

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

May 2022

Church throws doors open to refugees

THE Church in Glasgow is throwing open its doors to welcome refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Archbishop Nolan has encouraged parishes to do all they can to help and has ensured that a house formerly used by a retired priest be offered to house refugees.

And the call to action has been taken up across the Archdiocese.

In Maryhill, Fr Jim Lawlor is planning to offer accommodation to those in need in the presbytery at Immaculate Conception Parish.

Father Lawlor said: "We have already created space so we could host at COP26 and we have space for eight people."

"This parish was founded in 1851 to serve Irish refugees from the famine, working on the nearby canal and lock basin. Caring for those who flee is in our spiritual DNA so it's obvious and instinctive for us to stretch out

BY BRIAN SWANSON

a hand to new friends."

Meanwhile in Partick, work is underway to make space for Ukrainian families who may need accommodation at St Peter's Parish.

Volunteers and professionals have already begun work in the presbytery to allow the bottom floor to be used by refugees.

Unused meeting rooms will be converted into bedrooms and an appeal has gone out for beds and bedding with fund raisers planned to help with costs.

Parish priest Canon Peter McBride said: "We hope to be in a position to welcome up to six people including children."

In the east of the city, St Michael's, Parkhead has opened its parish hall as a hub for Ukrainians arriving in the city. It will be open most days to give out essen-

tial items and to provide tea and coffee and a welcoming hug to those arriving.

Archbishop Nolan made a special visit to welcome the Ukrainian refugees first-hand and to thank parishioners for all their support.

Volunteers have been working to offer as much practical help as possible – haircuts on offer once a week, the services of a Ukrainian-speaking psychologist, even Easter eggs and drawing classes for the children.

Fr Liam said: "I was asked by the Glasgow Ukrainian Society of they could use our hall as a hub for their people – a safe space really – and of course I was delighted to help."

"And once again the generous people of the East End, and not all of them parishioners of St Michael's, went above and beyond in their

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Polish Madonna returns to Partick page 5



Pope: we need to learn to listen page 9



Remembering two great priests pages 12 and 13

Historic book is coming home –thanks to the Carabinieri!

APRECIOUS book which went missing some time in the last century from a Glasgow seminary has been found and restored to the Archdiocese... by the Italian Carabinieri!

Major Moreno Pella travelled from the northern city of Udine to Rome to hand over the tome of the works of St Robert Bellarmine to Scots College Rector, Fr Dan Fitzpatrick, who will in turn consign it to Archbishop Nolan next month during the Archbishop's visit to the College.

The manuscript was gifted to St Peter's seminary, then based in Bearsden in 1880 by rector William Gordon and found to be missing when the collection was catalogued 101 years later in 1981. Since then it has featured on international lists of stolen property ... until now.

Italian police got involved when the volume was bought online from a Dutch website by a collector of rare books in Mantua in northern Italy. A special-



Fr Dan receives historic volume

ist cultural protection unit of the Carabinieri swooped and charged the unsuspecting collector with dealing in stolen goods.

After investigations es-

BY RONNIE CONVERY

tablished the buyer's innocence the book was seized and the search for the rightful owners began.

The clue was a stamp in Latin inside the cover of the book which must have been applied when it was placed in the Glasgow seminary library. Police checks with the Archdiocese revealed that the seal was indeed from the original Bearsden seminary (which was destroyed by fire in 1946).

Fr Dan Fitzpatrick told *Flourish*: "The Italian police were very efficient and sent three officers to the College to hand over the book. It's a precious and rare volume of the writings of St Robert Bellarmine on Christian doctrine and it will be good to hand it over to the new archbishop on his next visit to the College so that it can go home to Glasgow."

Mary McHugh, the Archdiocesan Archivist said: "It's good to have the volume safely returned, and we also have to thank DS William Telford of Police Scotland and Luigi Portacci of the Carabinieri for their work and persistence in recovering it."

May ceremony for new saints



POPE Francis will canonise 10 new saints in a huge ceremony in Rome later this month.

BY RONNIE CONVERY

as "the largest priest cemetery in the world,"

The World War II martyr Titus Brandsma and desert hermit Charles de Foucauld will be the most famous blessed to be declared saints at the canonisation Mass on May 15.

The ceremony will be the Catholic Church's first canonisation Mass since the start of the coronavirus outbreak. It will take place two years and seven months after the most recent canonisation, that of St. John Henry Newman and four others in October 2019.

Titus Brandsma, a Dutch priest, professor, and journalist, was born Anno Sjoerd Brandsma in Oegeklooster, in the province of Friesland, on Feb. 23, 1881. He entered the Carmelite novitiate in 1898, taking the religious name Titus. He was ordained a priest in 1905.

Freedom

Following Germany's invasion of the Netherlands in 1940, Brandsma defended the freedom of Catholic education and the Catholic press against Nazi pressures.

After he firmly opposed mandatory Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers, he was arrested in January 1942.

He was transferred to Dachau, once described

on June 19 that year. He died on July 26, following a lethal injection.

He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 3, 1985, as a martyr for the faith.

Blessed Charles de Foucauld, born in 1858, was a French aristocrat who gave up his wealth to become a religious brother and live in the desert.

Born in Strasbourg, France, in 1858, Blessed de Foucauld strayed from the faith during his adolescence, but during a trip to Morocco, he saw how devoted Muslims were to their faith, which inspired him to return to the church.

Faith

He joined the Trappists, living in monasteries in France and in Syria, before seeking an even more austere life as a hermit. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1901, he lived among the poor and finally settled in Tamanrasset, Algeria. In 1916, he was killed by a band of marauders.

His writings inspired the foundation, after his death, of the Little Brothers of Jesus and the Little Sisters of Jesus. His work and writings led to the founding of the Congregation of the Little Brothers of Jesus.

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COUNSELLOR

for Paisley diocese marriage counselling service for couples married in the Catholic church

Paisley Diocese Marriage Counselling service is looking for a counsellor (self-employed) to provide counselling sessions for clients using the service. The applicant will be a therapist with either experience of working with couples or an interest in this area of therapeutic work. The service supports couples married in the Catholic church and the service is underpinned by the Christian tradition. See the link below for further details on this opportunity.

It is essential that applicants:

- Are currently registered or accredited by a professional counselling body including BACP, COSCA, UKCP or recognised equivalent.
- Hold a minimum of a Diploma in Counselling or equivalent
- Have a minimum of 450 client hours (post qualifying) experience

The service was set up 4 years ago and is managed by the current counsellor, with whom the successful applicant would liaise.

The diocese provides guidelines for the counselling session fees which are currently paid directly to the counsellor by the clients.

The counsellor is responsible for the maintenance of all relevant records within the requirements of their governing body, have relevant professional insurance and to meet their supervision requirement as set out by their governing body.

The counsellor is also responsible for managing all necessary administration involved in organising clients' sessions.

To obtain an application pack for this post please either email recruitment@rcdop.org.uk or write to Recruitment, Paisley Diocese, Diocesan Centre Cathedral Precincts, Inle Street, Paisley, PA1 1HR.

Closing Date for receipt of applications is 12.00 noon on Friday 3rd June 2022.

Church throws open doors...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

kindness offering everything from food, clothes and toys to Easter eggs, transport and above all a warm welcome."

Archbishop Nolan said: "I am so glad to see priests and people across the Archdiocese responding so generously to the humanitarian

disaster that is underway as millions of people flee Ukraine.

"It is frustrating however that the UK Government is continuing to insist on a strict visa requirement before allowing these desperate people to reach the support we want to give them.

"There is so much good will and desire to welcome people which is being ob-

structed by the painfully slow bureaucracy.

"EU countries have waived visa rules to allow those in need of help to enter their countries. Poland has taken in almost three million while Britain has taken around one per cent of that number. That's a woeful lack of generosity to people in real need on the part of the UK Government."

The curious case of the lost mosaic is resolved

ACHANCE discovery in the Archdiocesan offices has brought delight to the members and friends of the Scots Italian community and brought to an end an 11-year mystery.

