

hired through MET Wedding Cars where there were more pictures outside the hotel.

The grounds outside along with the beautiful bandstand were absolutely spectacular and such an incredible place for wedding photographs. Inside, Bocclair was stunning and guests waited in the bar area also wearing their masks and socially distanced while the new Mr & Mrs Friar had further photographs taken outside.

When it was time for the bride, groom, and both sets of parents to head into the

Grand Ballroom to go to the top table, the guests applauded their arrival.

The meal was absolutely outstanding and everyone enjoyed it thoroughly.

Christopher and Sharon had their first dance together as they were the only ones allowed to dance due to keeping safe. They danced to Elvis Presley's song, "Falling in Love with You".

The wedding cake was unique – different layers of Superman, Spiderman and Batman as everyone knows Christopher is a great follower of the Marvel characters.



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# There is something 'extraordinary' about this month's 'ordinary' Sundays



Fr Tom Kilbride

**I**n the time before Covid, we used to wish that holidays could last for ever, or at least a little bit longer, before returning to the routines of real life, school, shopping, work and so on.

Now, of course, we can't wait to return to "normality" (whatever that means now!), after months of working from home, closed schools and restrictions in every aspect of life. "Normal" will be the new "special"!

So it is with these weeks in our liturgy: so-called "Ordinary Time". We return to the "normal" sequence of Gospel readings from Mark's Gospel. However, they are not "ordinary" in the sense of boring or banal. They are "ordinary" since they are "ordered" or "counted", each week following on in sequence from the week before.

In June and July, we will follow Jesus in the thick of his ministry in Galilee – teaching parables, healing the sick, calming storms. Who could call stilling the sea with a word or raising a dead girl to life "ordinary"? These are extraordinary, ordinary Sundays!

Eleventh Sunday, Year B, June 13

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark gives us only a few of Jesus' parables. Today, we hear two short ones: the Kingdom of God compared to seed growing in secret in a field, and compared to the tiny mustard seed which grows to a sheltering shrub. It is obvious that Jesus favoured images taken from country life, of farming, seeds, and harvests. The people of Galilee would have understood them easily.

While our modern urban lifestyles might not grasp the subtleties of the parables, we can still appreciate the message: God is at work even when we don't know how, even when we can't tell what he's doing for us. He is at work in the small things (like the mustard seed), and his presence in our world, though perhaps hidden and unseen to us, has an enormous effect for good (like the mustard bush).

The image in the First Reading today is similar, suggesting that God acts in a way which surpasses anything we can imagine: a little cutting from a massive

cedar tree will be planted on a high mountain. When it grows and itself becomes a huge tree, it will be seen from all around. You can't hide the good work of grace in your life. The Kingdom shows!

Twelfth Sunday, Year B, June 20

The drama of the story of Jesus calming a storm is hard to miss. We can almost hear the panic in the disciples' voices as they try to wake their sleeping Master. How could anyone sleep through that howling gale and those crashing waves? They even suggest he doesn't care! Of course, Jesus calms the storm and the sea with a mere word and then challenges the disciples too for their lack of faith.

Mark often shows us that fear can be faith's greatest enemy. He is telling his storm-tossed community that Jesus is in control, even if, at times, he seems to be absent, silent or asleep. He is always with us to calm our fears.

The First Reading from Job reminds us that the sea – whose chaotic waters were understood as a symbol of everything opposed to the harmony, peace and goodness of creation – have been tamed by God. So, when the disciples ask the crucial question, "Who can this be?" of the one who has tamed the storm they experience, there can really be only one answer. They are only very slowly getting their heads round it, however. Mark will show us how often they get close to recognising who Jesus really is, without quite grasping it!

Thirteenth Sunday, Year B, June 27

We skip ahead a little for today's Gospel passage, a famous "sandwich" passage in which we begin a story which is interrupted by another, before we hear the end the first one (like slices of bread in a sandwich or a frame surrounding a painting).

