

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

March 2021



Is Glasgow set to host Pope's plea for planet?

THE future of the planet and the welfare of the world's inhabitants – these are the issues facing world leaders as they come to Glasgow later this year for the UN Climate Change Conference known as COP26.

And among them could be Pope Francis.

The Holy Father's concern for ecological issues is well-known and he has devoted a whole encyclical to them – *Laudato Si*. It emerged last month that consideration was being given to a pos-

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**
EDITOR

sible Papal presence at the talks which are scheduled for early November at the SEC.

The COP26 summit will bring world leaders includ-

ing Presidents Biden and Macron together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and is considered the most important such gathering in recent history due to the

enormity of the issues being discussed.

Any papal visit would be short and would not involve public ceremonies or Masses, but rather a direct intervention by the Holy Father on the issue of climate change to the assembled

world leaders. The Pope has made these kinds of one-day visits before when he flew to France to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg and to Switzerland to mark the 70th anni-

Continued on page 2

Dear Green Place is ready to welcome Pope's message

Continued from page 1

versary of the World Council of Churches. Both of these were one-day round trips.

All countries signed up to the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change are entitled to attend the Glasgow event, including the Holy See, which has UN observer status. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's Secretary of State and most senior diplomat, has led the Holy See's delegations at previous summits.

Speaking to diplomats in the Vatican earlier this year, the Holy Father explicitly highlighted the importance of the Glasgow summit. He said he hoped that "the next United Nations Climate Change Conference to take place in Glasgow next November, will lead to effective agreement in addressing the consequences of climate change. Now is the time to act, for we are already feeling the effects of prolonged inaction."

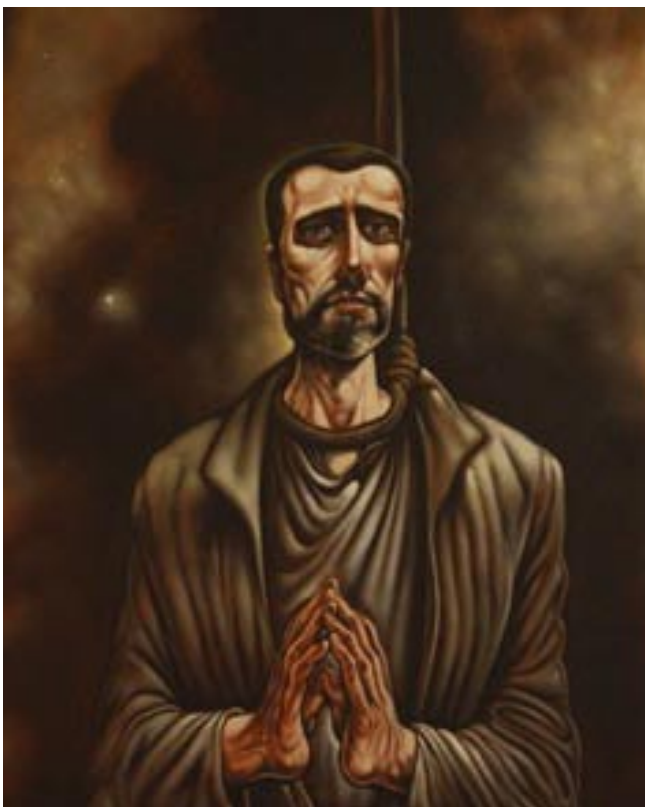
A Bishops' Conference working group, chaired by Bishop Bill Nolan of Galway has been in place since last year to plan for the event. Already a series of preparations are underway:

- A Mass for visiting delegates will be at St Aloysius on Sunday November 7 at 3pm
- Schools across Scotland will study and put into action the insights of *Laudato Si* through special events and there will also be a "season of creation" theme in September.
- The Bishops of Scotland plan a pastoral letter to sensitize people in late spring ahead of the UN Conference.

Mgr Hugh Bradley, Archdiocesan Administrator, said: "We would love to have the Holy Father in Glasgow, even if only for a few hours, and we hope and pray that we may have a new Archbishop in place to welcome him to the Dear Green Place."



Archdiocesan Administrator Mgr Hugh Bradley greets Pope Francis



**Remembering
St John Ogilvie**
page 4



**Celebrating the
Year of St Joseph**
pages 6–7



**Priests reflect on
COVID-19 one year on**
pages 8–9

Vintage stations will see light of day before Easter

A LONG-FORGOTTEN vintage set of Stations of the Cross, found covered in dust and grime in the basement of St Helen's Church Langside during a lockdown clear up, has been lovingly restored by two sisters in time for Holy Week.

Grace Cohen, a parishioner at the southside church and Teresa McLaughlin, a parishioner from St Joseph's, Clarkston, are both retired and as passionate upcyclers were delighted to take on the challenge of restoring the Stations to their former glory.

Grace said: "Teresa and I usually work in restoring pieces of furniture. When we were shown the stations from the basement we were intrigued and interested to find out what was underneath the dust and grime which had built up over the years."

"During restoration we

BY BRIAN SWANSON

uncovered beautiful illustrations of the final journey of Jesus to his crucifixion.

"The Stations are now hanging in our church and are there for everyone to appreciate."

The origins of the Stations, which were behind ornate glass frames, are printed on to paper to look like oil paintings on canvas and made in Italy, remain a mystery.

The Victorian style of the prints look similar to the kind often displayed in much older Catholic churches but which have largely gone out of fashion.

St Helen's Langside was originally built as the Langside Road United Presbyterian Church when it opened in 1897 but later it became a Church of Scotland before passing to the Archdiocese in the mid 1960s.



Mgr Paul Murray admires the stations

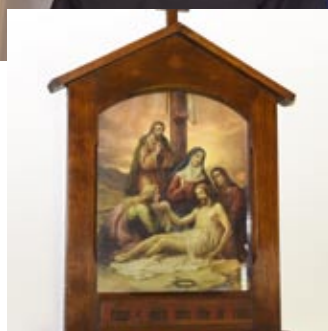
The first Mass was celebrated in St Helens in October 1966 and one theory is that the Stations were put in place around that time although it is not known if they were bought for the occasion or gifted by another parish or individual.

Monsignor Paul Murray, who has been Parish Priest at St Helen's since 2007, said: "We didn't know we had them but they have been restored and they look absolutely beautiful."

"I know they will be admired by everyone who sees

them when, hopefully in the not too distant future, everyone will be able to return to Mass."

■ If you have any information about the stations email Brian Swanson@rcag.org.uk



Churches will open ahead of Holy Week

CHURCHES across Scotland will be allowed to open once more from Friday March 26.

The announcement was made by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in the Scottish Parliament on March 8.

Under the new regulations Masses and liturgical services will now be celebrated throughout Holy Week and the Easter season.

The First Minister also announced a change to the maximum numbers allowed inside each church during services, lifting the cap from 20 to 50 where the size of the building can allow suitable social distancing.

The Government move followed a call from Scotland's bishops to lift its 'one-size-fits-all' cap on the numbers who can attend services when churches reopen.

Instead, the bishops maintain congregation size should be calculated in accordance with the size of each church, a system similar to that used in the retail sector, which still maintains social distancing regulations.

The bishops say: "As Scotland's Catholic bishops,



we welcome the recent announcement by the First Minister foreseeing a return to our churches for the most important celebration of the liturgical year at Easter. We

also welcome the recognition of the status of public worship implicit in this decision.

"The Catholic Community recognises the seriousness

of the pandemic and is committed to working with others to avoid the spreading of infection.

"At the same time, we anticipate ongoing dialogue

with the Scottish Government regarding the requirement of a numerical "cap" on the number of worshippers. As we continue to observe social distancing and the

protocols on infection control and hygiene formulated by the Bishops' Conference working group under the leadership of the former Chief Medical Officer Sir Harry Burns, we maintain that it would be more appropriate for each church building to accommodate a congregation in proportion to its size rather than on the basis of an imposed number.

"We echo here the timely words Pope Francis addressed to the representatives of countries to the Holy See on the 8th February 2021:

"Even as we seek ways to protect human lives from the spread of the virus, we cannot view the spiritual and moral dimension of the human person as less important than physical health."

"The opening of churches is a sign that the sacrifices endured so far are bearing fruit and gives us hope and encouragement to persevere. We pray that the Risen Christ, for whom we long during this holy season of Lent, will bless and bring healing to our nation."

St John Ogilvie is truly a saint for our times

JESUITS are meant to travel. The Founder, St Ignatius Loyola, was clear about that.

For the final sixteen years of his life he remained in Rome, praying, even agonising over the Rule of the new order, never again leaving the Eternal City.

Mobility, which he denied to himself, was to be the hallmark of his innovative band of apostles. Our Scottish Jesuit martyr, St John Ogilvie, took our Founder at his word.

During John's 22 years of travels around Europe, he displayed an aptitude for mobility even before his Jesuit vocation became evident.

John was born in 1589, into a well-off Calvinist family in Drum-na-Keith, in Banffshire.

His father, a respected landowner, possessed a large estate in that rolling, fertile landscape. Walter Ogilvie was determined that his son be brought up a Presbyterian. The country had largely ceased to be Roman Catholic and the family had been Calvinist since the Scottish reformation. That reformation had driven those few priests who remained either overseas or underground.

A severe Calvinist religious culture had tightened its grip by the time John entered his teenage years.

His father, wanting to ensure for his son a good education, sent him to Paris, where many young male Scots of means would finish their education, at the Sorbonne.

Yet it was there, in the city of Jean Calvin, immersed in the religious controversies of the day, the seat of the university that had also nourished Ignatius Loyola, that John first began to doubt the Calvinism of his upbringing.

John had Catholic ancestry. His mother Agnes, who died when he was three, was a Catholic; two uncles, George and William Elphinstone, had been Jesuits. That branch of the family tree probably connected John to the noted Bishop William Elphinstone of Aberdeen, who founded, in 1495, one of Europe's earliest universities, which would become the University of Aberdeen.

But by the time of John's

birth, his father had conformed to the new state religion.

