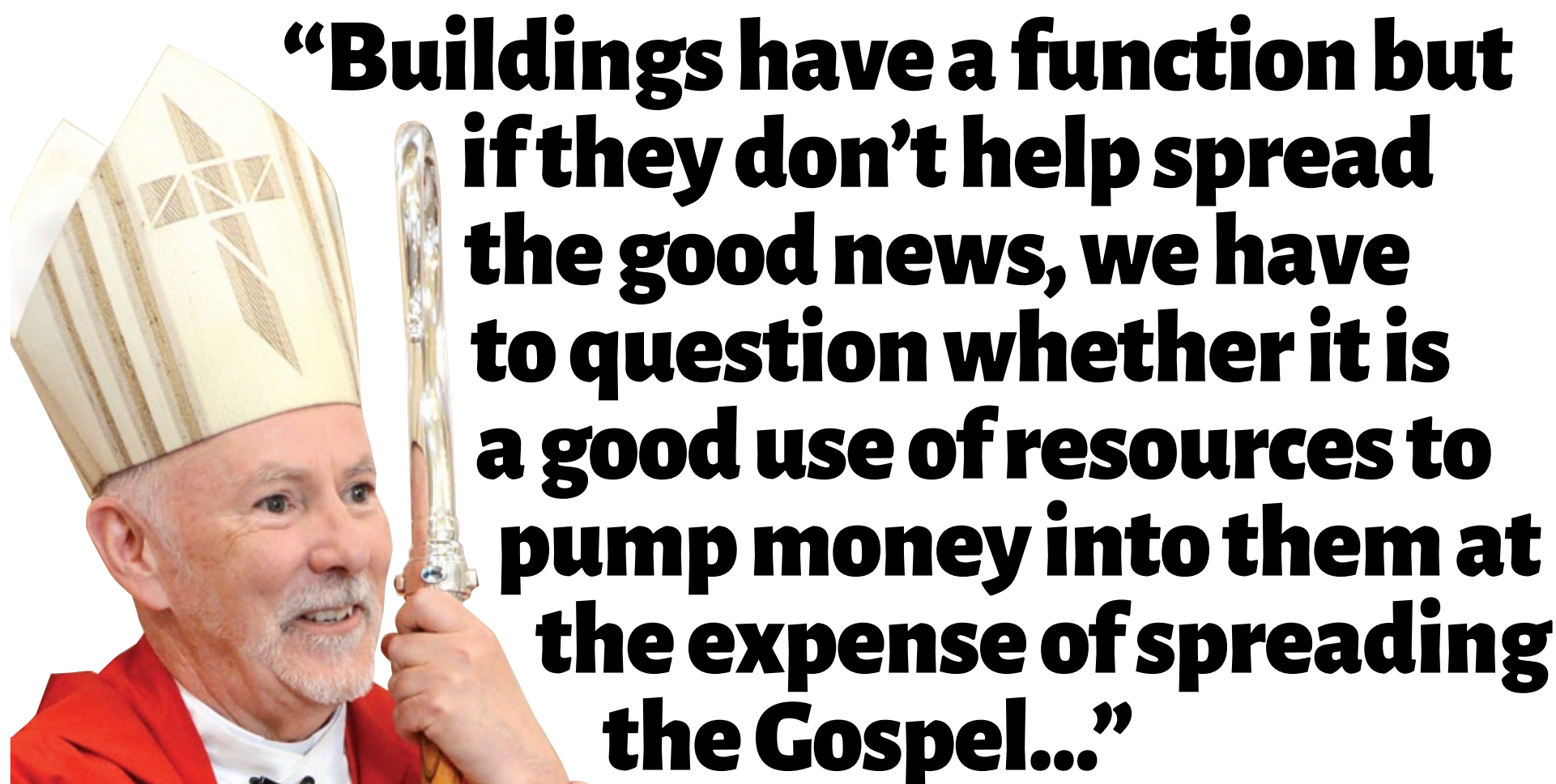


FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

March 2023



“Buildings have a function but if they don’t help spread the good news, we have to question whether it is a good use of resources to pump money into them at the expense of spreading the Gospel...”

PRIESTS and parishioners are to be asked to come together to work out how best to organise parish life in the Archdiocese of Glasgow in coming years.

But Archbishop Nolan has made it clear that change is on the cards.

In an exclusive and wide-ranging interview with *Flourish* to mark his first year as Archbishop of Glasgow, Archbishop Nolan has revealed that local communities will be tasked with recommending which churches should be closed and which retained in their local zone to take account of the new reality of lower practising rates post Covid, fewer priests and population shift.

BY RONNIE CONVERY

The Archbishop said: “Before deciding on changes or closures it is essential that we have a clear vision of what the purpose of the Church is and then we look at the resources we have in terms of people and properties and decide how best to utilise them.

“The Church is there to spread the good news, to reach out to others who are not yet touched by the Gospel. Yet we often think of parishes as places to dispense the sacraments to those who already come along every Sunday. We have to find a way to fulfil our primary challenge to

reach out to all.

“We have a number of churches which need a lot of money spent on them – maybe a million pounds for a new roof – and of course we have to keep people warm and dry. But we are putting all our money into buildings. No-one is coming to me and saying ‘I need a million pounds for evangelisation and youth work!’.

Later this month the number of deaneries in the Archdiocese will be reduced from nine to five. Each new zone will be asked to examine the challenges and resources in its own area and recommend a way forward.

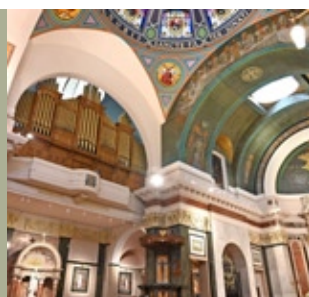
You can read the full interview with Archbishop Nolan on pages 10–11.

Picture by Paul McSherry

BUILDINGS

St Aloysius restored

PAGE 7



FRANCIS

I won’t resign, says Pope

PAGE 3



KIRK

Moderator writes for Flourish

PAGE 6



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Good news for Filipino Catholics in Glasgow area

GLASGOW'S Filipino Catholics are to have a new regular Sunday Mass in the city centre in a sign of the growing strength of the community in the west of Scotland.

Filipino students have had occasional Masses at St Patrick's Anderston since May 2022 but now the Archbishop has appointed a chaplain to the community and a regular Mass schedule has been established.

BY **RONNIE CONVERY** A PhD student carrying out research on education at the University of Strathclyde, McRhon Banderlippe says he was inspired to work to establish the new Mass community through his faith and through the inspiration of his Master in Education research project about teachers in communities.

He told *Flourish*: "Many of our migrant Filipinos who are based in Scotland work in the healthcare sector. Determining the most convenient time was crucial to ensure larger attendance.



Pictures by Paul McSherry

I remembered posting to every Facebook group of Filipinos here in Scotland. We were also introduced to musicians, choir members and graduate students who expressed willingness to participate and contribute their time for the event.

"We had a good turnout for the first Mass in 2022, around 30 attended both the Mass and the Recollection Canon Paul Gargaro facilitated and presided.

"We are fortunate now to have a Jesuit Filipino priest living here in Glasgow, Fr Henry Ponce SJ. "We thought that by seeking support from the Archbishop, we could garner more support from the community members. More importantly, we thought that celebrating the Liturgy in the Filipino language would be a good way to draw attendance from people who miss



Fr Henry Ponce SJ

celebrating Mass in our local language. Our Filipino student community members have also stepped in to organise the choir, design the publicity materials and take roles in the forthcoming Masses.

"Now we have 100 attendees at Mass. Last month Archbishop Nolan came after the Mass to welcome the community. He also announced that Fr Henry Ponce will be the Chaplain for Filipinos in Glasgow. My heart literally wept for

joy. Finally, after months of exploring and journeying, we have finally come to this moment. Filipinos in Glasgow can now look forward to have fellowship with the community every second Sunday of the month."

McRhon added: "Our Filipino students have now found new friends and families, making Glasgow their second home.

"Together with the Lord, our relentless faith, and the support of the broader community, we will be able to provide pastoral care and support to our community members in any way we can."

■ For more info contact email mcrhon.banderlippe@gmail.com. Filipino Masses are now held every Second Sunday of the Month at St Patrick's Anderston.

New Ukrainian parish to open in east end

GLASGOW is to get a new parish, but without any new building work on a new church.

Archbishop Nolan has announced that a new parish for the Ukrainian community who follow the Greek Catholic rite will be established at St Michael's Parkhead which already serves as a hub for the growing numbers of Ukrainians who have come to Scotland since the war in their homeland.

The new parish will share the use of the famous church building in London Road with the current St Michael's parish.

Archbishop Nolan said: "I have been in discussion with the bishop in charge of

the Ukrainian Catholics in the UK and he was very keen to find a priest to come to Glasgow to serve our growing community. Now he has identified a priest who was studying in the UK and who can come to Glasgow.

"I hope it will make a big difference to the Ukrainian families who have moved here to have the liturgy in their own rite and to have a priest who speaks their own language to work with them during this difficult period.

"I am certain that the people of St Michael's will offer a great east end welcome to the new families who will find in the parish their spiritual home."

**Mass of
St. Patrick**

18th of March 2023
11.00am

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Cantor: Claire O'Neil

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Irish eyes smiling as St Patrick's Day Mass returns to Cathedral

GLASGOW'S Irish diaspora will gather in St Andrew's Cathedral to celebrate the feast of St Patrick for the first time in four years later this month.

