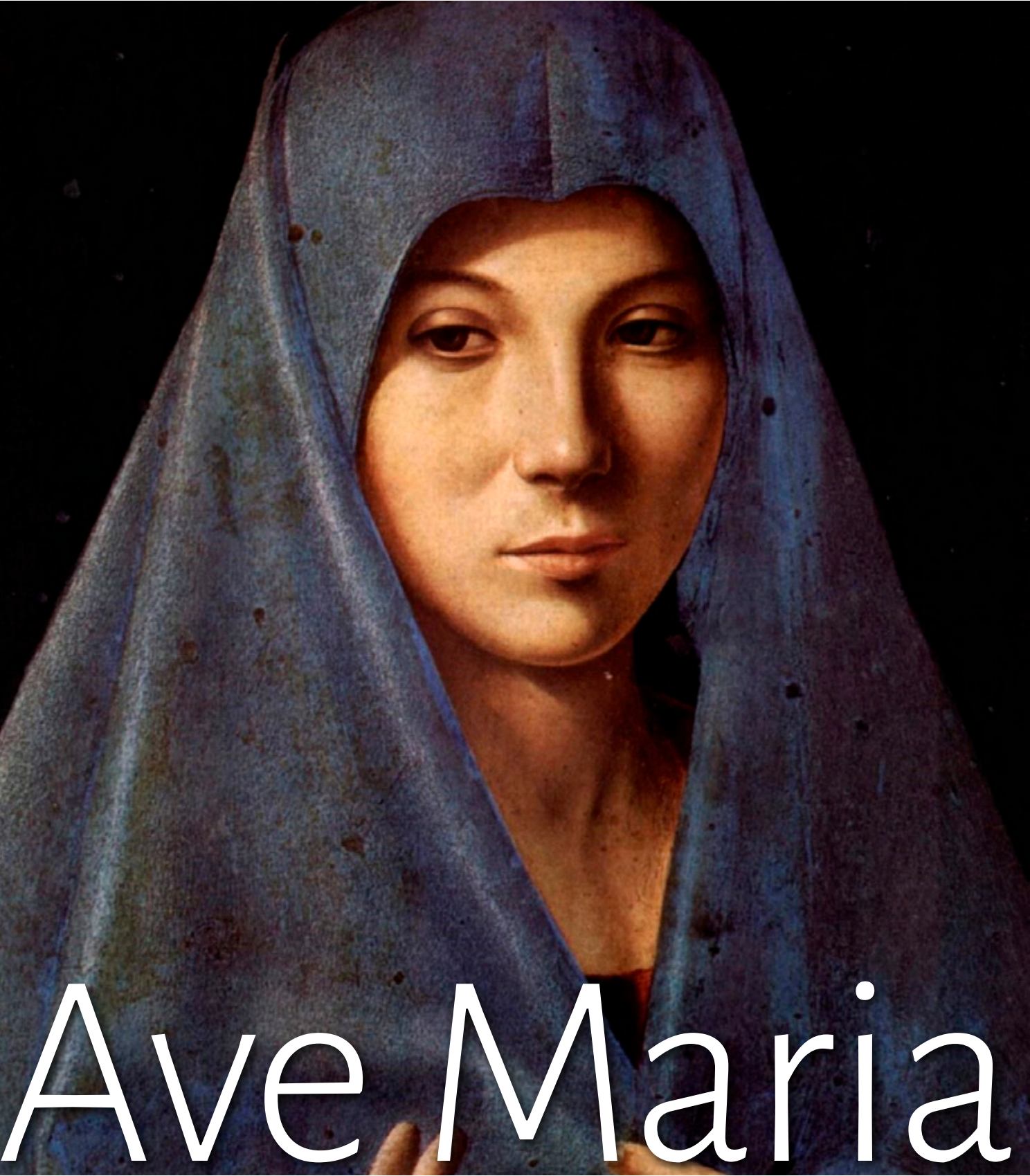


FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

May 2023



New pilgrimage season opens at Scotland's national Marian shrine

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Glasgow's own Catholic museum planned

SCOTLAND'S Catholic treasures are on the move...and their new home will be Glasgow!

Plans are underway to open a new museum of Scottish Catholic history at a site in the East End of the city which will also serve as an office space for the Bishops' Conference and as the Church's archive.

The new museum is part of a plan for the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to move all its agencies, the Scottish Catholic Archives and the Scottish Catholic Museum to a new single location close to the historic parish of St Mary's Abercromby Street. The site will be in nearby Orr Street.

Commenting on the decision, Bishop Joseph Toal, who has responsibility for Catholic Heritage and Culture said: "In the chosen location we wish to identify with plans to regenerate the area around St Mary's, Abercromby Street, which itself has such strong histori-



BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

cal and cultural links with the development of the Catholic Church in Scotland through the last two centuries."

The site of the new museum and offices building was previously the school of St Mary's parish, which once served as the pro-ca-

thedral of the Archdiocese in the mid-19th century and was home to many immigrant Catholics. The monument to those who suffered from famine in the Scottish Highlands and Ireland in the 19th century is also located close to this site.

The presence of the archives and museum in

Glasgow will give greater accessibility to the historical records and artefacts of the history of the Catholic Church in Scotland pre-Reformation, the Penal Laws when Catholicism was banned in Scotland, and the Emancipation of Catholics in 1829 up until the present day.

Consolidating the agencies with the archives and museum will contribute to a significant financial saving for the Bishops' Conference. The new centre should be open by spring next year.

The initiative underlines the Bishops' commitment to using the richness of Scottish Catholic culture – including the famous portrait of Mary Queen of Scots – and many Jacobite artefacts to tell our story through the ages, engaging with the many nearby historical religious sites of the life of St Mungo but also as a means of informing and evangelising.



Pride of place for Mary Queen of Scots

THIS striking portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, whose turbulent life will be forever linked to the history of Catholicism in Scotland, is regarded as the finest treasure to go on display when its new home in the East End opens to the public in the spring of next year.

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

set as a reliquary; her embroidery; a scrap of linen with blood said to have been obtained following her execution; and a copy of her death mask.

Visitors will also be able to see a fascinating collection of portraits and mementoes of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites, including a diamond set watch with an image of his illegitimate daughter Charlotte and a magnificent cloth of silver Mass vestment worn by his brother Cardinal Henry Benedict.

Other items in the Scottish Catholic Heritage Collection include rare stained glass which survived the reformation as well as richly embroidered vestments and communion vessels used by the so called heather priests who preached the Word of God at a time when the Catholic religion was outlawed.

Known as the Memorial Portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, dressed as she was on the day of her execution at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587 it depicts Mary with her prayer book, rosary, and crucifix.

The priceless work by an unknown Dutch artist was commissioned by Elizabeth Curle, her lady in waiting who was an eyewitness at the execution and later donated to the Scots College in Paris and eventually made its way to Blairs College in Aberdeen in 1833.

Other artefacts associated with Mary include the Blairs Jewel, a 'from life' miniature of Mary

A summer of welcome at Marian shrine

COME back to Carfin... that's the heartfelt plea to Catholics everywhere as the annual pilgrimage season gets underway at the Lourdes Grotto at the start of its first full year as the National Marian Shrine of Scotland.

The title was formally given to the shrine last October last year to mark its 100th anniversary and to coincide with the visit of St Bernadette's relics which drew record crowds from all over Scotland.

Relics

This significant honour was underlined by the fact that the grotto, Scotland's little sister of the French shrine, was selected as the only place outside England to receive the Saint's relics during their first ever UK tour.

Father James Grant, Guardian of the Grotto and Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier's Church, Carfin, said: "Last year was exceptional in terms of numbers but we would hope that we can build on that, which is why I'd like to welcome anyone and everyone to come and find solace and peace in the beautiful grounds of the Grotto."



"In the 100 years since the Grotto was first opened the expressions of faith have in many ways altered totally, and yet this place of prayer still has a role to play in nourishing the faith of Catholics in the 21st century."

"There is an inner need for people to express their deepest feelings by lighting a candle, laying flowers at a statue, placing a photograph of a sick child or relative alongside a statue."