The historic mosaic of the Arandora Star disaster (which cost the lives of over 100 Scots Italian men in 1940 and which is commemorated in the Cathedral Cloister Garden) went missing on the night the Cloister Garden was opened in 2011.

Ever since, its whereabouts has been a mystery.

For Glasgow man Ralph Gonnella, the discovery of the mosaic – which had been left facing the wall in a small room in the Archdiocesan offices – means the end of an extraordinary search.

Immediately upon hearing the news, Ralph, whose grandfather died in the disaster, took to Facebook to make the announcement: “Fantastic and amazing news – the Arandora Star Mosaic has been found.

“Early this morning at the Glasgow Archdiocesan offices on Clyde Street, Glasgow, during work in a small room on the ground floor, the Arandora Star mosaic that has been missing since Monday 16th May 2011 was discovered.

“It is now believed the mosaic was placed in the storage room for safe keeping and has lain undiscovered there for more than ten years.”

After searching for the



BY **RONNIE CONVERVY**

mosaic for over a decade, Ralph is delighted to finally be reunited with the mosaic. “Finding the mosaic today makes it a very special day for me and for everyone who has supported me in my search for it,” he said.

During the years Ralph has travelled across Scotland, searched in antique shops, alerted auction houses, spoken to journalists and

launched national and international online appeals.

The mosaic hung for decades in the foyer of the old Casa d'Italia in Park Circus which was also the seat of the Italian Consulate in the city and was much loved by generations of the Italian community.

It was commissioned by the Casa d'Italia from the artist James Selbie (1920–1984). He was an artist and an art teacher at Elgin

Academy, Waid Academy, Anstruther and Inverness Royal Academy. He graduated at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen.

The mosaic has now been moved to the office of Cav Ronnie Convery – Italian Honorary Consul of Glasgow and Director of Communications for the Archdiocese – where it will stay for the time being until a permanent home has been decided for the work of art.

Holy Land role for Professor Bart

Professor **Bart McGettrick**, former Principal of St Andrew's College and Dean of the Faculty of Education at Glasgow University has recently been re-appointed to a further period of four years to the Grand Magisterium of The Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in further recognition of his years of service to the Holy Land. In this special article for *Flourish* Professor McGettrick writes about the work of the Order and his role in it.



THE Grand Magisterium is the governing body of the world-wide organisation known as the Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem which has almost 30,000 members covering every continent and is a part of the Catholic Church providing support and sustenance for the Holy Land.

As President of the Holy Land Commission, I regularly visit Palestine, Israel and Jordan to identify projects which will sustain the Christian communities and institutions in that divided part of the world.

I have just returned from a visit to Bethlehem and Jerusalem, the first in two years, and it struck me once again that only a visit to the Holy Land brings the reality of significant change there.

It is striking that the tectonic plates of social change have affected this part of the world so dramatically. These underlying social movements in the Holy Land have led to earthquakes of anxiety and fear, and the periodic volcanic outpouring of violence and disorder across the West Bank and Israel.

The migration of refugees into Jordan also creates significant social change.

Day by day there are reports ... Two people killed in shooting in Tel Aviv; “policeman stabbed in incident at checkpoint”; “settlers move further into Palestinian land...”

Each day there are such headlines.

Of course, we do not hear of the constant barrage of such difficulties faced by the Christian communities which is now around just 1.2% of the population of the West Bank – and declining.

The danger for Christians is that the Holy Land will become little more than a museum, and not the vibrant land where Jesus was born, lived and died for us.

The Palestinian people are anxious and angry about external matters such as the unchecked advances of ‘settlers’ on their land.

In these difficult days young people vent their frustration by taking actions against any or all authorities – in a seemingly increasingly disinterested world.

It remains a tense and chaotic environment. The effects on the Christian population are clear... poverty, unemployment, migration, and so on. The social needs are seemingly endless ... and there are few visible reasons for optimism.

Yet through prayer and giving of our gifts we should have hope. When we lose hope we lose everything.

The Order continues to be a genuine source of hope. Its main areas of activity are in Education, Humanitarian Aid, and Pastoral Care. It serves Christian institutions funding the Patriarchate (parish) schools, churches and parishes, homes for the elderly and institutions such as the seminary for educating priests.



Ukrainian families gather at St Michael's for the Easter celebration

Paddy was a true Lourdes legend and a pilgrimage pioneer

Tributes to Partick parishioner who has died at 102

THE funeral has taken place of Paddy Sherry, the last surviving volunteer helper from the first ever Glasgow Archdiocesan Lourdes, who has died aged 102.

She first volunteered at the famous French shrine with Glasgow Lourdes Hospitalité in that inaugural pilgrimage in 1948 when the journey took 36 hours by train and ferry, and she continued to serve pilgrims for the next 72 years.

Canon Peter McBride, Parish Priest of St Peter's in Partick where she worshipped daily for many years and where her funeral Mass was celebrated said: "Paddy was a member of the Lourdes Hospitalité group for several decades and a daily communicant at St Peter's for many, many years

BY BRIAN SWANSON where she also served as sacristan.

"She will be fondly remembered by many for her nursing skills and great patience with sick pilgrims.

"Until her health deteriorated a couple of years ago she was often seen carrying Holy Communion to the housebound of St Peter's parish. She was a remarkable witness in our parish community and beyond."

Paddy spent her working life as the personal assistant to successive senior partners in a prominent Glasgow law firm and always arranged her annual holidays to coincide with the Lourdes pilgrimage.

Paddy's own faith, and that of her seven sisters, all of whom have predeceased her, was nurtured by her

father Owen, a publican who came to Glasgow from County Monaghan and whose hard work ensured all his daughters attended Notre Dame, and her mother Elizabeth who shared her husband's strong Catholic beliefs.

Paddy spent the last 18 months of her life being cared for at St Margaret's Hospice, Clydebank.

In an interview with *Flourish* several years ago she played down her extraordinary record with typical humility: "Please don't say too much about me - I was just happy to help people- I enjoyed doing it right from the start and I still do but don't be making me out to be special or anything like that."

As she was laid to rest, all who knew her begged to differ. Paddy was special.



International couple's joy at Easter vigil



It was a memorable Easter Vigil not only for Archbishop Nolan as he celebrated the most important moment in the Church's year for the first time as Archbishop of Glasgow, but also for a young couple soon to be married.

During the Vigil the Archbishop conferred the sacra-

ment of Confirmation on young Frenchman Geoffrey Allochon, before the proud gaze of his Italian sponsor and fiancée Federica Di Bella.

The young couple are planning to get married in Federica's hometown of Palermo in Sicily next April. Geoffrey

is from Brittany in northern France but the couple plan to live in Scotland.

But they will never forget their special Easter memories of St Andrew's Cathedral.

Pictures by Paul McSherry

New image brings a corner of Poland back to Partick

A STRIKING new painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa, replacing the one lost in the fire which destroyed their beloved St Simon's Church, has been presented to Glasgow's Polish community in an emotional celebration at St Peter's, Partick.

The icon was paid for by the families of Polish soldiers who served in Glasgow during World War Two and whose descendants worshipped in St Simon's for more than 80 years until last summer's disastrous fire.

Following the loss of their icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, originally brought from Poland to St Simon's in 1979, the families vowed to commission a replacement.

And in a packed St Peter's, generations of Polish families many carrying palm branches in the red and white colours of their homeland, applauded as the painting was unveiled after it had lain draped in the Polish flag during Mass.

Painted at Jasna Gorna Monastery in Czestochowa where the 600 year old original icon is displayed, it is the work of a Polish artist who



L to R: Father Marian Lekawa, chaplain to the Polish community, Polish Vice Consul Ilona Bajus, Father Miroslaw Mejzner, Rector of the Pallottine Major Seminary in Oltarzew, near Warsaw, Canon Peter McBride, PP at St St Peters and St Simons; Kasik Wroblewski, Scottish representative of the Association of Families of the 1st Polish Armoured Division

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

has produced several paintings for Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Guests at the ceremony included Father Marian Lekawa, who has been chaplain to the Polish community since 1974, and Father Miroslaw Mejzner, Rector of the Pallottine Major Seminary in Oltarzew, near War-

saw, the Polish Vice Consul, Ilona Bajus, who unveiled the painting with Glasgow-based Kasik Wroblewski, Scottish representative of the Association of Families of the 1st Polish Armoured Division.