This year's Mass, which will be the first celebrated by Archbishop William Nolan, will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, March 18 at 11am.

Organiser, Glasgow businessman Dom Sweeney, got the idea for an annual Mass in Glasgow after visiting America.

"Having been to New York twice for St Patrick's Day and once to Chicago I was moved to see how the feast day was commemorated there. I felt Glasgow Irish Catholics should have something similar. After all there are so many of us!" said Mr Sweeney.

The annual Mass is a celebration of the deep faith of the heritage which so many Scots hold dear. Taking place in the cathedral



so close to the Broomielaw where their ancestors would likely have disembarked to begin new lives gives it a special resonance.

The congregation will be

welcomed to the cathedral in typical Irish tradition with the playing of the uilleann pipes. Among the musicians participating are the renowned St James the

Great Céilí Band. The Irish language features, with one of the readings being read in Irish.

After organising the Mass for the last 11 years Mr Sweeney is putting a call out for some assistance.

"Although I am still happy to be involved I am looking to the future and I would be grateful for some help. The other thing I would like to do is to encourage as many priests as possible to attend," he said.

Ronnie Convery, spokesman for the Archdiocese said: "The annual Mass for the Irish community is a relatively new fixture in the church calendar in Glasgow but already it has become one of the most important and popular events of the year. It is always heartening to see so many people of Irish origin come together to celebrate that faith which intrinsic to their Irish/Scots identity which recalls the faith of the forebears who arrived in this country with the faith which was so precious to them."

POPE Francis has revealed that he has no intention of resigning the Papacy, saying that, in general, the Pope serve in office until death.

The Holy Father made his remarks during his apostolic journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo, during a meeting with 82 Jesuits working in the country.

He said: "Look, it's true that I wrote my resignation two months after I was elected and delivered this letter to Cardinal Bertone. I don't know where this letter is. I did it in case I had some health problem that would prevent me from exercising my ministry and I am not

Pope: I don't plan to resign

fully conscious and able to resign.

"However, this does not at all mean that resigning popes should become, let's say, a 'fashion,' a normal thing. Benedict had the courage to do it because he did not feel up to continuing due to his health. I for the moment do not have that on my agenda.

"I believe that the pope's

ministry is *ad vitam* [for life]. I see no reason why it should not be so. Think that the ministry of the great patriarchs is always for life! And the historical tradition is important. If, on the other hand, we are listening to the 'chatter,' well, then we should change popes every six months!"

And the Holy Father went on to reveal that he had twice refused nomination as bishop in his native Argentina before finally accepting the role out of obedience.

He said: "When they proposed me to be auxiliary bishop of San Miguel, I did not accept. Then I was asked to be bishop of an area in

northern Argentina, in the province of Corrientes. The papal nuncio, to encourage me to accept, told me that there were the ruins of the Jesuit past there. I replied that I did not want to be guardian of the ruins, and I refused.

"I refused these two requests because of the vow I made. The third time the nuncio came, but already with the authorisation signed by the superior general of the Jesuits, Fr Kolvenbach, who had agreed to my accepting.

"It was as an auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires. Therefore I accepted in a spirit of obedience."



Picture by Paul McSherry

■ There was a special joy in the Cathedral last month as almost 60 people from across the Archdiocese took part in the Rite of Election with the Archbishop. The event is the last big liturgical step before they are baptised or received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Canon David Wallace, who oversees the

RCIA programme for converts to the faith said: "We had a lovely weekend with about 100 people taking part in a day retreat and then the powerful liturgy in the Cathedral. 'It's the first time in three years that we have been able to do everything 'in person' after the Covid restrictions so there was a special joy in the air!"

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Look forward to Lentfest

LENTFEST is back this spring, after a couple of years off due to the Covid pandemic.

The top attraction is likely to be a new solo performance piece by Director of the Archdiocesan Arts Project, Stephen Callaghan. It is a modernised interpretation of the Confessions of Saint Augustine.

Besides the performance dates (it will run at various venues from March 22-26) it is hoped to roll this out to secondary schools post-Easter. Also, it is intended to take it to the Edinburgh Fringe in August and to various Glasgow venues, secular and sacred.

Stephen told *Flourish*: "We will also host a Film & Faith Event Screening of 'Father Stu', the hard-hitting movie with Mark

Wahlberg and Mel Gibson about the boxer-actor turned priest. This event could kick-start a revival of the monthly film and faith club. It will be held on March 16 at 7pm in the Archdiocesan offices.

Looking ahead to later in the year, AGAP hopes to roll out an invitation to artists to participate in an exhibition for Autumn 2023 (off the back of Lentfest) on the theme of "Fresh Start". Stephen said: "If possible, I am thinking of working towards another theatre production involving a few more people later in the year if somewhere becomes available to rehearse."

■ You can check times and locations of all performances and book tickets at www.agap.org.uk/lentfest/

Walking with Mary towards World Youth Day in Lisbon



THE theme of this year's World Youth Day is focussed around the Annunciation, a feast which we will celebrate this month, and the witness of Our Blessed Mother, Mary.

Pope Francis has been encouraging the youth of the world through this theme over the past year and what he has shared is helpful to us all as we continue our earthly pilgrimage, whether we consider ourselves 'young' or not.

Mary is focussed on others

Pope Francis points out that after the Annunciation, having received such astonishing and life changing news, 'Mary could have focused on herself and her own worries and fears about her new condition. Instead, she entrusted herself completely to God. Her thoughts turned to Elizabeth. She got up and went forth.' The Pope encourages us, to take Mary as our model, to 'refuse to stand in front of a mirror contemplating ourselves' but to look outwards, to seek God and to focus on others, most especially those in great need, like Elizabeth.

Mary takes Jesus

The Holy Father reflects upon how Mary's concrete

BY MAIRI-CLAIRE MCGEADY

assistance to Elizabeth and Zechariah would have been valuable to them, but that the greatest joy would have come from how she brought Christ to them, as the tabernacle of the living God. He says that when we experience the presence of the risen Christ in our own lives this changes us, empowers us to move, and he appeals to us to do as Mary did and 'carry Jesus within our hearts, and bring Him to all whom we meet!'

Mary does not waste time

The Pope highlights that Mary arose with a 'healthy haste', one that is a 'sign of her desire to serve, to proclaim her joy, to respond without hesitation to the grace of the Holy Spirit.' He challenges us to reflect upon how we react to the needs of those around us and invites us to act quickly, as Mary did, wasting no time fuelling our own selfishness but to move and serve others with great love, not postponing all the good that the Holy Spirit can accomplish in us.

Mary is at our side

Pope Francis reminds us that Mary is our mother and as our mother, she is at our side and she shows us 'how to welcome the

gift of Jesus into our lives, to share Him with others, and thus to bring Christ, His compassionate love and His generous service to our deeply wounded humanity.

Walking to Lisbon

Our young pilgrims who have already begun their journey to Lisbon are growing more aware of Our Lady's accompaniment as we're exploring this theme each month at pilgrim gatherings. It has been a great joy to grow in relationship with one another and to delve deeper into what it means to arise with haste, reflecting on Mary's example in light of our own lives and calling.

Please join us on our journey

We would love it for you to join us on our journey to Lisbon. Please accompany us by your prayers, praying that our pilgrims may be open to receiving all that the Lord has in store for them. Please also consider supporting us financially, through a one-off donation or by participating in our fundraiser, 'Walk with us to Lisbon', an independent sponsored walk where you set your own goals. You can download a sponsorship pack here: www.walkwithustolisbon.co.uk



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Thanks for your faithfulness

Archbishop's words of encouragement for religious life

THE variety of religious life present in the Archdiocese was much in evidence last month as members of religious orders and congregations joined the Archbishop to mark World Day of Consecrated Life.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

It was the first time Archbishop Nolan had celebrated in Glasgow the special day which was inaugurated by St John Paul II to focus on the contribution of religious sisters, brothers and priests to the life of the Church.

Currently the Archdiocese hosts 12 male religious orders. The first being the Marist Brothers who establishes a presence in 1858, and the newest being the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy who came to Glasgow in 2020.

Challenge

Meanwhile there are currently 22 female religious congregations present, the first being the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception established in



Picture by Paul McSherry

1847, with the most recent being the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy and the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary from 2020.

Archbishop Nolan had words of challenge and encouragement for the Re-

ligious who flocked to the Cathedral.

He said: "It is good to ask, what prompted us to consecrate our lives to God?"

"It was the prompting of the Spirit. We should also ask, 'are we still moved by the promptings of the Spir-

it? Or are we influenced by other factors. Do we seek success? What is success?"

"It was Mother Teresa who said God doesn't ask us to be successful, he asks us to be faithful."

And the Archbishop urged the Religious not to judge

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Expansion planned at Dalbeth

ST Peter's Cemetery, Dalbeth, is set for its biggest expansion in decades.

The cemetery, close to Celtic Park in Glasgow's East End, has been the final resting place of thousands of Catholic families over the decades and hosts the priests' plot of the Archdiocese.

Now, work is underway to expand the cemetery to provide lairs for future generations.

Ken Crilley, the Archdiocese's Director of Development, said: "Over the years, we have been continually looking for areas within the cemetery, to create new lairs. The provision of new lairs is not only critical to the ongoing financial viability of the Cemetery, but it also provides a valued service to the public in and around Glasgow.