"Carfin Grotto has provided a locus for such expressions of grief, joy, and faith for a century."

"The heady days of the

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

great pilgrimages which featured thousands of the faithful may now belong to a bygone age, yet the Grotto is still popular with so many people of different ages and faith backgrounds as well as those who profess no particular religious belief.

"If you have never been to Carfin or it is many years since you visited the shrine, why not make a point of coming this summer. You will not regret it!"

The Lourdes Grotto was originally the inspiration of Carfin parish priest Canon

Thomas Taylor whose vision led to the Grotto being created. It was built by unemployed miners whose descendants still live in the area today.

Father Grant said: "Canon Taylor was a pastor who had a great devotion to Our Blessed Lady and the saints, especially, St Therese of Lisieux. He was a true shepherd of souls but also a man of tremendous ambition. He wanted his poor mining flock to have something of the experience that wealthier Catholics could afford by visiting the shrine at Lourdes."

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Archbishop goes back to his roots as Motherwell diocese marks anniversary



THERE was a special welcome on hand at Motherwell's Cathedral of Our Lady of Good Aid as Archbishop Nolan celebrated a special Mass to mark the foundation of his home Diocese in 1948.

The 75 years of Motherwell Diocese have a special significance for the Archbishop as he served as a priest of Motherwell from his ordination in 1977 for 38 years.

Commemorate

But it was in the role of Metropolitan Archbishop of Glasgow that he returned to commemorate the decision of Pope Pius XII shortly after the Second World War to divide the huge territory of Glasgow into three, creating the new dioceses of Mother-



BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

well and Paisley.

The current Bishop of Motherwell, Bishop Joe Toal was on hand to welcome 'home' Archbishop Nolan as were a large number of his former colleagues among the Motherwell priests and former parishioners from his time as a Parish Priest there.

The Archbishop took the opportunity to pay tribute to the faith of the people and priests of Lanarkshire which had seen the development of Motherwell Diocese over the

last 75 years.

He said: "Times were different then and people rose to the challenges of establishing the new diocese. Parishes were real centres of community and the faith was strong. Today the challenges are different. There is more individualism and that can make it harder for parishes to flourish. The challenge now is to reach out to people and show them that faith is something attractive and relevant in their lives."

In its 75 years of life Motherwell Diocese has been a powerhouse of the Catholic Church in Scotland. Five bishops have led the commu-

nity there: Bishop Edward Douglas (1948–1954), Bishop James Scanlan (1955–1964), Bishop Francis Thomson (1965–1982), Bishop Joe Devine (1983–2013) and Bishop Joe Toal since 2014.

Although the decree separating Motherwell from Glasgow took effect 75 years ago the two communities have continued to work together in faith. Cardinal Tom Winning was originally a priest of Motherwell Diocese while Bishop Joe Devine was originally a priest of Glasgow Archdiocese. And Archbishop Nolan carries on the tradition of 'sharing resources'.

From Lentfest to Fringe Fest

APLAY which brings the story of St Augustine's conversion from a life of debauchery to sainthood is heading for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year after a Scotland-wide tour.

Oggie! Oggie! Oggie! debuted at this year's Lentfest and won rave reviews from audience members. Now the play will take its place at the world's largest theatre festival.

The AGAP (Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project) production is going to the Edinburgh Fringe (C Venues Aurora) from 23rd–27th Aug. Tickets will soon be bookable at www.CtheArts.com

Stephen Callaghan, Director of AGAP and writer and solo performer in the play said: "I am delighted at the positive reaction. The play is a bit more edgy than some of the others we have produced but hopefully it will

reach a new audience and introduce them to one of the great sinner to saint stories of history".

Extended Tour Dates include:

Wed 31st May – WYD Pilgrims with RCAG Youth (Eyre Hall)

Thu 1st June – St Thomas, Riddrie.

Fri 2nd June – St John's, Barrhead. (Diocese of Paisley)

Sat 3rd June – St Michael's, Dumbarton.

Sat 29th July – Immaculate Conception, Lochee, Dundee (Diocese of Dunkeld)

Sun 30th July – St Paul's, Glenrothes (Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh)

Tue 2nd Aug – St Columba's, Culloden, Inverness (Diocese of Aberdeen)

All performances begin at 7.30pm. Followed by a post-show chat with the writer/performer. All tour dates will be listed at www.oggie-show.co.uk



Stephen Callaghan plays St Augustine

Modern twist on 'sinner to saint'

IT takes a touch of genius to summarize a complex theological text written 1600 years ago into an hour of spell-binding drama with a contemporary Scottish twist.

But that's exactly what has been done by AGAP, the Archdiocese of Glasgow Arts Project in the new drama *Oggie Oggie* which played to delighted audiences across the Glasgow area just before Easter.

The one man show, written and performed by AGAP Director Stephen Callaghan, brings the story of Augustine, a figure modern viewers would describe as something of a cross between a playboy and a hooligan, to life as the sinner transforms before the audience's eyes into a saint.

This is no sugary hagiography. The audience is exposed to the man who would become St Augustine of Hippo in all his human messiness. The actor interacts loudly with the audience (on occasion leaving the front row a little startled) as he summarises in powerful scenes performed with minimal set and props, the future saint's life of sex, drink and mindless living.

Augustine's famous line, 'Lord make me chaste. But not yet ...' comes to life as Augustine struggles with a gnawing feeling that there must be more to life than his daily fare of selfishness and self-centredness.

The figure of St Monica – Augustine's long suffering mother – never appears on stage but is always 'there' ... a presence at first annoying to her son who regards her as a madly pious old fool, but later a key figure in bringing him to faith and eventually baptism at the hands of Ambrose, Bishop of Milan.

This is a show which will appeal to believers and non believers alike. The first group will watch with admiration the sinner to saint story. The latter will not fail to be intrigued by the interior wrestling of the spirit which slowly and painfully changes Augustine's life.

"Lord you have made me for yourself and my heart will be restless until it rests in you ..."

This phrase of the great saint is well-known to many believers. It is brought to vibrant, challenging life in this drama. Not to be missed.

Youth leader plans a leap of faith – literally

MAIRI-CLAIRE McGeady, World Youth Day Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Glasgow, will be doing a sponsored bungee jump this month to raise funds for this project. Flourish caught up with her as final preparations for the event get underway.

Why has the Youth Office decided to take a group of young people to World Youth Day?

Firstly, it's a response to the invitation of Pope Francis. Young people from across the world are invited to gather and pray with him in Lisbon this summer and so 74 of us will be going from the Archdiocese of Glasgow. There are many great opportunities for young people in the church, but World Youth Day is one that we favour as it is a vibrant and formative experience, rooted in Christ, characterised by joy and, this year, just three hours away by plane.

What actually happens there?

The days will be packed with catechesis, exploration, prayer, Mass, festival fun in the squares across the City, evening events run by international movements and of course, encounters with the Pope, namely, the Opening Ceremony, Stations of the Cross, Papal Vigil and Commissioning Mass.

We are also making a pilgrimage to Fatima, will be having times of reflection and adventure as a group and will co-host a Scottish gathering in Lisbon.

What are your hopes for the trip?

My main hope is that each of our pilgrims experience the love of God more deeply in their hearts and that this impacts their lives. I also really hope that the friendships made on this pilgrimage will be the kind that encourage the young people on their journey together with the Lord for years to come. Lastly, whilst it's hard to narrow down one's hopes, I would love to see young people excited for the plans that God has in store for them and return inspired and ready to embark on whatever path He leads them.

What are you, personally, looking forward to?

Oh. That is a difficult one. I am looking forward to so many aspects of the pilgrimage. The big events will be fantastic. It'll also be great to meet young people from across the English-speaking world at our catechesis mornings. Visiting Fatima will be an amazing experience too. However, I think I am most looking forward to those in-between moments, where you have a great chat with someone whilst wandering the streets heading to or from one of these



events, or happen upon a town square with some exciting event unfolding that you didn't know was on. The whole city will be consumed by this Catholic festival and so, I think I am most excited for the little surprises as we go about our days.

What inspired you to do a sponsored bungee jump?

