

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

June 2023

June 2023

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EVANGELISATION

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Justice for
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AID

**Vatican role
for SCIAF's
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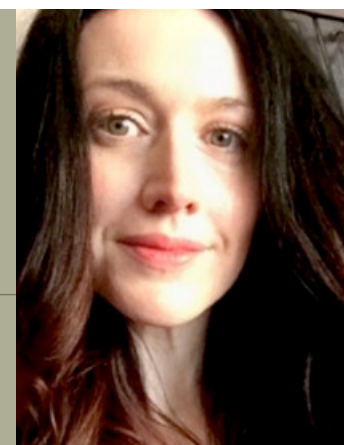
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SPIRITUALITY

**Why I
became a
Catholic**

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Archbishop and Moderator lead calls for more help for carers

ARCHBISHOP Nolan has joined the Kirk Moderator in calling for better pay and recognition for people working in the social care sector.

Launching a declaration of church leaders, the Archbishop and Moderator called for a new appreciation for the dignity of people involved in the care sector many of whom carry out vital life-enhancing work for the elderly and the sick – despite being paid salaries that are at the bottom of the pay scale.

Archbishop Nolan said: “During the pandemic we stood and applauded the staff who risked their lives to care for others. My heart told me that maybe things were changing and we were

BY RONNIE CONVERY

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

seeing a significant shift in the attitude of society towards carers, but my head said ‘no, it will be back to the way it was before when this is all over.’ Alas my head was right.

“After World War Two people of vision were determined to ensure that the society that was created would be better than before. That’s how the NHS came into being and new home building programmes provided dignity and shelter for families. After Covid that determination for change just wasn’t there.

“People had been asked to

work more and care more during the pandemic, but when it was all over we forgot about them.

“We can’t run a care system on the cheap. Carers are more than just deliverers of tasks and services. They are in relationship with the people they care for, many of whom are dependent on the carer for support and assistance.

Attitudes

“Our plea is not just about pay – it’s about attitudes. If we want our loved ones to have good care when they need it we need to care also for the carers and support them with decent wages.”

Moderator Iain Green-shields backed the Archbishop. He said: “Recruitment and morale of carers are undermined by pay that cannot sustain a family. When people can earn £2.50 per hour more working in a supermarket than they would caring for the vulnerable then something is very wrong.

“This is a matter of justice and the Christian voice has to be heard. We represent 1.5 million Scots and we want our politicians to hear that we are no longer prepared to accept indifference to this problem. We need action now to help those who care to feel valued and be properly supported in the work they do.”



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Molendinar lecture

THE final event of this year’s St Mungo Festival is to be held on June 7 – almost six months after it was first scheduled.

The Molendinar Lecture at Glasgow’s City Chambers is one of the main events of the annual festival dedicated to the city’s patron.

This year’s speaker is conceptual artist/activist Mary Ellen Carroll (MEC, studios) who lives and works in New York City. Teaching, lecturing and public presentations in architecture, art, and policy are an important part of Carroll’s work, stating that, ‘architecture is inherently a political act’. She is currently working



Mary Ellen Carroll

on immigration with unaccompanied youths and their families.

The event will begin with civic welcome from Glasgow’s Lord Provost and a response from Catherine McMaster of the Glasgow Mediaeval Trust. The lecture title is ‘Unbuilding Hadrian’s Wall: Glasgow

and pathmarking opportunities from the Mediaeval to the present concerning climate and migration in the built environment and as the work of art.’

Book through website <https://stmungofestival.co.uk/2023-molendinar-lecture/or/directlythrough/Eventbrite>.

Lourdes young people can’t wait to return to shrine

Two best friends who visited Lourdes as school-girl pilgrims have returned seven years later as adult helpers.

Chantelle Mann and Kady Byrne first experienced Lourdes with Hosanna House Children’s Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) who travel with disabled disadvantaged children and adults to the famous French shrine each year.

Father John Carroll, parish priest of St Mary Immaculate, Pollokshaws, and chaplain to HCPT for many years, said: “I am immensely proud of them both.”

Chantelle, 23, a parishioner of St Bartholomew’s, Castlemilk, and Kady, 22, whose home parish is John Duns Scotus in the Gorbals, first went to Lourdes in 2016 as part of a group which included pupils from Holyrood Secondary School where Father Carroll was also the school’s chaplain.

Recalling her Lourdes experience, this spring, Chantelle said: “The week I spent in Lourdes has been the most rewarding, fulfilling week of my life. The highlights for me included seeing the children and adults, who were specifically chosen to travel out, develop over the week.

“They developed their faith and they developed their confidence. Seeing the smiles on their faces, and

Chantelle and Kady



BY BRIAN SWANSON

building a relationship with them over the week is something I will never forget.”

Kady told *Flourish*: “When I was 11 years old, I got to go to Lourdes for the first time. I always remember how much fun we all had and how nice all the helpers were. As soon as I got home I wanted to go back again as a Scottish Youth Group helper when I was old enough and this year the dream came true when I got to help with the wonderful 121 group.

“Seeing the young people grow over the week has been

amazing too and I can’t wait to return next year and experience it all again with a new group of young people.”

Father Carroll said “It really was a privilege to see two young people who had benefitted from being children on the pilgrimage previously, have the chance to give something back.

“Next year both Chantelle and Kady hope to return when the Scottish Region will have the honour of leading the pilgrimage liturgies – helping the whole pilgrimage to reflect on the message of Easter through the chosen theme for next year of ‘Let your light shine.’”



Leap of faith for youth leader

BLESSED Pier Giorgio Frassati, one of the World Youth Day patron saints has a famous quote, 'Verso l'alto' which translates as 'towards the top' or 'to the heights'.

Well, instead of soaring to the heights, Jack, one of our pilgrims and I, jumped from a great height, 160ft to be precise, at the Riverside Museum last month.

It was in the same spirit as Bl. Pier Giorgio's quote, as through doing so, we raised nearly £2000 to help with our pilgrimage to Lisbon this summer, so that young people from across

BY MAIRI-CLAIRE MCGEADY

the Archdiocese can encounter the Lord and embark on the heavenly path, 'towards the top'.

Unlike Jack, who looked and acted like the next Spiderman, I won't be getting harnessed by the feet again any time soon as the experience was terrifying!

However, it was worth it and we are so grateful to the generosity of all who sponsored us and all the readers who have been praying and generously donating over the course of the last nine months.

Papal knighthoods for Willie and Susan

A GLASGOW couple who are famed for their business success and generosity to good causes have been awarded Papal Knighthoods.

Lord Willie Haughey and his wife Susan are well known for their role in public life and support for a variety of causes.

Lord Haughey told *Flourish*: "I was amazed and humbled to receive a call to say that the Holy Father had granted Susan and me Papal knighthoods. I have picked up a few honours over the years but this is very special to me and I have never made a secret of the fact that my faith is important to me."

Willie and Susan are regular attenders at their local parish of St Anthony and St Mark's in Rutherglen and have supported a variety of projects in the local area.

They established the City Charitable Trust in 2002 and it has donated over £20m to worthwhile causes. Among those to benefit have been

BY RONNIE CONVERY

Kilbryde Hospice, a school building programme in Malawi, the Emmaus project in Glasgow, the Pauline Chapel project in the Vatican and many parish and diocesan initiatives in and around the Glasgow and Lanarkshire area, including *Flourish*.

The couple will be invested as Knight and Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great by Bishop Toal, who is their diocesan bishop in their home parish. The Order of St Gregory is to recognise conspicuous lay service to the Church on the recommendation of a diocesan bishop with the support of the papal nuncio.

The Pontifical Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great (to give it its full title) was established in 1831, by Pope Gregory XVI, seven months after his election as Pope. The order is one of the five orders of knighthood of the Holy See.



Lord and Lady Haughey

Archbishop Nolan said: "Willie and Susan's charitable work has been outstanding. They have been great supporters of the Church and the wider community over the years, and that has already been recognised by

the civil authorities. "It is their faith which motivates them and this honour from Pope Francis recognises that their commitment to the poor and helping others is a deep expression of their faith."



Pictures by Paul McSherry

Glasgow's first ever lay chaplain to Clyde

GLASGOW has a new Port Chaplain, and for the first time the role will be filled by a lay person.

St Mungo's parishioner Robert King, recently appointed port chaplain to Stella Maris, will get his first taste of life at sea when a round Britain sailing pilgrimage docks in Glasgow where the charity was founded just over 100 years ago.

To mark the occasion, and raise awareness of the work of the charity, a sailboat named *Mintaka*, crewed by volunteers, began a 2,400 mile journey from Southampton in April 29 calling at places in the UK of special significance to Stella Maris which cares for seafarers in ports throughout the world.

Its arrival in Glasgow on Saturday June 10th will be marked by a Mass of thanks-



Robert King

Picture by Paul McSherry

BY EUAN MCARTHUR

giving the following day at St Aloysius Garnethill where the foundations of what is now a global

Catholic charity were first laid thanks to the initiative of a Jesuit priest and an Irish lay brother who were both serving in the parish at the time.

And when *Mintaka* leaves for its next port of call – Ardglass in Northern Ireland – Robert will be on board for the 70-mile trip – his first time at sea.

Robert, who is also President of the St Mungo Conference of St Vincent de Paul in St Mungo's Townhead said: "I'm really looking forwards to it even although I'll probably be seasick! But I'm sure Our Lady, Star of the Sea, will keep us safe and

calm throughout." Recalling his decision to accept the post of port chaplain Robert, who retired as a blacksmith with Scottish Water two years ago added: "I obviously knew Stella Maris was out there and the fact it has a strong association with Glasgow.

"However, I began to find out the true extent of their work from Deacon Joe in St Mungo's and Fr. Antony Connelly also from St Mungo's who was Port Chaplain before me and the main thing I have discovered is that working with Stella Maris is very much like Vincentian work.