"Glasgow City Council has been cutting back in developing new burial ground and our Cemetery Manager believes that without new expansion we currently have new lairs available to cover only the next five years or so.

"Over the last few months, we have been exploring the possibility of clearing a heavily wooded area to create an entire new section within the Cemetery.

"Trial pits have already been excavated which have confirmed the suitability of the ground conditions. The New Section will create approximately 240 new lairs (each accommodating 3 coffins) which should allow families to continue to purchase new graves for loved ones over coming years."

The Dalbeth estate was acquired in 1851 by Bishop John Murdoch who intended to use the land to establish a seminary. But



this plan was shelved and the land was partly sold to the Good Shepherd Sisters. The Archdiocese bought that section back in the post war years. The current St Peter's Cemetery dates from 1863.

One of the most famous burials at Dalbeth was of Labour Party hero, John Wheatley, whose funeral in 1930 drew thousands of admirers and an unlikely group of VIPs to the cemetery. Neville Chamberlain was there to honour his opponent, along with Oswald Mosley, later to lead the British Fascists. Also present (in a brave ecumenical act for the time) was the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Also in Dalbeth are the graves of the Green family, of Green's Playhouse fame, one member of which married another famous name later buried in the cemetery - the great Jimmy McGrory of Celtic.

There are currently 32,507 lairs in the Cemetery with an average of 300 new burials each year.

'It was a moment 500 years in the making...'

Kirk Moderator writes for *Flourish* about his trip to South Sudan with Pope Francis



Picture: Church of Scotland

EXTRAORDINARY, surreal, humbling and hopeful.

These are just a few words that sum up my Pilgrimage of Peace to South Sudan with Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was an historic moment – three Christian denominations standing shoulder to shoulder for the first time and wrapped in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

It was a moment more than 500 years in the making and we went as servants in Christ with humility, unity and love, to encourage changes in hearts and minds.

It was a privilege and a liberation of the spirit of God and the rapturous reception of the tens of thousands of people who lined the streets

BY REV IAIN GREENSHIELDS
MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

and filled the venues was astounding.

But the joy and happiness etched on their faces hid a crushing reality, for the brave and resilient people that we stood alongside are desperately tired of suffering profoundly from continued armed conflict, violence, corruption, floods and famine.

We heard their cries and anguish and their hopes and dreams loud and clear.

The world's youngest country has great potential and the call for peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, stability, prosperity and justice is deafening and we truly hope that those in power are really listening.

This is no stronger than among young people who are the future and they are the ones who will write this nation's next chapter.

Between 60-70% of the country's 11 million population identify as Christian and the churches – Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian – work closely together to try and make a difference.

It was an honour to represent the Church of Scotland which was invited to take part, along with members of the Presbyterian Church USA, due to its partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

Since 2015, the Kirk has helped South Sudanese church leaders work at both a grassroots level and political level to try and bring unnecessary conflict to an end and build lasting peace.

We took that mission a step further by drawing the light of the world's press on South Sudan and speaking truth to power.

Uneasy allies since the country became independent in 2011, President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, and his First Vice-president, Riek Machar, both indicated a willingness to encourage people to move forward in the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

I believe that it is within their reach to extend justice and compassion to all

and the door is now open to signing a peace agreement that stalled in 2018.

Inaction is unconscionable because more than 400,000 people are said to have lost their lives through civil war, 9.4 million people need humanitarian aid and an estimated two million are living in makeshift camps whilst others have fled abroad.

An estimated eight million people are expected to experience food insecurity in 2023 and women and girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence.

My colleague Rev Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, spent time with some of them and said their beaming smiles and air of hopefulness took her breath away while their

cries of pain left her heart-broken.

They have no voice and the international community has a responsibility to speak up for them and call for an end to the barbaric treatment of women and girls.

My brothers in Christ and I will continue to hold the people of South Sudan in our prayers and highlight their plight and it is now up to those in power to turn warm words into meaningful action for the world is watching.

But South Sudan needs help and I would strongly urge the UK Government to restore its international aid budget to South Sudan, cut by 59% in 2021, to its previous level to help humanitarian aid agencies swimming against a tidal wave.

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The triumph of beauty

FULLY reopened after a £350,000 interior refurbishment, St Aloysius Church, Garnethill, has, in the view of many, not just been restored to its former glory but has exceeded it.

Flooded with light, both man made and natural, walls repainted with not a trace of flaking plaster in sight, gilding restored, mosaics cleaned, the long awaited restoration brought admiring glances for those seeing it for the first time while celebrating the Mass of Our Celtic Roots just days after the last of the scaffolding was removed.

One of the very practical reasons for the refurbishment was to bring light back into the church by repainting walls white and installing energy-efficient LED bulbs. And by the happiest of co-incidences, the Gospel reading from Matthew on the opening day spoke of the importance of light: "You are the light of the World".

As parish priest Father Gerard Mitchell SJ observed in his homily: "Light is such a wonderful thing isn't it?"

He went on: "It was extraor-

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

dinary to see the great commitment of architects and craftsmen, of painters and lighting engineers and electricians and the gradual transformation of this beautiful place.

"One of the painters talked to me of the experience of working here over the months and the impact and peace and the joy that it gave him to work on this project and to do beautiful things so beautifully in this beautiful church.

During the four month restoration seven layers of paint were removed, some of it dating back to 1910 when St Aloysius, the only Jesuit church in Glasgow, was built.

New specialist paint, designed to combat damp which caused flaking plaster, was applied and the colour changed throughout from pale blue to dazzling white.

The repairs are being paid for by £230,000 from the parish funds plus a donation from the Jesuit Province of £100,000.



■ The official re-opening of the church will take place at a St Patrick's Day Mass on Friday March 17 at 6pm followed by a reception in St Aloysius College Hall. Those wishing to attend should contact Mrs J McWilliams at CFAdmin@staloyusius.org by Friday 11th March.

Picture by Paul McSherry



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To fall in love! We use the expression to cover many things. You can fall in love with a baby, a sports team, a city, a job, or another person.

However, we reserve the prime analogue for this expression for one thing, emotional infatuation, that intoxicating feeling we first get when we meet someone who we sense as a soulmate.

Iris Murdoch once wrote that the world can change in fifteen seconds because that's how quickly you can fall in love with someone. She's right, and falling in love emotionally can literally paralyse us with a grip so strong that even death seems preferable to losing the one with whom we have fallen in love.

Countless heartaches, broken hearts, depressions, clinical breakdowns, suicides, murders, and murder-suicides testify to this. Emotional infatuation can be a deadly addiction, the most powerful cocaine on the planet. Where does it come from? Heaven or hell? And, what's its meaning?

Ultimately, God and nature are its author and that tells us that it is a good



thing. We are built for this to happen to us. Moreover, it is a healthy thing, if properly understood, both in its intoxicating power and in its innate failure to be a sustaining power in love.

What happens when we fall in love so powerfully with someone? Are we really in love with that person or are we more in love with being in love and the feelings this brings us? As well, are we really in love with that person or are we in love with an image of him or her we have created for ourselves, one that projects a certain godliness on to that other?

Let me risk some answers. Imagine a man fall-

ing deeply in love with a woman. Initially, the feelings can be overpowering and literally paralyse him emotionally. However, inside of all this, a certain question begs to be asked: with whom or with what is he really in love? His feelings? The archetype of femininity the woman is carrying? His image of her? She herself?

In reality, he is in love with all of these: his feelings, his image of her, she herself, and the divine femininity she is carrying. All of that is of one piece inside of his experience. As well, all of this can be healthy at this stage of love.

God invented emotional

Scribblings of the spirit

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



infatuation, just as God invented honeymoons. We are not meant to be drawn to each other by cold analytics alone.

But, this kind of falling in love is an initiatory stage in love (albeit a delightful one) that needs to be understood exactly for what it is, an initiatory stage, nothing more, one that invites us into something deeper. Emotional infatuation is not yet a mature stage in love.

Unless one dies in its grip, as did Romeo and Juliet, it will one day lose its hold on us and leave us disillusioned.

When Iris Murdoch said that we can fall in love in 15 seconds, she might also have added that, sadly, we can also fall out of love in 15 seconds. Emotional infatuation can be that ephemeral, both in its birth and in

its dying.

So falling in love (in this emotional way) comes fraught with certain dangers. First, there is the adolescent proclivity to identify this with deep love itself. Consequently, when the powerful emotional and psychosexual feelings let go, the person easily concludes that he or she is no longer in love and moves on. Next, more subtly, there is this danger. When we are in this initial gripping stage of love, our image of the other carries with it a certain godliness. What's meant by that?

St Augustine coined this timeless dictum: You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Hence, nothing in life can ever really be enough for us. We are always restless, always yearning for some-

thing more. However, in this initial phase of love, when we have fallen into the grip of emotional infatuation, for a time the other is enough for us.

That's why Romeo and Juliet could die happy. At this stage of love, they were enough for each other.

However, the hard truth is that infatuation does not last. The other person, no matter how wonderful he or she might actually be, is not God and can never be enough (and we are unfair to him or her when we unconsciously expect them to be enough).

For a while, they are able to carry that godliness for us, but that illusion of godliness will eventually break and we will realise that this is just a person, one person, wonderful perhaps, but finite, limited, and not divine.

That realisation (which is ultimately meant to be the ground for mature love) can, if not understood, jeopardise or sour a relationship. God invented falling in love! In it, we get a little foretaste of heaven, though, as experience tells us, that is not without its dangers.