I thought it would be a great idea for someone to do a sponsored jump. I kept thinking about the adventurous nature of the leap from that platform and how it could be likened to jumping in, with

both feet, in the living of our faith. I hoped that one of our priests might do it first, and then when I had no takers, unsurprisingly, I thought my surf-loving colleague might be keen and then when the diaries did not align, I thought I better take one for the team and attempt to conquer my fear of heights all in one day! So, that's how we've ended up here. I kept thinking that it's ages away but the months have flown by and it's getting so close now that I can't ignore it any longer. It'll be good fun and petrifying all at once.

How can we support you?

I am jumping to raise funds for this project as we would like to offer some more subsidised places on this pilgrimage, and we still have some outstanding costs and kit that we need to buy. Therefore, I am hoping to raise £1000. If you want to support me, you can do so in three ways:

- Pray that I have the courage to actually take that step off the platform!
- Sponsor me by cheque or online: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wydbungee>

[com/crowdfunding/wydbungee](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/wydbungee)

- Come along and cheer me on at Riverside Museum around 10am on Sunday 21st May at The Riverside Museum.

Would you like to share anything else with our readers?

Finally, I would like to invite you, as I have done in previous editions, to join us as our intercessors. Prayer is the key to unlocking the hearts of our young. Please pray for our young pilgrims, for a greater openness to receive what the Lord has in store.

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Pope's appeal to stop the online hate

10 golden rules for social media posts

RECENTLY the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin, came up with a series of 10 'internet commandments'. Here they are:

- Be positive and joyful. Offer 'digital smiles' and have a sense of humour. Remember that it is the 'joy of the Gospel' that we are communicating, so, as Pope Francis says: no 'funeral faces' or 'sourpusses'!
- Strictly avoid aggression and 'preachiness' online; try not to be judgemental or polemical – goodness knows, there is enough of this online already! Instead, try Pope Francis' approach of 'tenderness and balm'.
- Never bear false witness on the internet.
- Remember 'Ubi caritas et amor'. Fill the internet with charity and love, always giving rather than taking. Continually seek to broaden and reframe discussions and seek to include a sense of charity and solidarity with the suffering in the world.
- Have a broad back when criticisms and insults are made – when possible, gently correct.
- Pray in the digital world! Establish sacred spaces, opportunities for stillness, reflection and meditation online.
- Establish connections, relationships



and build communion. Church has always been about 'gathering'...

- Educate our young to keep themselves safe and to use the internet responsibly.
- Witness to human dignity at all times online. Seek, as Pope Benedict once said, to 'give a soul to the internet'. We are well aware of the pervasive prevalence of pornography on the internet...
- Be missionary, be aware that with the help of the internet, a message has the potential to reach the ends of the earth in seconds...

POPE Francis has urged a rediscovery of gentleness and respect in a highly pertinent letter for Communications Sunday which will be celebrated later this month.

In a letter to mark the day, the Holy Father laments the toxic and vicious tones which can sometimes dominate social media.

His chosen theme is 'Speaking with the heart' – a method which, he acknowledges, can be rare online:

"Communicating in a cordial manner means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. Those who speak in this way love the other because they care and protect their freedom without violating it.

He adds: "We should not be afraid of proclaiming the truth, even if it is at times uncomfortable, but of doing so without charity, without heart."

The Pope warns against inciting violence or hatred in communication: "We are now living in a dark hour in which humanity fears an es-



calation of war that must be stopped as soon as possible, also at the level of communication.

"It is terrifying to hear how easily words calling for the destruction of people and territories are spoken. Words, unfortunately, that often turn into warlike actions of heinous violence. This is why all belligerent rhetoric must be rejected."

The Pope calls for civil dialogue also to be a hallmark of communication within the Church, especially during the current Synod process.

"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. Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God's style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness.

"We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters."

■ Communications Sunday this year will be marked on May 21.

Women to vote at synod

MORE than 50 years after St Paul VI established the Synod of Bishops Pope Francis has expanded voting rights in the synod's general assemblies to women.

That means lay men and women and young people will be among the voting members of the synod assembly in October.

It's the first time voting rights will be extended to those who are not bishops.

The event which is the culmination of several years of locally-led synod meetings to listen to concerns of ordinary Catholics across the globe will take place in Rome in October.

At least three dozen women will be voting members of the assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October, Pope Francis has decided.

Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, relator general of the synod, told reporters April 26 that about 21% of the synod's 370 members

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

would not be bishops and at least half of that group would be women.

Adding women and young people to the membership will make sure "the Church is well represented" in the prayer and discussions scheduled for October 4–29 at the Vatican, the cardinal said. "It will be a joy to have the whole church represented in Rome for the synod."

Enlarged

He suggested that at the centre of the next General Assembly is how to learn a new way of being Church, and not individual topics.

"As you can see, the space in the tent is being enlarged," Cardinal Mario Grech, synod secretary-general, told reporters, echoing the title that had been chosen for the working document for the just-completed continental phase of the synod.

"The document said that in local and national synod listening sessions there were consistent questions about how to promote greater inclusion in the Catholic Church while staying true to church teaching.

"The Synod of Bishops will remain a synod of bishops," Cardinal Grech said, but it will be "enriched" by representatives of the whole church.

The Pope's decision to expand the categories of synod members, a Vatican statement said, "is in continuity" with the Catholic Church's growing understanding of the synodal dimension of the Church and "the consequent understanding of the institutions through which it is exercised."

Since the Synod of Bishops was established for the universal church after the Second Vatican Council, the voting members of the synod have all been men.

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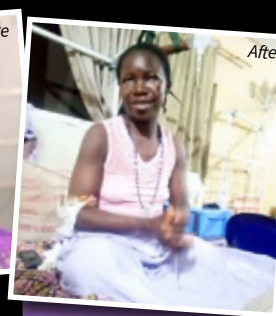
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Watch this film, says Archbishop

ARCHBISHOP Nolan has urged all Catholics to see and be inspired by the Pope's new film on the global environmental crisis after attending a special screening at the Ogilvie Centre at St Aloysius Church, Garnethill.

The film, *The Letter*, contains material which is 'a message for our earth' from Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter, *Laudato Si* which was published in 2015, and is the first ever Papal letter about the environment and is now considered an integral part of the Church's social teaching.

The film focuses on five people from different parts of the world whose lives are affected by climate change and their journey to Rome and their encounter with the Holy Father.

Archbishop Nolan, who as Bishop of Galloway received sustained applause for his inspirational pro-environment homily at the COP26 Mass in St Aloysius, said: "The message contained in this film is a message for us



BY BRIAN SWANSON

all because as the Holy Father himself says we face an urgent challenge to protect our common home. The warnings are there, and we all have a unique responsibility to take action."

The film, which was launched in October last

year, examines the fundamental causes of climate change and how it is causing millions to have to leave their homes and how the impact of human activity is increasing the occurrence of catastrophic weather events such as hurricanes, flooding, droughts, and wildfires.

You can watch the film at www.theletterfilm.org

Bart enters hall of fame

ONE of the most prominent figures in Catholic education has been inducted into the hall of fame at St Aloysius College, Glasgow where he once taught and with which he has strong family links.

Professor Bart McGettrick, Emeritus Professor of Education and Dean Emeritus, of the Faculty of Education at the University of Glasgow, was a geography teacher at the College from 1968-72, and was chair of the Board of Governors of the College for many years.

He was Principal of St Andrew's College, the then-national College for the education of teachers in Scotland



BY BRIAN SWANSON

and became the first Dean of the Faculty of Education at Glasgow University.

He is Chairman of the International Board of Regents of Bethlehem University and holds other positions

in international groups and committees in education and beyond.

In 2015 he was appointed to the Vatican Board to oversee the work of the Catholic Church in the Middle East in educational and cultural matters. He is a Member of The Grand Magisterium of The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem having served on the Grand Magisterium since 2003.

Among the honours he holds are the OBE for services to education in the UK.

His father was a pupil at the Jesuit-run college where Professor McGettrick's four children and three grandchildren were also taught.