The Ogilvies lived through turbulent years marked by several fluctuations, now toward Episcopalianism, now toward Presbyterianism, while the skilled political philosopher King James VI knew well how to play one faction off against another.

James VI was king of Scotland, and also James I of England; the crowns would be united in 1603, although the two nations would not become the single political entity, the precursor of Britain, for a little over a century.

King James had dabbled with the idea of state-appointed bishops. But those policies infuriated the Calvinist Presbyterian camp, which had no tolerance for anything that suggested authority rather than *sola scriptura, sola fide* (by Scripture alone; by faith alone), so Roman Catholics found themselves beleaguered from both sides.

John Ogilvie would, in time, come to see that he could do no other but repudiate the claim that the monarch had power to dictate and delimit anyone's religious beliefs. He was killed, by the state, for that refusal.

We can imagine this imaginative and bright young itinerant scholar immersing himself in current affairs, keen to understand what was going on around him.

His European travels and studies expanded his mind, with the Benedictines in Bavaria, and the Jesuits in Olmutz and Brno in Moravia.

He became skilled in other European languages; conversing with fellow-students and lecturers who accepted the Calvinist doctrine of predestination – that God willed that only some be saved, not all.

For John, the apostle Paul's experience of the Church as the Body of Christ, to which all are invited, became theologically essential.

John continued to study, becoming a Roman Catholic in 1597, at Leuven in present-day Belgium.

Before long, he was thinking seriously about the priesthood. John joined the Society of Jesus in 1599.

We honour John Ogilvie



Glasgow-educated Father David Stewart SJ, national director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, pictured at the national shrine to St John Ogilvie at St Aloysius Church, Garnethill offers his reflections on the life and legacy of Scotland's first post-Reformation Saint as we mark his feast day this month marking 406 years since he was hanged at Glasgow Cross.

now, over 400 years since his execution, as a martyr for religious freedom.

John's was a local struggle in a small European state; the martyrdoms of contemporary Christians are displayed on the global screen. He died, on the scaffold at the Tolbooth, with a prayer on his lips, a powerful symbol of our need to protect and struggle for religious freedoms, a pressing concern in our day too.

As a Scots Jesuit, recently returned from my own decades of Ignatian stravaiging but lacking John's vivacious sanctity, my first few weeks home have included getting to know the city again; the site of John's martyrdom in 1615 was an early visit. I couldn't help thinking that a visitor might never know its significance.

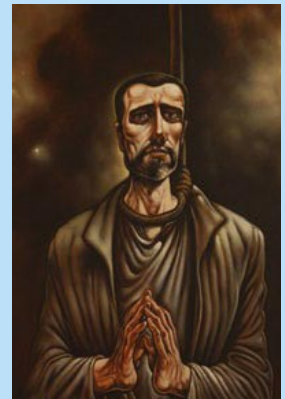
We do have a shrine-altar at St Aloysius Jesuit Church here in Garnethill and the wonderful Howson painting in St Andrew's Cathedral but couldn't, I've wondered, there be some reminder near the Tolbooth too?

Across four centuries, a common thread runs. At stake is religious freedom and civil tolerance; but we've been tearing down statues and have stopped listening to each other. People of faith are ridiculed.

Our need to reflect on these realities is just as urgent as it was in John's short, brave life.

Archive's Ogilvie treasure

ALTHOUGH John Ogilvie has no relics, elaborate tomb, or public statue, the Scottish Catholic Archive contains a poignant link with Scotland's first post-reformation saint in the form of a rare book which bears his signature.



BY BRIAN SWANSON

The small vellum-bound book known as *Tractatus Mysteriorum Missae*, was written by Francis Titelmann and published in 1549.

The title page has a little handwritten phrase in Latin, 'ad usum P Ioannes Ogilbaeus' meaning 'For the use of Father John Ogilvie'.

The book is part of the Scottish Catholic Archives held in Aberdeen University – less than 50 miles from the saint's birthplace near Keith, Banffshire.

Its existence is not widely known among the general public although scholars and those with an interest in religious antiquarian books, like Father Jim Lawlor of Immaculate Conception Maryhill, are familiar with the book and its significance.

He said: "Several surviving copies were in Jesuit libraries – not surprising

since it was published about ten years after the Society of Jesus was founded. So it would be a contemporary devotional work for prayer and – as the title suggests – it is a reflection on the Mystery of

the Mass.

"We will never know for sure if Father John Ogilvie wrote the words himself, but what is certain is that he used the book. Although since the Jesuits take a vow of poverty Ogilvie couldn't say this was 'his' book but the Society's book of which he had use.

"The period in which the book was published was right in the crucible of the reformation controversy and one major element of that was precisely about the Mass so there's the historical as well as the personal here. In fact, the Council of Trent's first decree about the Mass was published in 1551 – almost exactly contemporary to the book.

"All of this ties Ogilvie, the reformation, the Council of Trent and the re-evangelisation of Scotland all into one historical orbit."

St Aloysius continues to welcome all

FACE-TO-FACE English Language classes for refugees and asylum seekers at St Aloysius Church, Garnethill, may be paused because of Covid restrictions, but online and behind the scenes, the students' needs are still being catered for.

Thanks to generous donors and using funds raised from a variety of sources around 60 laptops and iPads have been handed out to students to enable them to continue their studies at home.

Mobile phones have also

been bought or donated along with bikes, which are refurbished and safety checked by volunteer technicians, and given to students according to their needs.

Friends and families of the volunteer teachers who run the ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) classes have also generously donated warm clothing, bedding, baby equipment and household items.

As a referral agency of the Trussell Trust, which supports a network of food banks across the UK, St

Aloysius ESOL group can provide its students with food vouchers.

Kevin Wyber, ESOL co-ordinator at St Aloysius, said: "Our volunteers and students – we like to think of them as our 'New Glaswegians' – can't wait to get back to classes, but who knows when that will be.

"Like so many others, we have had to adapt the way we do things which we would not be able to do without our volunteers and very generous donors. We are very grateful to them all."

Fr Jim's Via Crucis is proving popular this Lent

FATHER Jim Lawlor, parish priest at Immaculate Conception Maryhill, has used lockdown to produce a new Stations of the Cross booklet of prayers and reflections ... and it has proved so popular throughout the parish and beyond that his quota of 400 copies have been sold with a second print run planned.

But Father Jim, whose social media posts and on-line video diaries throughout lockdown have proved extremely popular with his parishioners, was happy to acknowledge that the book was a joint effort with the Daughters of St Paul who run the Pauline Bookshops throughout the UK including the shop in St Enoch Square in Glasgow.

Slough

Father Jim said: "Sister Angela Grant, from Greenock is the leader of the leadership team – in the old days we would have called her the Mother Superior – of the Daughters of St Paul based in Slough whom I have known for ages.

"She tuned her community into our live stream here early on, around Lent last

BY BRIAN SWANSON

year because many of the sisters in their big house in Slough have worked in and love Glasgow.

Lockdown

"We got talking over the weeks and to cut a long story short Sister Angela asked me to write up a set of prayers and reflections for this year and of course I was delighted to produce a booklet for this Lent which you could say was born of live streaming.

"It was a pleasure to have been asked to work with the Daughters of St Paul in their apostolate of spreading the Good News through the media."

Sister Angela said: "During lockdown I admired how Fr Jim spontaneously took his phone and live streamed to his parishioners.

"This means of keeping in touch with his local parish community exceeded his aim. Within weeks people from all over the country and beyond were leaving comments which ex-

pressed gratitude and appreciation.

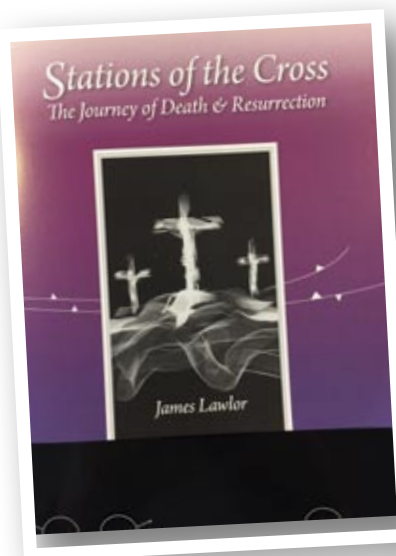
"During lockdown he would go out into the chapel garden and lead brief reflections and a decade of the rosary. Other times he would lead a prayer at the end of day from his sitting room with a short Scripture text and a blessing – his blessing.

"I was inspired to see how many people were tuning in and engaging with social media.

Evangelising

"Our Pauline production team came across a selection of X-ray paintings of the way of the cross by a one of our lay members Adnelle Valenza, a gifted artist and professional business consultant currently working in Hong Kong, who has committed her life to evangelising through the media.

"We were interested in producing her work so when we discussed who we could ask to provide prayers and reflections to compliment what Adnelle created, Fr



Jim was the person who came to mind.

"Not just due to his appreciation for art but because his reflections are contemporary and prayerful engaging us to journey with Jesus during this Lenten season and throughout the year."

■ The booklet, priced £4.99, is available direct from Father Jim, with details on Immaculate Conception Facebook or through the Pauline website: www.Pauline-uk.org



INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF ALL GARAGE DOORS

DALY GARAGE DOORS

Family Business With Over 30 Years Experience

Extensive range of doors including:

Henderson, Hormann, Garador, Gliderol, Caradale, Novoferm etc.

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

**24 Hour
Call-Out**

TELEPHONE: 01355 261601

MOBILE: 07821 679606

www.dalygaragedoors.co.uk

Email: markpdaly@blueyonder.co.uk

1 Kendal Road, East Kilbride G75 8QT

★★★★★
Customer rated
Powered by Yext

Dignified funerals

At the lowest price locally. **Guaranteed**

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



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

Inverclyde | Greenock | PA16 9AA | 01475 888 188

Inverclyde | Port Glasgow | PA14 5HF | 01475 745 678

John Kane | Dumbarton | G82 1BA | 01389 733 333

Jonathan Harvey | Kilbowie Road | G81 6QS | 01389 878 888

P. B. Wright & Sons | Greenock | PA15 1YD | 01475 724 248

T & R O'Brien & Son | Glasgow | G20 7QS | 0141 332 1708

dignityfunerals.co.uk/fdfinder

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

Dignity
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COVID pandemic and new life in our parishes

Four priests reflect on a year unlike any other as they prepare to reopen parishes

I REMEMBER one of my final homilies in St Mungo's last March 2020, before the restrictions took effect, was an encouragement to our parishioners to go deeper within and to find that vital strength of a living faith in God, because it looked like many of our usual external faith supports would be stripped away.