Thoughts on justice and peace... from the carwash

My poor car has been subject to some cruel treatment recently.

Family illness followed by bereavement meant I was making many five-hour round trips in ice, snow, wind and hail. The road conditions were filthy (but thanks be to Gritty McGritface 'Plougher Ranger' and 'Elvis Spreadly' for keeping us safe) and not even torrential rain could penetrate the dirt.

And so, I visited a hand car wash. Living in a rural area I'm a novice where these are concerned and had no idea what to expect. I confess it was scary – men shouting orders, beckoning me hither, pointing me thither, moving me rapidly through the process while I panicked a bit, wondering where and how I was to get out and pay.

No need for worry. As I approached the exit, the last man in line made the universal gesture for payment. He looked as aggressive as the rest, but when I gave a tip (they really did deserve it) his face softened and he smiled a thank you. I



Marian Pallister

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

hope he got to keep it.

These men were all foreign, and were working in fairly grim conditions, watched from a hut by two stern-looking guys who I'm sure wanted the fastest through-traffic possible for maximum profit.

Were the men trafficked? Obviously the thought went through my mind but I have absolutely no idea and the business is in plain sight of local police.

But I couldn't help thinking that these were workers who probably weren't on the receiving end of social justice and were perhaps experiencing the kind of discrimination that fuelled their apparent aggressiveness.

If you visit Pax Christi

Scotland's website, you'll see that tackling discrimination is high on our list of priorities. That's because we believe that discrimination affects the individual's peace of mind – and can be the source of violence that threatens peace itself.

Last month we marked World Day of Social Justice, and as Pope Paul VI said, 'If you want peace, work for justice'.

As we shoehorn ourselves into Lent 2023, there's no denying that we all face serious financial crises, poverty and discrimination. If we look further afield, the cuts in overseas aid and the lip service paid to reparation for damage done by climate change mean developing countries can't participate



in the global economy.

On UK shores, the discrimination faced by migrants and asylum seekers is very simply government policy.

Social justice is in short supply.

The International Labour Organisation was founded

by a peace treaty and with the mandate that there can only be universal and lasting peace if it is based upon social justice. So if you're wondering – that's what fuels the fire of a peace organisation like ours.

In the UK, there's no denying that people's liveli-

hoods are threatened, and unemployment, low wages, and informal employment are excluding people from the lives they aspire to. We are fortunate that the levels of violence in Scotland are low – but please join us in working hard to keep it that way.

Pollok man John's legacy will change children's lives

A LEGACY bequeathed by a top international lawyer brought up in a city housing estate and educated in a Glasgow Catholic school is set to provide years of educational opportunities for young people from challenging backgrounds.

John McInnespie, who died just over 10 years ago aged 64, after a hugely successful career on both sides of the Atlantic, left instructions in his will to set up a Foundation named in honour of his mother.

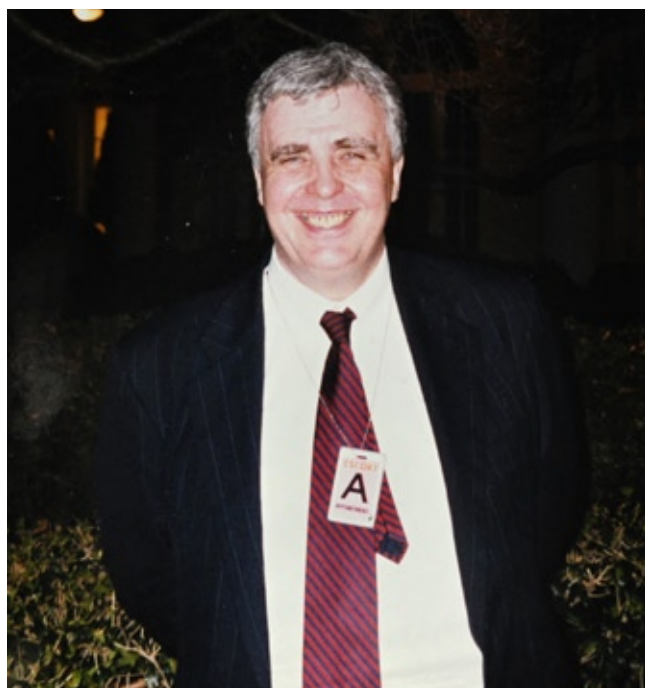
John, who became clerk to Justice William Brennan, one of America's most influential Supreme Court judges, worked tirelessly and without fee on appeals for prisoners on death row and advised the Catholic Church in Boston for many years, yet never forgot his Glasgow Catholic working-class roots.

The eldest of eight children he and his seven surviving sisters were brought up in a loving family where the power of faith and education were equally valued.

And now in recognition of the education he and his sisters received at Bellarmine Secondary in Pollok – since replaced by St Paul's High – St Paul's has become the first school, along with its feeder primaries, to benefit from the foundation's generosity.

It has given funds for pupils to attend a summer sports academy, helped provide a new sound system for the school hall, paid for First Communion breakfasts, arranged weekend tutoring, several outdoor activities and is currently supporting the school's creative arts department to put on an end of term summer show.

In the future other secondary schools and their associated primaries will be supported by the foundation which is currently working



with St Margaret Mary's Castlemilk to identify suitable projects and individuals needing its help.

The foundation is chaired by Maureen Henry, one of John's sisters.

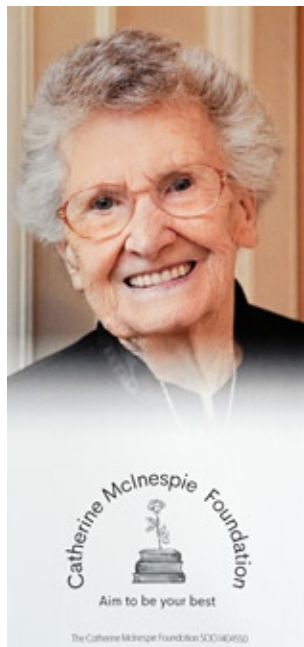
Caring

Maureen, a former deputy head teacher and parishioner of St Gregory's Wyndford, said: "John was the oldest was a very caring brother and he did what he could to earn for the family. He sold ginger bottles round the doors which was a common thing then and he went potato picking and things like that."

"Back then if you were poor, you didn't know it because every family was the same and people looked out for each other."

Their father Patrick was unable to work regularly after contracting a serious chest infection in Egypt during the war and spent long periods convalescing in Erskine hospital.

And so like so many other working class Catholic fami-



lies the McInnespies had reason to be grateful to weekly visits from members of the local St Vincent de Paul conference who provided regular and discreet help with household bills.

But while many parents back then encouraged their

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

children to leave school early and find work to support the family, the McInnespie children were actively encouraged, particularly by their mother, to stay on at school.

Maureen said: "We all knew that whatever John ended up doing it would be something different. Politics was his passion and even from an early age he would read magazines like the *New Statesman* and the *Spectator* and unlike other young men of his age he had no interest in football."

"In fact on the day Celtic played in the European Cup final there was a picture on the front page of one of the newspapers showing a solitary figure walking along Sauchiehall Street – that was our John on his way to the Mitchell Library!"

After a spells as a journalist in Glasgow and later in London with the BBC he moved to Washington DC to continue his studies at the Jesuit-run Georgetown University.

John's work then brought him into contact with Sister Helen Prejean, a lifelong campaigner against the death penalty whose book, *Dead Man Walking* was made into the 1995 film starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn.

Sister Helen and John became close colleagues as they both worked tirelessly on Death Row appeals and in recognition of her lifelong commitment to that cause John was instrumental in securing her an honorary degree from Glasgow University in the summer of 1995.

John died in November 2012 a year after his mother in whose name the foundation was founded, passed away.

■ One of the first pupils to be supported by the foundation was Megan McCloskey, 17, from St Margaret Mary's Castlemilk, who has been accepted to study chemistry at the Oxford University's Queen's College.

Megan, who was dux of her school twice is also the first member of her family to go to university.

Megan was accepted for Oxford, after gaining straight As in Advanced High Chemistry and Maths, as well as Highers in Physics, English, Spanish, Human Biology and Chemistry.

Her parents Irene and Kevin, who are both former pupils of St Margaret Mary's, were delighted when the foundation stepped in to provide financial help for their only daughter to buy essential books for her course.

Irene said: "We can't thank the foundation enough for what they did – it made a massive difference and we are very grateful and I know Megan is too."

"They helped her out with a tablet and it wasn't just a one-off – they will

keep helping and the thing we really appreciate is they keep in touch regularly to see how Megan is getting on and if they can help further."

Foundation chair Maureen Henry said: "We have worked with St Paul's High School for a year and will continue to do so and we are now working with St Margaret Mary's Castlemilk."

"However we are still evolving as a charity and still learning the best ways to fulfil John's wishes, so that support is given to young people who will benefit from access to educational and extra-curricular experiences and activities which may not have been previously open to them."

"We don't intend for people to approach the Foundation for support but rather we will approach and work with Glasgow secondary schools to focus support on individual pupils or groups of pupils identified by the schools."

■ To find out more about the Foundation email monica.shepherd02@gmail.com

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My first impression is... that I am impressed!