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Westport

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Holy Land pilgrimage will cement Glasgow-Bethlehem links

THE annual pilgrimage from the Archdiocese to the Holy Land will run again this year ... and would-be pilgrims are invited to book early.

The much-loved journey from the Archdiocese in the footsteps of Christ, was started 20 years ago and has been led every year by former Lord Provost of Glasgow Alex Mosson accompanied by a priest or bishop.

This year's spiritual director will be Fr Joe Mills who will go with the pilgrims to the holy sites and lead them on their prayerful journey. Previous spiritual directors have included the late Archbishops Mario Conti, Philip Tartaglia and Monsignor Peter Smith.

The Holy Land Pilgrimage for 2023 will take place from 2-10 September with flights from Edinburgh to Tel Aviv via Istanbul in Turkey.

Hotel accommodation is included for each day on full



board basis with pilgrims having five nights in Glasgow's twin city of Bethlehem, a night in Jericho and two nights in Galilee.

Also included in the price of £1400 are a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, pilgrim backs and the services of an English language guide and all transport by air-conditioned coach in the Holy

Land.

Alex Mosson, whose links with Bethlehem have opened many doors for pilgrims over the years, says there is a great desire to return to the homeland of Jesus. This year thanks to the former Provost's efforts the Glasgow pilgrims will have an audience scheduled with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

and the Mayor of Bethlehem and be welcomed to a civic reception.

He told *Flourish*: "Over the years the Archdiocesan pilgrimage has become a special moment for the people of Bethlehem who have suffered so much. The ongoing conflict in the area has meant that pilgrim numbers have dropped over the years and the local community has suffered."

"Glasgow is Bethlehem's twin city and we are so proud of that link and it is one the people of Bethlehem also treasure."

"Those that come always return spiritually refreshed. It is one thing to read about Jesus on a boat in the Sea of Galilee, it's another thing entirely to experience it yourself. The same is true of visiting the many sites we take the pilgrims to that they have previously only heard about in the readings at Mass ...the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, the Holy Sepulchre, the Manger in Bethlehem."

"We will also visit the place of the Visitation, Nazareth where Jesus grew up and Cana where the marriage feast took place. Besides the religious side the pilgrims will have a few breaks for relaxation including the chance to visit (and float!) in the Dead Sea, and take a cable car lift to the top of Mount of Temptation."

■ For more information email info@special-pilgrimages.co.uk or contact Alex Mosson on 0141 954 3360.

Au revoir to Lourdes youth leader Michael

AFTER 30 years in a role that he described as the 'privilege of my life' Michael Canning is stepping down as president of the St Margaret of Scotland Youth Group.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

who took early retirement as head teacher of St Benedict's

in Renfrewshire, found himself, as many others had before him, unable to say no to Cardinal Winning when His Eminence asked him to take charge of the group – and he and his wife Mhairi, and a strong team of supporters have been organising the annual SMSYG pilgrimages ever since.

Michael said: "Many of the pilgrims often remark about the wonderful work the group does for them, but often they don't realise how much we in turn gain from them through their kindness, humility, and friendship."

"I've made friendships for life and the bonds created for that one week of the year last well beyond that."

"I have also gained so much in the development of my faith, both in a spiritual sense while visiting the grotto and the baths, but also about what it means to show faith in action."

"There is something uniquely special about Lourdes itself and about the St Margaret of Scotland Youth Group, and it is a joy that I was able to share in that."

In that time, he and his dedicated team of volunteers have led hundreds of young people on the annual Archdiocese of Glasgow pilgrimages to Lourdes where they help to look after less able pilgrims while at the same time strengthening and deepening their own faith.

But this year's Archdiocesan pilgrimage, which takes place from July 14th to 21st, will be his last as president of the SMSYG, with a successor due to be appointed in due course.

Former head teacher Michael, 64, a parishioner of St Bridget's Bailieston, went on his first Archdiocesan pilgrimage with a group of his pupils in the spring of 1988.

He had recently been diagnosed with MS and was determined that he should pray at the world-famous shrine in France.

Recalling his first experience at Lourdes he said: "As soon as I got there I knew I had come home... No ifs, no buts, that was it."

Then in 1992, Michael,

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
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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.



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

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Pope names John to Vatican role

A FORMER Glasgow Headteacher has been appointed to a senior role in the Vatican by Pope Francis.

John Docherty, the former head of St Andrew's High School, Clydebank and St Ninian's High in Giffnock has been named as an advisor to the Holy See's agency for evangelisation.

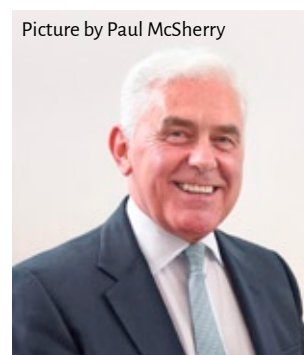
Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh has also been nominated to the same department for a five year period.

The Dicastery for Evangelisation is a new department of the Roman Curia and is responsible for evangelisation in the world and according to its Constitution, "is presided over directly by the Roman Pontiff."

Responding to his appointment, Mr Docherty said: "I am both honoured and deeply humbled to be invited to serve the Church through the Dicastery of Evangelisation."

"I hope that my experience of working within Catholic Education will be of value in assisting Pope Francis' mission to put evangelisation at the centre of our lives. I look forward with great enthusiasm to the challenges that lie ahead."

Picture by Paul McSherry



BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

Having graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1978 and completing teacher training the following year, Mr Docherty's career began as a Geography teacher at St Margaret's High School in Airdrie.

After six years, a promotion to Principal Teacher of Geography at St Columba of Iona, in Glasgow, was Mr Docherty's next move. Another Principal Teacher role at Taylor High School, in Carfin, was next, before becoming Assistant Head at St Ninian's in 1990.

In 1996, Mr Docherty moved to St Andrew's Secondary, in Carntyne, as Deputy Head before taking on his first headship at St Andrew's High, in Clyde-

bank, four years later.

Five years later Mr Docherty returned to St Ninian's High, this time as Head Teacher, and during his time at the school has guided it through two successful inspections by Education Scotland.

He was awarded an OBE in 2020 and also holds the the Archdiocesan medal.

On that occasion John told *Flourish* of his experience of Catholic education. "I always remind myself never to forget that the witness of staff through the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness, of love and service are the foundations on which we build a school which puts a living faith modelled on the person of Jesus Christ at the centre of all we do."

"The best teachers understood how isolating it can be in today's society for young people to live by the principles of personal, intellectual and moral integrity and independence. I thank them for their dedication and the enthusiasm and witness to the young people they teach and form. The influence of good teachers stays with them. They are the people who really shape the life of each student".

COVID has not gone away!

Even though it seems very mild at the moment, people are still being admitted to hospital in Scotland with severe Covid symptoms. Doctors and scientists agree that Covid will be with us for a long time – perhaps forever, and that a new variant may be much more severe and deadly than the one we are currently experiencing.

There is a worldwide need for better vaccines and more effective treatment for people at high risk who may develop severe or even fatal symptoms as a result of contracting Covid. We need people like you to take part in vital research into developing new treatments and improved vaccines for those who need it most.

If you can say YES to ANY of the following:

- Are over 50 years of age
- Are even slightly overweight
- Have diabetes
- Have heart disease
- Have COPD
- Have high blood pressure
- Take medication for high blood pressure

Then you could benefit from taking part in vital research while helping to develop new treatments and improved vaccines for those that need it most.

CPS Research is a well-established Glasgow-based research company working to develop treatments and vaccines for Covid and we would appreciate your help. Please visit covidstudies.cpsresearch.scot, scan the QR code or call us on 0141 946 7888 to speak to one of our highly experienced research nurses for more information.

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RECENTLY a media thunderstorm erupted in Rome when the brother of the “Vatican girl,” referring to the 1983 disappearance of a 15-year-old girl that’s become the most notorious unsolved mystery in recent Vatican history, went on Italian television to play a recording of an ex-mobster alleging that Pope John Paul II was complicit in a Vatican pedophile ring that included his sister.

The brother, Pietro Orlandi, added: “They tell me that Wojtyla [the given name of John Paul II] used to go out at night with two Polish monsignors, and it certainly wasn’t to bless houses.”