Those words still echo within me as we continue to live through this pandemic a year later.

As Passionists we encourage people to find their strength in Christ Crucified, 'the most overwhelming expression of God's love,' and it was here that I have sought to go deeper myself.

Challenges

The past year has brought many challenges to our Passionist community life and ministry, but we have been supported by the prayers and generous help of many people who have journeyed with us on YouTube and given generously of themselves and their resources to help St Mungo's to be a welcoming safe space for people to pray, worship and go to confession.

Despite there being much social distancing during this time, the circumstances have provided the occasion for many of our parishioners to get to know each other as they stood in the doorway welcoming, offering masks, recording details, and cleaning the pews.



Fr Antony Connelly
St Mungo's Townhead

The live-streamed daily Masses, and additional services, have been a new challenge, but I have heard that it has helped to give a welcome structure to the day for many stuck in their houses, including people working from home, and has reached people who haven't been to Mass in a long time or who had been struggling in their faith.

I never imagined last March

identify and support a number of families, elderly people, and asylum seekers and refugees through the generosity of the Students Association from the City of Glasgow College, our own St Vincent de Paul team, and St Mungo's Primary School, distributing food parcels, clothing and furniture.

Confronted

The past year has seen us confronted with more sickness and death in our lives than many of us were used to, reminding us how fragile and short life can be.

In the typically small gatherings permitted during the pandemic, we said goodbye to Fr Lawrence Byrne last March to cancer, and many of our parishioners throughout the year.

Of course, we also lost our Archbishop, Philip Tartaglia, more recently, just over a year after he ordained me in St Mungo's, and only a few months after his last visit, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary Mass for Stella Maris, last October, which was watched by thousands of seafarers and friends of Stella Maris throughout the world.

I have already mentioned some instances of the generosity of people volunteering and caring for others throughout this pandemic and I believe that this wider community spirit and collaboration that has been awakened has to be something we must continue build on.

when I bought the last webcam in PC World, which the shop assistant referred to as the 'new toilet paper', an obvious reference to the empty shelves in supermarkets, that I would still be using it today and at times even tempted to upgrade!

Local collaboration to make sure nobody is left behind has been crucial in these times. Thankfully, we have been able to



Picture by James Chapelard

SPRING is in the air and with a rough route map out of lockdown, the expected return to our church buildings gives us great hope for renewal and a glimpse of normality once more.

We have missed so much being physically present in our church buildings, receiving the Sacraments in a normal way, expressing our solidarity and faith in a communal way. We have been dissatisfied – and yet grateful for the connection with online worship and long for an end to the restrictions caused by a global pandemic.

This time has, however, forced us to go out of our comfort zones and see the Church as the 'field hospital' Pope Francis has so often mentioned.

If we had experienced this pandemic 10–20 years ago, we would have been less well equipped to offer so much. A great deal has been done.

I, for one, am grateful for the creative ways that social media has allowed us to share in one another's experiences.

I know my own desire was simply to keep people connected to parish life as best as possible and to offer daily worship and prayer reflective on the seasons as we've journeyed through this year. I know that some who were housebound and previously unable to join us have relished the opportunity to be connected with the parish community once again.

Equally, I know that some have been lost at sea as they have been unable to connect with us virtually.



Canon David Wallace
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald

It has been a challenging time for us all, but to see so many of our priests rising to that challenge has been humbling and inspiring. From video messages offering prayer, hope, reassurance (and even a laugh to keep us smiling), to the variety of devotional and liturgical opportunities to engage people in the celebration of faith, I must admit that these have all given me, as a priest, the reassurance that we are very much working in harmony.

Others have reached out to the community in providing food, resources for struggling families, supporting mental health initiatives and a great deal more.

The Church has been at the heart of this crisis. It does reassure me that we have a common vision to not only keep the Church together, but to rise from the crisis stronger together.

We will face many challenges in the months and even years ahead.

It will take us time to build up once the restrictions all come to

an end, but it's evident we are able for this task and we know that God will provide.

But perhaps we need to take stock of what we have missed during this year before we return and carry on as normal. What have the blessings been? Where have we encountered the living God? What do we take with us from our experience? Our reflection and, indeed, our appreciation will benefit us in moving forward.

We can't simply 'go back' to the way things once were. That would deny what we have learned. We must instead move forward as an Easter people filled with new hope, new life and a renewed appreciation of what God has done for us.

As we take these steps, the Liturgy of the Word at the Easter Vigil will give us that renewal as we hear how God has always provided for his people, leads us from slavery to freedom, makes his Covenant with his people and leads us from darkness into light. God is providing us with the route map.

Let us listen to him!

WHEN we celebrated Mass on the Solemnity of St Joseph last year, there was an eerie silence as people left the Church.

We were lost. We did not know what to do. Many felt abandoned and cut off from their faith. It was a difficult day. Few of us would ever have thought that almost a year later, we would still be struggling with Covid-19.

Many of us were not prepared for the pandemic and for the impact that it would have on our lives: personally, socially, spiritually and emotionally. It will take us a long time to recover and a lot of healing will be much needed in society and also in the Church.

Apart from an online weekly bulletin on our parish Facebook page, we were ill-prepared.

However, as the weeks went on, many of us realised that doing nothing was not an option. We embraced digital technology to keep in touch with as many people as possible. Initially, a weekly reflection was offered on the parish Facebook page, followed some weeks later with the streaming of Mass and on the first Sunday of Advent, a new website was launched for the parishes of St Mary's Duntocher and St Joseph's Faifley. Suddenly, our connectedness went far beyond the physical boundaries of



Fr Paul Milarvie
St Mary's Duntocher and St Joseph's Faifley

both parishes.

Parishioners responded, and many people feel they belong, once again, to their community of faith. That is important for us and through our social media we are able to alert our parishioners to the many creative online offerings from

other parishes.

Therefore, when places of worship were asked to close in January, we did not panic. Our parish communities did not experience that same sense of loss that they had in March.

The work and encouragement of people in both

parishes over the last nine months had paid off and reluctantly we defaulted, once again, to digital liturgy. We know it is not ideal; we know it is not the same as being in church and we know it is not perfect. But we are in a better place to face the current crisis.

There is one question that many people ask: "What is the post-pandemic parish going to look like?" We do not know, but it will be different.

Perhaps, Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* gives us the answer: "I dream, of a missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, languages and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation."

The big question is: Will we respond to his invitation?



Canon Robert Hill
St Matthew's Bishopbriggs

WHAT is it they say again? Something about the way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans! We didn't actually explicitly tell God our plans... but He got to find about them anyway!

This time last year, St Matthew's church was undergoing a huge transformation. We were in early stages of the work to renovate the church on a major scale. There had been several plans and projects put forward over several years, and at last we were ready to get started. We moved as many pews as possible into the hall, where we already had an altar which was made by the lads in HMP

Low Moss, and a huge chair to match.

It wasn't perfect, but the hall served us well.

We catered for about every liturgical function – baptisms, Easter liturgy, regular Sunday Masses, several funerals, and yes even a wedding!

Meanwhile, the work went on apace. Great, we thought; we'll be in the new-look church in no time.

Well, that was true in part. We've been using the church for a while now, and we've had Baptisms, Funerals, Confirmations, First Communions, Sunday Masses. The difference of course is that we have never been able to use the re-

built to full capacity; we're limited to a maximum of 20 at any service due to two-metre distancing.

There have been challenges, but I like to think that we have learned – or perhaps re-learned – an important truth.

We should never measure church effectiveness in terms of size.

We experienced the joy of First Communions with four celebrations of around a dozen children at each. We had deferred confirmations over three evenings for young people whose Confirmation could not take place while they were still in Primary 7.

With both sets of sac-

raments we were visibly moved to see the reflectiveness and prayerfulness of these young people receiving Eucharist for the first time, and receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

Perhaps these were the most significant events of the year, which reminded us in a very tangible way that the Kingdom of God is not measured in size. I'd like to think that we may have learned anew that the Kingdom of God is mustard seed in size, and like yeast which cannot be seen as the bread rises in the oven.

As usual, it's better to listen to God's plan than to rush to tell God ours.

POEM OF THE MONTH

This excerpt is from the poem 'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins, and was quoted by King George VI in his Christmas Message of 1939. The words were probably brought to his attention by his wife and were recited 63 years later at her funeral. The king concluded his Christmas Message with words that seem to echo through the years to our time. "May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life, our human life to know, if God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife of things both high and low, God hideth His intention.

God knows.

His will Is best.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Let us Pray:

My beloved father and lord, Saint Joseph, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Luca_Giordano, *The Dream of St Joseph*, ca. 1700. (Indianapolis Museum of Art)

Art of the month

Be awake to the power of St Joseph's intercession for us

POPE Francis, recalling the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph".

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

Our painting this month is "The Dream of Saint Joseph" by Luca Giordano, an Italian late Baroque painter whose life spilled into the 18th century and who spent a decade of his life in Spain at the invitation of King Charles II.

Around the time of the nativity of Jesus, Joseph had four dreams. An angel tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because she has conceived by the Holy Spirit. Then he is warned to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt. While in Egypt, Joseph is told that it is safe to go back to Israel. In his last dream, he is warned to depart for the region of Galilee instead of going to Judea.

In his painting Giordano represents the order received by St Joseph to save the Christ-child from the slaughter of the Innocents.

The work is divided in two by a work bench for Joseph and a vase of flowers for Mary. There is a gentleness surrounding the Virgin: God the Father and the Cherubs loving her as she reads the Scriptures in the company of a little cat, perhaps a sign that the baby would be born in the company of animals.