Archbishop Nolan reflects on his first year in office and offers powerful words of hope for the future



FOR a man who could be forgiven for feeling he had the weight of the world on his shoulders, Archbishop William Nolan cuts a remarkably cheerful figure as he strolls from his flat at St Patrick's in Anderston to his office next to the Cathedral every morning.

The daily walk is not only part of his fitness routine, but also keeps him in touch with the life of the city and archdiocese of which he has been spiritual leader for a year.

In that year, the new Archbishop has been busy visiting parishes, getting to know the clergy, presiding at countless liturgies, visiting schools, sipping tea in chapel halls, listening to tales of joy and sorrow and shaking countless hands.

In his first sit-down interview since taking office with *Flourish* editor **Ronnie Convery** he speaks candidly about his impressions of his first year in office, and his hopes and plans for the years ahead.

One year has passed ... you have had a chance to get to know the Archdiocese. What are your first impressions?

My first impression is that I am impressed! A lot of good people are involved in parishes at all levels and I travel around and find myself inspired by committed Catholics doing a lot of good work. So when I concentrate on the positives it's quite wonderful what is taking place.

You have visited parishes systematically. What are the main issues that come up as you travel round?

The main concern I come across would be for young people and passing the faith on to the next generation. People also show great concern about the problems around poverty and war and peace. I'm quite surprised when I go to parishes and people seem to know that I'm actively involved in justice and peace issues and they can tell me what I've said about some issue or other – it shows that people have great concern for these topics because it's where they can put the Gospel into practice, and they really want to do that.

You have met the clergy and visited them. What is the mood among priests? What are their hopes and fears?

I feel a great compassion for the clergy. It's a difficult task they have at this time, and they have been through so much. Our priests in the parishes are the ones who have persevered, and I admire them greatly.

Some are tired and weary and need a bit of encouragement. The abuse scandal has hit them badly. What a shock for them to discover that their colleagues or friends have acted in this way. And then they have to cope with a change of attitude. People still care about their parish priest and have great trust in him even if the trust in the priesthood in general has suffered.

The most recent figures show that we have only about 70 active diocesan priests and 88 parishes. Even with support from religious orders the situation is very tight. In recent years we have imported priests from Poland and Africa and Asia. Is that likely to be the future for Scottish parishes?

Yes it is. We will continue to see foreign priests in parishes. But the truth is that we have always depended on importing priests! For many decades our parishes were staffed by priests from Ireland but that supply is no longer there. We are very grateful to the foreign priests who are here now though.

Given the small number of seminarians we can only expect one or two ordinations in Glasgow in the next decade. What are the implications of that for Church life?

We were blessed this year to have three ordinations but that won't be repeated. With so many clergy in their 60s and 70s the implications of fewer young priests coming through will be felt. We are going to have to get used to a Church with fewer priests.

The great elephant in the room is parish re-organization... Everyone says we will have to reduce the number of churches. Where are we in that process and when will we see announcements of mergers or closures?

We have been active in the past year. A committee has been looking at this. We have a plan to cut the number of deaneries from nine to five and then invite laity and clergy to work together in each deanery to come up with practical suggestions about the parish provision in their local areas. That will start before Easter.

But before deciding on changes or closures it is essential that we have a clear vision in mind of what the purpose of the Church is and then we look at the resources we have in terms of people and properties and decide how best to utilize them.

The Church is there to spread the good news, to reach out to others who are not yet touched by the Gospel. Yet we often think of parishes as places to dispense the sacraments to those who already come. We have to find a way to fulfil that challenge.

We have a number of churches which need a lot of money spent on them – maybe a million pounds for a new roof – and of course we have to keep people warm and dry. But we are putting all our money into buildings. No-one is coming to me and saying 'I need a million pounds for evangelization and youth work'.

Buildings have a function and we can become attached to them, but if they don't help spread the good news then we have to question whether it is a good use of resources to pump money into them at the expense of spreading the good news.

Covid left a dramatic scar on the life of the Church with a drop in Mass attendance of about 31 per cent since 2019. Can we survive the loss of 31 per cent of our active parishioners financially? Can we survive it spiritually?

Covid just speeded up a decline that was already happening.

But I take great comfort from the real hunger people had during the lockdown for the sacraments and the community. People stepped up to take on new roles such as welcoming and sanitizing when churches were allowed to open because they really cared about their parish and they realized how much the faith meant to them. That is very encouraging.

The pontificate of Pope Francis has been filled with joy but also with controversy. In general you are seen as being in support of his efforts to create a more open, less judgmental Church?



Pictures top and bottom by Paul McSherry
Centre: Vatican Media

“We are all imperfect. But God can achieve great things in our lives if we open ourselves to his inspiration and love”

I am very comfortable with the leadership of Pope Francis. He tends to deal with reality which can be messy. In the past Church documents could be very idealistic ... think of all that was written about marriage and women and motherhood. But people don't live in that perfect world! Marriages break down. There can be abuse in families. And Pope Francis looks at the reality and tries to offer a pastoral response. He is not seeking to change Church teaching but he is trying to change the way the Church reaches out to people.

The Pope is also greatly appreciated outside the Catholic Church. His work with other Christian traditions has been wonderful. As someone who grew up in the west of Scotland and saw signs saying 'No Pope here!' it's amazing now to see other churches so enthusiastic about his leadership of Christianity as a whole. I think of his recent visit to Sudan where he was accompanied by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a great sign.

What do you say to those who fear the present Pope is damaging liturgical tradition?

As I go from parish to parish I don't come across any great disharmony in the liturgy. The controversy is really about the Tridentine Mass and that affects very few people and doesn't impinge on the lives of the vast majority of Catholics who seem very much at home with the liturgy in their parishes.

Lent is underway. How do you as a priest live that season?

As I get older I'm quite glad to get to Lent! I think Lent is about living a simpler life. Concentrating on what's important. You undertake penances but they are to teach you that maybe you don't really NEED this or that in your life and that helps us to focus on the essentials.

What words of hope can you offer to the people as you complete your first year as Archbishop?

Our hope is Jesus Christ. We believe that God's Spirit is active in every baptized person and is active in the Church. It's God's Church. As St Paul reminded us many years ago, we are all earthenware vessels. We are all imperfect. But God can achieve great things in our lives if we only open ourselves to his inspiration and love.

A message to those who have got out of the habit of going to Mass

What message would you have to those who got out of the habit of coming to Church during the pandemic to invite them back?

I'd say ... Coming to church is good for you! You are missing out on so much if you stay away. We need the support of each other. We need to come and be regularly reminded of the teaching of Jesus

and we need to take time – it's only an hour – to focus on the spiritual part of our lives. Our relationship with God is the key to our relationship with other people.

Don't say you don't have time. You need to be there for your own sake, and WE need you there for our sake too!

A message to anyone who has felt unwelcome in the Church

What do you say to those who have felt unwelcomed in church ... gay people, divorced people, people who have felt judged or rejected?

It's all very well making a distinction between hating the sin and loving the sinner. That's fine at an academic level. But people feel their situation very personally and we must be sensitive to that. Thankfully I don't think our priests get up in the

pulpit on a Sunday to condemn people. People maybe know what the Church's teaching is and sense a friction between their own lives and that teaching.

They feel they are not living in harmony with those ideals. But Pope Francis has said to people in the past 'you are not a label, you are a person' and I think that is important.

A message to parents and grandparents worried about the future

What message would you have to parents and grandparents who watch with sorrow their children or grandchildren drift away from the practice of their faith?

Don't despair! Don't despair of the seeds of faith that you have sown in your children. They

are still there. God still loves them. You have had an influence for good and even if they don't go to Mass regularly, they still want the sacraments for their children and they want them to attend a Catholic school so something is still there and the Holy Spirit is at work there. So don't despair!

Glasgow's own Lenten retreat with the saints

GLASGOW'S own Ignatian Spirituality Centre is running an online Lent retreat over coming weeks in the company of 40 great saints – most canonised, others not – and it's not too late to join in!

The unique form of retreat is open to all and the centre is making available a free App and free booklets to those that would like them. The idea is to fit the material round the busy lives of modern men and women, allowing them to engage with the season using modern technology.

Inspire

John Hampson of the Garnethill-based centre said: "We all know of people whose lives inspire us by their courage, generosity, imagination or brilliance. People who encourage us to live better, more fulfilled lives.

"Christian churches either informally, or formally (like

BY RONNIE CONVERY

the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches) present us with inspiring people that they call 'saints'.

"Over Lent this year we aim to focus the lives of over 40 people, some canonised saints, others renowned for their lives of love and public service. Saints are not perfect people, but they do have aspects of their lives that stand out and are worthy of emulation.

Emulation

As well as details about their lives the centre also offers:

- Scripture to pray with; you may like to ponder in the 'Lectio Divina' style, or where there is a Gospel story you might like to imagine you are one of the characters in the scene – Imaginative Contemplation, also

known as Ignatian Contemplation.

- Music: a link to a suitable piece of music for the day.
- Picture: each day a new picture to ponder which in some way links to the person featured.

There is also a daily reflection which usually links to the featured person.

During March, among the figures chosen for the daily focus are March 5 – Dorothy Day, March 9 – Pedro Arrupe SJ, March 10 – John Ogilvie, March 14 – Mungo of Glasgow, March 17 – Patrick of Ireland, March 19 – Joseph, husband of Mary, March 23 – Oscar Romero, March 24 – Nelson Mandela, March 27 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, March 28 – Thomas Aquinas and March 31 – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

■ **Retreat details and information on how to get the booklets can be found at: www.iscglasgow.co.uk**

Rubens, *St Ignatius of Loyola*



Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, *Holy Family with the Infant St John the Baptist*, c17



ART OF THE MONTH

The secret meaning in a painting

BARTOLOMÉ Esteban Murillo painted *The Holy Family with the Infant St John the Baptist* towards the conclusion of the 17th century.