That bombshell triggered a ferocious Vatican counter-offensive, including Pope Francis himself calling the suggestion about his predecessor “offensive and unfounded.”

Orlandi has since tried to walk back his words, insisting that he wasn’t accusing John Paul II of anything but rather simply passing along an audio recording to Vatican investigators.

Setting aside the Orlandi case and the claims about pedophilia, if the question is simply whether John Paul II ever went out from the Vatican in secret fashion in the company of fellow Polish clergy, the answer is a resounding “yes.”

Alarms

To be clear, John Paul’s penchant for slipping the surly bonds of the Vatican was known even at the time. In 1983, a reporter named Andrea Purgatori for *Corriere della Sera*, the most respected newspaper in Italy, published a story with the following title: “Employees of the Holy See: Wojtyla leaves by himself, without telling anybody.”

The gist of the piece was that alarms had gone off in the Vatican one night because someone had gone to the pope’s quarters, only to discover that John Paul II was missing. According to the report, such unexplained absences weren’t terribly unusual, because the Polish pope was accustomed to going out by himself.

Truth to be told, we don’t need to rely on unsourced reporting to know that John Paul II was in the habit of occasionally slipping out without a fuss.

That tendency was confirmed by no



The truth about John Paul II’s ‘escapes’ from the Vatican

less an authority than Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the now-retired Archbishop of Krakow and the longtime priest secretary to John Paul II, in his 2008 memoir *My Life with Karol*.

In the book, Dziwisz reveals that in the early years of John Paul’s papacy, he took more than 100 excursions outside the Vatican, mostly to natural settings in the Abruzzo region north of Rome. As Dziwisz put it: “In the beginning, no one in the Vatican or in the press knew anything about them.”

Here’s how Dziwisz described out such outing to Ovindoli, about an hour and a half east of Rome by car in January 1981.

The first time was almost like making an escape. For a long time, we’d wanted to give the Holy Father the chance not only to ski but also to immerse himself again in the normal life of the people. Finally, we decided to give it a shot.

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

I don’t remember who originally came up with the idea, but it was probably a collective initiative that emerged from conversation at table ... The place we picked, Ovindoli, was suggested by Father Tadeusz Rakoczy (today bishop of Bielsko-Zywiec in Poland), who knew the territory because he used to go skiing in the area. But, just to be safe, he and Father Jozef Kowalczyk (later the apostolic nuncio in Poland) went to scope the place out to make sure there would be no surprises...

We left around 9am. in Father Jozef’s car, so as not to attract the attention of the Swiss Guards stationed at the exit of the residence at Castel Gandolfo. Father Jozef was the driver and Father Tadeusz sat in the passenger’s seat, pretending to

read the newspaper, which he held completely open to shield from view the Holy Father, who was sitting in the back next to me.

Parka

Dziwisz went on to recount how on subsequent expeditions, John Paul II would stand in line at ski lifts with everyone else, wearing a parka and goggles, with a couple of monsignors on either side of him to keep prying eyes at bay.

Eventually, Dziwisz said, a ten-year-old boy spotted John Paul II and a began to yell “It’s the pope!”, after which they reluctantly accepted the need for a police escort.

What’s the moral of the story?

Yes, Pietro Orlandi, John Paul II sometimes did leave the Vatican in the company of a couple of Polish monsignors, and it wasn’t to bless houses. It also, however, wasn’t to connive in running a pedophile ring ... it was to enjoy nature and hit the slopes, in a way that otherwise would be difficult for a pope to pull off.

Sensational

As the Orlandi investigation proceeds, no doubt there will be other moments in which sensational suggestions are made by somebody. They’ll receive a wide media echo, because the Orlandi case is to Italy what the Kennedy assassination is to the United States, i.e., a mystery with a seemingly infinite capacity to generate conspiracy theories and speculation.

It probably would be wise, therefore, to keep this episode in mind as a caution against going off the deep end before all the facts are at hand.

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Taking the Catholic Pulse

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CRUXNOW.COM

A time to pray, to listen, to plan ahead, to take courage and evangelise

Looking to the future



EAST/NORTH

Canon Anthony Gallagher



WEST

Fr Allan Cameron



SOUTH

Fr Martin Kane



DUNBARTONSHIRE WEST

Fr Aidan Martin



DUNBARTONSHIRE EAST

Fr John Campbell

THE next six weeks could prove a moment of grace which will herald a new beginning for the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

That's the hope of Archbishop Nolan as lay people, religious and clergy meet together to work out the best way forward for their local area.

Among the ideas they will consider are:

- How to reach out to the wider community
- How local parishes can collaborate better in terms of resources and liturgy
- How viable each parish is in terms of committed parishioners, buildings, finance etc

By June 18 each of the five Deanery Councils will be expected to provide a written response with ideas for the future.

Archbishop Nolan urged people to 'think beyond their own parish



limits'.

He said: "Responses need to emerge after calm, prayerful reflection. We would ask that people

come to this process with an open mind. There is no master plan. No 'hit list' of parishes to be closed. But at the same time we need to have the courage to change.

"We are hoping there will be an honest reflection at a local level on issues such as how viable individual parishes are.

"Each parish should ask itself the important questions: is there a strong core of people active in the parish? Do they have enough resources, both human and financial for the future? Are they in the right place for ready access? Is there a duplication of resources at local level? Is the parish reaching out to the wider community in evangelising activity? How viable is the parish looking forward?"

The answers to these questions will guide our decisions as we move forward towards a Church capable of responding to the challenges of the future."

BY RONNIE CONVERY ter's in Partick. The Dean for this area is Fr Allan Cameron, Parish priest of St Gregory's, Wyndford. He was ordained in 1987 and in his 36 years of ministry has served in a variety of parishes across the Archdiocese working also in pastoral planning and school chaplaincy.

The **SOUTH DEANERY** is the second largest with 21 parishes covering the south side of the city from the border with Paisley Diocese to the border with Motherwell Diocese. It contains a few long established parishes, such as Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald and Holy Cross, Crosshill, but most parishes are of more recent origin. It includes the formerly bustling housing schemes of Castlemilk and Pollok.

The Dean for the South Deanery is Fr Martin Kane, Parish Priest of St James' and St Conval's. Fr Martin is the most recently ordained of the new Deans. He has served as a priest in the Archdiocese since 2010 and brings to the role previous experience of working in public administration as well as his 'hands-on' life as a busy Parish Priest and school chaplain.

The **DUNBARTONSHIRE WEST DEANERY** covers the area around Dumbarton and Clydebank and has a higher number of small vil-

lage parishes than the other deanery, reflecting the geography of the Vale of Leven. The old parishes of St Patrick's Dumbarton and Our Holy Redeemer Clydebank are joined by small rural communities such as St Peter and Paul, Arrochar and St Gildas', Rosneath.

The Dean for this cluster of parishes is Fr Aidan Martin, Parish Priest of St Stephen's, Dalmuir, another former student of the Scots College in Rome. He is the most experienced of the new Deans having been ordained back in 1982. He brings to the new role more than four decades of pastoral experience and a deep knowledge of the local territory.

DUNBARTONSHIRE EAST is the smallest of the new parish clusters with just 12 parishes and one Carmelite Convent. This Deanery covers big towns such as Kirkintilloch, with a mix of old well-established parishes such as Holy Cross in Croy and communities dating from the 1960s such as the parishes in the 'new town' area of Cumbernauld.

The Dean in this zone will be Fr John Campbell, Parish Priest in Cumbernauld for many years, and who recently coordinated the Archdiocesan Synod consultation. Ordained in 1987 Fr John has wide experience of parish ministry across the Archdiocese and a commitment to dialogue and lay involvement.



New councils will report back in June

IT'S time to face facts. Time to work together. Time to plan for a new and better future ...

With an appeal to 'put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch' Archbishop Nolan has launched the 'Looking to the Future' initiative, designed to equip the Church in Glasgow to be a vibrant community of outreach and support in coming years.

Challenges

Representatives of parishes gathered in the Cathedral last month to hear the challenges and learn of what is expected of them in terms of planning for the future.