Joseph is snoozing, surrounded by the tools of his trade with an angel hovering above telling him of the things that were to happen.

Perhaps we should turn to Saint Joseph this month around the time of his feast on March 19 and ask his aid to save us and the world from the scourge of the pandemic.

Students help sisters and mums

GLASGOW University Catholic Association has launched a fundraising Lenten appeal for the Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Initiative, which celebrates its 25th anniversary next year.

As well as seeking financial support the association would also welcome donations of baby clothes, and toiletries for the Sisters of the Gospel of Life who are responsible for running the charity founded by Cardinal Winning on March 9 1997.

The charity is dedicated to helping women fac-

ing crisis pregnancies and since the beginning it has provided both material and spiritual support to countless women and their families.

Donors are encouraged to provide items for toiletries packs for newborn babies – everything from nappies to cotton buds – and leave them in a donations box outside the University Chapel in Turnbull Hall which will be checked regularly.

The association will also host a series of online fundraising events through-

out Lent details of which will be posted on its social media pages.

Sister Andrea Fraile, from the Sisters of the Gospel of Life said: "The young people in the association are a great bunch who have helped us in the past and once again we are very grateful to them."

■ ***If you wish to donate here are the details: Account name: university catholic chaplaincy pilgrimages Number: 10971067 Sort code: 80-22-60 Reference: Lent**



Faith and fun down Cumbernauld way

A FESTIVAL which brought joy to a community has been hailed as a shining example of faith in action.

Organised in just three weeks by Cumbernauld Together – a charity which has its roots in a youth group from the parish family of Sacred Heart and St Lucy – the five-day February Fun-fest has already attracted an impressive 25,000 views with the number growing daily.

Rev Kenny McGeachie, parish deacon for Sacred Heart and Saint Lucy's, and vice chair of the charity said: "The generosity, enthusiasm and willingness

of our parishioners to get involved, be creative and share their talents to help make this community event work, has been overwhelming but knowing them as I do, not surprising.

"Our people reached into the living rooms of so, so many local families, offering light, hope, love and, of course, fun.

Brilliant

"Cumbernauld Together is a brilliant example of local ecumenical and interfaith effort, gathered together around a shared concern for disadvantaged young people and their families. This is faith in action and evi-

dence of living the Gospel."

The festival hosted 17 separate events timed to coincide both with the February half term break and the start of Children's Mental Health Week 2021.

Deacon Kenny said: "Covid-19 has hit our young people hard and we were determined to get them back together again – albeit virtually – for what would have been their half term break and provide the activities that they asked for."

Events included an online panto, Jack and the Beanstalk with free goody bags for the first 100 families to sign up, martial arts and gymnastic displays and song and dance routines from the Starstruck Musical Theatre.

And one of the surprise hits was online storytelling for younger children delivered by volunteer grandparents.

One of the group Isabel Horan, a St Lucy's parishioner, who has nine grandchildren, said: "It really was a wonderful thing to do and from what we hear the wee ones really enjoyed listening as much as we all enjoyed telling the stories. I read one about a little bear waiting for the arrival of spring and

Highs and lows of a family in lockdown



Mary's musings

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

*I don't know a soul who's not been battered
I don't have a friend who feels at ease
I don't know a dream that's not been shattered
Or driven to its knees.*

WHEN songwriter Paul Simon wrote those words in *American Tune* in the early 70s he couldn't have known he was writing the soundtrack for the last year.

The early murmurs of a deadly virus far from us soon became an imminent threat, and life as we knew it changed overnight when we were plunged into Lockdown (with a capital 'L'). The din of life dulled to an eerie quiet in our streets. What few social interactions we had were conducted through masks and bookended by the washing of hands.

For my family 2020 had started on a high. Our middle daughter and her husband had welcomed their first baby on Christmas Eve. A trio of grandsons for us. Ahead for the year was the imminent birth of our eldest daughter's third baby and the weddings of the golden boy and the baby of the family.

By early February we were well on our way to a five-a-side team with

the arrival of grandson No.4. We didn't know his Christening would be our last family gathering for months. It was certainly stressful in the run up to the two weddings which only immediate family could attend. But they were the most joyful of days.

Work for all of us was affected in some way or another. Holiday arrangements were abandoned. For many they were pushed to limits of endurance and still are. Parents whose sanity has been shredded by homeschooling, all the while valiantly working from home. Not being allowed to visit ailing and elderly loved ones in homes or hospitals.

With work much reduced, an extended amble along the Kelvin Walkway soon became a fixture in my daily routine, looking out for the family of otters that were said to be nesting on the riverbank. Little pleasures like these took on an importance in our lives like never before.

In March my headphones were as much for warmth as anything. But I soon got into my groove, so to speak. My playlist reflected my mood on any given day. Leonard Cohen's *Come Healing* spoke to me of brokenness and healing and his *If It Be Your Will* of

acceptance.

The mood soon lightened with spring sunshine and I skipped along to the Cranberries singing *Dreams*. Come Easter, Steve Winwood performing *Now the Green Blade Riseth* accompanied me on my walks. In May it was *Bring Flowers of the Rarest* (what else!) and suddenly "from garden and woodland, hillside and dale" became particularly apt in the bloom of the Botanic Gardens.

But the losses have been great. Our own beloved archbishop was a victim of the pandemic. When Archbishop Tartaglia introduced the first Sunday Mass of Lockdown he shared his own feelings of fragility and vulnerability in these unprecedented times. St. Andrew's Cathedral at 12 noon was our Sunday Mass for weeks until we were able to attend in person, and then again when restrictions resumed.

Archbishop Philip's humanity was ever evident. In this city of immigrants he was one of us.

Poverty brought our forebears to Glasgow in search of a better life for themselves, their children and their children's children. They made the city their own and they served it well, few more so than the Archbishop.

Please God, we're coming out of this. We're picking up the pieces of our lives which won't be the same for a long time. As we navigate our way to better days we'll carry those we've lost in our hearts and prayers.

funnily enough most of the others picked stories about looking forward to better times – so we can take that as a good sign."

Julie McGowan, trustee of Cumbernauld Together, said: "The event was even better than we could have imagined – we were blown

away by the way young people 'got it'."

Natalie Horan-Hutchison of St Lucy's Youth Zone said "We realised how much the young people of Cumbernauld needed something to reward them for how amazing they have been this past year and it truly feels like we

succeeded in that."

"We hope to organise a similar event over Easter but for now we'd like to give a huge thank you to all our partner organisations who have all been unbelievably incredible and super generous with their time and efforts."



WHOLESALE FISHMONGER • POULTERER & GAME DEALER

184-200 HOWARD STREET
GLASGOW G1 4HW

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

Froscote Roofing
UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Gutters
The Felt Roofing Specialists
All types of Felt Roofing: Domestic & Commercial
▪ New Build
▪ Strip & Renewal Repairs
▪ 10 & 20 Year Warranties
Free Estimates & Quotations
Tel: 0141 552 5125 / 07710 233 395
Recommended in Which magazine

 **St Nicholas Care Fund**
A charity of the Archdiocese of Glasgow
The St. Nicholas Care Fund continues to offer grant assistance to charitable organisations and local groups supporting those in need particularly at this time of uncertainty. Applications will be being dealt with as soon as they are received. Information and guidance is available at pct@rcag.org.uk
pct@rcag.org.uk • 0141 226 5898 • Scottish Charity SC029832

blaneycarnan
SOLICITORS
BUSINESS AND PROPERTY LAWYERS
Standard Buildings, 94 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6PH
Telephone +44 (0) 141 248 8111 Fax +44 (0) 141 221 8420
E-mail mail@blaneycarnan.com

A beloved parish's own way of the cross

RECENTLY returned to my childhood parish church to attend Mass. Situated in the middle of a 1950s council housing estate in Foxbar, a suburb of Paisley, the beauty of St Paul's vast interior took my breath away.

The heating was on, the roof and windows were no longer leaking rainwater down the walls, and the entire space, including the large altar, looked splendid under a fresh coat of paint.

Overlooking us were the 14 oak-framed Stations of the Cross made by my late father David Devine for the church's opening in 1964.

Foxbar had been built to accommodate 15,000 people in the postwar social expansion of the late 1950s. I was aware that during the recent refurbishment the Stations had been removed en masse from the walls for the first time since their installation and now, carefully rehung in exactly the same positions they were placed in when I was a young child, they looked to my eyes more cherished than ever before.

BY CATE DEVINE

Without wishing to be too emotional about it, they looked very much at home.

What a far cry from the recent plight of St Paul's. In 2014, exactly 50 years on from its opening, it was announced that the church may have to close. It was crippled by debt in a congregation that had shrunk, most noticeably among young families, from around 5000 to just over 100. Baptisms were down 65%, confirmations by 90% and weddings by 70% since 1964. By 2014 the church building itself was in need of £65,000 worth of essential repairs. Running costs alone were north of £10,000 a year.

Yet, as I understand it, demolition costs of the huge building with its high steeple, church hall and priests' house would have been ruinous and the site was not attractive even to housing developers.

St Paul's is not alone. Many – perhaps too many – churches were built in the



postwar period to service growing communities in new outlying schemes, only to find themselves losing congregations because of economic migration and the shifting of working practices. The creeping secularisation of Scotland must also have had a part to play.

Up until recently, Mass at St Paul's was being held in the hall because the church was closed, and a fundraising campaign underway: it was up to the parish to prove it was viable. I sometimes visited the empty church after Mass, and it felt as if its future really was in the balance. But the threat to its existence exposed a more personal dilemma.

The Stations are not signed, and there is no plaque in the church to say that my father, who died in 2004, was their creator. Perhaps that's as it should be, after all, this was his gift to the Church.

On the other hand, it's unusual for the family of the maker of such religious artefacts to have "lived experience" of their creation. These weren't produced by McGill's of Dublin; the stations were handmade for free in a cramped council flat just up the road from the church, and as such they are absolutely unique.

Archbishop Conti de-

scribed them to me as having "a simplicity, a clarity of line and an accessibility" and "the feel of the Pre-Raphaelite period".