He depicts the Holy Family in a domestic setting, with Mary sewing and Joseph measuring while the two cousins play and work together.

There is, at first glance, something soft, warm and serene as the artist creates a tranquil atmosphere. You can almost feel the love and tenderness shared among the figures.

Mary is depicted as a gentle and loving mother wearing robes of royal colour, while Joseph, dressed in his rough carpenter's clothes, works slightly in the background, protectively, watching over them.

The inclusion of Saint John the Baptist, already wearing coarse desert garments, emphasizes the importance of family relationships and the bonds that connect people. The artist uses light and shadow to create a sense of

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

depth and realism. The folds in Mary's dress and

in the fabric with which she works, seem so real, and add to the warm and intimate atmosphere.

This painting remains a significant example of Baroque religious art and is a testament to Murillo's talent and skill as a painter.

He reminds me of the unofficial snapper at a wedding who captures people in a natural and relaxed state as opposed to the formal, staged photographs of the official photographer.

But notice, as Mary does with watchful eyes, the boys playing together, making a staff. Does she, perhaps, remember the prophesy of the aged Simon and see it as a symbol of the Cross?

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Lord God, we come to you in prayer, seeking the intercession of the Holy Family and the Infant Baptist. Joseph, Mary and Jesus showed us the true meaning of family love, and sacrifice. May they watch over our families and guide us on our journey through life. May the Infant Baptist show us the way to repentance and salvation. We pray that the Holy Family and the Infant Baptist will help us to deepen our faith and strengthen our bond with you, our Heavenly Father. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



EVEN in the purest democracies, it's a myth that elections are determined by the people. In reality, they're determined by the people who actually vote – which, in the recent midterms in the US, was about 47 percent of those eligible to cast a ballot.

Of course, the Catholic Church is not a democracy. Pope Francis, however, clearly wants it to be more of a Synod, premised on the idea of listening to everybody. Yet once again, that's not really "everyone," but everybody who shows up to be heard.

When we tick off the world's largest Catholic countries, we generally focus on overall population size, i.e., the number of baptised Catholics in those places. By that standard, here's the current Top Ten list.

- 1) Brazil (120 million)
- 2) Mexico (90 million)
- 3) Philippines (80 million)
- 4) United States (67 million)
- 5) Italy (47 million)
- 6) Democratic Republic of Congo (45 million)
- 7) Colombia (35 million)
- 8) Poland (33 million)
- 9) France (32 million)
- 10) Spain (30 million)

Overall, that's three nations out of Latin America (including Mexico), one in North America, one each for Africa and Asia, and four in Europe.

However, what if we change the focus to what we might call "practising" Catholics, meaning those who go to Mass at least once a week?

Thanks to the World Values Survey (WVS), we have data on Mass attendance rates from around the world, which allows us to put together a Top Ten list for countries with the most practicing Catholics. The WVS does not contain data for many sub-Saharan African nations, so here we're using an average of the two countries we do have, Nigeria and Kenya, which works out to a Mass attendance rate of 83.5 percent.

- 1) Philippines (47 million)
- 2) Mexico (45 million)
- 3) Democratic Republic of Congo (37.5 million)
- 4) Nigeria (30.5 million)
- 5) Uganda (28.4 million)

Surprises in Catholic world's "top ten"



- 6) Colombia (20.5 million)
- 7) Poland (17.2 million)
- 8) Tanzania (17.1 million)
- 9) Angola (16.7 million)
- 10) Italy (13.6 million)

Now the picture looks quite different. Overall, there are five sub-Saharan African nations in the top ten, with one from Asia, two from Latin America (again including Mexico) and two from Europe. Brazil disappears altogether, with a Mass attendance rate of just 8 percent, as does the United States, where the in-person Mass attendance rate of 17 percent translates into 11.4 million practicing Catholics.

Anyone looking at that list could conclude that in terms of turnout, if not census rolls, Catholicism today is largely an African enterprise. Given trends in both population growth and also Mass attendance, this African domination will only

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

increase as the century wears on...

It will be interesting going forward to gauge to what

extent the ongoing Synod of Bishops on Synodality reflects what African voices are saying. Pope Francis recently criticised the "synodal path" in Germany for being an exercise "made by the elites." By the same token, it will be important that his own synod not be open to the criticism of being something "made by the west."

Recently the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa held a press conference to present the results of its own synodal deliberations.

"The people insisted that there is need for the Church to redefine her values and this redefinition of values in a changing world should be based on the word of God and the living tradition of the Church and

not on feelings and sentiments," said Father Vitalis Anaehobi, a Nigerian priest who serves as secretary general of the regional conference.

Noting that the Vatican-issued "Document for the Continental Stage" of the synod features the image of the church as what Americans would call a "big tent," drawing on Isaiah 54:2, "enlarge the space of your tent," Anaehobi said Catholics in West Africa prefer another scriptural image – John 14, "in my Father's house there are many mansions."

"When we say the central idea is inclusiveness, they prefer a house where there are rules and principles and not just a tent where anybody can just come in," he said.

While right and wrong aren't determined by headcounts, it's still an arresting exercise to compare the numbers of practising Catholics in two representative Catholic nations.

In Germany, there are 22.1 million Catholics and a weekly Mass attendance rate of 14 percent, which works out to 3.1 million practicing German Catholics. As we've already seen, Nigeria has ten times that total at 30.5 million.

One wonders if the Nigerian voice will, therefore, be ten times as prominent as Germany's when the dust settles on the synod process.

Beyond those relatively obviously points, there are undoubtedly many other insights to be gleaned from comparing overall Catholic populations to practicing Catholic totals. Thanks to the World Values Survey and to Georgetown's Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate for providing us with the raw material.

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Taking the Catholic Pulse

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Fasting from mobile phones during Lent... ouch!

Mary's musings

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



KNOWLEDGE is power. When Sir Francis Bacon coined that little nugget he had no idea what was coming. Five centuries later and everyone's an expert on everything!

The promise offered by those gargantuan early computers that would have needed a forklift truck to transport has been more than fulfilled. And all we need is a little device weighing mere ounces which we carry in our pockets.

The encyclopaedia of my generation's childhood became the clunky computer our children's youth. Now that's so last century. Our every question can be answered on our phones. We can scan and print from them, order the weekly shop and do our banking on them. They have surpassed the camera for all but en-

thusiasts and professionals.

You'd think this would liberate us. No tiresome trip to the supermarket or standing in a queue at the bank. We would have more leisure time to fill with activities of our own choosing.

Enslaved

Instead we have become enslaved to its power. Our daily lives are punctuated by the times we check for messages and notifications. Social media has opened up interaction in a way that the architects of the computer could never have dreamed. It has also revealed the darker side of human nature through online abuse, grooming and trolling.

Consulting Dr Google on niggly little symptoms can go one way or the other. You might be reassured

that your concerns are unfounded or you dig deeper and deeper until you're in an abyss of anxiety.

For the younger generation especially the world is viewed through the prism of social media.

In Rome, the first Easter of Pope Francis' papacy I was struck by how more people than not were filming him on phones and iPads as he was driven through the crowd in St. Peter's Square. As soon as he passed they were uploading their video to their channels.

How sad, I remember thinking, the Holy Father is passing within a few feet of them and they are watching on a screen.

I am not decrying the technology of our time. Bring it on, I say. It makes communication faster and easier and has had a positive impact on my life. Catholic sites and social media have a lot to offer especially in this time of Lent. For me it's about getting the best out of it and knowing when enough is enough.

My own personal rabbit

hole of social media is Twitter and I don't even post on it! The global phenomenon that is the Mailonline is another. I wouldn't be seen dead buying a *Daily Mail* yet there's not a day I don't scroll the sidebar of shame. What I don't know about Meghan Markle, minor celebrities and the latest fad in baby names isn't worth knowing, which it isn't anyway.

Much good any of this is doing my soul. So for Lent I am, if not on a total social media detox, curtailing my usage. So far I've limited

myself for a five-minute scroll in the morning on Twitter where I follow some spiritual content and 15 minutes in the evening for news coverage.

No longer am I reaching for my phone to check the news when I have barely opened my eyes. I find now I watch more in-depth analysis and I'm learning far more.

I am intending to use this time and space for reflection and to learn to use my time better. We'll see how it goes.

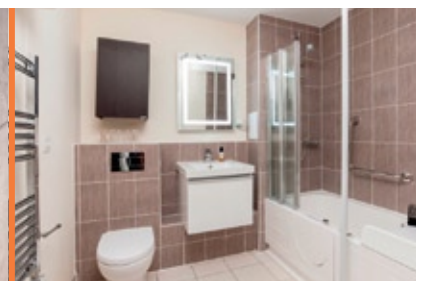


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Remember your favourite charities in this season of almsgiving

The last three years have been difficult for everyone and we have faced the challenge of an increase in both costs and the need for our service. Raising funds has also been challenging due to the various restrictions placed upon everyone, however, thanks to the kindness and generosity of the many individuals and organisations who help support our work for the homeless and socially excluded we have managed to provide a service without missing a single day over the last three years. Please remember the Wayside Club when considering donating to a charity.