Five 'Deanery Councils' have been set up to find local solutions to local challenges. These councils will be made up of a priest and lay person from each parish, and over the next six weeks will be asked to make an initial recommendation on three areas.

- How can each deanery best evangelise in its local area?
- How can parishes in a local area

collaborate better?

- What would be the best use of resources of buildings and priests in each local area?

The lifespan of the Deanery Councils is however more than six weeks. They are a permanent body and the driving force for change over the next few years. It is hoped that they will produce ideas for evangelisation in the months and years to come.

Archbishop Nolan said: "We have to ask ourselves, 'what is Jesus asking of us here and now?' and the answer is found in his last words spoken on this earth - 'go out to the world and spread the good news'.

"Pope Francis outlines three focuses for evangelisation... the care of those already committed, engagement with those who are lapsed, and outreach to those who do not believe.

"In my time as a priest we have been good at the first two areas. We care well for the community of faith, we try to bring back those who have drifted away... but

we don't focus much on the third area - reaching out to those who have not been touched by faith.

"We need to focus more on this. We need to be a Church which reaches out to those who do not yet believe.

Resources

"To do that we have to consider our resources. We have plenty of buildings, but we are not here to maintain buildings! We have to ask ourselves if so many buildings with all the attendant costs and time required to maintain them are holding us back. Could our resources be better spent on evangelisation?"

"We have to face these challenges together. We have to plan for a situation with fewer priests so that means lay people sharing the workload and responsibility for planning and for change.

"We can respond to the challenges we face by working together. The sea ahead may seem stormy sometimes, but Jesus is there, always with us."

Find your parish and your deanery

EAST/NORTH DEANERY

St Andrew's Cathedral	St Maria Goretti's	Strathclyde University
St Joseph's, Tollcross	Sacred Heart, Bridgeton	St Philomena's
St Joachim's	St Mary's	St Roch's
St Michael's, Parkhead	St Alphonsus' Our Lady of Good Counsel	St Thomas'
St Paul's, Shettleston	St Anne's	Immaculate Heart of Mary
St Barnabas & St Mark	St Agnes'	St Catherine's
St Bernadette's	St Teresa's	St Aloysius
St Jude's & St John Ogilvie's	St Augustine's	Springburn
St Mungo's		

WEST DEANERY

St Columba's	Corpus Christi	Immaculate Conception
St Gregory's	St Laurence's	St Patrick's, Anderston
St Charles'	St Benedict's	St Aloysius, Garnethill
St Peter's	St Brendan's	
Turnbull Hall	OL Perpetual Succour	
St Ninian's	St Paul's, Whiteinch	

SOUTH DEANERY

St Helen's	St Constantine's	St Mary Immaculate
Holy Cross, Crosshill	St Anthony's	Holy Name
St Albert's	St Robert's	Christ the King
Blessed John Duns Scotus	St Bernard's	St Bartholomew's
OL of Lourdes	St Conval's	St Margaret Mary's
St Leo's	St James'	St Brigid's
OL & St George's	St Vincent's	
	St Gabriel's	

DUNBARTONSHIRE WEST DEANERY

St Stephen's	St Patrick's, Dumbarton	Our Lady & St Mark's
St Patrick's, OK		St Kessog's
St Mary's, Duntocher	St Michael's	St Joseph's, Helensburgh
St Joseph's, Fairfley	St Peter's	St Peter & Paul, Arrochar
St Margaret's	St Mahew's, Cardross	
St Eunan's		St Gildas', Rosneath
Our Holy Redeemer's	St Martin's, Renton	

DUNBARTONSHIRE EAST DEANERY

St Matthew's	St John of the Cross, Twechar	St Joseph's
St Dominic's	Carmelite Convent	St Lucy's
Holy Family & St Ninian's	Holy Cross, Croy	St Andrew's, Bearsden
	OL & St Helen's	St Joseph's, Milngavie
St Flannan's	Sacred Heart, Cumbernauld	



Marian Pallister

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

Pope John's wisdom

KNOW that Papal Encyclicals are more widely read by people of other denominations and other faiths – even Pope Francis's *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti* aren't top of the reading list of too many Catholics – but for a peace organisation such as Pax Christi Scotland, there's one that we really need to take on board.

The clue is in the name. I'm talking, of course, about Pope John XXIII's *Pacem in Terris* – 'Peace in the World'. This letter had its 60th birthday in April, and rather than being retired and put on a pension, I reckon it's time for it to be brought out, dusted off, and perhaps even given the kind of movie treatment that Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* has had, screened around Scotland in parishes and online.

Because just like *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, this letter has so much to say to us today.

If only we – and world leaders – had taken to heart what that letter published on April 11 1963 laid out in such simple terms in order that humankind could achieve peace in the world – and peace of mind for the individual.

Simple? Well, this would be hard to misunderstand: 'The world will never be the dwelling place of peace, till peace has found a home in the heart of each and every man (165)'. Peace starts at home.

What I call 'the peace letter' starts out with a list of human rights that the United Nations Convention on Human Rights has still to better.

Rights to our basic needs, to dignity, dignity in work, the right to freedom of movement and to emigrate to other countries with guaranteed membership 'in the human family' and part of 'the common, world-wide fellowship of men'.

Pope John XXIII echoes another letter – that of James when he asks 'If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace,



be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?' (James 2:15-17). *Pacem in Terris* says: 'it is useless to admit that a man has a right to the necessities of life, unless we also do all in our power to supply him with means sufficient for his livelihood'.

No one can have peace of mind if the basics of life – and respect – are missing.

And no refugee can have peace of mind, if fleeing from conflict or torture she or he is not only denied access to a place of safety but threatened with imprisonment and deportation. Pax Christi Scotland would certainly like to place paragraph 105 about refugees' rights in front of the Home Secretary and Prime Minister.

And there's so much common sense in the section about nuclear weapons. It's easy to see where our own Scottish Bishops' Conference was coming from when almost 20 years later its own declaration condemned the possession and use of nuclear weapons, and today Archbishop Nolan points to the obscene cost of such weapons when people are impoverished.

Pope John XXIII said simply, after laying out the arguments about deterrence, 'Nuclear weapons must be banned.' (112)

Advocating negotiation, he prayed that God would transform us into 'witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love'.

It's worth the read – I promise.

Reilly remembered at Uni lecture

FORMER Flourish columnist and renowned scholar Pat Reilly is to be remembered at a lecture in Glasgow University which will honour the much-loved academic.

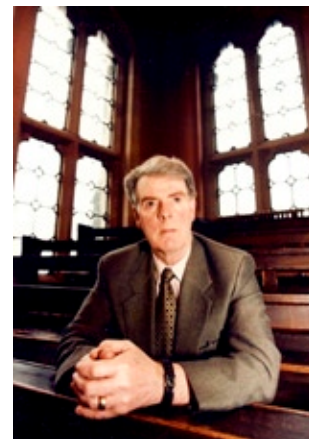
The inaugural Professor Patrick Reilly lecture will be delivered by Professor Gerard Carruthers at 7pm on May 25 at Turnbull Hall, the Catholic Chaplaincy of Glasgow University, where Pat often attended Mass during his years as a lecturer.

Professor Reilly, who died in 2018, was born in Anderson, the second youngest of 10 children. His father died when he was 11 but he had a happy childhood. He attended St Mungo's Academy (leaving at 15) but remained proud of his origins in Anderson – and his first job as a lamplighter!

Pat was the first member of his family to go to university to Glasgow University when he matriculated aged 25 and graduated in 1960 with a first in English literature.

He was awarded a scholarship to study further at Pembroke College, Oxford where he wrote his masters on Jonathan Swift. After his national service he joined the English literature department of Glasgow University which he was to head and ultimately held the post of Emeritus professor of English.

For many years his *Flourish* column was widely ad-



mired as a trenchant, often controversial, but elegantly written critique of the issue of the day. His mastery of the English language was second to none and his logical arguments proved hard to counter.

Flourish editor, Ronnie Convery, said: "Pat was a lovely man to work with. His eloquence was extraordinary, but perhaps more extraordinary was his humanity. He always had time for a chat about family and friends, and could get quite passionate about events at Celtic Park!"