The 12-year-old daughter of Jairus is dying; a woman suffers a 12 year long illness. Jairus is a synagogue official, part of the "establishment"; the woman is an outcast, unclean because she passes blood because of her illness. Both, however, approach Jesus in honest faith. Indeed, the poor woman fights to

get close to him through the crowd, such is her determination.

Oddly, she seems frightened by the power which has touched her. Has she been unworthy of it? Has she gone too far in reaching out to Jesus? But no: she is healed. Jesus calls her "My daughter", and by healing her restores her to the community she had lost, before he goes on to raise the official's daughter, restoring her to her family.

There, it is not an individual's fear but a crowd's ridicule that Jesus encounters. This, however, is not enough to put him off, and he grants Jairus's earnest plea by restoring his daughter to him.

We hear a beautiful echo of Jesus's own language, Aramaic, a sure sign something had made such a profound impression on people that the exact words were remembered and handed down: "Talitha, kum" ("Little girl, get up").

Reading these two stories together, we get a glimpse into Jesus's power to heal and restore life, and into his compassion. Nothing – no illness, no fear, not even death itself – is so hopeless that he cannot enter into it to bring healing, dignity

and restoration of relationships.

Fourteenth Sunday, Year B, July 4

If the last three weeks' Gospel readings tell us anything, it is that Jesus is extraordinary, and that is exactly what we hear the people of Nazareth admit today. For them, however, far from being a source of wonder, it is a source of scandal and rejection: "How can he be so special? We've known him all his life, and we know his family and relatives too." (They imply how little they regard Jesus's family!) Still, the work of bringing the Kingdom into people's lives continues and though they reject him, such that he performs "no miracle", nonetheless we are led to imagine that he brings healing and renewal to a few people faith even there. The closed-minded cannot grasp the awesome nature of what God is doing or who Jesus truly is.

Perhaps at this point, we should comment on the Second Readings we've had over these weeks, selected from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

There, Paul has had to defend himself from

some in Corinth who have questioned his right to be thought of as an apostle and an authentic preacher of the Gospel. Paul argues it is no claim he makes for himself. Rather, it is a gift and a call he has from Christ, not for personal glory, but as his share in the Cross and hope for the resurrection.

The famous passage in which he writes about his "thorn in the flesh" speaks of humility, trust and love: whatever life throws at me, I can take it, because I know Christ crucified and risen is with me. I try not to get puffed up and proud, but embrace weakness and even pain, because it is then that I know Christ's power at work in me.

Perhaps in our times of fear, anxiety and seeming loss, the characters from these Sundays – the storm-tossed disciples, Jairus and the bleeding woman, Paul – remind us to trust the Lord in all things, especially when things seem to be beyond our control. They are not beyond his!

Eugène Delacroix, *Christ on the Sea of Galilee*, 1853

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**ONCE** heard a novelist describing the creative writing process as “staring at a blank piece of paper until your forehead bleeds” and then committing words to the page.

That’s how it feels sometimes when I sit down on to try and write this log, although sometimes the words can flow quite readily.

I sometimes wonder what it was like for the sacred writers of the scriptures to compose under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

I also reflect on the example of St Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionists. Paul received the Passionist habit in a vision of Our Lady. After he was clothed in that habit, he began a 40-day retreat, during which he fasted and prayed continuously, and prepared himself to write the first rule of the new religious order he hoped to found.

He spent long hours in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and had a vision of different founders of religious orders before him, instructing him, and pray-

# Believe me, sermons don’t just happen!



## Fr Frank’s log

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

ing for him.

In the light of all this, it took only five days for Paul to complete his rule because he said, “When I was writing, I wrote as quickly as if someone were dictating to me; I felt the words coming from my heart!”

All of this preamble is just to say that I’m struggling to think what to write about this month, and the Holy Spirit and the saints seem to be on holiday, because I am not experiencing any great inspiration!

It was Thomas Edison who famously said that “genius is 1% inspiration and 99%

perspiration”. Not that, even for a single moment, I would describe these logs as the work of a genius, more likely they are the work of a fool, but hopefully a fool for Christ. But, whether genius or foolishness, it seems neither inspiration, nor perspiration, seems to be working this week.