"For example, Joe would say some seafarers needed clothes. So I would help by getting some from the St Vincent de Paul shop in the Saltmarket and then it was a logical step for me to go that bit farther and take up the challenge of becoming a port chaplain."

Deacon Joe O'Donnell, Senior Area Port Chaplain for Scotland, said: "Robert has developed a real sense of the charity's mission and done so much to help seafarers in a relatively short space of time. It shows the positive difference he has made to their lives, and Stella Maris are undoubtedly benefitting as well through having Robert."

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Changing places for Glasgow priests



Canon Gerard Conroy

It was a case of a swap deal for two Glasgow priests last month as they were named to new appointments.

The Archbishop announced that from the beginning of August Canon Gerard Conroy, parish priest of St Patrick's, Dumbarton and St Peter's, Dumbarton will move to be parish priest of Turnbull Hall Parish and Chaplain to the University of Glasgow.

Fr Ross Campbell, parish priest of Turnbull Hall Par-

ish and Chaplain to the University of Glasgow moves down the water to take up the role of parish priest of St Patrick's, Dumbarton and St Peter's Dumbarton.

When news of the appointments broke social media was flooded with expressions of gratitude to the two men for their service in their current parishes.

Also this month Fr Joe McAuley retired as parish priest at St Brendan's Yoker. The new parish administrator is Fr Ezra Dauda.



Fr Ross Campbell

SCIAF chief appointed to worldwide Vatican role

THE head of SCIAF has been elected to oversee the Catholic Church's worldwide humanitarian and development activities.

Alistair Dutton is the new Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis and will lead the Caritas Confederation, which includes 162 national Caritas member organisations (which includes SCIAF), until 2027.

Alistair is currently Executive Director of SCIAF and

has over 25 years of experience in the humanitarian field, having led projects in more than 70 countries.

From 2009 to 2014, he served as the Humanitarian Director of Caritas Internationalis.

Alistair told *Flourish*: "Serving Caritas – including SCIAF – over the last three decades has been a great privilege for me. Caritas has been my home, my family, and my vocation."

He added, "I promise to listen humbly, to reflect thoughtfully, and to build bridges. I promise to use the convening power of the Secretary General to drive the confederation forward together."

The SCIAF chief first began working with Caritas in 1996.

Frightening

He said: "Since then my journey with Caritas has taken me all over the world. From the war in Kosovo, Darfur, Iraq, Liberia and Syria; to tsunamis in Asia, earthquakes in Haiti, India, Indonesia and Chile; conflicts born of greed and the exploitation of wealth in Africa; waves of displacement in the Middle East; and the devastation caused by the climate emergency and extreme weather: cyclones and floods in Pakistan, Myanmar, India and Bangladesh; food crises in so many countries in Africa from the Sahel to Somalia, the Sudan to Zimbabwe; and the frightening reality of sinking island states in the Pacific," he said.

Archbishop Nolan, who has worked closely with Alistair over the years was one of the first to offer his congratulations. He said: "Alistair has been a first class leader for SCIAF in recent years and played a key role in getting the Church's voice heard at the COP26 conference in Glasgow.

"He has worked tirelessly putting Catholic Social Teaching into action, upholding the dignity of those in need and seeking justice for the poor. I wish him well in his new role."



New Jesuit superior

A SCOTS-BORN Jesuit priest who formerly taught at St Aloysius College, Garnethill, has been appointed the next Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Britain.

Father Peter Gallagher, 66, from Coatbridge, will take on his new role in September following his appointment by Fr Arturo Sosa Abascal SJ, the Rome-based Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

Father Gallagher joined the Jesuits in 1973 and, after studying in London and Paris, was ordained in 1988 and for the past four years he has been Dean of Philosophy at Centre Sèvres in Paris.

Fr Gallagher has also had extensive experience as a formator of young Jesuits, as a superior, as a spiritual director and as an assisting priest in a number of parishes.

The current Provincial, Fr Damian Howard SJ, who has been in post since 2017, said: "This is a wonderful appointment for our Province and for Catholic religious in Britain. Fr Gallagher is a wise and experienced man with a deep



understanding of our vocation and a tireless fidelity to Jesuit life. I pray that he will enjoy his term in this demanding but fulfilling leadership role."

Fr Gallagher told *Flourish*: "For more than 400 years British Jesuits have been working for the Church at home and overseas. It is an honour to be asked, at such a moment in our Province's history, to try to support the members and co-workers in the way expected. I look forward to the task."



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Scots College is on the move

A POIGNANT milestone in the history of the Catholic Church in Scotland will be reached later this month as students from the Pontifical Scots College in Rome leave their home on the Via Cassia for the last time.

The Scots College is preparing to end seminarian formation on the current site on the outskirts of Rome, where it has been since 1964, as it looks towards a new future in the city.

Tranquil

When the new building was opened in the 1960s, the aim was to provide students with good facilities for study, sport and formation in a tranquil setting, away from the noise and bustle of the old college in the city centre.

However the growth of Rome's commuter belt means that the current College is now difficult to reach due to traffic problems on the Via Cassia, leaving students struggling to access the universities and churches of the Eternal City.

As no suitable building has been identified yet for the new College, the Beda College – which specialises in



Left: A St Andrew's Day Mass in the Scots College Chapel

Below: Pope Paul VI at the opening of the college in 1964

BY **RONNIE CONVERY** caring for 'late vocations' from the English speaking world – has generously offered to provide space for the Scots students while the search for a new College building continues.

It is anticipated that the Scots will be residence for the next academic year.

There are currently 10 seminarians studying at the Scots College.



College's proud history

THE Pontifical Scots College in Rome was founded on 5th December 1600 by Pope Clement VIII.

It provided an education for young Scottish Catholic men who, due to the laws against Catholics in Scotland, could not receive a Catholic education at home.

Inspired by St John Ogilvie, the 16 students studying at the College vowed in 1616 to return to Scotland as priests, one year after the saint's martyrdom in Glasgow.

During the centuries that followed, the College sent a steady supply of priests to Scotland, being closed only when the French invaded Rome in 1798 and again during the Second World War.

For 200 years, Jesuits and Italian priests directed the College, but since 1800 the Rectors have all been Scots.

At first the College was sited in a little house on what is known today as Via

del Tritone, one of Rome's busiest streets.

In 1604 it was transferred to a site on the modern Via delle Quattro Fontane, close to the Trevi Fountain, and there it remained until 1962.

During those centuries the College went through several phases of building. The first united the mixture of houses into one combined building behind the facade that remains today. In the early part of the 20th century, the College was extended.

A National Church for Scotland was built in 1642 adjacent to the College. That Church of St Andrew of the Scots (Sant'Andrea degli Scozzesi) still stands, it has since been deconsecrated.

The present College building on the Via Cassia was opened in 1964 by Pope Paul VI with the aim of providing more space and recreational scope for students on the emptier spaces north of the city on the Via Cassia.

Knights' support will change children's lives

LOCAL Knights of St Columba have pledged to spend their 75th anniversary year fundraising for a charity set up by a Glasgow-based Xaverian missionary priest to provide life changing surgery for children in Sierra Leone born with club feet.

Father Eugenio Montesi, based at St Bartholomew's, Castlemilk, who co-founded the charity 'Mission Sierra Leone' with retired businessman George Paterson hailed the gesture as "a truly magnificent act of kindness".

'Magnificent'

The decision to help the charity was revealed at a fund-raising dinner in Christ the King Church to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Council 396 of the Knights of St Columba with guests including Archbishop Nolan, Harry Welsh, UK Supreme Knight, and Brendan McCann, Ireland's Supreme Knight and Jim Chalmers, Grand



BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURE BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

Knight of council 396.

Father Montesi said: "What a generous thing to do – I was delighted to hear that the Knights are going to adopt our charity for a whole year. It will make a big difference to all the children we are able to help."

George Paterson, a parishioner of St Joseph's Clarkston, added: "If we could attract a few more organisations to fund-raise, then our £10,000, target could become a reality.

"A total of 55 children have received corrective surgery since our involvement two years ago."

Father Montesi (pictured with Archbishop Nolan and office bearers

from the Knights of St Columba), who at the age of 84 is still very active in both parish and charity work, spent most of his life working as a missionary in Sierra Leone.

When a life-threatening bout of malaria forced him to leave the West African country he moved to St Bartholomew's where he set up Mission Sierra Leone two years ago.



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Faiths unite to warn of dangers of assisted suicide plans

BY RONNIE CONVERY

SCOTLAND'S bishops have joined forces with the Church of Scotland and the Muslim community to urge parliamentarians to reject a new bill which would introduce assisted suicide.

Bishop John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley and Vice-President of the Bishops' Conference, joined Kirk Moderator Iain Green-shields and Imam Shaykh Hamza Khandwalla of Dundee Central Mosque at the Scottish Parliament to sign a statement urging MSPs to vote down the plan.

Statement

Their joint statement expresses a firm commitment by the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Scottish Association of Mosques to oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Bishop John Keenan said: "Evidence from countries where assisted suicide or



euthanasia is legal shows that vulnerable people feel pressured to end their lives through fear of being a burden. In such situations the option of assisted suicide is

less about having a 'right' to die and more about feeling the full weight and expectation of a 'duty' to die.

"When vulnerable people, including the elderly

and poor, express concerns about being a burden, the appropriate response is not to suggest that they have a duty to die; rather, it is to commit to meeting their needs and providing the care and compassion they need to help them live."

Later this year Liam McArthur MSP is expected to present a bill before the Scottish Parliament proposing the legalisation of assisted suicide.

Dignity

In their joint statement the faith leaders say: "On behalf of the faith communities we represent, we wish to express our deep concern about the proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, which will shortly be considered by

the Scottish Parliament. Our faith traditions are united in the principle that assisted dying in itself inevitably undermines the dignity of the human person, and to allow it would mean that our society as a whole loses its common humanity."