"I first came across him when I was an undergraduate and I would see him slip in to weekday Mass at Turnbull Hall. Only later did I get to know him properly and benefit from his wisdom and friendship."

You can book a ticket for the lecture by typing in 'Eventbrite' and 'Patrick Reilly' to any browser.

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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

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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.

"To see the face of Christ in those we serve"

Don't look away: your act of charity will change lives

THERE are so many charities out there doing incredible work to help those who need it.

And we all have different causes that strike a chord with us. Maybe what a charity does means more to you due to your own personal experiences, or perhaps you just feel very strongly about those they are helping.

Here are three things to bear in mind about giving to charity:

- You make a difference: Charities can carry out their crucial work thanks to the generosity of people like you. And when you donate to a cause you care about, you'll know that your decision to donate is making a tangible impact on the lives of those the charity helps.

- Every donation makes an impact: No matter how much you can afford to give, as a one-off donation, through regular giving, or



by fundraising for charity, your donation matters. Even if you don't have a lot to spare, maybe you could just skip one morning coffee a month and donate that regularly instead. Whatever you give, charities are always grateful.

- Giving benefits society's neediest and most vulnerable: Often the people in so-

ciety who are in need are the most overlooked. Society and governments aren't set up to protect everyone who needs it. That's why charities are here to fill the gaps and provide dedicated resources to help the most vulnerable.

So don't delay. Check out the causes closest to your heart and donate something – anything – today!



St Nicholas Care Fund

A charity of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

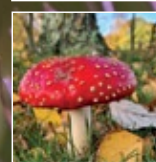
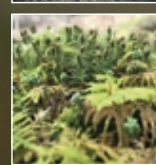
The St. Nicholas Care Fund was set up by Cardinal Winning in 1992. The Cardinal's intuition remains the charity's method of working – providing small grants to charities, churches, schools, and community groups offering support to people in need. The Fund supports people of all faiths and none... People without access to the basics – safety, warmth and clothing – following the effects of the Covid pandemic and the current cost of living crisis; asylum seekers and migrants fleeing war and persecution; people affected by disability, homelessness, or drug addiction... all have received grant support from the St Nicholas Care Fund in recent times.

www.rcag.org.uk/index.php/the-archdiocese/st-nicholas-care-fund

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S I S A O

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Devotion to Our Lady should be as natural as breathing

As we mark the month traditionally devoted to Our Lady *Flourish* recalls some encouraging thoughts of the late Archbishop Conti on devotion to Mary

I DO not need to give you reasons for devotion to Our Lady, for our love and filial devotion; it is as natural to us as the love we have for our own mothers, and was she not given to us at the foot of the cross as our Mother also?

I think it must be also without need for explanation that the way we express our love is by putting a crown on her head, be it of flowers in May, or of gold and silver. – particularly in the West, for if we were Orthodox Christians, with less of a tradition of crowns, we would be placing stars about her head or above her brow. There is something almost instinctive about our action.

While still a boy in primary school I was given a statue of Our Lady I asked for. I added a band of diamanti about her head and placed them like stars on her halo. I took it to Blairs with me and a kindly member of staff fixed a conch on the wooden wall of my cubicle to support it. That statue is still with me.

We had in Blairs College a beautiful copy of the only known surviving statue of Our Lady from the pre-Reformation Church in Scotland. There is a copy of the statue in a beautiful shrine in St Peter's Church in Aberdeen, one of the earliest post-Reformation Catholic chapels, in a country that once was full of shrines and altars to Our Lady.

The original was safely conveyed from Aberdeen to the Low countries and is still to be seen and honoured in the Church of Notre Dame du Finisterre in Brussels. There it is entitled Notre Dame du Bon Success,

and is magnificently crowned, as is the child she carries on her right arm.

In recent years further copies have been made and are being carried in procession by members of the New Dawn devotional movement which prays for the conversion of our country; "renew the faith in Scotland, Our Lady of Aberdeen" is the refrain to a well loved Hymn which speaks of a "brighter dawn breaking" which is true in respect of the devotion to Our Lady gradually re-emerging among some of our separated brethren.

As any traveller will know the Continent of Europe is full of shrines to Our Lady, from grand basilicas to household niches. There are important pilgrimages centres in places where the Mother of Our Lord has appeared to the lowly, to children, to the marginalised, with messages of comfort and of warning, none more outstanding than Lourdes and Fatima.

On his return from foreign journeys our present Holy Father has made it his habit to go the shrine of Our Lady, Salus Populi Romani, in the first church in the West dedicated to her honour, and there to pray and leave a bouquet of flowers.

While we speak of Our Lady, and claim her for ourselves throughout the world, the Italians are even more possessive, for in that language Our Lady is the Madonna, literally "My Lady", but of course the title is simply honorific, and she belongs to us all, Our Heavenly Mother.



When the Holy Father says 'Pray for me' he really means it

ONE of the Holy Father's customs, even before becoming Pope, has always been to ask people to pray for him.

Even many years before becoming Bishop of Rome, he would not end a conversation or letter without that phrase the whole world has come to know over the past decade: "Please do not forget to pray for me."

For the Argentine Jesuit who is now the Successor of Peter, those words were never a matter of circumstance; and even if repeated thousands of times, they never became a mere worn-out habit.

Shortly after the election of Pope Francis, Argentine journalist Jorge Rouillón wrote an article recounting what had happened to him a few years earlier when Bergoglio was Archbishop of Buenos Aires.

BY ANDREA
TORNIELLI

I was waiting for the result of a medical examination of my prostate and there was a doubt that there might be something malignant," said Mr. Rouillón.

"The result turned out well for me, and I completely forgot the matter. Two or three months later I saw the Archbishop of Buenos Aires again. As soon as he saw me, he asked me 'Should I continue praying?' I had to think about it before I understood what he was referring to. He had continued to keep in mind in his personal prayer what for me had now taken a back seat."

Pope Francis, in a homily at Mass in Santa Marta, spoke of the "courage

of prayer."

"How do we pray? Is this how we pray, out of habit, piously but quietly? Or do we put ourselves courageously before the Lord to ask for grace, to ask for what we pray for? Courage in prayer: a prayer that is not courageous is not a true prayer," he said.

Courage

"The courage to trust that the Lord hears us, the courage to knock at the door... The Lord says: 'For whoever asks receives and whoever seeks finds, and to him who knocks will be opened'. But one must ask, seek and knock."

How many prayer requests, how many pleas have reached the Successor of Peter from all over the world in recent years, and have been taken up by him in his personal prayer, as was

the case with that of his Argentine journalist friend?

There is, however, another stream, invisible and powerful, represented by the prayers of millions of faithful around the world.

Women, men, children, the elderly, families. Simple people, who, hearing the Pope ask for prayers at the end of every Angelus, every audience, every speech, and every meeting, have taken his request seriously and continue to pray daily for him and his intentions.

The most beautiful gift for the Bishop of Rome – who loves 'being a priest' so much and who does not spare himself, as we also saw during his recent hospitalization at the Gemelli Policlinic – is to be supported by these great prayers of the little ones.

Taizé inspirations

I WAS listening to music from Taizé recently and it brought back happy memories of my experiencing the Spirituality of the Taizé Community and its message of being – as the Prior Brother Alois says – a ‘Pilgrimage of Trust on earth which brings together young people from many countries, as we understand more and more deeply this reality: all humanity forms a single family and God lives within every human being without exception’.

The Taizé community does this through welcoming thousands of young people each summer to spend a week at the little town of Taizé in France. They meet others from different countries, churches, or those who are experiencing a loss of faith and are searching, who come together to engage with the brothers, one another and to reflect on their self and their relationship with God.

This is done in their sharing in groups, helping out with communal tasks, being with one another and gathering together three times a day in the Church of Reconciliation for prayer, singing and silence.

The Taizé Community was founded in 1940 when Roger Schutz arrived in the village of Taizé.

When younger he had been affected by ill health and as time passed he experienced the call to form a community where simplicity and kindness would be lived out as essential gospel realities. Gradually other young men joined him and offered support to prisoners of war



BY DEACON MICHAEL O'DONNELL and on Easter Sunday 1949 the group of brothers committed themselves for life.