It seems to me that their strong visual impact fulfils their essential purpose of making the doctrine intelligible to a new congregation of predominantly young families, while chiming with the ethos of openness and noble simplicity of Vatican II. Thus they represent a significant stage of the Church's development in modern times.

It is good to think that they will now be there for future generations – or, perhaps more realistically, for as long as St Paul's continues to function.

What would have happened to these Stations of the Cross had the church building gone? Indeed, what happens to any religious artwork when a church is mothballed or demolished?

I suppose they could serve as replacements for damaged or worn-out examples in other churches, or even shipped to the countries of the developing world where congregations are growing.

Or perhaps – deep breath – we should just accept that redundant artefacts, however beautiful, unique and helpful they have been in the journey of faith for so many,

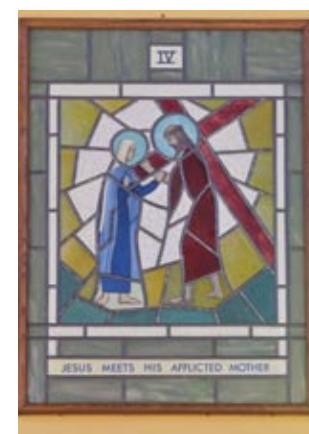
have served their purpose and must simply be let go.

All the same, it's difficult to disentangle entirely from them because my siblings and I remember every step of their making, and I still feel a surge of wonder at the power of my father's piety.

It must have been a struggle for him (and my mother, also a full-time art teacher) to commandeer a bedroom as his temporary studio, meaning his four young children shared the remaining bedroom for 18 months.

As an art teacher at St Pius', Drumchapel (later Principal Teacher of Art at Bellarmine in Pollok), he worked late into the night and over the weekends to meet his deadline.

The significant part he played in the church's very existence, at a time when the congregation numbered thousands rather than today's few hundred, points to a lost era. An era when through necessity new Catholic churches were being designed and built in Scotland, and when parishioners would donate their



trades, skills, expertise and advice to help realise them and without expecting financial recompense.

I was tempted to think this illustration of how churches are built by people, and that people are the church, is in the past.

But St Paul's very own recent Via Crucis – its resurrection after its Calvary thanks to the wonderful efforts of former parish priest Canon Eddie Cameron and a devoted team of parishioners – suggests that given the opportunity, and the long-term fallout from Covid-19 restrictions notwithstanding, the same could happen again.

■ Cate Devine is a freelance journalist and a parishioner of St Peter's, Partick

JERICOHO †

The Compassion of Jesus

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

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

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

Alex Black

FUNERAL CARE

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



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

7 PEELGLEN ROAD DRUMCHAPEL G15 7XN	288 – 290 DYKE ROAD KNIGHTSWOOD G13 4QU	1927 MARYHILL ROAD MARYHILL G20 0BX
TELEPHONE 949 1234	TELEPHONE 959 1234	TELEPHONE 946 1234

www.franciscanvocations.org.uk

FOR WOMEN
EXPLORING
FRANCISCAN
VOCATION

Is God calling you?

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

The Cistercian monks at Nunraw Abbey offer such an opportunity.

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

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

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

Fr Vincent's year of fear and faith

Missio Scotland's National Director, **Fr Vincent Lockhart**, reflects on living with a newly discovered serious illness during lockdown, and offers reasons to be grateful and hope-filled

In December 2019, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma and began chemotherapy at the beginning of February 2020.

Because the treatment would reduce my immune system to near zero, I was advised to isolate myself from any possible source of infection. That meant keeping a distance from people, no hugs and no going to public places where there would be crowds. The consultant was very firm in stating that I had to shield myself as the consequences of not doing so could be fatal.

A few weeks later the Coronavirus, Covid-19, arrived. For me, then, it was what we in Scotland call a 'lucky white heather moment,' a wry, ironic comment meaning that just when you thought things could not get worse, they do: a sort of tartan version of Murphy's Law.

The scramble for toilet rolls ensued. The strange reality of the lockdown became a novel relief from the pressures of work. We discovered Zoom, bought elderly relatives iPads, started doing things around the house we had been meaning to do for years, enjoyed the unusual good weather and grew in our admiration of the NHS staff and Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister.

And then the grim numbers of people dying increased inexorably day by day. People we knew began to die. Families and loved ones faced the awful prospect of not being able to say proper goodbyes, attend proper funerals and properly grieve. The daily reports conspired to make us feel even more isolated and vulnerable.

Experience

Each person has their own story of how they have lived through the pandemic. Each one is different. Each has something to contribute to our understanding of a shared experience of isolation. People have asked me how I am living through it. This is part of my experience, a year on from my first chemotherapy session.

In February, I lived like

a happy hermit while everyone was still going about their busy lives. There were welcome daily phone calls from relatives and friends, but the centre of my day was celebrating Mass at my dining room table. The aloneness seemed to enhance the intimacy with Christ in the Eucharist. There was a great comfort of just He and I together in the mystery. A quiet, holy solitude.

As my cancer treatment continued and my hair fell out—and I looked in the mirror and saw my father—the creeping menace of the pandemic seemed to be almost trying to seep under my door. Family, friends and parishioners were very practical in their caring, but there was an uneasy feeling of guilt as I doused the food and shopping that they delivered with Dettol, almost as if my actions were an accusation that their love contained a threat to my life.

Fear and focus

There are perhaps few things in life that are more destructive than fear. It paralyses. The walls close in. Everything and every moment seem to contain a powerful threat which forces us to withdraw into ourselves. The exhaustion and other side-effects of the chemotherapy did not help.

Getting a proper perspective of things is always important, whether we are dealing with a situation, an argument and especially ourselves. Fear often empowers the source of the fear—like a self-generating dynamo—but a proper perspective helps to reduce or even take away that power.

What I realised, when I mentally stepped back and looked at my life, was that actually I was very safe, I was cared for and loved by others and I could be with God all the time, a God who loves me immensely. It was a case then of taking control of the things I was able to and turning that control into a meaningful existence.

Rather than being something destructive, my physical isolation could become an asset and a path to something deeper in my life thanks also to modern

technology and my back garden.

Before the pandemic, there were frequent complaints that technology was driving people apart; people were spending too much time on their phones or their computers, escaping real life in favour of the fascination of cyberspace.

In a marvellous way, the pandemic has resulted in another aspect of the digital age, one which has shown itself to be positive and the opposite of those complaints. As well as enabling us to have face to face conversations using Zoom, FaceTime and Skype, there has been, what I can only describe as a sanctification of the internet. Where going online had been largely an almost individualistic experience, now people met together, albeit inhabiting little boxes—the greater the number the smaller the box—able to share their lives and their faith. In fact, early on in the first UK lockdown, Zoom crashed one Sunday morning because all the Christians were trying to have their services. Catholics were 'going' to Mass every day in various parts of the world. In the face of such hot competition online clergy were having to 'up their game.'

Jesus' statement that

'where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' (Matthew 18:20) now had another connotation. He can be there between us, in the midst of the digital ones and zeros, in the Cloud, on our screens, in our waving to one another across the ether, in a shared experience of isolation. The Church seemed to no longer be just a building, which is what we all knew, but the pandemic seemed to reinforce that truth.

During the pandemic the Church also seemed less 'institutional,' more a gathering, an assembly of waifs and strays who found one another unexpectedly at times. In a way the pandemic has brought us back to the fundamental idea that the Church begins with the 'domestic Church,' people gathered in their homes—family and friends. Our relationship with God as Church starts with our relationship with those closest to us. I decided, therefore, that each day I would say Mass online with someone somewhere—family and friends, people in different parts of Scotland, England, Sweden, Australia, Up State New York, Fiji.

The power of God's love

If Covid-19 has taught us anything it is that all of us

on this little blue dot drifting in the vastness of space are small and fragile. Our lives are brief and precious, our hopes and aspirations a cry against the darkness that could overwhelm us so easily. But it was in the moments when I felt most vulnerable that I felt most loved, most valued by a creator who was not distant or uncaring of me in my smallness. There have even been times when I have felt that it did not matter if I live or die, I am loved and cherished by God no matter what. Love is stronger than death. Suffering can be either a grave or a springboard. It can teach us compassion and an awareness that at this level I am connected with every human being in the world.

The pandemic began in Lent and here we are again a year later celebrating Lent. The pandemic has in many ways been a prolonged Lent because we have found ourselves with the opportunity to be less distracted and able to be alone and intimate with God, unable to enjoy our normal pursuits and pleasures, and aware that there are many people throughout the earth who do not have what I have: access to good medical care, a Covid-19 vaccine, economic security, technology to keep in contact with others; and

that knowledge demands that I help them practically as well as spiritually. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the core disciplines of the Lenten season.

Lent ultimately leads us to Calvary, to the foot of the Cross, to hear Jesus cry out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". During my illness in the midst of the pandemic I came to recognise that suffering is not a 'thing,' an arbitrary, absurd happening. It is a person—Jesus Forsaken. Why did I get cancer? Why has the pandemic happened? Why so much suffering? All these questions, all these sufferings are contained in Jesus' cry of 'Why?' He took our sufferings and our darkness upon Himself. He became those sufferings so that we would not be alone, so that we would not remain in darkness. This was why God chose to become one of us. There is no moment in our life when God loves us and is close to us than when we suffer.

And the Resurrection? That closeness of Jesus to us, supporting us, comforting us, can open our heart to see beyond the wounds, to see that I, in my smallness, I am part of something bigger than myself, part of the journey of love I make with everyone.