In an address to the congregation Kazik whose Father Ryszard was a Sergeant Major in the 1st Armoured Division, said: "On the 28th of July last year St Simon's was destroyed by fire – a sad day indeed for all Poles in Scotland and our painting of Our Lady of Poland was lost in the ashes.

"Descendants of families of soldiers who served here and in Poland decided to fund a new painting which has been blessed at Jasna Gora and now delivered to Glasgow.

"I'd like to give my thanks to Joanna and Bogdan Wiel-

gat, daughter and son-in-law of lieutenant Marian Plichta of the Polish First Armoured division for all their help with funding and other arrangements.

"Today, to commemorate these soldiers and their families who came here after the war I would like to present it to Father Marian and our parish of St Peter's and St Simons."

"May it become for us a sign of love and hope so necessary in these troubled times.

"We turn to Our Lady of Jasna Gora, with the words of the song: 'Today when there is anxiety around us, where is a man to take refuge, where has he to go if not to the mother who gives us solace?'

"Therefore, O Madonna turn your gaze to your children as we pray."



ARCHBISHOP Nolan visited Dumbarton Carmel last month to preside over the election of the new Prioress.

The Prioress, who is the superior of the monastery, is elected by the nuns for a three year term, and this election needs to be confirmed by the Archbishop.

The nuns gathered in the chapel and, after singing the Come Holy Ghost and praying for guidance, voted by secret ballot, placing their chosen name in a wooden box, which was then opened by the Archbishop and two nuns who acted as scrutineers.

They elected Sister Allain, a relative newcomer to the community who had previously been in Langside Carmel, but one with a lot of experience as a former prioress and as a former president of the British Carmelites nuns. Archbishop Nolan happily confirmed the election and blessed the newly-elected Prioress.

The Archbishop was given a tour of the monastery, with its beautiful views over the Clyde valley, by the new Prioress and by Sr Theresa, the outgoing superior, and then joined the community for lunch.

Lady Rae announces safeguarding team

FOLLOWING the appointment by the Catholic Church in Scotland of the Honourable Lady Rae as the first Board Chair of the new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA), the names of five non-executive directors have been released.

Lady Rae has selected her co-directors on the SCSSA Board, following a recruitment process which was open to anyone with interest, experience and expertise. They are:

- Clare Burns, solicitor; former Reporter to the Children's Panel
- Marie Connell, former Detective Inspector, Police Scotland

- Greg Gallagher, former Senior Manager, Head of Service and Director of Children's Services in the Third Sector and in Local Government Social Work Services
- Pauline McDonald, Head of Health, Safety & Compliance, ENABLE Scotland
- Patrick O'Meara, former strategic commander, Scottish Ambulance Service; Chief Medical Support Officer to the UK Army Cadets.

The SCSSA will operate entirely independently of the Catholic Church, with its own staff and non-executive directors to ensure

that dioceses and religious communities are meeting safeguarding standards. Lady Rae commissioned the recruitment agency Aspen People to manage a process which was open to anyone and which welcomed applications from people of all faith backgrounds and none.

Commenting on the appointments, Lady Rae said: "I am delighted to announce the appointment of individuals who will become my valued colleagues in shaping the work of the new Safeguarding Standards Agency.

"I look forward to having the benefit of their expertise and advice as we commence

the task of establishing this agency which will have the role of assuring safeguarding compliance in the Catholic Church in Scotland.

"These directors will shortly assist me to appoint a Director of Safeguarding and a Head of Training who will work with others to ensure compliance with the highest standards of safeguarding."

Lady Rae continued: "Throughout the recruitment process, I have been greatly impressed by the calibre of those who came forward to offer their services. It was not easy to settle on a final choice from the excellent candidates who applied."

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FROM the first moments after his election, Pope Francis has defied conventional Vatican wisdom more times than even NASA supercomputers could calculate, from the choice not to live in the papal apartments to the titles he uses.

In all honesty, the unofficial anthem of this papacy probably ought to be Frank Sinatra's "My Way." This is a papacy, after all, for which bucking tradition and courting confusion in the name of evangelical authenticity is essentially its *modus operandi*.

That background makes the pontiff's recent response to an Argentine journalist about why a possible encounter with Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church in June has been called off truly puzzling. It would have been their second encounter, after an historic meeting at the Havana airport in 2016.

"Our diplomacy understood that a meeting between the two at this time could lend itself to much confusion," the pope told Joaquin Morales Sola of the Argentine newspaper *La Nacion*.

Really? Francis backed down because Vatican diplomats told him such a step might be "confusing"?

He showed no such reticence, for example, when critics warned that an opening to communion for divorced and civilly remarried Catholics risked "confusion" about Catholic teaching on marriage, issuing his controversial document *Amoris Laetitia* in 2016 anyway.

Indeed, this is the pope who, on his foreign trip to Brazil in 2013 for World Youth Day, went off the cuff in his native *porteño*, the Spanish dialect used in Buenos Aires, to urge young people to "make a mess" in their dioceses, meaning to shake things up, even if doing so courts confusion.

Rendering the pope's discretion all the more remarkable is that in the same *La Nacion* interview, Francis said, "I am ready to do everything" to try to stop the bloodshed. Surely, one might wonder, wouldn't a meeting with a hierarch who's offered theological cover for Putin's war be an example of trying "everything"?

So, what gives?

One possibility is that Francis is sensitive to the fact that his refusal to name Russia or Putin as the aggressor is being read in some quarters as signaling deference to Moscow, and he didn't want to augment that interpretation. (He addressed that criticism

Pope calls off meeting with Russian patriarch



too in the *La Nacion* interview, saying popes never condemn heads of state or whole nations, and insisting that a nation is a bigger reality than whoever happens to hold political power at any given moment.)

It's also possible Francis believes his risk tolerance has to be lower when it comes to war. It's one thing to "make a mess" when the worst thing that's going to happen is that a few conservative cardinals get their noses out of joint; it's another when innocent people might pay a price in blood if a churchman with good intentions inadvertently makes a conflict worse.

To this day, the Vatican is haunted by memories of what happened in 1942 when the Dutch bishops publicly condemned Nazi human rights abuses. In retribution, more than 400 Jews who had converted to Catholicism were rounded up and deported to Auschwitz, including the future Saint Edith Stein.

Another possibility is that the warnings

BY JOHN L ALLEN JR
EDITOR OF CRUX

of "confusion" aren't coming just from unnamed Vatican diplomats but from Ukrainians themselves, especially members of the vibrant Greek Catholic community in Ukraine.

Recently, the pontiff irritated many of those Ukrainian Catholics by inviting a Russian and a Ukrainian woman to carry the cross together during the Good Friday "Way of the Cross" ritual, with the Ukrainians insisting that such symbolism blurs the distinction between the aggressor and the victims.

Imagine how they might have felt about images of the pope embracing the very Orthodox hierarch who's blessing Russian troops on their way to Ukraine. Francis may have decided that he couldn't risk alienating Ukrainian Catholics again, who have a long history of feeling betrayed by Vatican *Realpolitik*.

Francis may also have heard, at least indirectly, from his close friend and ally, Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, about the proposed summit with Kirill. The war in Ukraine has accentuated a long-running struggle between Constantinople and Moscow for the soul of global Orthodoxy, and doubtless Bartholomew wouldn't be anxious for the pontiff to do anything that might be perceived as lending Kirill additional credibility.

There's also a secular angle. A prominent European NGO called "Human Rights Without Frontiers" recently called for Kirill to be indicted by the International Criminal Court for "inspiring, inciting, justifying, aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity," which may have helped Francis decide this just isn't a good time for a photo op.

(Russia is not a party to the ICC and thus an indictment is considered unlikely, but that doesn't mean there may not be consequences for Kirill in other venues.)

There's yet another, far more cynical possibility – to wit, that the Vatican never really intended to go through with meeting Kirill, dangling the prospect only to be able to pull it back. The aim would be to underscore Kirill's growing international isolation, a sort of ecclesiastical analogue to the economic sanctions imposed on Russia as a result of the war.