"The ways in which similar laws in other countries are being applied, and the effect that its introduction would have on some of the most vulnerable in our society, including the disabled and the elderly, would be extremely detrimental."

The statement ends with a call to Members of the Scottish Parliament to "consider carefully the implications of this Bill, to express their concerns, and to vote against it."

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ACATHOLIC secondary school in Glasgow has struck gold after becoming the first in the city to win a top educational award.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

St Paul's in Pollok gained Gold School Ambassador status from the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) for its work helping create opportunities for its pupils by offering a wide range of courses and qualifications.

St Paul's headteacher, Lisa Pierotti said: "We are absolutely delighted and honoured to have been awarded gold status in the prestigious SCQF School Ambassador Recognition programme. I know how much hard work has gone into creating excellent pathways for our young

people and in celebrating wider achievement across our school."

The gold level award – the highest available – means the school has established relationships with local training providers and employers, is actively promoting opportunities for pupils and families and is offering an extensive range of learning programmes, including National Progression Awards (NPAs), Youth Achievement Awards and the Young STEM Leader Award.

Partnership development officer, Donnie Wood, who manages the programme, said: "We are delighted to

welcome St Paul's HS into the SCQF Gold club. This has been one of the most inspiring applications to date and it's clear that staff and pupils go above and beyond to provide pathways and opportunities for every young person.

Culture

"The school has created a culture where all qualifications are valued and understood by pupils and parents and it's down to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved."

He added: "The school has reached out and engaged a huge range of partners as well as supporting neighbouring schools, bringing together staff and pupils to share ideas."

Mass recalls tragedy of Ireland's great hunger

In a moving ceremony to mark the Irish National Famine Commemoration, wreaths were laid at the striking memorial at St Mary's Church in Calton recalling those who suffered in what has become known as *An Gorta Mór* – The Great Hunger.

Unveiled in July 2021 in front of a huge crowd, The Tower of Silence remembers not only the million souls who perished but also those who were forced to leave their homes – including an estimated 100,000 who came to Scotland in the 1840s and years following.

Most settled in the east end of Glasgow with their families, and many of their descendants find their spiritual home in St Mary's – the church where Celtic FC was founded by Brother Walfrid to relieve the suffering of the impoverished migrants.

Following a Memorial Mass, celebrated by Father Ryan Black, from Paisley Diocese, Canon Tom White, Parish Priest of St Mary's, blessed the wreaths which were laid in memory of the famine victims at the base of the monument.

They were laid on behalf of St Mary's Parish, An Gorta Mór committee, Celtic FC Foundation, Garngad and Millburn Celtic Supporters Club, and the Celtic Graves Society.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY



UCM looks forward in hope

Picture by Paul McSherry



It was a day to remember when the Scotland-wide Union of Catholic Mothers, celebrated their 25th Triennial Rally recently in Motherwell Cathedral.

This event saw members travelling from four Dioceses across Scotland with nearly 100 people attending.

This year the theme was, UCM through the ages. Over the course of the day

members were addressed by speakers from each Diocese, talking about UCM events that have taken place over the years.

Following on from the rally, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Toal, joined by Archbishop Nolan, Archbishop Cushley and some Diocesan chaplains.

The recently appointed National Spiritual direc-

tor Canon Kevin Golden, of Dunkeld Diocese said: "I am honoured that the Bishops of Scotland have asked me to be advisor to the Union of Catholic Mothers. It was a pleasure to be part of the triennial rally and I look forward to getting to know the members, spending time with them and offering any support I can to the sterling work that they do."

The UCM's Scottish President Karen Smith told *Flourish*: "It was a wonderful day and a great atmosphere, with the coming together of so many members – a chance for everyone to catch up."

"Looking to the future of the UCM, we would like to welcome new members and the formation of new branches. Last year our most recently formed branch held its first meeting in St Mary's and St Bernard's parish in Coatbridge.

"We are proud of the fact that in an ever-changing society the UCM remains steadfast in our values and true to our beliefs. Our prayers and support for the Church, clergy and vocations is needed now more than ever. We endeavour to continue what we started in Glasgow over 75 years ago and longer in some other dioceses, with our faith, fun and friendship.

■ Anyone interested in joining the UCM please contact karensmith7979@gmail.com

Brother Walfrid's story for children

BY BRIAN SWANSON

An illustrated children's book telling the story of Celtic founder Brother Walfrid and written by one of his relatives will be launched later this month.

Journalist and author Alison Healy, who is Brother Walfrid's great grandniece, based *The Boy Who Started Celtic* on family stories growing up in his birthplace in Ballymote, County Sligo.

And Alison also took inspiration from *Walfrid: a Life of Faith, Community and Football* a best seller written by Dr Michael Connolly and published six months ago.

The pair first met when Dr Connolly, now a lecturer at Stirling university, started researching for the world's first PhD on the man born Andrew Kerins who went on to become a Marist Brother and founder of Celtic FC.

Alison, who is based in Kildare where she is a regular columnist for the *Irish Times* said: "As I was talking about Brother Walfrid's story with my siblings, it struck me that it would make a lovely children's book.

"His story is so inspirational. I can't imagine the shock to his system when the Andrew Kerrins he left his small farm in Ireland and arrived in Glasgow at just 15 years old.

"He worked so hard to improve his situation and then when he became a Marist Brother and teacher, he was able to help needy children and their families to improve their lives. And he managed the small feat of founding Glasgow Celtic with like-minded people along the way."

"After I wrote the sto-



Alison Healy

ry, I approached Michael's publisher, Derek Rodger of Argyll Publishing, and was thrilled when he agreed to publish *The Boy Who Started Celtic*."

Alison made her first trip to Glasgow in November to attend Michael's book launch at Parkhead and now he will return the compliment by attending her book launch in Sligo later this month.

He said: "It's a cracking book. We hear so many sad stories these days that it's important to share stories of hope. I'm excited for children to read how one boy from a humble background survived the Famine, emigrated with nothing and grew up to change people's lives.

"More than 100 years after his death, Brother Walfrid is still bringing joy to people today, through Celtic, and that's something to celebrate."

■ *The Boy Who Started Celtic* (Argyll Publishing £9.99) is illustrated in full colour with original artwork by Coatbridge-born artist Paul Francis Wilkie and is available from thirstybooks.com, branches of Celtic Superstore, Amazon and trade sales from Gardners.

www.franciscanvocations.org.uk

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VOCATION

Notre Dame kids put their best foot forward for Missio Scotland

West end children's long march for the Missions

IT was a case of tired feet but happy hearts as these smiling youngsters from Notre Dame Primary completed a 5k sponsored Bridge Walk from their school in the West End to St Andrew's Cathedral to raise money for Missio Scotland.

The walk, using pedestrian bridges over the Clyde by the P6 pupils, marked the end of a series of fund raising events by all 17 classes in the school which brought in a grand total of £1700.

A spokesperson for the school said: "We are so proud of our pupils who have worked so hard raising a fantastic sum of money for such a worthy cause."

Gerard Gough, of Missio Scotland said: "As the Bishops of Scotland's chosen charity for our Catholic primary schools, it's always fantastic to hear of the dif-

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

ferent ways in which school communities choose to engage with Missio Scotland, be it through prayer, fundraising or making use of our resources.

"We are very proud of all of the fundraising efforts undertaken by schools for the Pope's charity and we would like to thank and congratulate the pupils and staff of Notre Dame Primary School for walking a Mile For Mission – or in this case several Miles For Mission!

Missio Scotland, based in Coatbridge is part of the Pontifical Mission Society, provides project support to critical church-run initiatives in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe and South America.



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WHEN King Charles III and Queen Camilla were crowned, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State, was on hand in Westminster Abbey to represent Pope Francis and the Holy See.

Here's hoping Parolin enjoyed himself, because although he's considered a contender to become Pope himself someday, Saturday probably was as close as he, or any other potential future Pope, will ever come to an honest-to-God coronation.

Popes haven't been crowned since 1963, when Paul VI became the last pontiff to don the papal regalia in a coronation ceremony. While in theory a future pontiff could decide to resurrect the *triregnum*, the three-tiered tiara with which Popes were once invested to symbolise their role as "father of princes and kings," it's almost certainly not in the cards.

I mean, who wants to be the Pope who starts off his tenure with a gesture destined to be interpreted as an arrogant re-assertion of bygone privilege?

Arrogant

Over the centuries, there were multiple versions of the papal crown. The tiara received by Paul VI on June 30, 1963, was brand new, presented by the Catholics of Pope Paul's former archdiocese in Milan.

On Nov. 13, 1964, Paul VI decided to renounce the trappings of monarchy during a Mass in the Byzantine rite held as part of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). That day the pontiff rose from his throne, descended a few steps and then placed the tiara on the altar in St Peter's Basilica, symbolising his rejection of it. Italian Archbishop Pericle Felici, secretary general of the council, announced that Paul VI had been moved to do so by discussions of poverty at Vatican II.

That tiara was eventually auctioned off, with the proceeds designated for the poor. It was purchased by American Catholics and is today on display in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

As Paul VI exited the basilica, he was hailed by cries of *Viva il Papa Povero!*, "long live the poor Pope!", a play on the traditional shouts of *"Viva il Papa Re!"* or "long



Tales of Popes and crowns

live the pope-king!" that greeted pontiffs during the era of the Papal States.

(As a footnote, the cardinal who invested Paul VI with the tiara in 1963 was Alfredo Ottaviani, head of the Holy Office and leader of the conservative opposition at Vatican II. An old joke had it that during Vatican II Ottaviani once was across town and hailed a cab, telling the driver to take him to the council; the cabbie, looking in the rearview mirror and realizing it was Ottaviani, promptly drove him to Trent.)

Choice

When Paul VI in 1975 issued the document *Romano Pontifici Eligendo*, setting out the rules for the election of his successor, he still made provision for a coronation, presumably because he wanted to leave the choice of what to do to the next Pope.