It can be the same, of course, when trying to write a homily, a retreat talk, or even a mission sermon.

When I was first ordained, I was appointed Vocations Director for the Passionists in Scotland, but I was also installed as part of a mis-

sion and retreat team, along with Father Paul Francis and Father John Mary. Being newly ordained, every homily, talk, or sermon, had to be written from scratch as I had no back catalogue to draw on.

In those days I wrote out every word in longhand. It would be a long time before I would change that, despite the emergence of word processors and computers that would simplify the task significantly.

I always tried to root my thoughts, as our founder did in writing the rule, in a process of prayer and, it felt to me, there was a greater connection between my mind, my heart, my soul, and my words on the page, when I held a pen over paper, even if there were many forehead bleeding moments before the words tumbled on to the page.

Experienced missionaries would always say that a ser-

mon needs to be preached, and then reworked, at least seven times, before it would reach fruition, and I came to know the wisdom of that in the passing of the years.

After a time, I gave way to more mechanical means, and I imagine that if I wrote anything in longhand these days, I wouldn’t be able to read it, so much of a scrawl has my handwriting become!

Also, as well as a process of prayer, I have adapted a new method of preparation. Nowadays, it’s mainly homilies I am preparing, as it’s a long time since I last preached a mission. I think the last parish mission I preached was in Buncrana, in County Donegal, about 20 years ago, with Father Augustine and Father Charlie Cross.

I also preached a number of Tridiums of Hope around Ireland, after the canonisation of Saint Charles of

Mount Argus, and a few novenas, both in Ireland and Scotland, but nothing of that nature for some years.

In preparing homilies now, I have found myself being drawn to one of my favourite psalms, Psalm 62, and to the words in that psalm, “on my bed I remember you, on you I muse through the night”.

After reading the texts, and gathering initial thoughts, I now ponder on my pillow, and fall asleep, hoping that in the course of the night, the Holy Spirit will inspire, and I will awaken in the morning with the homily having taken shape.

Usually, it takes shape in a very different way to what I imagined when going to bed, so, hopefully, the Holy Spirit gets more of a say in it than I do.

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

## VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

# Bigotry: it’s time to call it out

**THE** disgraceful events in Glasgow on 15 May which saw thousands of Rangers football fans descending on George Square, for the second time in a matter of weeks, appears to have shifted the debate in Scotland over religious bigotry.

I use the word ‘appears’ because we have been here before in the past when various anti-sectarian summits were launched alongside the creation of well-meaning and effective initiatives designed to challenge intolerance in all its forms.

Yet, the difference this time can be found in the specific language used by leading Scottish Government Ministers including the First Minister herself who correctly used the phrase ‘anti-Catholic’ bigotry.

Scotland has a deeply embedded anti-Catholic strain dating back centuries. It’s crudest manifestation was in its full splendour in George Square, and it rears its ugly head every summer at a variety of loyalist marches. However, we are deluding ourselves,

individually and collectively, if we believe anti-Catholic bigotry in modern day Scotland is restricted to the streets of the West of Scotland and football. Many of us – and yes even in the Catholic community – have been guilty of buying the validity of this supposition.

It has suited too many people for it to be defined along these parameters because it hems in the wider debate, which needs to be aired in civic society. There has been an effort by certain quarters of the media and the political establishment to pigeonhole anti-Catholicism as exclusively being wrapped up in the intractable issues in Ulster. There is undeniable toxic anti-Irish racism in our country, which is the primary fuel of anti-Catholic bigotry, but restricting the debate to this terrain sustains a narrow narrative.

We need to ask our fellow Catholics whether of Scottish, Irish, English Polish, Spanish, Italian or any other cultural background how do they feel about their religious faith and culture being repeat-



## Dr Andrew Brady

edly denigrated. We need to give oxygen to these reflections and experiences. We need the voices of all Catholics to offer this wider perspective so that we can present the full spectrum of the lived experience of being a Catholic in Scotland.