The foregoing amounts to little more than speculation, because the real reasons for pulling the plug on the Pope/Patriarch summit aren't yet known. What does seem clear, however, is that for a Pope with a maverick streak a mile long, the mere possibility of "confusion" doesn't quite answer the question.

■ Follow John Allen on Twitter:
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Pro-life St Gianna is honoured at Carfin



ONE of the Church's most popular modern saints is to be honoured with the erection of a new statue at Carfin Grotto in Lanarkshire.

St Gianna Beretta Molla was an Italian doctor and mother who died after refusing life-saving treatment which would have cost the life of her unborn child.

The saint, who died in 1962, aged 39, is considered one of the patrons of the pro-life movement.

Although aware of the potential consequences, St Gianna refused both an abortion and a hysterectomy during her dangerous pregnancy with her fourth child, which caused her death. The child was born safely and was present at her mother's canonisation.

St Gianna believed in following her conscience while coming to the aid of others who required assistance. She dedicated herself to charitable work amongst the elderly and was involved in Catholic Action; she also aided the Saint Vincent de Paul group in their outreach

to the poor and less fortunate.

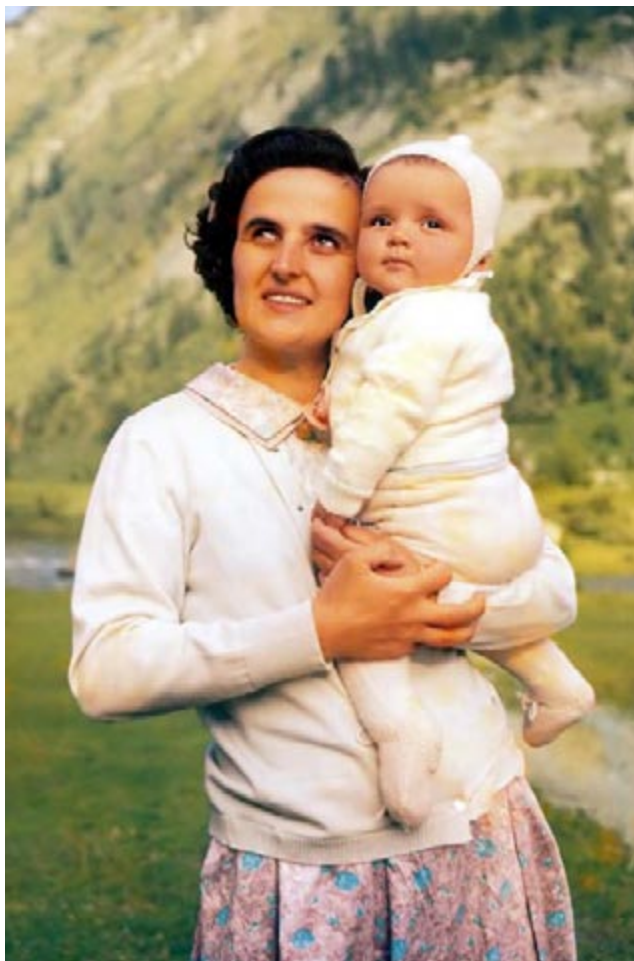
St Gianna's beatification was celebrated in 1994 and she was canonised as a saint a decade later in mid-2004 in Saint Peter's Square.

The Carfin statue was unveiled on the weekend of her feast day which is celebrated every year on April 28.

Michael J Robinson, SPUC's Executive Director, said: "Building a culture of life means taking care of those who need help, providing a voice for the voiceless, putting others before yourself, and treating others with great love. Gianna Beretta Molla did all these things and more.

"St Gianna is an inspiration to SPUC and a true role model for all in Scotland, not just our Catholic community. She was a remarkable woman who was also a doctor, mother and pro-life hero. That is why, together with Carfin Grotto, SPUC commissioned a bespoke statue of St Gianna for Scotland's Marian Shrine."

Mr Robinson added: "The idea for this initiative began



in February 2021 when Fr Jim Grant and I were catching up. Father expressed a desire to add additional statues to the grotto of modern-day Saints that lay Catholics could connect with.

"In planning and preparing for her Feast Day, the more I learned about St. Gianna, the more I admired her. One of the unique aspects of St Gianna's story was her canonisation. Her husband and their children,

including Gianna Emanuela, attended her canonisation ceremony, making this the first time a husband witnessed his wife's canonisation."

"Scotland's Catholics have a long and proud involvement in the pro-life movement. SPUC is pleased to be partnering with Carfin Grotto for this event and gifting this statue as a testimony and thanks to the Church in Scotland."

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VOCATIONS SUNDAY – 8 MAY

Optimism for future of vocations



THE Fourth Sunday of Easter – May 8 this year – is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is marked as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus' instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest".

While appreciating all vocations, Vocations Sunday focuses on the promotion of vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life – while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

A gradual rise in the number of men studying for the priesthood and three ordinations planned for this year has brought hope to the Archdiocese, according to vocations director Father

Ross Campbell.

Five men are at various stages of their study, six regularly attend discernment meetings at Glasgow University Chaplaincy Centre and it is expected that two new students will begin their studies for the priesthood later this year.

Father Ross said: "We have had a couple of quiet years but there are signs of hope while we continue to pray for an increase in vocations throughout the country as well as here in Glasgow.

"The call to serve God can come at any time so I would encourage men who are thinking about becoming a priest to approach their own parish priest first – who better to ask after all?

"While this is often seen as a less formal approach we would also encourage direct inquiries with us at the Chaplaincy Centre."

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father,

we ask you to send

labourers into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people,

vocations to the priesthood, diaconate

and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,

so that those whom you call

have the courage to give themselves

to your Church in faith.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

God's adventurer

IT'S perhaps fitting that someone whose beloved Sunderland FC plays at the Stadium of Light has such a positive outlook on his vocation and anyone who speaks to Glasgow-based Comboni Missionary, Fr John Clark will be aware of his energy and enthusiasm.

What is even more impressive is the fact that Fr John has experienced some dark times during his priesthood, from witnessing massacres in Belfast as a young priest, to contracting leprosy in Brazil – which still affects his mobility to this day.

BY GERARD COUGH The thing that has kept Fr John going throughout the more testing times, however, is the power of the heart.

Indeed, it is hardly surprising he chose to become a Comboni Father, given their full title as he explained: "The Verona Fathers were called Sons of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for me the heart is very, very important, especially if you're dealing with people who are suffering and that's what attracted me to them. So, the heart is very important for me, you have to be attracted to it."

Growing up in his native Sunderland – with his mum, dad, five brothers and two sisters – Fr John was able to witness many impressive examples of those who had very good hearts, one of whom was his 'Gannie' (Granny) Kelly, who he was very close to and described as having 'a great sense of fairness' and being as 'straight as a die.'

"She had character," he said. "She taught me what it meant to have a heart for those who are suffering because in her job as a fish seller, she met a lot of people who needed help. She was a formidable woman. She had a faith that was concrete and set on helping people, getting them out of poverty and getting justice for them."

As well as having family members with so much love in their hearts, Fr John has some early faithful examples of love to call upon as a catalyst for his vocation, most notably an Irish priest by the name of Fr Jeremiah O'Callaghan.

"Fr Jeremiah O'Callaghan was a great man with a big heart who loved the poor," Fr John said. "He taught me what it means to help people in need. He helped a lot of people out in Sunderland who were going through hard times, paying electricity bills, rent and he always put his hand in his pocket.

"He was what attracted me to the priesthood. He was sent up from the main parish in Sunderland – St Mary's – to this new housing scheme and when he came up, they were still building the houses and putting people in them when they were finished. He came up and simply brought with him a tent.

So, he camped out in the fields and the people – including the Protestant people – thought there was something odd about this, so they asked him: 'What are you doing here Father?' And he said: 'I'm waiting for them to put me in a house.' They replied: 'Oh no Father we'll sort this out.' So, they went down to the housing office and got him a house that same day! He never forgot the generosity of all the people who helped him out."