His last provision read: "Finally, the Pontiff will be coronated by the Cardinal Proto-deacon and, within a convenient time, will take possession of the Lateran Patriarchal Archbasilica, according to the prescribed rite."

Pope John Paul I, however, declined the coronation ceremony, a choice confirmed by John Paul II. In his homily for his in-

BY JOHN ALLEN JR
EDITOR OF CRUX

augural Mass on October 22, 1978, the Polish Pope explained his choice.

"Pope John Paul I, whose memory is so vivid in our hearts, did not wish to have the tiara; nor does his Successor wish it today. This is not the time to return to a ceremony and an object considered, wrongly, to be a symbol of the temporal power of the Popes," John Paul II said.

"Our time calls us, urges us, obliges us to gaze on the Lord and immerse ourselves in humble and devout meditation on the mystery of the supreme power of Christ himself," he said.

When John Paul II issued his own set of rules for the election of the next Pope 18 years later, in the document *Universi Dominici Gregis*, there was no mention of a coronation. His final provision instead read: "The Pontiff, after the solemn ceremony of inauguration of the pontificate and within a convenient time, will take possession of the Lateran Patriarchal Archbasilica, according to the prescribed rite."

Indeed, not only have recent Popes rejected the physical tiara, they've also become reticent about iconic depictions of

it. Both John Paul I and John Paul II had depictions of the tiara atop their papal coat of arms, but Pope Benedict XVI broke with that custom by displaying a simple bishop's mitre instead, and Pope Francis followed his lead.

Ironically, there's almost an inverse relationship between the Vatican and the United Kingdom in this regard – in the UK, monarchs have kept the crown but lost most of their power, while in Catholicism Popes may have renounced the crown but they've basically retained the authority it once symbolised.

Power

It's sometimes said, erroneously, that Popes lost their temporal power in 1870 with the collapse of the Papal States. In fact, they lost territory but not power. A Pope is still a temporal monarch, albeit over an extremely small state – just ask the ten defendants currently on trial for financial crimes before the Pope's civil tribunal. Francis still is invested with the power to decide all matters, secular and spiritual, within the Vatican's territory, from doctrine to traffic laws.

Absolute

In ecclesiastical terms the Pope's authority certainly remains absolute. Canon 882 of the Code of Canon Law makes it clear: "The Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered."

To paraphrase Shakespeare, when it comes to a Pope, therefore, there are plenty of reasons for his head to lie uneasy, even without the crown.

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EVANGELISATION

Unpacking the 'E word' which is the Church's priority



Photo: Imago Mundi

Five practical ways to bring the joy of the Gospel to others

THE 'E word' is being used more and more these days ... Evangelisation. Archbishop Nolan has highlighted it as the priority for the Archdiocese in the years ahead.

It is at the heart of the 'Looking to the Future' initiative currently underway in parishes. But what exactly does it mean? A look in an online dictionary won't help you. The Oxford, Cambridge and Collins dictionaries all come back with 'word not found' when you type in 'evangelisation' in search of a definition.

So what is evangelisation all about?

At its most basic level it means sharing the good news of the gospel with other people with the hope that they too will be inspired by the person and message of Jesus and change their lives for the better.

Depending on your personality, life circumstance, and the people you encounter, how you share your faith and answer questions will look different to other Catholics.

But how should we respond? What can we do in our daily lives?

There is certainly no suggestion that we should stand on soap boxes at park corners, or wave bibles at bewildered shoppers in city streets! Rather, something more

natural is possible, something within reach of all of us.

Here are five suggestions as to how you – yes, you! – can evangelise in your daily life:

1 FRIENDSHIP: Being a good friend is a necessary base for any effort to help someone grow in faith. Your friend may see in you good human qualities... kindness, care, solidarity... and ask you what inspires you to live this way. This opens the door to a conversation that can change someone's life.

2 WORK: Professional or voluntary work done well, with honesty and commitment, is an opportunity to give ourselves to others, to reveal Christ to them and lead them closer to God. In your conversations and your dealings with others, you can gently lead colleagues to ask themselves the big question of life... Who am I? Why am I here? What happens after death?

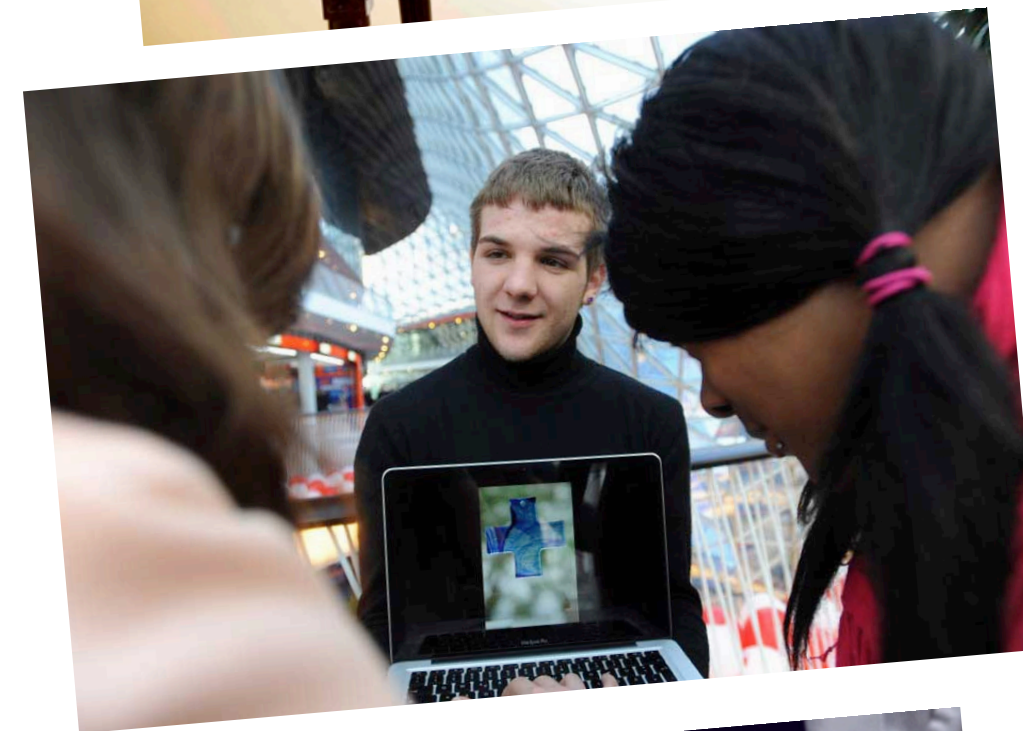
3 ACTS OF CHARITY: People can sometimes be 'shocked' in a positive way by our small but sincere acts of charity... dropping in on a neighbour; offering to take someone to a hospital appointment; remembering a birthday or anniversary. These small acts will lead people to

ask you what inspires you. Be prepared to give the answer!

4 DISCUSSION: You can sometimes find a way of introducing people to the spiritual life by discussing issues of public concern. It may be the plight of refugees or the issues surrounding end-of-life care. The main thing is to avoid anger and polemics, but rather offer a compassionate and caring argument based on Gospel values. Such quiet faith-filled witness can have a powerful impact.

5 PRAYER: Praying for someone you wish to draw closer to God is always important. Perhaps you could also invite someone you know well to pray with you for a special intention. Why not invite them to come to church with you and light a candle if they are going through a difficult patch? Or offer them a little prayer card if they are anxious or worried. Small gestures such as this can have a big impact.

Saint Paul VI put it most eloquently in his letter on evangelisation from 1975, when he said that 'modern men and women listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are also witnesses.'



How and why I became a Catholic

KIRSTEN Anderson is better placed than most to reflect on how Catholics could and should evangelise... as she was received into the Church only at Easter and can still see things from an 'outsider's perspective'.



Kirsten Anderson

Her faith journey was nurtured by a mixture of human kindness, online searching, and deep reflection.

"I stood outside St Aloysius church in Rose Street so many times before I finally got the courage to go inside on 27th April last year," she said.

Reflecting on the question of why she'd felt afraid, Kirsten said "I was reluctant to ask myself that question for a long time because it meant examining my own woundedness. I was scared to go inside and ask to speak to a Priest because I had a huge fear of being rejected. I was grieving. I was feeling alone, betrayed, abandoned and very angry. Yet I knew without a shadow of a doubt that I must become a Roman Catholic."

Kirsten's courage over fear paid off, as she was warmly welcomed by a parishioner called Frank, who in turn fetched Father Twist, who was kind and patient. Fr. Twist explained that RCIA classes would begin that Autumn and encouraged Kirsten to stay for Mass and to keep coming back to Mass.

On exiting the church that day, Kirsten asked a lady a question about Mass times, explaining that she was just beginning her faith journey. "This lady, Mairi, not only happily answered my questions but she asked me if I wanted to go for a coffee. I couldn't believe someone would make that time for me, a stranger. It was so kind."

"From that day on, I was filled with peace and joy when I went to Mass. I was made to feel welcome."

Kirsten started life as a child in the Church of Scotland but after Sunday school had little to no contact with formal Christian worship.

"There was never any bigotry or hatred in my background though," she said. "I remember going to Catholic churches on the East Coast of Scotland a few times for family baptisms, weddings and funerals and being struck at how beautiful they were inside, and the richness of the liturgy"

During lockdown Kirsten had more time to explore faith issues – she has always had an interest in theology. After receiving a rosary from an unexpected ben-

efactor she started exploring online to find out what to do with it!

"I used Spotify to learn how to say the Rosary and while researching I found the internet ministry of Bishop Robert Barron. Those online resources were important at the start. I was intrigued by the Catholic proposal. I started following the 'Word on Fire' series.

"I had a lot of preconceived ideas and definitely prejudices about what the Catholic Church was and taught, so I was both humbled and delighted to discover all the great intellectual writings underpinning the Church's belief system. I realised that Catholicism resonated with me at that level. It made sense.