The St Vincent de Paul Society is asking for your support to continue its work in parishes throughout Glasgow. The Covid pandemic resulted in the closing of parishes for a long time and the revenue we need to help the poorer sections of society has been badly affected. To allow us to continue with this much needed work can we ask you for help in two ways.

Financially can you support your local conference with regular contributions via cash into the collection box, cheque or a standing order/bank transfer made out to: SSVP GL

Sort Code: 83-07-06
Account code: 00690654
Cheque: Payee: SSVP GL

Mail to: Amelia Buckley 29 Kentallen Road Barlanark G33 4QR

Personally do you have the time to find out more of the work the society carries out in your name? Speak to your conference member for a better idea.

A very happy and holy Easter time.

Free NFP clinics



Fertility Care Scotland is a local charity which teaches Natural Family Planning for couples wishing to space or achieve pregnancy naturally. Our services are free of charge, but we fully depend on YOUR support! For more information or to make a donation, scan the QR Code.

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www.fertilitycare.org.uk
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Earthquake Appeal

Please help the victims of the earthquake in northern Syria – where ACN is working with project partners to deliver emergency aid including food, blankets, medicine and shelter for those who have lost everything. **Syria does not have the infrastructure to cope with this disaster – so please give whatever you can afford!** They need our prayers and support at this time.

Please give today:
Call 0345 646 0110 quoting 'P2FL' or visit www.acnuk.org/e23fl



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ADVERTISING FEATURE

A house of prayer with a mission

PEOPLE FROM ACROSS the UK come to Craig Lodge to spend time with Jesus who restores and revives lives.

It is a house of prayer set amid the beautiful hills and fields of Argyll with streams and rivers flowing around it. It is a place to pray, adore and worship the Lord, our Good Shepherd, and be reminded that His goodness and mercy follow us every day of our lives. It is also home to a Community committed to a lifestyle of prayer, service and evangelisation who welcome and look after the visitors, guests and pilgrims who make their way to Craig Lodge.

Be Transformed

You can stay in the house of prayer and join the Community for a restful few days or you can come and attend a weekend retreat. There are events for all ages, for families and for young people. All the events on offer aim to encourage believers through prayer, teaching and fellowship. Time is made for ministry too, so that visitors can receive healing prayer. Ruth Black, Craig Lodge CEO, feels this is an important part of a Craig Lodge experience, "We read how Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead and set the demonised free and then he asked his followers to do the same. We want to be obedient to the commission Jesus gave us and make room for the miraculous". The Community has a vision of 24/7 prayer at Craig Lodge and welcomes anyone who wants to help turn this dream into a reality.

"Craig Lodge is home from home, an oasis of peace in these challenging times. All burdens and worries evaporate as we rest there in the Lord accepting his invitation"

—A retreat guest

Sharing the Good News

From this place of prayer, the Community goes out to share the goodness of God with others. A Craig Lodge

mission could be to a parish or school or simply to share the gospel with people on the streets. "We long to see a revival come to our nation of Scotland and faith in Jesus re-awaken and we are excited to play our part in that" explains Ruth Black.

"After the healing I have no restrictions or pain on my shoulder. May I thank you all for the mission and healing through our Lord Jesus Christ"
—A parishioner who received prayer during a Craig Lodge Mission

Craig Lodge is also a house of formation where young adults come for 9 months to learn how to become 'Spirit-filled evangelisers'. As well as studying the riches of Catholic teaching, the missionaries are given hands-on opportunities to share the Good News of the gospel with others. One young missionary described her time at the Craig Lodge Mission House, "I can just honestly say that these nine months have changed my life, changed my relationship with the Lord."

■ You will find more information on Retreats and the Mission House at Craig Lodge, at www.craiglodge.org T: 01838 200216



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Volunteers sought for hearing test study

Hearing Diagnostics Limited, an Edinburgh-based start-up, is piloting its new type of hearing test, which has shown to enable clinical-level accuracy in community-based settings in previous informal pilots.

The company recently started a pilot study in central Glasgow and Milngavie and continues looking for volunteers with hearing loss and also those with normal hearing, to come forward and help the company to prove the effectiveness of its hearing test.

The company is looking for volunteers – who will be unpaid – who are older than 18 years.

They can volunteer by calling 07780132745 or email: participants@hdiags.co.uk and the company

will confirm times and the location.

About 1 in 5 individuals aged 40+ have hearing loss. Early detection is crucial as without management, individuals with hearing loss are at risk of:

- Anxiety issues and depression
- Social isolation
- Job loss and economic hardship
- Cognitive decline: the risk of developing premature dementia is 5 times higher without hearing aids.

However, an estimated 86% of those with hearing loss in the UK are unaware of their hearing loss.

Hearing Diagnostics was founded with the mission to drive early hearing loss detection by making access to reliable hearing screening easy and convenient.



Craig Lodge Retreats & Events

3-5 March, Be Transformed

6-9 April, Easter Triduum

21-23 April, The Lion & The Lamb

5-7 May, By His Wounds We Are Healed

26-29 May, Stronghold Festival

Prayer Stay Dates Available

Come and join in the daily life of Craig Lodge: prayer, worship & fellowship

To book or find out more please contact us:

Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer

Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AR

E: mail@craiglodge.org

T: 01838 200216

www.craiglodge.org

Scottish Charity SCO23203



Hearing Diagnostics

Volunteers for hearing testing study sought

Testing takes place in central Glasgow and Milngavie

Volunteers will learn about their hearing ability

Volunteers must be older than 18 years and participation is unpaid

Testing runs from February 2023 onwards

To contact please call us in 07780 132745 or send and email to participants@hdiags.co.uk



Living Lent with the scriptures... that really is a good resolution



Fr Tom
Kilbride

WE are well into Lent already, but hopefully not yet flagging in the resolutions we made on Ash Wednesday!

Maybe it's helpful to think of Lent not as a "season", but as an opportunity on 40 consecutive days to commit to prayer, fasting and almsgiving, making a fresh start each day, even if it didn't go too well yesterday!

Our Sunday readings are a bit like that this year, each building to some extent on the one before.

In Year A, at the heart of Lent are the great Gospel readings which guide those journeying towards Baptism and the sacraments at Easter time, those who have been part of our parish RCIA groups this past year or more, with powerful reflections on water, light and life. Maybe this is a good opportunity for all of us to renew our sense of being baptised people, of being people of faith, prayer and service to others, and to consider how we might share the invitation to come to faith with others who are searching.

Sunday 2

We always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration this Sunday. It's a reminder that even as Jesus prepares his disciples for his suffering and death, he gives them a glimpse of where it is all heading ... glory! Their path will be the same if they are faithful to him. Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets) point to Jesus and yet neither of them speaks: it is the Father who reveals who Jesus truly is ("My Son, the Beloved") from both brightness and shadow, revelation and mystery. Our response? To "listen to him".

When we compare Matthew's version to the others, we hear Jesus say: "Do not be afraid." He is with us as we make the journey to glory through service, sacrifice and even suffering. No need for fear! Abraham was called to trust and overcome his fears, becoming the father of all who would come to faith, a blessing for generations, fulfilled in Jesus, the Beloved Son to whom we must listen.

Sunday 3

This week, Jesus' meeting with a Samaritan woman at a well offers us a reflection on "living water", the core symbol of Baptism. She is



Diego Velázquez,
Cristo crucificado,
1632

an outcast in her village (no one would go for water at midday; she probably goes then to avoid the morning crowds), and expectations are that Jesus – a Jewish man – would have no dealings with her – a Samaritan woman. But Jesus reaches out beyond that barrier.

Then, through her encounter with him and the offer of the new water of eternal life, her uncertain, questioning progress to faith will eventually make of her a "missionary" to those

same people, and they will come to believe in Jesus too, first because of her and then because of their own encounter with him.

He knows her story but she does not "harden her heart" (Psalm) to him: she opens her heart and accepts his offer, uncertain though she is about what it means. It is a beautiful passage to help any of us to reflect on our Baptism and what it means to us, how we live it, how we understand Jesus and how we share our faith

in him with others.

Sunday 4

The washing of Baptism, like the washing of the blind man's eyes, anointed with an earthy paste of dust and spittle, opens our eyes to let in the light, to see things in a new way ... to see things God's way (First Reading).

This time, unlike last week, those who hear the news of the man's encounter with Jesus are more hostile. Others are not always wel-

coming of that new way of seeing of things, often preferring darkness to light. The man is clear, however: it was Jesus who opened his eyes. His response can only be one of faith: "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Jesus.

Sunday 5

The third great "baptismal" text is the story of the raising of Jesus' friend, Lazarus, from death. At first, Jesus seems slow to act,

when it seemed a little healing miracle would have been enough to save Lazarus. Martha and Mary will challenge him on that! However, Jesus' power will be seen when he brings Lazarus out of the tomb with a prayer to the Father and a command to the dead man.

At the core of the whole passage (and for John's gospel it's often what's at the heart rather than what's at the end that matters most!), is a simple question: "Do you believe this?" Our baptismal rites always frame the profession of faith as questions ("Do you believe in God...?") rather than as statements like the Creed. As we hear in the text, Martha makes one of the most powerful responses of faith of anyone in the Gospels, on a par with Peter himself: "Yes; I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God". As our soon-to-be-baptised parishioners make that response in the next few weeks, how can the rest of us renew our faith? Can I be like Martha who, even in the face of confusion, sadness, loss, perhaps even anger at Jesus, can still express faith and its power in my life?