Having spoken to Fr Callaghan of his desire to take up his vocation, there was no



looking back for Fr John and despite a late attempt by the White Fathers to poach him and suffering homesickness is his early seminary days, he remains grateful to have been called to the priesthood.

"That's what a vocation means, that you are called, you are chosen," he explained. "I'm grateful He chose me. I've only ever wanted to have a heart that is close to people who are suffering. That's all I ever wanted to be in life. I don't want titles or acclamation. It's all about poor people."

Fr John's experience of being close to those who were suffering was brought into sharp focus during his time spent in the Ballymurphy area of Belfast in the 1970s.

"I trained with the La Salle Brothers and I landed in St Patrick's Training School in Belfast, the night before internment," Fr John said. "The following year I went there for the summer too and after that I worked as a teacher and helped in 'The Murph.' Before I went to Brazil, I was on loan to the Diocese of Down and Connor. To be honest the best time of my life as a priest was in 'The Murph. I was with great people; they strengthened my faith and I strengthened theirs.

"That said, a lot of the stuff I'm watching on television at the minute about war brings back a lot of memories. The tears roll down my eyes. And of course, two priests from the parish – Hugh Mullan and Noel Fitzpatrick – were killed. They inspired me. Every

morning I get up I say a prayer to them to ask them to let me be a priest like them and give my own life for people. They were great examples for me. You can kill a priest in 'The Murph, but priests will spring up all over the world."

With the experience of Belfast under his belt, Fr John headed to Brazil, where he would spend the next 20 years of his missionary life – 17 of them in the Amazon Jungle, where he worked among the native people. While he speaks with great love and affection for his time spent there, it wasn't without its own trials and tribulations. He caught leprosy, which resulted in the bone in his right leg being shorter than that in the left.

However, it was his desire – and that of others – to stand up for the rights of the poor and native people that would prove extremely challenging.

"My curate – Ezechiele Ramin – was assassinated," Fr John lamented. "They put 76 bullets into him because he was on the side of the poor. I knew Ezechiele was the weakest link in the chain. I knew how these people operated. They were trying to get me left, right and centre but the native people were on my side. They would tell me where not to go. They tipped you off. Unfortunately, he didn't have the experience that I had. So, he was ambushed one day because he stood up for the indigenous people. His cause for Beatification is progressing but to me he's already a saint."

During his time in Brazil, Fr John really developed a strong sense of what he believes the term mission means and also the characteristics a missionary should possess.

"A priest must love the people. I used to be very scared. I didn't know where the courage came from. I felt like running 100 miles away rather than being in some of the situations at the time, but in my belly burns a fire of a wee bit of fairness for everybody and that would come from me Gannie."

■ Why not donate to Missio Scotland and support missionary priests like Fr John. To do so simply visit: <https://www.missioscotland.com/donate> call them on: 01236 449774 or send donations to: Missio Scotland, St Andrews, 4 Laird Street, Coatbridge ML5 3LJ.

Scotland nears top of vocations league

ALTHOUGH we may lament having fewer priests than in years gone by, the ratio of priests to lay people in the Archdiocese of Glasgow is among the highest in the world, new figures show.

While Africa has the world's fastest-growing Catholic population, new figures collated by the Vatican's Central Office of Church Statistics reveal that Africa has 5089 Catholics per priest compared with Europe where there are 1,746 Catholics per priest.

However, in our own Archdiocese the ratio is 1,203 Catholics per priest.

And the ratio for all of Scotland is similarly high with one priest per 1,137 Catholics.

Other figures in the report make equally fascinating reading.

The number of Catholics in the world has now passed 1.36 billion, an increase of 16 mil-

lion over the previous year.

And while just over a fifth of the world's Catholics live in Europe, 40 per cent of the world's priests minister there. The Americas have 48 per cent of the world's Catholics, but only 29.3 per cent of the world's priests.

The Vatican yearbook also revealed that the Catholic Church worldwide now has 5,363 bishops.

The number of religious brothers rose in 2020 to 50,569, with the numbers going up in Africa, Asia and Europe.

The number of permanent deacons, 48,635, was a slight increase over the previous year, with the majority of them serving in the Americas.

The number of seminarians decreased globally to just under 112,000 with every region except Africa showing a downturn.

Pope's 10 rules for good communication



POPE Francis has used his message for Communications Sunday, which falls this year on May 29, to make a plea for respectful listening in society in general and the Church in particular. Flourish has summarised the Holy Father's letter into 10 golden rules for better communication ... here they are.

1 We are losing the ability to listen to those in front of us, both in the normal course of everyday relationships and when debating the most important issues of civil life. At the same time, listening is undergoing an important new development in the field of communication and information through the various podcasts and audio messages available that serve to confirm that listening is still essential in human communication.

2 A respected doctor, accustomed to treating the wounds of the soul, was once asked what the greatest need of human beings is. He replied: "The boundless desire to be heard".

3 It is only by paying attention to whom we listen, to what we listen, and to how we listen that we can grow in the art of communicating, the heart of which is not a theory or a technique, but the openness of heart that makes closeness possible.

4 There is a kind of hearing that is not really listening, but its opposite: eavesdropping and spying, exploiting others for our

own interests, is an ever-present temptation that nowadays seems to have become more acute in the age of social networks.

5 The lack of listening, which we experience so often in daily life, is unfortunately also evident in public life, where, instead of listening to each other, we often "talk past one another".

6 Good communication does not try to impress the public with a soundbite, with the aim of ridiculing the other person, but pays attention to the reasons of the other person and tries to grasp the complexity of reality. It is sad when, even in the Church, ideological alignments are formed and listening disappears, leaving sterile opposition in its wake.

7 It is only by putting aside monologues that the harmony of voices that is the guarantee of true communication can be achieved. Listening to several sources, "not stopping at the first tavern" – as the experts in the field teach us – ensures the reliability and seriousness of the information we transmit.

Listening to several voices, listening to each other, even in the Church, among brothers and sisters, allows us to exercise the art of discernment, which always appears as the ability to orient ourselves in a symphony of voices.

8 The ability to listen to society is more valuable than ever in this time wounded by the long pandemic. So much previous-

ly accumulated mistrust towards "official information" has also caused an "infodemic", within which the world of information is increasingly struggling to be credible and transparent. We need to lend an ear and listen profoundly, especially to the social unease heightened by the downturn or cessation of many economic activities.

9 The reality of forced migration is also a complex issue, and no one has a ready-made prescription for solving it. I repeat that, in order to overcome prejudices about migrants and to melt the hardness of our hearts, we should try to listen to their stories. Give each of them a name and a story. Many good journalists already do this. And many others would like to do it, if only they could. Let us encourage them! Let us listen to these stories!

10 In the Church, too, there is a great need to listen to and to hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving gift we can offer each other ... A synodal process has just been launched. Let us pray that it will be a great opportunity to listen to one another. Communion, in fact, is not the result of strategies and programmes, but is built in mutual listening between brothers and sisters. As in a choir, unity does not require uniformity, monotony, but the plurality and variety of voices, polyphony.

Charities' challenge

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

 *The Legion of Mary
Wayside Club* 



The last two 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 two 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.

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www.spuc.org.uk

Vital work goes on despite challenges of pandemic

An appeal goes out this month to *Flourish* readers to show their traditional generosity as we enter the summer months.

Over the last two years charities have suffered a great deal due to the pandemic and they have not been able to raise as the funds they traditionally rely on to help them to continue their incredible work.

Our advertising charities are Missio, SPUC, SVDP, St Andrew's Hospice, St Nicholas Care Fund, Fertility Care Scotland, Wayside Club.

Each Charity supports the health and wellbeing of many they are assisting with their charitable work here and abroad.

Flourish readers are so very kind to our charities and they are absolutely delighted with your kindness and support you have been able to give to them especially during these trying times and ask if you could please continue supporting them.

So, let's not let down our local heroes. Every little helps!



Leave a lasting legacy



Fertility Care Scotland is a local charity which empowers women of all ages by teaching a safe and effective method of natural family planning. We offer our services for free to women and couples looking to achieve or postpone pregnancy naturally. We also offer amazing volunteer opportunities and accredited teacher training programmes.