"But even when something makes sense you need to have courage to embrace it. Faith is a lot like love ... people are so often afraid to make that leap of faith to love another person, to be vulnerable. Especially if they have never known anything but pain.

"I think there are lots of people out there clinging to atheism out of fear, and I understand that ... belief takes courage. My faith was confirmed after the courage part, and grows stronger each day, which to some might seem odd but it makes perfect sense to me."

Kirsten has nothing but admiration for cradle Catholics who still have a sense of wonder at the Catholic faith and wants to work hard so she never loses that same awe.

Kirsten said: "I think people react well if they see the Church as a place of compassion, reconciliation and forgiveness.

"We all have an inclination to scapegoat others; to point the finger of blame 'over there' in order to assuage our own guilt. I believe we do that to Judas. Perhaps we don't want to see that there is a Judas in us all! Perhaps looking up close at the wounds of Judas is too painful for some? I don't know.

"All I know is that Jesus' love is greater than any betrayal. That message is huge for me."

Archbishop's words of welcome to 'new Catholics'

ARCHBISHOP Nolan invoked two of the most famous phrases in recent history at a Mass in St Andrews Cathedral on the Feast of Pentecost to inspire new Catholics recently received into the Church and those who have grown up in the faith.

He said: "Many of you here today will be familiar with the words of John F Kennedy, incidentally the first Catholic President of America, when he said, 'Ask not what your country can do for you but ask rather what

you can do for your country.'" "And again, we are all familiar with the World War One recruiting poster which read 'Your country needs you'..."

Relevant

"Both of those are very relevant today on the Feast of Pentecost when we should be asking not what the Church can do for us but what can we do for the Church. And to change the words of that famous slogan ... the Church needs you.

"We are a community of be-

lievers; we have a relationship with God and a relationship with others in the Church. The two go hand in hand; they are two sides of the same coin.

"In our second reading today, we heard that each of us have different gifts with which to serve God.

"So all of us must be transformed and use those gifts by working both within the Church and outside the church for the good of ourselves and others."



Archbishop Nolan meets new Catholics

Evangelisation: Using imagination to spread the message of the Gospel

Philip meets Archbishop Nolan



As the Archdiocese embarks on the most ambitious programme of evangelisation in its history, one man has been leading by example quietly spreading the good news in a remarkable feat of faith.

For the past three years Philip Regan, 63, has walked the streets of his home town delivering thousands of Divine Mercy prayer cards through letter boxes.

Since he began his Mustard Seed of Faith mission, the part time musician and

former IT consultant has posted almost 14,000 in East Kilbride.

And he was delighted to discover that his former parish priest, the then Father Nolan, who served for many years at Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, is now leading the drive to evangelise as Archbishop of Glasgow.

Philip said: "When I read in *Flourish* about what was being planned I wrote to the Archbishop because I was sure that he would be in-

Flourish focus on two examples of how young – and not so young – Catholics are showing creativity as they work to evangelise their own surroundings

terested in what I had been doing with the Divine Mercy cards and he was kind enough to meet me.

"He was just as gracious and approachable as he was when he was my parish priest and he was very supportive of my mission."

He said: "I more or less departed from the faith at the age of 12 but I didn't depart from God. I spent 30 years working as an IT consultant all over Europe and eventually my faith came back.

"And when I returned home to Scotland about 10 years ago it was put to the test as when I was diagnosed with cancer.

"At that time I encountered the Divine Mercy teachings and I decided to trust in God totally. I was cured thanks to the NHS and the grace of God."

As he delved further in the Divine Mercy teachings he decided to bring the Good News to others and embarked on his Mustard Seed Campaign paying for the cards out of his own pocket.

Now he hopes others will follow his example with similar acts of evangelisation. He said: "I'm just the boots on the ground for the Lord. I don't know what He has planned for me but I'm ready to listen."

AN East End primary pupil has enlisted the support of Archbishop Nolan in a bid to provide every Catholic primary school in the Archdiocese with a Mission Rosary.

John Ewing, a pupil at St Paul's Primary School in Tollcross was gifted a Mission Rosary during a visit from Missio Scotland to his school and was so taken with it that he used his pocket money to buy rosaries for his fellow pupils.

Now the primary three youngster has set his sights on widening his campaign by writing to the Archbishop for his support.

His letter read: "Dear Archbishop I hope that you can help me. I need you to support my children's Rosary mission. I don't need any money, just a letter of support.

"Two years ago, I used my pocket money to buy Rosaries for all the kids in Primary 1 in my school, St Paul's in Tollcross. Last year, we bought 400 Rosaries and shared them between St Paul's and St Timothy's.

"St Barnabas and St Mark's parish helped me raise the money last year. This year, I had enough money to buy 1600 Rosaries from Missio Scotland in time for the Month of Mary in May.

"The big plan is to give all the children in Glasgow's

Rosary star John



primary schools a Rosary eventually. This year, we will have enough for St Michael's, St Anne's, St Denis and maybe one more school.

Our slogan is 'beads are seeds, help plant the seed of prayer and let Glasgow flourish again.

"Could you support us with a letter to give to the schools asking the children to pray the Rosary to make the world a better place?"

In reply Archbishop Nolan said: "Thank you for writing to me about your initiative to provide all the children in Glasgow primary schools with a Rosary. Congratulations on raising enough money this year to supply 1600 Rosaries.

"I would urge the children in all our schools to pray the

Rosary during the month of May to make the world a better place. With all my prayers and good wishes, William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow."

The Mission Rosary was created in 1951 by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who was the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies (Missio) in the United States.

■ To learn more about the Mission Rosary and how it can be used in your school or parish, visit: <https://www.missioscotland.com/resources> To purchase a Mission Rosary of your own, priced at just 60p, visit: <https://www.missioscotland.com/product-page/mission-rosary>

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- iii) there is no reliable and cost-efficient tool available to offer accurate hearing assessments in community settings.

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We are putting our new hearing test technology under the microscope to ensure its creating the benefit we designed it for: As part of a pilot study, we are testing our technology with volunteers with the goal to demonstrate the benefits of Audimetroid for use in community-based

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Please consider The Notre Dame Centre when you are making a will or leaving a legacy.

The Notre Dame Centre, Parkhouse Business Park, Kelvin House
419 Balmore Road, Glasgow, G22 6NT

T: 0141 339 2366 E: info@notredamecentre.org.uk
Charity No. SC. 002851

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St Andrew's Hospice (Lanarkshire) is a charity registered in Scotland, No. SC010159





At Wayside we offer no miracle cures but thanks to the support of many people who give their time or financial support, we are available to the marginalised and the lonely 365 nights a year.

Our patrons can enjoy a warm, friendly non-judgmental environment whilst availing themselves of the support on offer at our premises in 32 Midland Street. They can also enjoy some food, freshen up in our shower facilities and spend time in prayer within our oratory.

To find out more about our work please call in and see us. We would love to show you around. If you would like to support us financially this can be done by cheque/ standing order or bank transfer to:

The Legion of Mary Wayside Club
Sort code: 80 07 61
Account Number: 00906559
Please keep the work of the club in your prayers.



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Please Name as a Beneficiary in Your Will, Glasgow Archdiocesan Council, Society of St Vincent de Paul.

C/O National Office, Society of St Vincent de Paul, 113 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 2RU



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LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

By leaving a memorial gift to SPUC, you will help protect unborn babies and their mothers.

For more information, call 020 7091 7091 or visit www.spuc.org.uk/legacy

"Every unborn baby saved, every mother helped...each of these things will echo through eternity." -SPUC SUPPORTER, ESSEX




Society for the Protection of Unborn Children



www.spuc.org.uk



Pope's practical advice for a 'spring clean' of the soul

IT might be June, but there's still time to do some spring cleaning ... that's the spiritual message of Pope Francis this month.

"Look in the wardrobe of your soul – how many useless things you have ... let us return to simplicity," Pope Francis urged during a recent general audience.

The Pope explained that at Casa Santa Marta, where he resides along with other people, the idea emerged that during Holy Week the residents should clean out their closets and give away things they don't need.

"You cannot imagine the number of things that were found to be given away! It's good to get rid of useless things. And this went to the poor, to the people in need. We too, how many useless things we have inside our hearts – and outside as well," the Pope said, drawing a parallel with all the thoughts and emotions we carry within us, and encouraging us to clean out those as well.

"Look at your closets. Look at them. This thing is useful, that thing is useless ... and do some

cleaning there. Look at the closet of your soul – how many useless things you have, how many stupid illusions. Let us return to simplicity, to things that are true, that don't need to be made-up. What a good exercise!"

The Pontiff said that looking within oneself and being honest about who you truly are is the path to finding peace and redemption, as Jesus was deprived of everything he had.

"Stripped of everything, Jesus reminds us that hope is reborn by being truthful about ourselves – to tell ourselves the truth – by letting go of duplicity, by freeing ourselves from peacefully co-existing with our falsity.

"Sometimes, we are so used to telling ourselves lies that we live with the lies as if they are truth, and we end up being poisoned by our own falsity. [...] Today, when everything is complex and we risk losing a sense of meaning, we need simplicity, we need to rediscover the value of sobriety, the value of renunciation, to clean up what is polluting our hearts and makes them sad."



OASIS

Nourish your soul with our monthly spirituality supplement

The joy of pilgrimages... near and far

Mary's musings

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



PLANES, trains and automobiles. Unlike in centuries past when pilgrims undertook long and arduous journeys to sacred destinations on horse or foot, today's pilgrim can do it with relative ease.

Multiple sights on one trip such as the Shrines of France or the Holy Land, or weeks-long walking pilgrimages like the Camino de Santiago are all on offer.