Focus on Catholic schools



Head Teacher: Joanne Martin
430 Old Rutherglen Road
Gorbals
Glasgow
G5 0PA
0141 429 3687

Website: www.stfrancis-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
Twitter: @StFrancis_PS

St Andrew's RC Secondary School



**"Catholic Schools,
Good for Scotland"**

**In memoriam
Archbishop
Philip Tartaglia**



St Roch's R.C. Secondary School



Rhymer Street
Glasgow G21 2NR
0141 582 0270
Twitter & Instagram:
@St_Rochs

Head teacher:
Stephen Stone
Headteacher@st-rochs-
sec.glasgow.sch.uk

'ALIOS ADIUVA'
'HELP OTHERS'



ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL

*In St Luke's Cluster we nurture every child's
unique God-given talents to enable them to
flourish in a climate of high expectations,
innovation and creativity.*

Head Teacher: Mrs Christine Downie
0141 577 2400
schoolmail@St-Lukes.e-renfrew.sch.uk
Springfield Rd · Barrhead G78 2SG

St Peter the Apostle High School

Proudly promoting Gospel
Values and supporting the aims of
Catholic Education



Kirkoswald Drive
Clydebank
G81 2DB

Telephone (0141) 533 3100
Headteacher: Mrs Linda Booth

St. Denis' Primary

129 Roslea Drive
Glasgow G31 2RZ

Head Teacher:
Louise Mackie
0141 5542020
@St_Denis_PS



St. Ninian's Primary



2150 Great Western Road
Glasgow G13 2AB
Tel: 0141 959 3242
Head Teacher: Mrs Mary McLachlan



John Paul Academy

Goodness and Knowledge

At John Paul Academy, through service to the common good and recognition of the dignity and voice of each person, we commit to the pursuit of excellence through the development of each person's God-given talents.



John Paul Academy is a co-educational Catholic comprehensive school covering the stages S1 to S6. It serves the communities of the north west of Glasgow. Offering a broad curriculum with close working partnerships with businesses and charities, we are committed to ensuring that all our young people gain a wide range of skills and qualifications, enabling them to be successful in their chosen careers.



John Paul Academy, 2 Arrochar Street, Glasgow G23 5LY
Tel: 0141 582 0140 · Head Teacher: John McGhee



St Bartholomew's

**'Let Our
Values Excel'**

Head Teacher: Angela Fitzpatrick
30 Castlemilk Drive · Glasgow G45 9TR
Phone 0141 634 7114
headteacher@st-bartholomews-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/stbartholomews/

THE SPIRIT OF ST MAURICE'S
LOVE GOD, LOVE LEARNING, LOVE ONE ANOTHER



Success
Perseverance
Integrity
Respect
Inclusion
Trust

ST MAURICE'S HIGH SCHOOL
Head Teacher: Kevin O'Connor
Westfield · Cumbernauld · Glasgow G68 9AG
Tel: 01236 794845 · Twitter: @St_Maurice_High

*'We are your soldiers
but are servants of
the true God'*
ST MAURICE



ST MARGARET MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL



*A school in the heart
of the community*

Head Teacher: Mrs E M Seery
9 Birgidale Rd, Castlemilk, Glasgow G45 9NJ
Tel No: 0141 582 0250 Fax No: 0141 582 0251
E-mail: Headteacher@st-margaretmarys-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
Website: www.st-margaretmarys-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

Notre Dame High School

A community of faith and learning

**Celebrating
Catholic Education**



Founded in 1897, Notre Dame High School is proud to serve the community of Glasgow and beyond.

**"Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the
Way, the Truth and the Life is intrinsic
to Catholic education"**

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia



160 Observatory Road, Glasgow, G12 9LN
For further information on our school, please contact us on 0141 582 0190.
Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/ndhs/>
Twitter: @ndhsghlasgow

Focus on Catholic schools

Pope's priorities

Pope Francis has never shied away from offering a clear vision of the role of Catholic schools. In his most recent address to the Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education he had a series of priorities to set before educators in Catholic schools. *Flourish* offers an abridged version of his discourse

EDUCATION is a dynamic reality, it is a movement that brings people to the light...

One aspect of education is that it is an ecological movement. It is one of its driving forces towards the aim of complete formation. Education that has at its centre the person as a whole has the purpose of bringing him to the knowledge of himself, of the common house in which he is placed to live, and above all to the discovery of fraternity as a relationship that produces the multicultural composition of humanity, a source of mutual enrichment...

This naturally requires educators who are capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care.


With regard to method, education is an inclusive movement. An inclusion that reaches out to all the excluded: those who are excluded by poverty, by vulnerability due to war, famine and natural disasters, by social selectivity, and by family and existential difficulties. An inclusion that is made tangible in educational action in favour of refugees, victims of human trafficking, and migrants, without distinction on the basis of sex, religion or eth-

nicity.

Inclusion is not a modern invention, but it is an integral part of the Christian salvific message. Nowadays it is necessary to accelerate this inclusive movement of education to counter the throwaway culture, which originates from the denial of fraternity as a constitutive element of humanity.

Another typical aspect of education is that of being a peace-making movement... Young people themselves are witnesses to this; with their commitment and their thirst for truth they constantly remind us that hope is not utopian and that peace is always a good that can be attained.

The peace-building educational movement is a force to be nurtured against the "egotism" that generates non-peace, rifts between generations, between peoples, between cultures, between rich and poor populations, between men and women, between economy and ethics, between humanity and the environment. These fractures and oppositions, which ail relationships, conceal a fear of diversity and difference. For this reason, education is required, with its pacifying force, to form people capable of understanding that diversity does not hinder unity; on the contrary, it is indispensable to the rich-



St Oswald's
ALN Secondary School

Support, Trust, Achievement, Respect and Safety are the values that our community place at the core of everything we do.

Acting Head Teacher:
Elaine M Seery


9 Birgidale Rd
G45 9NJ
Phone 0141 637 3952
Headteacher@st-oswalds-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
ESeery@st-oswalds-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

ness of one's own identity and that of all people.

Another typical element of education is that of being a team movement. It is never the action of a single person or institution. The Conciliar Declaration *Gravissimum educationis* affirms that school "establishes as it were a centre whose work and progress must be shared together by families, teachers, associations of various types that foster cultural, civic, and religious life, as well as by civil society and the entire human community".

The covenant between God and men, the covenant between generations, the covenant between peoples and cultures, the covenant – in school – between teachers and learners – and also

St Paul's
(Shettleston)
Primary School
and Nursery Class





85 Anwoth Street, Glasgow G32 7RR
Tel: 0141 778 6227
Head Teacher: Geraldine A Millar

All are welcomed and none are judged

parents – the covenant between man, animals, plants and even the inanimate realities which make our common home beautiful and colourful. Everything is related to everything else, everything is created to be a living icon of God who is the Trinity of Love!

St Thomas Aquinas Secondary
"Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God"

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

St Stephen's Primary School

Second Avenue
Dalmuir
G81 3LE
Tel: 0141 9521 491



Working together to realise our academic, spiritual, physical and social potential.

Head Teacher: Jane Crombie
schooloffice.ststephens@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Saint Paul's R.C. High School
"AIMING FOR THE HIGHER GIFTS"
PROUD TO SUPPORT CATHOLIC EDUCATION



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



"AIMING HIGH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE"

Our Lady of Loretto Primary School & ELC



Castle Square, Dalmuir G81 4HN
Head Teacher: Michelle Diamond
Telephone: 0141 952 0282
Twitter: @OLOLPrimaryWDC

St. Brigid's Primary

4 Glenmore Avenue
Glasgow G42 0EH
0141 647 3952

Head Teacher: Paul Cassidy

IN TRUTH AND LOVE
@StBrigidsPS
www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk



Sacred Heart Primary



31 Reid Street
Glasgow G40 4AR
Tel: 0141 554 5949



Turnbull High School
EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

www.turnbull.e-dumbarton.sch.uk

"Catholic educational institutions offer to all an approach to education that has as its aim the full development of the person, which responds to the right of every person to access to knowledge. However, they are also called upon to present Jesus Christ as the meaning of life ... with a courageous and innovative fidelity that enables Catholic identity to encounter the various 'souls' of multicultural society."

Pope Francis speaking to the Congregation for Catholic Education, February 2014

A community of faith engaged in learning

Focus on Catholic schools

Supporting Catholic
Education in Scotland



The start of something
GREAT

With small class sizes and a state-of-the-art campus,
St Aloysius' College is the ideal environment for learning.

Take a virtual tour of the College today at stalloysius.org
or contact our Admissions Department for more details.

Admissions@stalloysius.org | 0141 332 3190



ST ALOYSIUS'
COLLEGE

Focus on Catholic schools



"Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others..." - Saint John Paul II

Saint Ninian's High School
 Head Teacher- John Docherty OBE BSc BA (Hons)
 Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock. G46 6UG
 0141 577 2000
schoolmail@st-ninians.e-renfrew.sch.uk



"At our school everyone will be helped towards their fullest spiritual, educational, social, vocational and physical development."

Our Lady and St Patrick's High School
 Howatshaws Rd
 Dumbarton G82 3DR
 Tel: 01389 773920
 SchoolOffice.OLSPSecondarySchool@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
www.olsp.org.uk

St Bernard's Primary RC School



Head Teacher:
 Mrs Elaine MacEachen
 14-16 Dove Street
 Glasgow G53 7BP

Holy Cross Primary School

Curamus –
 We care

Head Teacher:
 Claire Gray



316 Calder Street
 Govanhill G42 7NH
 0141 423 2538
Headteacher@holycross-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

To advertise in Flourish contact gary@flourishnewspaper.co.uk

Our Lady of the Rosary Primary



Head Teacher: Mairi McColl
 50 Tarfside Gardens
 Glasgow G52 3AA
 0141 883 2010

St. Lucy's Primary



Oak Road,
 Abronhill
 Cumbernauld
 G67 3LQ

Tel: 01236 794852
 Head Teacher:
 Elaine Johnston

Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure
 Pope John Paul II

Holy Family



Boghead Road
 Kirkintilloch
 Glasgow G66 4AT
 0141 955 2212

Head Teacher:
 Andrew Gallagher

HOLY CROSS
 Primary School and Nursery Class

Learning with love,
 justice and hope

Head Teacher:
Marie R Murphy
enquiries@holycross.n-lanark.sch.uk
 @HolyCrossNLC

ST. MARY'S

We grow
 and learn
 together



2 Kilmun Street
 Glasgow G20 0EL
 Tel: 0141 946 6766

Head Teacher: Madeline McGeachie



St. Angela's
 Primary School & Nursery Class

227 Glen Moriston Road
 Darnley, Glasgow G53 7HT
 Tel: 0141 638 9646

Head Teacher:
 Mrs Bridie La Combre

St Ninian's High School



The pupils, parents and staff wish to give thanks to God for the life of Archbishop Philip, his encouragement to us and his tireless support for Catholic education. The community of St Ninian's would like to offer our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of the Archbishop.
Requiescat in Pace

Headteacher:
 Paul McLaughlin
 Bellfield Road
 Kirkintilloch G66 1DT
 Tel: 0141 955 2386
www.st-ninians.e-dunbarton.sch.uk



QUALITY INDICATORS	EVALUATION
Leadership of Change	EXCELLENT
Learning, Teaching and Assessment	VERY GOOD
Raising Attainment and Achievement	VERY GOOD
Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion	VERY GOOD



Teaching in Catholic Schools

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

Check out our website at: www.glasgow.ac.uk/education

Let's use the readings of scripture to guide us through the holiest week of the year



Fr Tom Kilbride

BY the time you read this – or at most shortly afterwards – we will have passed the Spring Equinox, when day and night are equal in length. After that, the days will begin to be longer than the nights – summer is on its way (we hope!).