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St Nicholas Care Fund

The St. Nicholas Care Fund offers grant support to schools, churches and community groups working in the Archdiocese of Glasgow with vulnerable or disadvantaged groups and individuals.

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Westport

This lovely Georgian town is home to glorious churches, quaint avenues, a heritage centre and leafy forest walks.

Sligo

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Shock and sorrow at the loss of Fr Jim Dean

FATHER Jim Dean's lasting legacy will be his 'warm and welcoming heart' which brought the people of his parish closer to God, Archbishop Nolan said at the funeral Mass for a priest whose sudden death at the age of 70 devastated his devoted parishioners at St Robert Bellarmine, Househillwood.

Father Jim became parish priest of St Robert's soon after he was ordained five years ago and, as the Archbishop noted, his popularity was evident with every seat being taken in one of the largest churches in the Archdiocese for his funeral.

Archbishop Nolan, who celebrated the Mass with Archbishop Mario Conti and was joined in the sanctuary by priests from across the Archdiocese and beyond said: "When it comes to preaching the Good News it's not just what we say but how we say it. To quote Pope Francis, a good priest must have 'the smell of the sheep' – to be close to his flock and this was what Father Jim did – he brought the love of God, his love of God, to the people."

Shortly before he was ordained Father Jim wrote an article for *Flourish* in which he recalled the precise moment that he felt God calling him to become a priest.

As a Deacon at St Gregory Barbarigo in Wyndford he was appointed chaplain to

BY BRIAN SWANSON

John Paul Academy in Summerston and in that role he accompanied pupils and staff to Rome in 2014 for the canonisation of John Paul II.

Father Jim, who was born in Ruchill, the only child of a lorry driver and a shop assistant, recalled: "The day before the canonisation we visited the Basilica of St John Lateran where confessions were taking place. One of the lads was speaking about the sacrament and then asked if I could hear his confession. I pointed out that being a Deacon I couldn't hear confessions.

"Later that night I began to think about what he had asked, and how I felt. Having never married there followed a time of wondering if God was calling me to the priesthood."

If an innocent question from a schoolboy was the catalyst it took a series of discussions, and the encouragement and prayer of Archbishop Tartaglia some months later to convince him that God was indeed calling him to priesthood.

He then spent four years studying at Allen Hall Seminary in London having been ordained by Archbishop Conti as one of the first 12 permanent deacons in the Archdiocese.

And on the 28 June 2017 in St Andrew's Cathedral was ordained a priest and



shortly afterwards was appointed parish priest at St Robert Bellarmine, Househillwood.

Not long after he was appointed he was interviewed by the India-based Shalom TV which has a global audience of several million.

I had the privilege of interviewing him for the programme which focussed on the life of a parish priest and Father Jim was the first Scottish priest to feature in the series.

When I asked why he waited until he was in his mid-60s before becoming a priest he replied simply: "This is the time that God called me. It was the right time – it was God's time."

Stephen Callaghan, Director of AGAP worked closely with Fr Jim and was his 'tenant' at St Robert's. He recalled: "I first met Jim when he was a Permanent Deacon at St Gregory's, Wyndford. He attended all of the AGAP productions and always took time with everyone at the events. He was a source of encouragement to many

people, including me. This support continued over the years into his priesthood.

"One day, my wife and I attended a weekday morning Mass at St Robert's with our children. We didn't know that Jim was the priest there. On arrival, he greeted us, welcomed the kids with great joy and insisted that we join him in the house for a coffee after Mass. It was only about a week later that the Archdiocese approached him about providing office space for AGAP and he agreed immediately. He told people about it with great enthusiasm, recounting the great opportunities that it could present to the local community.

"He referred to me jokingly as 'Shakespeare' and insisted that I simply address him as 'Jim'. He would often come in for a chat, share with me about his day and listen with great interest to whatever I was working on. He wore his heart on his sleeve and there was a transparency about him. On good days or bad, he was human

and he didn't try to pretend otherwise.

"As a 'late vocation', he often joked that he hadn't got the hang of being a priest yet but he loved his priesthood, he loved the people of God and that was obvious in his enthusiasm right up to the last."

Father Jim was a social worker for over 40 years and by the time he retired he was head of community care with Perth and Kinross Council where he had a large staff and was responsible for a multi-million pound budget.

He brought the same energy and commitment which marked his social work career to his ministry at St

Roberts where he quickly established a reputation as someone who could galvanise his new community to work together for the good of all.

He liked to tell the story that when, as a senior social worker, colleagues were slow in providing information he would send an email bearing the initials: JDI ... standing for 'Just Do It' which usually had the desired result!

During his all too brief ministry at St Robert's it is doubtful if Father Jim had ever had to ask his parishioners twice. For those of his flock who cared for him so much it was pleasure to 'just do it'.

Requiescat in pace.

Mary's musings

Flourish columnist Mary McGinty recalls Fr Jim

Two years ago in October our son married his beautiful bride in her home parish of St Robert's in Peat Road.

Such was the warmth and the welcome of Fr Jim Dean the church may as well have been packed to the rafters. Our daughters celebrated their weddings at our own parish church but Fr Jim Dean made us feel just at home in St Robert's.

But then Fr Jim met the last milestone of this earthly life. His sudden death stunned the parish community especially those gathered for the 10am Sunday Mass.

This time the church was indeed packed to the rafters, both at the Reception and the Funeral Mass. As his coffin was followed down the aisle by so many of his brother priests, tears were shed by the

congregation. Outside as we waited to bid farewell to the hearse there was laughter too as mourners shared the anecdotes which were testament to a man of gloriously dry wit.

In his long life of service, for many years in social work and later in the permanent diaconate and finally as a priest, his great humour peppered his interactions and endeared him to those he met.

At a time when most people are thinking of retirement he launched so enthusiastically into parish life. Even with his declining health and all the problems and worries of the pandemic none of his zeal diminished.

All who knew him, including people who met him only once, have their own memories. Mine of a man of God and a man of the people he served.

Fr Frank O'Rourke

WHILE *Flourish* was going to press the death occurred of one of Glasgow's oldest and best-loved priests. Fr Frank O'Rourke, former Parish Priest of St Michael's, Parkhead died on Low Sunday.

Fr O'Rourke was a legend in the East End and very much a part of St Michael's family.

Commenting on his death, Stephen Callaghan, Director of the Archdiocesan Arts Project, said: "When AGAP was based there (2009–2015) he was so kind and supportive. He regularly attended the film and faith club and other events. He made me feel that I was part of the parish family. Despite my lack of interest in football (about which he said "Strange – he looks alright!") he



would come through to my office for a cup of tea and a blether or invite me into the hall/kitchen.

"He was a priest among priests. Pious, dedicated, and sincere but with a good sense of humour and a fatherly heart. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

A full tribute to Fr O'Rourke will appear in the next edition of *Flourish*.

Monsignor Des was a priest who will never be forgotten

MONSIGNOR Desmond Maguire was a man who had a vocation within a vocation, Archbishop Nolan told a packed St Patrick's Church, Dumbarton, at the funeral Mass for the much loved priest who died at the age of 90 after 68 years of devoted priestly service.

Archbishop Nolan said: "The first thing that struck me when I read his CV was the great number of roles he played in other organisations apart from that of a hardworking parish priest.

"It's a great honour, and I'm sure Des knew this, to be called by God to be a priest and when I discovered that he was ordained as a priest in 1954 – that was the year I was born – I thought Des has been working as a priest for almost as long as I have been alive. What a marvelous achievement.

"He worked with handicapped children and their families, particularly those with Down syndrome, the deaf community, with housing associations, the Archdiocesan Lourdes pilgrimages, and many, many more.

"His vocation was truly to help others become closer to God on their journey through life."