Friends who have done the Camino tell me there is no feeling like arriving at the cathedral in Santiago to the sight of the huge swinging *botafumeiro* (the Galician thurible) although it is now in service only on special feasts. For those who want more tangible evidence of their endeavours a certificate is on offer.

In the pilgrimage stakes I am a mere part-timer. At

the end of May we had a week in Portugal, one day of which was spent on a mini-pilgrimage to Fatima. I've visited enough times to be able to hit the ground running when I get there.

Having done all the must-haves on previous visits I'm content to attend Mass and circle the Chapel of the Apparitions on my knees praying the Rosary. You can do it walking but with so many elderly Portuguese processing on their knees it seems rude not to join them.

The pilgrimages of my childhood were to Carfin or St Ninian's Cave in Whithorn. As my own children arrived, we would take a trip to Largs and stop off at the Fatima shrine at Howwood.

One of our family favourites is Ireland's Croagh Patrick. Like on the

walk to the ancient cave at Whithorn the pilgrim retraces the footsteps of the holy ones of old, walking their path.

Ascending to the 2500 ft summit where St Patrick spent 40 days and nights in prayer in the fifth century is truly awe-inspiring. That well-trod path speaks of permanence in a changing world. In a world where it seems nothing stays the same for five minutes, centuries of tradition hold strong.

The reasons for undertaking a pilgrimage are as varied as the sites themselves. Pilgrims travel seeking meaning and hoping to find purpose. They travel in the spirit of penance, thanksgiving or reparation. Perhaps a pilgrimage can also be a holiday with added meaning and shared experiences with like-minded people.

For all the far-flung pilgrimage destinations it can be just as meaningful to make a pilgrimage close to home. During lockdown I walked through Glasgow's glorious Botanic Gardens to St Gregory's church, in Wyndford.



I submerged myself in the beauty of God's creation. The walk is as much part the pilgrimage as the rosary decades prayed in front of the little shrine to Our Lady at the back of the church.

Last month I happened to pop into St Patrick's in Anderston to pay a wee visit when I was approached by an elderly gentleman and his daughter. They had come over from Dublin to see the church where his grandparents had been married. I was delighted to be able to take a photo of them, a little reminder of their own personal pilgrimage.

In my parish in May we had a weekly recitation of the Rosary, Mondays in

May. Walking down the hill to the church on a Monday evening became its own little pilgrimage.

June, the month of the Sacred Heart is upon us. The Sacred Heart altars in our churches around the archdiocese provide ample opportunity for the pilgrim in us.

If you are off on pilgrimage this summer, perhaps the Archdiocesan Lourdes pilgrimage, back for the first time since the pandemic, or to the World Youth Day in Lisbon enjoy every moment.

In this world where you can identify as anything you want it's a fine thing to identify as a pilgrim.

Defending the faith... with *charity*

In much of the secularised world, we live in a climate that is somewhat anti-ecclesial and anti-clerical. It's quite fashionable today to bash the churches, be they Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Evangelical.

This is often done in the name of being open-minded and enlightened, and it's the one bias that's intellectually sanctioned. Say something derogatory about any other group in society, and you will be brought to account; say something disparaging about the church and there are no such consequences.

What's the proper response? While it's easy to take offence at this, we must be careful not to overreact because, as a church, we should not be fundamentally threatened by this. Why?

First, because a certain amount of this criticism is good and helpful. Truth be told, we have some very real faults.

All atheism is a parasite feeding off bad religion. Our critics feed off our faults and we can be grateful that our faults are being pointed out to us – even if sometimes over-generously. Criticism of the church is healthily humbling us and pushing us toward a more courageous internal purification.

Besides, for too long we have enjoyed a situation of privilege, never a good thing for the church. We generally live healthier as Christians in a time of dis-privilege than in a time of privilege, even if it isn't as pleasant. Moreover, there are some important things at stake here.

We must be careful not to overreact to the present anti-ecclesial climate because this can lead to an over-defensiveness and put us in an unhealthy adversarial position vis-à-vis the culture, and that's not where the gospel asks us to be. Rather our task is to absorb this criticism, painful though it is, gently point to its unfairness, and resist the temptation to be defensive.

Why? Why not aggressively defend ourselves?

Because we are strong enough not to, and that's reason enough. We can withstand this without having to become hard and defensive. Current criticism of the church notwithstanding, the church is not about to go under or away any time soon.

We are two and a half bil-

Scribblings of the spirit

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



Cardinal Basil Hume

lion Christians in the world, stand within a two-thousand-year-old tradition, have among ourselves a universally accepted scripture, have two thousand years of doctrinal entrenchment and refinement, have massive centuries-old institutions, are embedded in the very roots of Western culture and technology, constitute perhaps the biggest multinational group in the world, and are growing in numbers worldwide.

We are hardly a reed shaking in the wind, reeling vulnerably, a ship about to go under. We are strong, stable, blessed by God, an Elder in the culture, and because of this we owe it to the culture to model maturity and understanding.

Beyond that, even more important, is the fact that we have Christ's promise to be with us, and the reality of the resurrection to sustain us. Given all this, I think it's fair to say that we can absorb a fair amount of criticism without fear of losing our identity. Moreover, we must not let this criticism make us lose sight of why we exist in the first place.

The church exists not for

its own sake or to ensure its own survival, but for the sake of the world. We can easily forget this and lose sight of what the gospel asks of us.

For example, compare these two responses: At a press conference, Cardinal Basil Hume was once asked what he considered the foremost task facing the church today. He replied simply: "To need to try to save this planet." Compare that response with that of another cardinal who, in a recent radio interview, was asked the same question (What is the foremost task facing the church today?) and replied, "To defend the faith." Who's right?

Everything about Jesus suggests that Hume's view is closer to the gospel than the other.

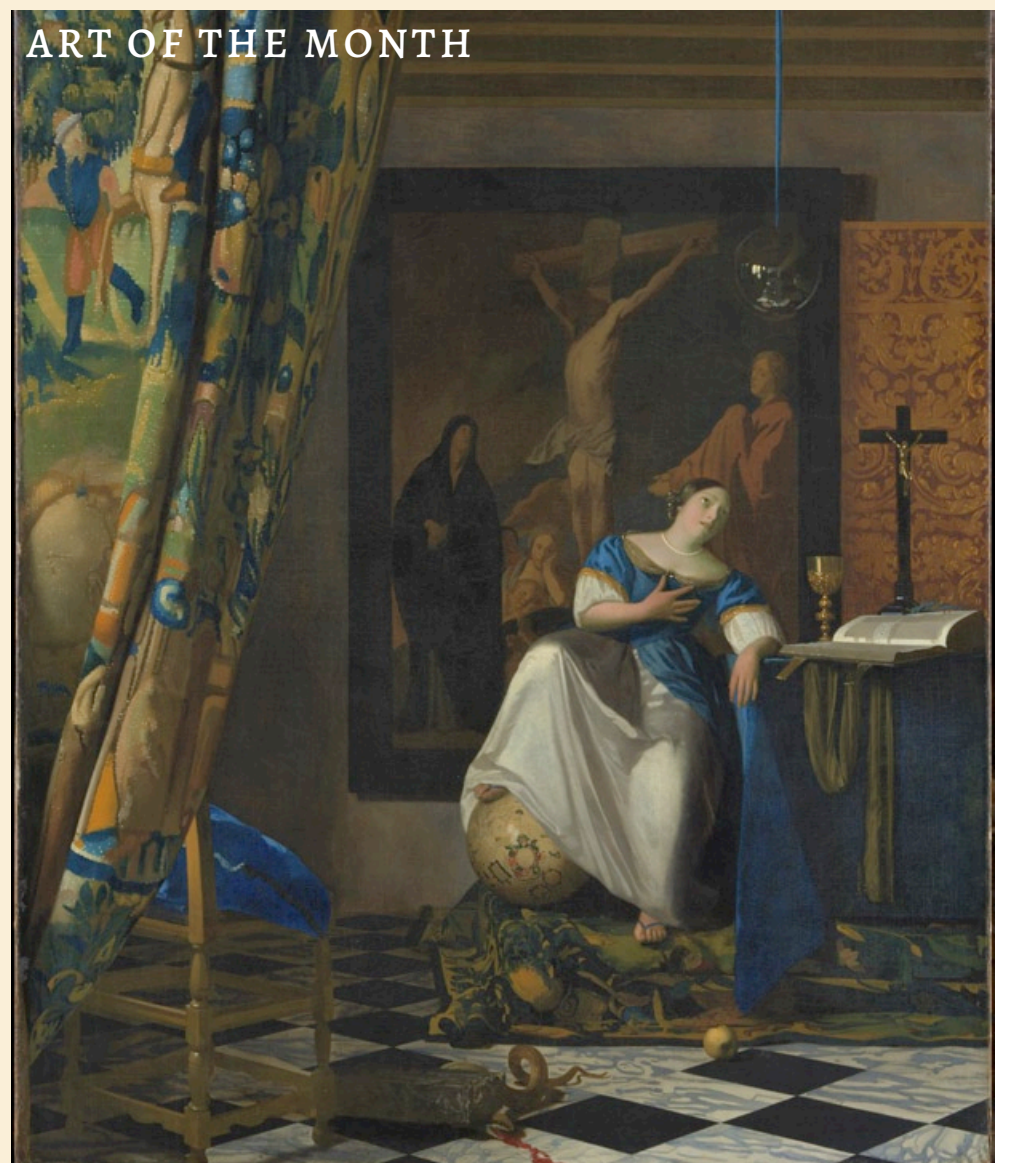
When Jesus says, "My flesh is food for the life of the world", he is affirming clearly that the primary task of the church is not to defend itself, or ensure its continuity, or protect itself from being crushed by the world. The church exists for the sake of the world, not for its own sake.

That's why there is such a rich symbolism in the fact that immediately after Jesus was born, he was laid in a trough in a stable, a place where animals come to eat; and it's why he gives himself up on a table in the Eucharist, to be eaten.