This, of course, is where the word “Lent” comes from, an old English name for Spring, when the days “lengthen” (or “lencten” as it would have been). We are in nature’s springtime, but also, and perhaps more profoundly, our spiritual springtime as well. Lent is our season for letting the Lord’s light increase within us and shine out from us (how is the Lenten penance going, by the way?!). It will reach its climax when we enter “the Light of Christ”, proclaimed at Easter.

But we have a way to go before that.

Indeed, looking at the readings for the next few Sundays, you’d be forgiven for thinking that it is the darkness, rather than the light, which is increasing, as we journey towards Holy Week and the Passion before reaching the glory of Easter.

But the journey from darkness to light dominates what we hear over the next few weeks.

This is a key image in the Gospel of John, from whom we will hear over these Sundays (even Palm Sunday has an option of hearing John’s version of Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem), just as we have heard from him alongside the readings from Mark’s Gospel over these past months.

In some ways, the readings seem harder to grasp than other years, but, in other ways, they point us very firmly towards the light which lies ahead, even if we find ourselves still somewhat “in the dark”.

Sunday 4

These readings can seem a little unconnected at first,

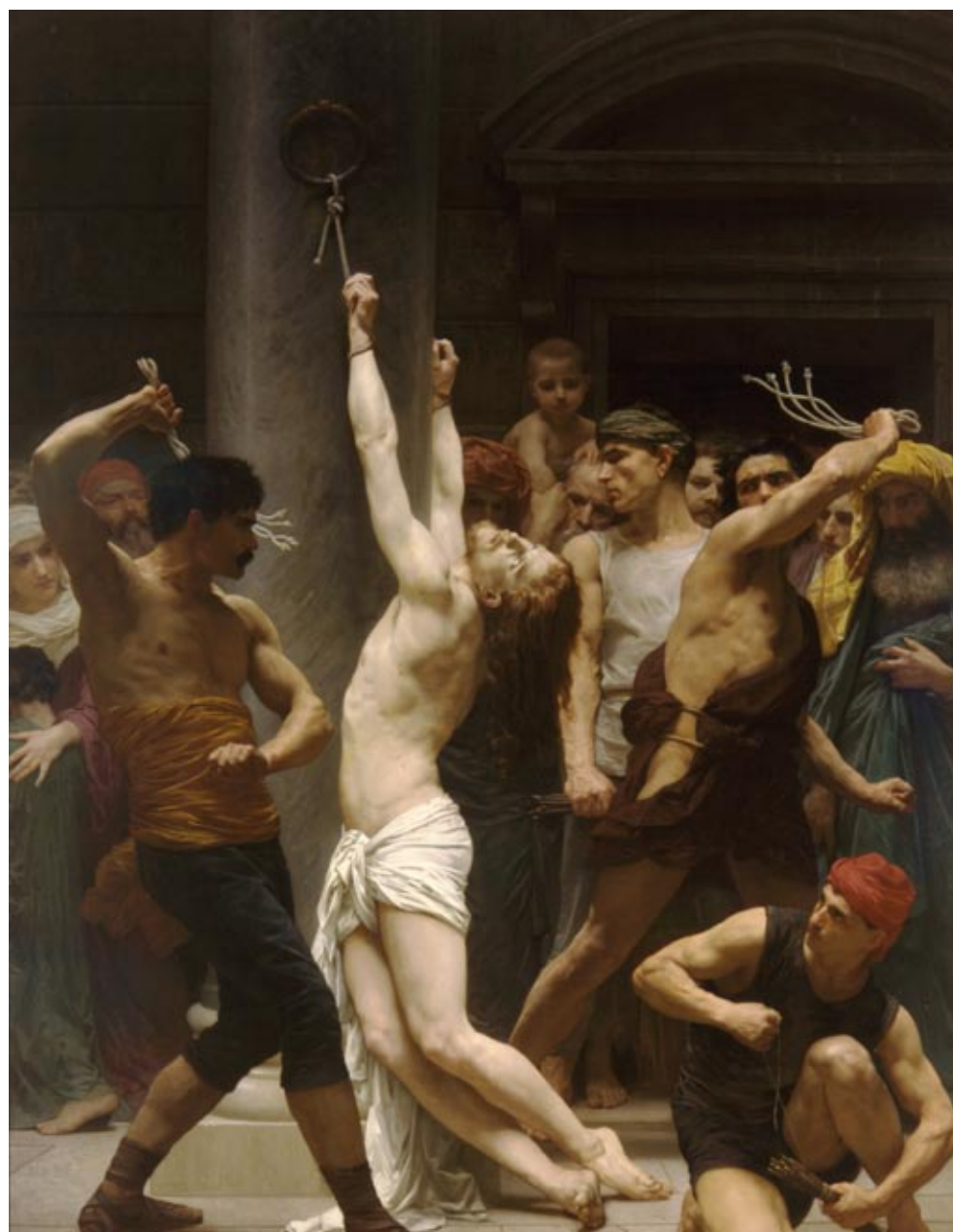


MURRAY

Vincent James

In loving memory of our dear brother and father who died 17/2/95. In our hearts and minds, Vince.

Rest in eternal peace.
Leo, Paul, Angela, Teresa, Marie Adele



William-Adolphe Bouguereau,
The Flagellation of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 1880

but if we keep in mind the “darkness to light” idea, things begin to make sense. So, we find the people of Israel in the First Reading going into exile in Babylon – possibly the darkest moment of their history. This happens, we are told, because of their sins and infidelity. However, by the end of the reading, we hear of God’s providence, extended through the pagan king Cyrus, by which they are allowed to return home to rebuild their city and their temple.

God has seen them through their darkest times and is bringing them into the light. (As an aside, this text appears at the very end of the Jewish ordering of the books of the Bible – literally the last word of Scripture – and it is a word of hope and renewal).

How important in times when we are struggling or finding things hard!

The Gospel, likewise, has a powerful statement of God’s

love for the world, shown by the sending of his Son. Sin keeps us in the dark, but God’s desire to save calls us into the light – if only we will step towards it! Here, Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, the timid Pharisee, at night, in the dark. We will meet Nicodemus again on Good Friday, as he steps into the light after the crucifixion with a gift of spices and balm to help with the burial of Jesus. He seems to get the point!

Sunday 5

If last Sunday invited us to step into the light, this Sunday offers us its promise: a new covenant, a new heart, a rich harvest. However, we also get a sense that, for Jesus, that light and renewal will come at a cost. He will suffer, in humility and obedience; he will “fall to the ground and die” like a wheat grain. However, even that will not be the end: he will be “lifted up” (a phrase we heard last week too).

This phrase in John’s Gospel has lots of layers: it is Jesus “lifted up” on the cross, but it is also Jesus “raised up” in his resurrection. It is also Jesus “raised on high” in glory. We get a glimpse of that today too in what seems to be John’s way of speaking of Jesus’s “transfiguration”: the Father’s voice announces glory for Jesus, even as he faces rejection, suffering and death. In that will lie his victory, and the victory of the Father’s love we heard about last week.

Palm Sunday & Good Friday

The liturgy of Palm Sunday leads us from joy immediately into the sombre moods of the Passion and

Fr Tom is our new guide to the scriptures

Fr Tom Kilbride, Rector of the Royal Scots College, will be Flourish’s newest writer with a monthly column on the scriptures. Fr Tom is a native of St Matthew’s, Bishopbriggs, where he was ordained in 1996, after seminary formation at Chesters College and Glasgow University and then the Pontifical Scots College in Rome. After a year at St Roch’s in Royston, he returned to Rome to complete his studies in Scripture at the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He was then an assistant priest in St Andrew’s Cathedral and Our Lady of Lourdes in Cardonald, before becoming Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Dennistoun in 2008. Having served also as Director of the Archdiocese’s Religious Education Department, he has been Rector of the Royal Scots College in Salamanca since 2014, running the “propaedeutic course” or first stage of formation for priesthood.

Holy Week. Darkness will seem to have defeated light. This will be especially true this year as we hear from Mark’s account of Jesus’s Passion. It will seem that the closer we get to the Cross, the more abandoned and alone Jesus will be. His friends will desert, betray and deny him. Even his prayer on the Cross speaks of being abandoned by God.

And everything is dark, even at midday. Night seems to have defeated the daylight. It will take another week for us to hear the final step: when the women “who followed him and served him” (they at least show what a true disciple should be!) come at the first sign of daylight on Easter Sunday to find the tomb empty. The darkness does its worst, but light will triumph!

There is a powerful contrast between what we hear from Mark on Palm Sunday and what we hear in John’s Passion story on Good Friday. There, we find not an abandoned Jesus, but a Jesus very much in control of events, willingly taking up the Cross – being “lifted up” at last – to bring about salvation.

He carefully fulfils the Scriptures; he dialogues with Pilate; he utters words of direction from the Cross, to his mother and the Beloved Disciple; and he bows his head and dies when he determines the time is right: “It is accomplished”.

Notice too that John doesn’t mention darkness at the time of the crucifixion as the other gospel writers do.