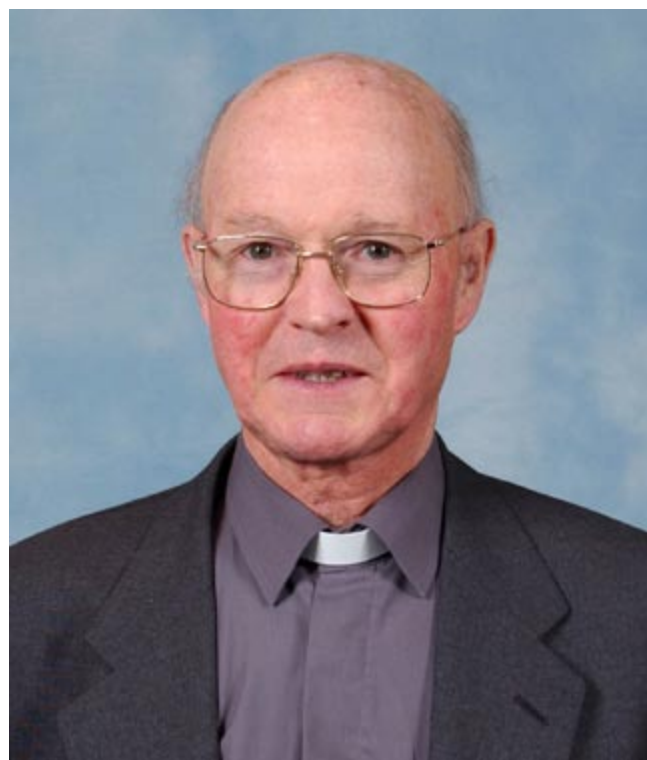
A warm and very personal tribute was later paid to Monsignor Maguire by his niece Brenda Pollacchi.

She told the congregation: "Following the first Faith and Light pilgrimage to Lourdes, Des was charged by Archbishop Scanlan with the task of ensuring that families of children with disabilities, in the West of Scotland, were supported by the Church as in the past they felt this had not been the case.

"He worked tirelessly meeting parents Liaising with Social Work, Council, Special schools and other agencies. They established clubs and groups where youngsters received religious instruction and preparation for the sacraments as well as fun activities and holidays and parents could support one another and be supported.

"In 1976, with Sr Mary Agnes, he established Mitre House which provided respite care for the families and this care system was the basis of the Mungo Foundation which continues today.

"Des said that for 15 years he had the most privileged job in the Archdiocese working with the families with



members who had special educational needs.

"Des was skilled at recognising and harnessing the strengths of his parishioners and he was expert in the art of delegation.

"People have said that they found themselves volunteering for things they had never even heard of following conversations with him, but he was always encouraging and helpful and he did roll up his sleeves giving practical support too where necessary.

"He came to St Patrick's in 1991 where his commitment to the community led to the establishment of a lunch club and community meeting place at Ben View House.

"He set up an ecumenical project which grew into the Home for Home furniture recycling. He also took on responsibility for restoring the church and opening up this beautiful sanctuary and altar.

"But, as with all his other parishes, what he loved most were the people and having spent 15 years here he was sad to leave such a great community".

To laughter from the congregation Brenda told how, once her uncle was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, he decided to invest in a two wheel tricycle to get around.

She said: "Finding at 86 he no longer had the balance for a two wheeler, he bought himself an adult sized tricycle which he called The Ma-

chine. To this Machine he attached an old Safeway box to the back using bungee cords. And so, with helmet on his head he would set off, going on the pavement as we had strongly advised, to go round the estate and to the local shops.

"He loved the freedom, the wind on his face and the fact that he could cycle much further than he could walk. However, after nearly two years of fun when he announced that the pavements were too bumpy Des agreed The Machine had to go. He was 88. He was a one-off."

"While dementia robbed him of some memory and capacity the essence of this calm, unassuming and humble man remained intact and he was always the perfect gentleman.

"He left his mark on so many people in such a positive way and we are all the richer for having known him."

One of nine children, Kirkintilloch-born Monsignor Maguire studied for the priesthood at Blairs and later at the Seminaire Saint Sulpice, Paris.

He was ordained by Archbishop Donald Campbell at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow 29 June 1954 and served first at Christ the King where he spent 13 years as a curate, before taking on a similar role at St. Gregory's Wyndford for 10 years, before moving again to Our Lady of Good Counsel where



he served until 1983, again as assistant priest. His first role as parish priest was in St Augustine's in Milton where he left his mark and made many friends.

In June 1991 he was appointed Parish Priest at St Patrick's Dumbarton where he served until his retirement in 2006.

He suffered a fall at home

and died peacefully at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital on Thursday 31st March 2022.

Requiescat in pace.

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Easter readings help us to go 'backstage' at the Last Supper



Fr Tom Kilbride

It is often noted that Easter lasts longer than Lent! We fast and do penance for 40 days, but our Easter celebrations last a full 50.

There is a lot to celebrate and much to reflect on. We celebrate the good news that Jesus has risen, and we look back to that great event.

However, just as Lent and Advent are also times of preparation – for the great feasts which follow them – Easter too has an element of “preparation”, albeit of a different kind. That is, as well as remembering that Jesus has risen, we also look ahead to what it all means for us, to the mission of sharing this Good News with others that lies ahead. The readings of the later weeks of the Easter season certainly point us in that direction.

The Sunday Gospels, Year C

The last three Sundays of Eastertide are closely united in their content and themes. All three Gospel passages

come from John's Gospel, bringing us Jesus's words at the Last Supper. We go “backstage”, as it were, to the last moments before his death and resurrection, to look again at what it all means both for Jesus and for us.

On the Fifth Sunday, we hear the “New Commandment” to love as Jesus loved us. In the midst of betrayal and denial (Judas has just left the Upper Room and Jesus is about to foretell Peter's denials), Jesus tells us that love is the only option. It is his way; it must be our way too.

The following week, that idea is deepened as he tells us that when we respond in love, we are uniting ourselves with him and with the Father in a bond that can't be broken. Even when we are troubled or afraid, living in his love will bring us real peace, a peace the world can't give. It is the peace of deep unity with God, held tight by the Holy Spirit who guides, teaches and strengthens us.



Finally, on the Seventh Sunday, we get a glimpse inside that loving relationship between Jesus and the Father as we hear from his “Priestly Prayer”. There, he brings his friends before his Father and prays that their love for him and for each other might be seen in the world, to reveal God through their closeness to him and visible unity with each other.

Over these weeks, then, the Gospel takes us deeper into the mystery of Jesus' love – for us, for his Father, for all people – and both inspires and challenges us to be living witnesses to it. Will we be up to that challenge?

The First Readings, Year C

As always during Eastertide, we read from Acts of the Apostles. This year, however, the Sunday extracts seem like practical applications of the “theory” set out in the Gospel readings. So, as Jesus speaks of revealing his glory in his death and resurrection, and of the disciples' call to love one another in response, so we hear Paul and Barnabas bringing hope and joy to their communities, as they remind them of all God has done for them.

Despite obstacles, they preach, found churches and renew hope, working together and rejoicing in all that God has been doing. Then, when the Gospel turns to the promise of the Spirit who will unite and guide us, we hear how that same Spirit guides the early Church as it works out how to address the issues and

tensions it faces: acting in good will, seeking unity in practice and aiming to build up the bonds between believers, the Church listens to what the Spirit is saying and offers its response.

Lastly, as Jesus prays for his followers, for unity and strength of witness, we hear part of the story of Stephen, the first to give his life in love for Christ and in witness to the Resurrection. Christ's love is truly “in him” as he prays for his killers as Jesus did. Even if his witness and his word are rejected, love remains the only real response for one who would follow Jesus.

The Second Readings, Year C

Each week, we hear beautiful passages from the book of Apocalypse, illustrating some aspect of the Gospel of the day. We hear how the new thing God is doing begins when Jesus dies and rises again. His glory is seen, a glory fully revealed in the new city, the new Jerusalem. Then, we hear how that beautiful new city is founded on the twelve apostles of the Lamb, the very ones who have been filled with the Spirit to give witness and to share the word. Lastly, as we hear Jesus praying for his followers and about Stephen finding life in him even in the face of martyrdom, so the closing words of the whole Bible are read for us: of reward for those who are faithful, of the promises God has kept, and, finally, an invitation to us to come to Christ and a prayer that Christ will

come to us: that he may be in us, who has loved us from the very beginning.