Being eaten up by the world is largely what Jesus is about, namely, risking vulnerability over safety and trust over defensiveness. At the very heart of the Gospel lies a call to risk beyond defensiveness and to absorb unjust criticism without fighting back: "Forgive them, they know not what they do!"

The church is meant to give itself over as food for the world. Like all living bodies it needs sometimes to protect itself – but never at the cost of losing its very reason for being here.

ART OF THE MONTH



Vermeer's profession of faith in painted form

Johannes Vermeer, a prominent Dutch baroque painter of the 17th century, gained recognition for his meticulous and lifelike portrayals of ordinary scenes, employing light and shadow to evoke depth and atmosphere in his compositions.

One of his notable works, "Allegory of the Catholic Faith," presents a woman adorned with symbols representing the Eucharist, accompanied by a crucifix, a bible, and a golden chalice.

However, this painting may not be treasured by everyone due to its somewhat rigid and stylised nature. The woman's exquisitely rendered face resembles that of a delicate porcelain figurine, while her pose,

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

leaning on a table with one leg raised on a globe, appears somewhat graceless and contrived.

Although executed with great skill, the artwork does not fully convey the concept of the Virgin Mary as the embodiment of faith, standing triumphantly on the world and defeating the serpent.

Marian

It is worth noting, however, that elements of Marian symbolism can be observed in the serpent and a discarded apple on the floor.

It is plausible that Vermeer created "Allegory of the Catholic Faith" for a wealthy patron, given the opulent

setting adorned with lavish tapestry curtains, an oversized Crucifixion painting, and luxurious garments and drapery.

Alternatively, the commission may have aimed to promote the Catholic Faith during a time of persecution and in response to the Protestant Reformation. In the Netherlands of that era, some individuals harboured resentment towards Vermeer due to his conversion to Catholicism and his marriage to a devout Catholic woman, with whom he had 11 children.

Regrettably, Vermeer passed away at the age of 43, leaving behind a relatively small body of work, consisting of approximately 35 paintings.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father, aware of the depth and richness of our Catholic faith, we pray that you will deepen our understanding of your holy Church, and help us to live in accordance with its teachings. May we always seek to follow your will in harmony with the world. We ask for your continued guidance and protection, as we strive to be faithful followers of your Son... Through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and all the saints, we ask for your blessings upon us and upon the Church. Amen.

Scripture readings are never 'ordinary'

By the end of this month, the seminarians with us in Salamanca will have finished their course and begun to think about what lies ahead for them.

They came here in January to begin their priestly formation and have spent these past six months learning, reflecting, praying and discerning God's call to them.

Now, they move on to new things in Rome or Ireland (we have had a few Irish seminarians with us this year too) after their summer break and parish experiences. Do keep them in prayer!

In our Sunday liturgy too, we look to the future as we resume our "ordinary" Sundays.

Trinity Sunday, Year A

The readings today don't try to explain the doctrine of the Trinity, but they do reflect on what God is like and how God acts. In the First Reading, Moses has been told that God will show himself to him on the mountain. There, God reveals not only his name, but also his character: "a God of tenderness and compassion". God is kind, merciful and faithful.

This is why his people are to live by justice and mercy too. Jesus reminds Nicodemus in the Gospel passage that this love of God always comes first. God is loving, merciful and kind: we can only be separated from that love if we choose to be, he says.

Because God is a com-



Fr Tom Kilbride

munion of love – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and reaches out to us in love, so we are called to reflect that unity and love in our lives.

Corpus Christi, Year A

The First and Second Readings today take us back to Holy Thursday, as Moses reminds the people of all God did for them by bringing them out of Egypt, including feeding them in the desert, while Paul reminds the Corinthians of the meaning of the cup and the bread they offer and share.

However, the Gospel, from the sermon on the Bread of Life in John's Gospel, takes us deeper: the saving actions of God for his people in the desert, including the manna he gave them to eat, serve to point us to the far greater action of God in Jesus, saving not just one people from Egypt and slavery but all mankind from death and sin.

So the "bread" is no longer just physical food, but Jesus himself given for us. The "cup" is not just wine to remember God's goodness, but the blood of Jesus poured out for us on the Cross. The readings of today's feast remind us that we share in Holy Commun-

ion not just to be reminded of what God has done for us in the past, but to share in his life now and, nourished on our journey in this life, to receive a promise of a life which will last for ever.

11th Sunday of the Year, A

In today's passage, Jesus calls the Twelve by name and sends them out to share in his work of preaching and healing. In fact, the next few Sundays will be taken from the chapter of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus teaches his disciples about their future mission.

However, we start that with a glimpse into Jesus' motivation: he "feels sorry for" the crowds (a poor translation to express something far stronger, far more visceral, like "deeply moved"). They are lost, like sheep without a shepherd.

Not only will he respond by being their shepherd, but he invites his disciples to share in that work, a truly "pastoral" mission. The other readings also hint at this compassion of God for us. God's compassion for us oozes out of all these readings today, but they also set up what follows: the invitation to us to share it with others!



Andrei Rublev, *The Trinity*, 1425

12th Sunday of the Year, A

If last week's readings were all about compassion, this week's are a bit tougher! Jeremiah faces insult and rejection for preaching God's word, while Jesus tells his disciples frankly that their mission might also bring its trials.

Still, three times over in the Gospel he tells them not to be afraid. They are to trust in him and trust in God their Father, who cares for them intimately.

Jesus is giving his disciples a share in his own mission, as we saw last week. His mission will bring him

to the Cross, so their share in it will bring them hardship at times. But as his mission led to the new life of the resurrection, so theirs, if they are faithful to him, will lead them to life "in the presence of my Father in heaven".

13th Sunday of the Year, A

The last excerpt from Jesus's teaching on mission brings not only a sense of its difficulties, but also its rewards. Yes, there is a cross to take up, and even losses to face, but the reward is life with Christ.

Those too who welcome

the message they preach (and Jesus gives them plenty of hope that there will be many who do) have a reward. Even the smallest gesture of kindness does not go unnoticed.

We see this played out in the First Reading, in the story of the prophet Elisha (perhaps one of the stories Jesus has in mind here): the couple who offer Elisha hospitality and refreshment are rewarded for their kindness, beyond their wildest imaginings, even though they acted out of pure generosity, seeking nothing in return.

Join us in praying for peace in the world

A s chair of an organisation that presumes to have the words 'Peace of Christ' in its name, then clearly one of our main concerns is going to be nuclear weapons.

And yet challenging the UK's continued possession of nuclear weapons seems for most people to be way down the list of 'urgent things to do'.

We could say that people have more pressing issues to contend with right now. Keeping the wolf from the door is a priority for far too many.

Yet while the government tells us there is no money to improve the lot of nurses, doctors, teachers, train drivers, paramedics and so many more, there is £205 billion available to pay for



Marian Pallister

The chair of Pax Christi Scotland focuses on the issues of the day

an upgrade to Trident, that dark nuclear secret lurking in the Clyde.

Of course, President Putin's threats since his invasion of Ukraine have made some stop and think. But most have stopped imagining what the outcome might be were there to be a nuclear attack.

Having lived through the Cuban missile crisis as a teenager, when America

and Russia went head-to-head over missiles to be stored on the island of Cuba, on America's doorstep, I remember my school friends and I planning how we wanted to spend our last four minutes – the warning we would be given if America and Russia initiated a nuclear war.

Fortunately, for all their bluster, negotiations went on behind the scenes with

the help of Pope John XXIII, and there was a standoff. We could relax.

Since there, treaties have been signed, statements made by religious and secular leaders. Our own Scottish Bishops' Conference made a statement in 1982 condemning the possession and use of nuclear weapons – saying it all over again on the statement's 40th anniversary and again this year.

In that 1982 statement, the Scottish bishops said, "We are convinced... that if it is immoral to use these weapons it is also immoral to threaten their use. Some argue that the threat can be justified as the lesser of two evils. The crux of the problem is whether in any foreseeable circumstances a policy of self-defence based

on the use or even the threat of use of these weapons of terrible destructiveness can ever be morally justified."

They weren't, of course, out on a limb. This is the 60th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem In Terris* – Peace on Earth, written the year after that terrifying Cuban crisis.

Issued on April 11, 1963, paragraphs 109 to 116 were dedicated to the arms race, nuclear weapons and disarmament – and written, of course, in the wake of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with such terrible loss of life.

It's what prompted Pope John XXIII to say in *Pacem In Terris*: "Justice, right reason, and the recognition of man's dignity cry out insist-

ently for a cessation to the arms race...Nuclear weapons must be banned."

That's pretty conclusive: "Nuclear weapons must be banned." And of course, in January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons came into force.

But there are still nine 'nuclear nations', and the UK government is one of them.

It's why Pax Christi Scotland, along with other organisations, goes on protesting and campaigning. On June 24, we will join a vigil at Faslane led by Archbishop William Nolan and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rev Sally Foster-Fulton. You're all very welcome!

Requiescant in pace

Fr Henry Parkinson

A much loved Irish pastor

ONE of Glasgow's oldest Irish priests has died at the age of 91. Fr Henry Parkinson had served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Glasgow since the summer of 1972, having previously been a member of the Kiltegan Missionary Order.

Harry Parkinson, was born on the 30th of November 1931 at Kilmallock, Co Limerick, Ireland. He attended Kilmallock National School from 1934 to 1943 and completed his secondary education in St Munchin's College, Limerick from 1943 to 1949.

In September 1949 Fr Harry joined the Spiritual Year in St Patrick's, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, and following two years of philosophy studies and four years of theology studies, Harry was ordained for St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) on April 21st 1957.

After ordination Harry

was appointed to the newly created Diocese of Kitui, Kenya, where he became quite fluent in the local Ki-Kamba language. He ministered in Kitui Diocese until 1965.