Rather, for him, this is the hour of glory when God’s glory is revealed in the loving self-sacrifice of the Son for judgement on sin and salvation for the world. For John, this is no moment of darkness: it is already the triumph of the Light.

Easter Sunday

A final word about Easter this year. We may or may not be able to celebrate our Easter Vigil together; we may be able to celebrate Easter Sunday in our parishes again. Either way, we will again hear from either Mark’s or John’s Gospel (Vigil or Sunday morning).

Following on from readings which celebrate movement from darkness to light, slavery to freedom, sin to forgiveness, death to life,

Mark invites us to glimpse the dawning light of the first Easter morning and hear the news that the crucified one has risen. But he leaves us with a challenge: with whom will we share this amazing news? (Actually the Lectionary misses out the crucial verse: “The women said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”)

John, on Easter Sunday, meanwhile, challenges us to “see and believe”. To see the light, the glory, the promise of God’s love kept for us, and to trust in it anew, to “understand the teaching of scripture”.

No easy task, but one to which the whole of Lent is pointing us: hear the promise; experience the love; let in the light; share the story!

LIKE so many others I have now had my Covid-19 vaccination.

I had received the famous blue envelope at the beginning of the previous week and was looking forward to having it done, not so much for myself, although that was part of it, but more so because I have always had a concern about bringing the virus into my younger brother's house and passing on an infection that I didn't know I had, and he with as many underlying conditions as you could care to count.

Of course, on the night before I was listening to all the warnings about Storm Darcy, and the Beast from the East Two. It was at the time of the Beast from the East One that I had spent a couple of nights sleeping in the office here, being unable to make my way back to Bishopbriggs because of the deep snow.

So, there seemed to be a very real danger that the predicted heavy snowfall and road chaos would prevent my finding my way to Barmulloch Community Centre where the vaccination was scheduled to take place.

I was determined, however, to get the vaccine, even though reports were saying that, if you didn't feel safe travelling, there would be no problem getting another appointment.

I was also anxious to get into the church afterwards and put some heating on.

Someone had planted the thought in my head about the danger of frozen and burst pipes because of the plunging temperatures, and

Taking no chances with the Covid vaccination



Fr Frank's log

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

once the thought was in my head, I couldn't shift it.

With the church closed at present due to Covid-19, we don't have the heating on at its usual repeat schedule, although I come in and put it on for a few hours most days, but there are also the halls and the old retreat.

I lay awake most of the night imagining frozen and burst pipes, and I almost got up in the middle of the night to make my way in to St. Mungo's to put the heating on, but even I thought that was a bit crazy, and decided to wait till the morning, until after the vaccine.

At six o'clock on Tuesday morning I got up, washed, shaved, showered, had some breakfast, and said my prayers, by which time I decided I had best check the car and the conditions outside. It looked bleak, but I thought, once I negotiated my way out of the estate, the main roads would be gritted and passable.

On Monday morning I had made a dummy run to

the Vaccination Centre, just to be sure that I knew the way. However, the road was unrecognisable in the snow and I took a wrong turn at a double mini-roundabout. I then encountered a driver stuck in the snow with a Good Samaritan helping to push her back to get going again.

Good Samaritan

I followed the signs to the Centre and got parked. I was a wee bit early and it transpired I was there before some of the staff so I had to wait. Eventually I was called forward, a sizeable queue having formed behind me.

The vaccine itself was painless, and very well organised. Once administered, I was asked to wait 15 minutes before getting back on the road. I sat watching fresh snowfall, anxious that I might be stuck where I was. I made my way out of the Centre to get on the road to St. Mungo's. Before getting out of the Barmul-

loch estate I encountered another car whose wheels were spinning and couldn't move. It took some time for him to get moving again and at last I felt I was on the road.

There was one more incident of a car stuck in Townhead, on the Stirling Road, before I eventually made my way into the church yard. At last, I put the heating on in the church, the halls and the old Retreat, not considering how I would eventually pay for it, but feeling the cost was preferable to having frozen and burst pipes.

I still had another journey to make in the snow, up to Drumchapel to check on my brother and to make him a meal.

While there, I remembered I had left a heater on in the office and, picturing myself lying awake all night, for the second night in a row, worrying about it, even though it would have been fine, I drove back into the church, turned it off, and then made my way home to Bishopbriggs. That night, I could feel the tension in my shoulders from all the driving in the snow, but, thankfully, I had a great night's sleep, and was up bright and early the next morning to begin a new day.

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

B MAIN SCULPTORS

OPEN 6 DAYS

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

2'6" POLISHED GRANITE HEADSTONES FROM

£450

0141 641 0088

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO!

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

www.mainheadstones.co.uk

T. McGowan & Sons Monumental Sculptors



FAMILY FIRM ESTABLISHED 1947

St. Kentigern's Cemetery

109 Tresta Road, Glasgow G23 5AA

Telephone: 0141 946 2429

Linn Cemetery

602 Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45 9SP

Telephone: 0141 634 8515

Dalbeth Cemetery

1920 London Road, Glasgow G32

Telephone: 0141 778 4916

Philipshill Cemetery

Westerfield Road, East Kilbride G76

Telephone: 0141 644 4535

NEW MEMORIALS • ADDITIONAL LETTERING • CLEANING

All work completed in any cemetery. Brochure available on request

www.tmcgowan.co.uk

Pound for pound we can change childrens' lives forever

As we approach the fourth Sunday in Lent, I am again amazed by the generosity of SCIAF's supporters.

Despite our churches being closed, hardly any children in our schools, and the general disruption of the pandemic, every day we're hearing about people going the extra mile to raise money for the WEE BOX appeal. It's so heartening to see that, even with all the challenges we've faced this year, so many of you have such care for our poorest brothers and sisters in the poorest parts of the world.

As you know, this year's appeal focuses on the plight of a generation of children with disabilities in South Sudan who are locked out of an education and trapped in a cycle of poverty. Thanks to the UK government matching everything you give, your do-



Alistair Dutton

Chief Executive, SCIAF

nations will help to adapt six schools. Pupils with disabilities will be able to go to school with all the other children, and teachers will be trained to understand their needs better and how to include them effectively in their classes.

To demonstrate just how vital this work is, I want to tell you about one young girl we're working with in South Sudan.

Malia plays with her friends at their family home. Like any six-year-old, she's inquisitive, energetic and full of fun. Until recently, however,

Malia couldn't walk.

Rina, Malia's mother, received help for her daughter from SCIAF's local partner in South Sudan, which specialises in helping people with disabilities. Malia had physiotherapy to work through the steps that would help her to sit, stand and eventually walk.

"I am happy they helped me and I would love them to help others," Rina told us.

Malia can now take part fully in everyday activities and walk independently, without an aid.

When Malia was born she



suffered from excess fluid in her brain and urgently needed surgery to drain it. The excess fluid had caused a delay in development, and she was unable to hold her head, or sit or stand by herself. Eventually she had surgery but her family was extremely poor, having been through years of conflict and subsequent displacement, and could not

afford the follow-up medical care she needed.

For years, Rina carried her daughter everywhere. When the fighting swept through their town of Mundri, she gathered her young children and fled into the forest for safety, with Malia strapped to her back.

"I was alone with my children. There was nothing to eat and we were cold, wet

and hungry. We survived on wild fruits and leaves, and sometimes went without food for days," she told us.

When they were too tired, they would rest until they had to move again. It was tough. "I would carry Malia around on my back. She couldn't even sit up. I am very grateful for the help we've received."

Thanks to your generosity, we can give more children like Malia a chance to overcome their disability and live life to the full.

As we prepare for the passion and resurrection of Christ, I urge everyone who can to give whatever they can and not to forget these children this Lent. More than ever, they need our help to get the education and skills that will enable them to build the healthy, promising futures that every child deserves.

Malia received treatment to drain fluid from her brain and is now able to walk independently

Malia (6) and Moris (4), South Sudan



WITH EVERY CRISIS, CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SUFFER MOST

Please help children build a bright future

Give today at www.sciaf.org.uk/weebox or call 0141 354 5555



YOUR £1 = £2.

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE TWICE THE DIFFERENCE.

From the 12 February till 11 May, all public donations to our WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE appeal will be doubled by the UK government.



☒ **Yes I'd like to help children with disabilities living in in the world's poorest places:**



£19 could buy a child's school uniform



£27 could pay for a crutch to enable a child to move independently



£94 could provide medical treatment for a child with a disability

Title: _____ Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to SCIAF

☐ I would like to pay by Mastercard / Visa / Maestro / CAF / Delta

Card number _____ (Maestro only) _____

Valid from _____ Expiry date _____ Security code (last 3 digits on back of card) _____ Issue no. (Maestro Only) _____

☐ **[please tick]** I want all the donations I've made to SCIAF since 6th April 2016 and all donations in the future to qualify for Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. SCIAF will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 you donate.

giftaid it

WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

We'd love to send you the latest campaign news, fundraising appeals and SCIAF info. We want to hear from you and tell you the stories of those you've helped.

I'm happy for SCIAF to [please tick]:

Email me: ☐ Yes ☐ No **Call me:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you ever want to change how you hear from us, please tell us at:
☒ Freepost SCIAF ☐ sciaf@sciaf.org.uk ☐ 0141 354 5555

By providing your details, you're agreeing to SCIAF's privacy policy. SCIAF use your information to improve our work and achieve our mission. We'll always keep your details secure and never sell them to anyone. Your information will be stored and processed under our privacy policy available at www.sciaf.org.uk/privacy

You can send this form to SCIAF by writing **Freepost SCIAF** on the front of an envelope and posting it. It doesn't even need a stamp.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official overseas aid and development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR.
Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo: Achuoth Deng.

FL1

FLOURISH

Editorial: Flourish Publications (Scotland) Ltd, 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow G1 4JY · Telephone 0141 226 5898 · email flourish@rcag.org.uk · Charity no SC015900

Advertising and origination: MSC Publishing & Design · Telephone 0141 956 2051 · email gary@flourishnewspaper.co.uk

www.flourishnewspaper.co.uk