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

Over these weeks, our readings have guided our meditations on God's love for us and the love of Jesus for the Father. Now comes the crunch: we are to go and share that same love with others.

This is the power the Spirit unleashes at Pentecost, bringing people of every language and nation together. Like the disciples in that upper room, we are filled with the love of God so as to live that love for others as Jesus commanded us, and to be drawn together as

one community, one family in him. All of that has been brewing over these past Easter weeks and now bursts out into life.

And in case we hadn't seen the connection, the liturgy gives us the option of two Gospel readings for Pentecost, both of which we have already heard during Eastertide, on the second and sixth Sundays.

Yes, Easter celebrates what God has done for us in raising Jesus to life, but it also prepares us to take up our part in the unending story of God's presence and action in our world. Pentecost simply asks: are you ready to get started? What are we waiting for!

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I WAS very saddened to hear of the death, last month of Father Jim Dean, the parish priest of St Robert Bellarmine's and St Bernard's.

Father Jim was ordained in 2017, shortly after I returned to Glasgow, having previously been a permanent deacon since 2009.

When he began studies for the priesthood, he spent some time in Heythrop College in London where he got to know Father Gareth and Father Antony, who were also studying there at that time. I got to know him well as he was the chair, and I was the vice-chair, of the Saint Mungo's Older Folks Centre for Wellbeing.

When Frankie went to Househillwood



Fr Frank's log

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

He could always be guaranteed to keep a meeting moving swiftly along. This was usually because he was in a hurry to get back to something in St Robert's. He was always very pragmatic and unflustered by any issues that came up. Sadly,

our final task was to work with the rest of the committee towards the sequestration of the Old Folk's Centre, which failed to acquire the necessary grants to keep going, and to resume after lockdown.

I last spoke to him as we

vested together at the Cathedral, prior to the installation of Archbishop Nolan, and we sat together throughout the ceremony. He had a good sense of humour, and he enjoyed my story about the time I gave a mission in St Robert Bellarmine's, which of course is in Househillwood. This was in the mid 1980's. During the mission I paid a visit to the local secondary school.

The next day the head teacher called to say that some of his pupils had daubed on the school walls: Frankie goes to Househillwood. (If that's lost on anyone, there was a well-known band at the time called Frankie Goes to Hollywood). I knew that Father Jim had health issues, but I was still shocked and saddened by his sudden death.

On a brighter note, Father John has at last completed all the necessary safeguarding protocols and has been granted faculties to minister in the Archdiocese. On the day we re-opened the church, he said his first Mass in St Mungo's as principal celebrant, having previously only been able to concelebrate.

Immediately after Mass,



he was administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a kindness to someone who had turned up not knowing the proper times.

We celebrated the 91st birthday of Father Justinian too last month (April 8). We

let him choose the menu for our usual Friday night community meal but sadly we don't have Father Gareth to organize the birthday cake, which may be just as well, as he would usually provide a cake to his own liking, rather than to the liking of whoever's birthday it was!

April 8 is also my father's anniversary, having died on that date in 1960, while cycling to work in Consett, County Durham. It was a day of bittersweet thoughts and memories.

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

The long march to peace



Marian Pallister

The chair of Pax Christi Scotland – and our new columnist – focuses on the issues of the day

EASTER in the 1950s and '60s became more than a religious festival: it was a time to put peace on the calendar.

From 1958 until 1964, Easter weekends became Aldermaston March weekends, when thousands walked the 52 miles from the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston to Trafalgar Square, just round the corner from the Ministry of Defence HQ in London.

Their message: "Ban the bomb."

The first march, in 1958, was organised by the Direct Action Committee Against Nuclear War, and was supported by the very recently formed CND – the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and it was actually in reverse!

People had gathered in Trafalgar Square and over the four days of the Easter holiday they marched to the Atomic Weapons Establishment. From 1959, the march began at Aldermaston and culminated in Trafalgar Square, directing the campaign at the seat of government.

Unfortunately, as the event grew in size, it attracted subversive groups and there were violent skirmishes that eventually brought that particular form of protest to an end in the early 1970s.

Because violent protest never works, and that's why during this year's Lent and Easter, Pax Christi Scotland took a number of nonviolent actions, hope-

fully echoing the sincerity of the Aldermaston marchers.

On March 21, Archbishop William Nolan joined ICAN's Daniel Högsta for our online event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Scottish Bishops' Conference statement condemning nuclear weapons as immoral to possess and to use.

Both made the point that as the war in Ukraine has demonstrated, nuclear weapons are no deterrent. There's a recording on our website if you missed it!

In the face of Putin's threats, it may seem naïve to support Guerrilla Peace Ukraine, sowing sunflower seeds by day, putting lights in our windows by night (<https://guerillapeaceukraine.org/>) – but this is another act of nonviolence, of solidarity with the people of Ukraine, of protest against war.

One more act of Easter nonviolence was to support Don't Bank On The Bomb's campaign to halt

the Nat West/RBS group's investment in weapons of mass destruction, asking our members to write to branch managers deploring the use of our savings – yours and mine – to fund weapons capable of ending all life as we know it.

Back in 2017 in his World Day of Peace message, Pope Francis called for Catholics to 'make active nonviolence our way of life', saying, 'Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. To be true followers of Jesus today includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence.' His stress on dialogue during the Ukrainian war shows he has not changed his mind.

With the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in force since January 2021, we shouldn't have to be standing in the cold at Easter at Faslane. We shouldn't have to be asking banks to divest from the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

But we do – and President Putin has focused our minds on the need to use such "active" nonviolent protest. At Pax Christi Scotland, we reckon that, with patience and persistence, it works.

Symbol of "Guerrilla Peace Ukraine"



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MONTH OF MAY

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13th of every Month May-October	Fatima Devotions: 7.00pm Rosary Procession, 7.30pm Mass
Sunday 15th May	HCPT Scotland, Golden Anniversary Pilgrimage 3.00pm Mass
Sunday 22nd of May	Paisley Diocesan pilgrimage Mass at 3.00pm
Sunday 29th of May	Legion of Mary 3:00 pm Mass
Saturday 11th June	Blessed Carlo Acutis exhibition and Eucharistic Week
Sunday 12th of June	Galloway Diocesan pilgrimage
Thursday 16th – Saturday 18th June	Forty Hours Adoration
Saturday 18th June	All night Vigil In presence of The Most Blessed Sacrament
Sunday 19th June	Corpus Christi Procession through the streets
Friday 24th June	Pioneer Association Annual Mass 7.00pm
Saturday 25th June	Una Voce pilgrimage 11.00am Mass
Wednesday 6th of July	Sisters of Saint Peter Claver celebration 11.00am Mass
Sunday 17th of July	Glasgow Archdiocesan Pilgrimage
Monday 15th August	Feast of the Assumption. Mass at 1.00pm with Sacrament of the Sick
Sunday 28th of August	Polish National Pilgrimage
Saturday 27th of August	Diocese of Motherwell Family Day
Sunday 4th of September	Motherwell Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalite Mass, 3.00pm
Thursday 8th September	Grotto rosary for Our Lady's birthday, 8.00pm
Sunday 11th September	Knights of St Columba Annual Pilgrimage
Saturday 17th of September	Una Voce pilgrimage 11.00am Mass
Saturday 24th September	St Bernadette's relics arrive
Sunday 25th September	Scottish National pilgrimage with Papal Nuncio

MONTH OF OCTOBER 8pm Holy Rosary at the grotto every evening

Saturday 1st of October	Centenary of the Grotto
Sunday 2nd October	Annual Blessing of pets for Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Normal weekday programme

Monday	
Tuesday	Pilgrim's Mass in Glass chapel 1.00pm
Wednesday	9.15am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am Holy Rosary
	10.00am Holy Mass
Thursday	9.15am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am Holy Rosary
	10.00am Holy Mass
Friday	9.15am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am Holy Rosary
	10.00am Holy Mass
Saturday	9.15am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am Holy Rosary
	10.00am Holy Mass
	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday	9.00am Holy Mass
	11.00am Holy Mass

Check the website for changes www.carfingrotto.org

For more information please contact: The Parish Priest
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