These years included spells as Head of the Teacher Training College in Mutune as well as Father-in-Charge of Kimangao, where his building skills and his basic mechanical skills came in very useful.

In 1968, following a year teaching in St Patrick's, Buchlyvie, Fr Harry was appointed as curate at St Andrew's Bearsden. Four years later he was incardinated as a Priest of the Archdiocese by Archbishop Scanlan and thus began his 'second priesthood'.

For the next 24 years, Fr Harry ministered in just three parishes. In 1979 Cardinal Winning asked him

BY RONNIE CONVERY



to move from Bearsden to become Assistant Priest at St Peter's, Partick. That request to move was repeated in 1987 when he was asked to go to Dumbarton.

And it was there that he was to serve out the rest of his priestly ministry, first as Assistant Priest at St Michael's, Dumbarton, then Administrator of the parish and finally Parish Priest from 1989-1996.

Fr Harry retired in 1996

but continued to live an active life, helping out and doing supplies until a year or two ago. He always maintained a keen interest in St Patrick's Missionary Society and the missions and kept in close contact with his classmates and many Kiltegan friends. Kiltegan was always a calling point on his many visits to Ireland.

A keen Celtic fan, Harry was also a great Munster and Ireland rugby fan, and got particular pleasure from the recent Munster win against Leinster. An avid gardener, it is appropriate that Harry should leave us in the Springtime. He died peacefully at home in Glasgow on May 17.

The many outpourings of affection on the Archdiocesan Facebook page when his death was announced are testament to a life well lived by a man well respected.

Requiescat in pace.

John McMaster

Committed to faith

JOHN McMaster was born in the dark days of war, in the winter of 1944.

His father was Ewen McMaster, a primary school teacher and a deputy head at St Constantine's Govan. His mother was Catherine Sweeney. His parents had roots in the east end of Glasgow and in Knoydart and the family were very proud of these roots.

John attended St Peter's Primary Partick and Hamilton Park Hyndland before moving onto St Aloysius. The family would often holiday in Troon, renting a house beside the railway line and John, from an early age, could indulge one of his passions, train spotting. John was awarded an Initial degree at University of Glasgow where he was heavily involved in the debating society at the time of Donald Dewar.

He then undertook a one-year course in Accountancy at Dundee and worked for the rest of his life as an accountant, in Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow and Coatbridge. In 1976 he graduated with a further degree in Economics from London University.

John had a sharp, searching mind and this combined with his deep Christian faith and his Jesuit schooling meant he was always trying to learn more about Catholic Christianity. He was deeply influenced by the series of Living Theology Courses that were held in the 1970's. It was at one of these courses in Craiglockhart in the early 1970s that he met Catherine Gillespie. John proposed in Kelvingrove Park with Glasgow university as the backdrop and they were married on the 18 July 1975 at the Catholic Chaplaincy at Edinburgh.

They moved back to Glasgow and settled in Mount Vernon in 1986, becoming very active in St Joseph's Tollcross. On retirement one of his main roles was supporting Catherine in her role as City councillor, attending civic functions and events with her. That lasted up to 2012.

John was on the Committee of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral for three years. He worked with the Festival of St Mungo and was the secretary to Board of the medieval Glasgow Trust.



BY STEPHEN MCKINNEY

All through his life John had many passions and interests. The passion for trains continued. He always loved music and was particularly keen on folk music and folk clubs. He taught himself the guitar and wrote many songs. He taught Catherine the guitar too and she learned the harp. When John and Catherine were part of the ministry team at St Paul's in Edinburgh in the early 1980s John enjoyed playing guitar with the folk group. They were both very active in the choir in St Joseph's and John loved singing the psalm at Mass.

He was passionate about history and was involved in finding the letter written and signed by Bishop Glendinning at the Bishop's Palace at Lochwood, Easterhouse in 1408. This letter lifted the excommunication of Abbot of Paisley by the bishop of Glasgow – the excommunication was imposed after years of dispute over the rights of Paisley Abbey and the revenue of the church of Rutherglen.

John faced his final illness with incredible fortitude and courage, supported by Catherine, Dennis and Paula Frank, Fr George Gillespie and family. If his marriage to Catherine helped to define him, so too did his unswerving Christian faith and his constant search to deepen and strengthen that faith. That remained until the very end. Paul's second letter to Timothy provides a summation of the Christian life of John: "I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith".

Fr George Donaldson

A brilliant moral theologian

FATHER George Donaldson was a well-kent and much-loved figure who spent most of his life in the Archdiocese of Glasgow, despite being ordained as a priest of Motherwell Diocese.

Fr George taught moral theology to students for the priesthood for decades at St Peter's College in Cardross and Newlands, then Chesters College Bearsden and Scotus College.

But it is perhaps for his unofficial role as a travelling speaker to secondary schools across the west of Scotland that he will be best remembered by generations of young people who experienced his forthright message delivered with deadpan humour and insight.

Fr George was a close friend of three successive archbishops of Glasgow: Cardinal Winning who regarded him as the country's foremost moral theologian and often asked his counsel, Archbishop Conti who was a college friend from Rome, and Archbishop Tar-



BY RONNIE CONVERY

taglia who was his colleague in seminary teaching. Fittingly the current Archbishop of Glasgow, Archbishop Nolan, was present at his funeral, both men having served together as Motherwell priests for many years.

Born in Baillieston in 1937 and educated at Our Lady's High School, Motherwell, then Blairs College in Aberdeen he studied for the priesthood in Rome.

Though ordained back in 1961 in the eternal city, Fr

George never served as a Parish Priest. He was a curate 1961-69 at Motherwell Cathedral, and from 1969-1972 at St Mary's Coatbridge, before being asked to teach moral theology in seminary. From 1972-1985 at St Peter's College, and thereafter at Chesters and Scotus Colleges.

He was a popular figure in St Alphonsus at the Baras and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Dennistoun, where he regularly helped out over weekends and his quick vigil Masses and often hilarious but thoughtful sermons proved highly popular with those returning from Celtic Park.

His great love – apart from his priestly vocation – was Italy, and every summer he would take himself off to Rome and then the Adriatic resort of Rimini where he would catch up on the latest trends in theology while also devouring an impressive diet of modern fiction.

Those who knew him and appreciated him would accept that he was a lovably

eccentric priest He was fixated about his diet and would often avoid lunches at conferences to return to his room where he would cook some healthy alternative to the feast on offer.

He had a quirky sense of humour – once causing chaos in Marks and Spencers when he took back his 'Class 1 British turnip' insisting to the perplexed assistant that he wanted a 'class 2 turnip' instead. After much discussion the manager offered him a refund and his original vegetable to resolve the situation!

A regular on TV discussion programmes in the 1980s and 90s, he could be relied upon to defend the Catholic position on moral topics with clarity and humour.

His final years were spent at Summerlee House Care Home in Coatbridge and it was there that he died. His old friend Fr Hugh Kelly and members of Fr Donaldson's family were with him in his final hours.

Requiescat in pace.

SCIAF's justice plea to Scotland's First Minister

WHEREVER you look for news of what is happening in our shared world, the headlines, inevitably, are related to climate chaos.

Flash floods in Malawi; hunger crises in Ethiopia; drought in Kenya; record breaking heatwaves in India and Pakistan. The fate of our brothers and sisters in the world's most climate-vulnerable communities hangs in the balance.

That's why we're urging the Catholic community to act with SCIAF; now is the time to call on new Scotland's new First Minister to act First For Justice.

Climate related disasters have become a familiar, ever-increasing threat – somewhat existential (for now) for us in the west, but all too real and devastating for our neighbours in the global south.

We shake our heads, feel the pain of our brothers and sisters in climate vulnerable countries. What can we do? The answer, as Catholics in Scotland, is a lot. Through our faith and through our individual and

BY **ALISTAIR DUTTON** collective actions, we can move from climate chaos to climate justice.

Climate justice is about fairness and equity in the face of climate change, with the welfare of our brothers and sisters living in the world's most climate-vulnerable communities at the heart.

- It's recognising historical responsibilities – that countries in the west have contributed most to greenhouse gas emissions throughout history and are failing to act fast enough to meet targets to halt the devastating impacts.
- It's calling for action to address the needs of these climate-vulnerable communities – like the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund to support vulnerable countries hit hard by climate disasters – ensuring their involvement in decision-making processes and access to resources.
- It's moving towards a



fairer food system by addressing the link between global food insecurity and soaring temperatures. Crucially, it's reflected in the Church's core teachings on stewardship, solidarity, and the dignity of all human beings.

So, who holds the power to achieve climate justice? Put simply, we all do. Governments, corporations,

and international organisations shape climate related policies and actions, while grassroots movements, aid agencies like SCIAF and individuals like you hold the power to challenge and demand solutions.

We can look to the Bible to feel inspired - individual actions, when combined with collective efforts, can create a powerful force for change:

"For as in one body we

have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)

The SCIAF First for Justice campaign is one way to put your faith into action now. People, parishes and communities across Scotland want to see Scotland's new First Minister commit to solving the most challeng-

ing issues we face globally.

With every signature, we amplify our collective voice and challenge our new First Minister to put Scotland at the forefront of calls to build a just and green world. We can help people recover from climate disasters they didn't cause. We can help ensure people have enough to eat in a world that produces plenty. And we can help lead the way in cutting our emissions at home for the benefit of all.

Calling on Scotland's new First Minister to act First For Justice will help to achieve meaningful change for people in the world's most vulnerable communities. Acting for climate justice not only honours Catholic teaching – it also works towards building a more just and sustainable world, where the needs of all people and the planet are respected and protected.

■ **Sign our letter and ask the new First Minister to act First for Justice at www.sciaf.org.uk/firstforjustice**

FIRST FOR JUSTICE

Remind the FM of his responsibilities to those most in need

Sign our letter now at sciaf.org.uk/firstforjustice

Sofia, Malawi

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Caritas Scotland

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