We need to be proactive in challenging the hard and soft, visible and invisible, anti-Catholic bigotry which touches many institutions, bars, clubs and homes in our country. In its ‘softer’ form anti-Catholic sentiment is often manifested over the issue of denominational schools.

As someone who was never educated in one, I find it shameful that as a nation we accept or acquiesce to the premise that denominational schools in Scotland could be ‘part of the problem’ in our discourse.

The issue regarding the potential for all-boys’ schools being correlated with misogyny or private schools reinforcing structural social class bias is rarely discussed in our discourse in the same fashion.

Jewish or Muslim educational establishments across the UK are rarely spoken of in the context of being potentially ‘self-inflicted’ contributory factors to discord or unease against their faiths.

More pertinent, Catholic schools in England and Wales are not discussed along these lines, yet this contention is given credence and sustenance in Scotland.

The term ‘gaslighting’ refers to a form of psychological abuse where someone or a group of people question their perception of reality. This is exactly what is

in danger of happening to the Catholic community in Scotland.

I have a sense that this partly stems from fewer public figures actually discussing their Catholic faith in conjunction with a diminished collective confidence resulting from the serious challenges the Church as an institution has faced including the global clerical child abuse scandal.

A fatigue has also set in whereby many of us have viewed anti-Catholic bigotry as part of the ‘norm’. I could include myself in that bracket at various points.

However last May something changed. I passed large anti-Catholic graffiti in the underpass to my local park, which said: ‘Catholics will be shot’. Years ago, I would have walked on by but not this time ... I immediately contacted Glasgow City Council, Councillors, MP, MSPs and Police Scotland. The response by all was swift and reassuring. A Police Scotland officer visited my home and made several follow up calls over the incident which was recorded as a religious hate

crime.

There appears to be a willingness by the First Minister and leading politicians to challenge anti-Catholic bigotry. I encourage my fellow Catholics to dust-off any lingering timidity and passiveness. Write to newspapers and contact media outlets to challenge anti-Catholic bigotry in its ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ forms; contact your elected politicians to demand action; proactively report religious hate crime; and share conversations with friends and family about how it feels to be a Catholic in Scotland. It’s incumbent upon us as lay Catholics to regain our confidence, to stand-up and to finally call this out.

**■ Dr Andrew Brady is author of the book ‘Unions and Employment in a Market Economy’ (2019) published by Routledge. He holds a PhD from the University of Strathclyde and works for a trade union. He is a parishioner of St Joseph’s in Clydebank and can be contacted at andrew\_brady1980@hotmail.com**



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A Will is a legal document that outlines your wishes for after your death. It contains details of what you would like to happen with your assets such as your possessions, savings, properties, belongings and valuables. You are free to decide what happens to everything that you own and can outline who or where things are distributed to – whether that be family, friends, relatives or even charities that are close to your heart. Preparing a Will means that those you leave behind can be assured of your true intentions without the need for awkward or uncomfortable discussions beforehand.

For the two-thirds of adults that haven't prepared a Will, the fate of their assets rests in the hands of a representative that is appointed by a court of law and not someone of their choosing. This representative (or Executor) isn't always the person that is closest to them, but is determined through law by an order of priority – namely spouses, children, parents and then siblings. However the court-appointed priorities may not align with your personal ones.

If a court-appointed representative is the Executor of your assets then they are obliged to distribute your assets in a certain manner and in a certain order to certain groups of people. This order can often not match your wishes but is difficult for those you leave behind to contest. The most effective way of ensuring that things happen on your terms is to prepare a Will.

Making a Will is not hard or complicated. It can be as simple as sharing your wishes with your solicitor and asking them to draft a document that you can amend as often or as seldom as you wish. In most cases, preparing a Will can spare heartache and upset and you can rest assured that your wishes will be respected by those you leave behind and by Scottish Law.

If you do not have a solicitor or would like further details about preparing a Will, then please contact the team at Dallas McMillan who will offer helpful advice and guidance. Dallas McMillan are currently offering a 25% discount on Wills to readers of Flourish newspaper.

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