Palm Sunday

As every year, we move very quickly from the joy of Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem to the sombre mood of his Passion. For Matthew, both are seen as moments when God's ancient promises are fulfilled. Matthew tells the story almost exactly as Mark does – the two are identical at points – but he places little quotes from the Old Testament to help interpret events and show that even the suffering and death of Jesus are in God's hands and part of his promise to his people.

Also, he adds strange signs accompanying Jesus' death, especially of the dead rising to life. The very death of Jesus, Matthew hints, is the source of our life. Lastly, the note about a guard at the tomb prepares us for the events of Easter Sunday, but is also perhaps Matthew's way of showing that God's will to save and to keep the promises he made can never be impeded, no matter what human opposition or stubbornness we place in its way.

God's will is done, and his saving love revealed, even in the face of human sinfulness. Hope is not an illusion; faith is always justified!

ONCE a year, we Passionists have what's called "Provincial Visitation".

This means that the Provincial visits all the communities in St Patrick's Province, takes time to pray with us, tries to enlighten us as to the current state of the province in general, initiates a community sharing on our life and ministry in the local community, and meets with each individual to listen to their thoughts and reflections on a personal, community and Province level.

He also inspects what we call the Sacristy Mass books and signs them, as a check that we are fulfilling all our obligations in terms of celebrating the Masses that are requested, and the Masses that we are obliged to say on a regular basis, and to ensure we are keeping the proper records.

Our Provincial at present is Father Jim Sweeney, a native of Glasgow, but living in our Provincial House at Mount Argus in Dublin and he met with us during the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which is also the World Day for Consecrated Life.

We decided that he and I would meet and celebrate the Mass hosted by the Archbishop in St Andrew's Cathedral for all those in Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese, and then join in the lunch afterwards. These men and women religious are very noticeably an elderly group now, but there are some amazing people among them, still ministering and doing fantastic work

Consecrated life is alive and (very) active!



Fr Frank's log

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

into their twilight years.

Father Jim was delighted to meet old friends from his time as Rector at the Passionist Retreat Centre at Coodham in Ayrshire (sadly now no more) and from his time in what was called the Movement for a Better World.

I found myself sharing a table with a number of sisters from the Carmelite contemplative convent in Dumbarton. I enjoyed their company very much. It was equally noticeable that most of what we might refer to as the "younger" religious, tended to be African, Indian or Filipino. We are very grateful for their presence. I would have to say here that the lunch was very substantial and very tasty.

Afterwards, I brought Father Jim out to Bishopbriggs for the formal opening of the visitation, and for the first formal sessions. It had earlier been agreed, before Father Jim and I knew we were to get a lovely lunch at the cathedral, that we would all go out to a local restaurant to share a meal and chat together on a more

informal level. We could hardly deprive Fathers Justinian; Gareth and John of a meal just because we had already eaten! They would have lynched us!

I don't know if any of you would remember a Christmas episode of *The Vicar of Dibley*, where the vicar has cornered herself into having to share Christmas dinner with a whole host of characters in about four different households. I will always remember her trying to squeeze the last Brussels sprout into her mouth, and the tortuous look on her face.

Well, I felt a bit like that and, in my mind at least, I felt that I would never eat another thing again, ever, in my entire life.

Of course, I was up eating breakfast the next day, when the visitation continued until the evening time. There was a formal closing in which the Provincial made a report and led us in a final prayer. He was then collected by his brother, a diocesan priest, and after a couple of days at home, he went on to continue his visitation, the next stop being Minster-



cris, County Durham where Father Antony is.

This will be the first time to include houses in England, following on from the Passionists in England becoming a part of St Patrick Province only recently. All in all, it was a very pleasant and fraternal experience for all of us, including Father Jim.

As ever, protect yourself, your loved ones and others, and protect Christ in your lives.

JERICHO † The Compassion of Jesus

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

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

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

Fond memories of Brother Ted

THE funeral Mass of Glasgow-born Brother Ted Coyle SJ, a Jesuit for 72 years, took place last month at St Aloysius Church, Garnethill, where he lived for many years as a valued member of the community.

His nephew Jim Watt provided the following eulogy which he read at the conclusion of the Mass at which the chief celebrant was Father Gerard Mitchell SJ.

"Ted was born on 30th September 1932 to Jimmy and Annie Coyle in Hathaway Street in Maryhill. He was the middle child of three, with his older sister Rose and younger sister Frances. The family later moved to Tambowie Street in Anniesland. Ted was educated at St Charles' Primary School in Maryhill – though for a while during the war, when the family moved out to Milngavie, he attended St Joseph's Primary with



his cousins before the family eventually moved back to the city.

At the age of 17 Ted left home to join the Jesuit Order. He joined the novitiate

at Manresa Roehampton, moving to Harlaxton where he took his first vows in 1952. And so began Ted's religious life, career and travels.

As his nieces and nephews

growing up in the 60s and 70s, to us there was always something exotic about Uncle Ted. Whether we were in Greater Manchester, Glasgow, Milngavie or Knightwood, knowing someone who had actually been to Africa was a big deal for us.

To us, Uncle Ted certainly was, in the words of Billy Connolly, 'windswept and interesting'.

Ted was a great communicator and a good listener. He was completely at ease in conversation with anyone – from the youngest child in the family to showbiz personalities or leading politicians. He treated them all equally. Ted had time for everyone. He was always interested in what you were doing with your life whether it was school, college, work and career, hobbies or getting married and family life.

Ted was always aware of family occasions and arranged for Papal Blessings

for special anniversaries. A great support to his family and to others, he was only ever a phone call away when spiritual comfort was needed if there was illness in the family or anyone was in hospital. Ted was always more than happy to help officiate at family weddings and funerals.

For all his wonderful qualities, Ted is most affectionately remembered for his sense of humour. He loved to laugh and make others laugh and could deliver any kind of joke: a quick response, a one-liner or an ad-libbed story with a great ending which would have everyone in hysterics.

Even in more difficult times, Ted's humour came to the fore. On pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Ted's group – whether it was something in the food or water – all came down with dodgy stomachs and a case of the runs. As they travelled from Holy site

to Holy site, and the next bathroom, the group leader said, "We must do something to take our minds off this. We should sing a hymn. What shall we sing?" Quick as a flash, Ted calls out, "Bind us together Lord!"

When an individual takes religious vows or Holy Orders, they must give up much – but they also gain much. Ted gained another family – his Jesuit family, which he served and loved throughout his religious life. As a family, we thank his Jesuit family for the religious life and career that Ted had, and for the friendship, support and care he received from the Jesuit community throughout his retirement.

We thank God for the life of Uncle Ted. In the words of W. H. Auden, who would deny that in having Ted for his 90 years, 'Earth received an honoured guest'.

Rev. Brother Ted Coyle 1932 – 2023. Requiescat in pace.

SCIAF: Wee Boxes make a big difference

THIS Lent, SCIAF is once again appealing to parish communities to support the WEE Box to make a BIG Change.

This year, our appeal focusses on people in Zambia, in southern Africa, particularly around Kabwe, which is one of the most polluted towns in the world.

Here, most families grow their own food to survive in small plots near their homes – it's a perilous life, very much dictated by the weather. And as their weather changes, life becomes more perilous still.

One of the women we've been working with, Ruth Musonda, faces a life of extremes, together with her husband Aggrey, their six children and four grandchildren. Floods, droughts and storms are wreaking havoc with their lives, causing hunger and killing hope.

For Ruth, hunger was just the start of her problems. She was so hungry that she was too tired to work in the fields and her crops failed.



Alistair Dutton

Chief Executive, SCIAF

This meant she had nothing to feed her family, nothing to sell at market, and no money to fix the roof of her home. When the storms came water came through the roof and her children couldn't sleep. It also meant she couldn't pay for them to go to school and that they cried continuously for the food she didn't have.

Ruth said: "With no food and no school, it could have resulted in the children becoming scavengers or worse, just to get food to eat."

For another woman, Catherine, hunger meant poisoning her family by mistake as she had to search in the woods for mushrooms to feed her grandchildren. As a 65-year-old

widow, she had to search to find food alone.

She said: "Once we had nothing to eat so I had to collect mushrooms. But I picked poisonous ones by mistake and we almost all died."

Spiral

For so many of our poorest sisters and brothers, hunger is the beginning of a tragic downward spiral. But it doesn't have to be.

Thanks to our supporters, Ruth and Catherine were able to access life changing programmes, run by our partners. Learning new farming techniques, attending literacy training and being supported with savings and loan groups to repair their homes and pre-



pared for the future.

Catherine's grandchildren now end each day with stories from their grandmother and go to bed with a full stomach.

But for so many other families around the world the future is still uncertain.

Too many people go to bed with empty stomachs fearing or not knowing what they'll be forced to do to survive, or how long their children will live. We must not forsake them.

This Lent, please help our poorest sisters and brothers

with love and compassion and use your WEE BOX to make a BIG CHANGE. To donate £5, please text SCIAF to 70480, or visit www.sciaf.org.uk for other ways to help.

We must act now. Change is possible.

Act against hunger

Text SCIAF

to 70480 to give

£5 today

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Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

Catherine and her grandchildren, Zambia



WEE BOX
Big change

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency 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 by Colin Hattersley.

Texts will cost £5 plus your standard network charge.