In 1962 the Church of the Reconciliation was built and has been extended on a number of occasions due to the number of young people coming to Taizé.

In time Br Roger wanted to reach out to young people in various continents. Gatherings began to take place in different countries throughout the world as he wanted people to be undertaking a ‘Pilgrimage of Trust’.

My first experience of Taizé was in 1988 when I participated in the meeting in Paris from the 28th of December until the 1st of January to end the year and welcome the new year in prayer.

Br Roger always hoped that ‘young people would agree to continue searching, that they don't give up during periods of doubt, but continue to seek the meaning of their own life, the meaning that God places in every person, that Jesus unites Himself with each of us and He gives us deep peace in our lives. Everyone receives something which cannot be created by themselves, a communion, a mysterious presence’.

In 1990 Caroline, now my

wife, and I spent a week in Taizé. While there we met Brother Roger and I said it would be lovely if he were to come to Scotland. Afterwards we never thought any more about it as we just assumed he must get many invites to visit many countries.

The next day Brother Stephen asked me to come in to the community house to meet with him and Brother Matthew. There he told me that Br Roger would come to Scotland!

It had turned out that Glasgow University had awarded Brother Roger an honorary doctorate and wanted to confer it. He was going to take the opportunity to receive it as a young person, I was only 22!, had invited him to come to Scotland.

There was soon a core group of people from different churches co-ordinating the visit with Brother Stephen and Brother Rob who had come over from Taizé. Being young I was chosen to liaise with the press in print, radio, and briefly on television.

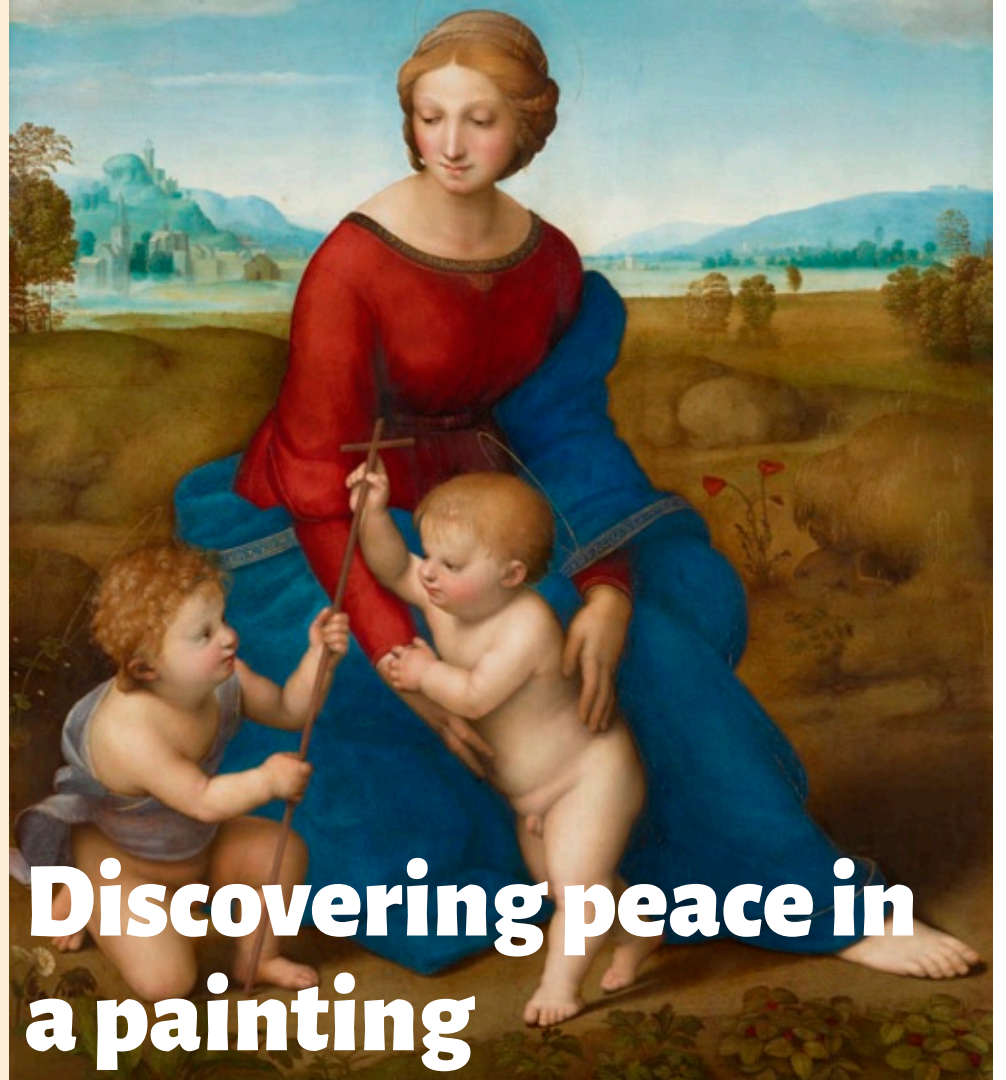
The biggest gathering was in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh on June 18 1991 where a large number of young people and adults listened to and prayed with Br Roger. The next day a smaller gathering took place at Glasgow University.

In 1995 I visited the Taizé Community in Hell's Kitchen in New York where the brothers had a presence among the people. The area has since been redeveloped and the brothers withdrew. The community now has a presence in Kenya, Senegal, Bangladesh, Korea, Brazil, and in a suburb of Paris among asylum seekers.

Sadly, on August 16 2005 Brother Roger was stabbed to death at Evening Prayer. This ended his earthly journey but the Taizé Community continues its presence and outreach to young people. At COP26 two brothers came to Scotland and met with young people from different Churches and there are small Taizé groups in Glasgow where people meet together for prayer.

It is clear that the message ‘A Pilgrimage of Trust’ will continue to spread throughout the world.

ART OF THE MONTH



Discovering peace in a painting

THREE years ago marked the 500th anniversary of the death of Raffaello Santi, known to us simply as Raphael, the ‘prince of painters’.

Raphael was a much-loved figure who, having confessed his sins, died at the early age of 37 on Good Friday, which was the same date that he was born!

Giorgio Vasari wrote that “he combined all the rarest qualities of the mind. Bountiful and benign Heaven, showered on him the infinite riches of its treasures.”

As a young man he painted The Madonna of the Meadow (Madonna del Prato) in which the figures of the Blessed Virgin, Saint John

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

the Baptist and the Child Jesus form a triangle, thus drawing the viewer's eye towards the centre of the painting. There is about the work a certain nobility, dignity and calmness as Our Lady sits with the children at play, with her at the apex of the triangle.

Jesus alone appears with a halo, marking his divinity whilst living in his humanity.

In the background we see a peaceful meadow with rolling hills and a small stream. In the distance, there is a town with a church and a castle.

The piece creates a sense

of serenity and tranquillity, which forces our attention on the figures in the foreground. The light falls on Mary's face, creating a soft glow, perhaps she is wondering about the staff the Baptist hands to his cousin?

Does she see it as a symbol of leadership and authority? Does Jesus, even at such a young age, accept his divine mission and his role as a leader and teacher? Is it an image of the Good Shepherd who will guide and protect his flock?

Or, perhaps, remembering the words of Simeon she sees it as a reference Jesus' eventual sacrifice on the cross... His ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

God our Father, the gentle figures of Mary, Jesus, and John the Baptist fill us with a sense of awe and wonder.

Help us to find harmony and balance in our lives.

May we learn from Jesus' example and accept the staff of leadership and authority that you offer us.

May we strive to be good shepherds to those around us, guiding and protecting them in your name.

As we contemplate the staff being handed to Jesus, may we also remember his sacrifice on the cross.

May we find strength in his example and be willing to make sacrifices of our own for the sake of others.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



It's no accident that women were the first to grasp the resurrection

AFTER Jesus rose from the dead, his first appearances were to women.

Why? One obvious reason might be that it was women who followed him to his death on Good Friday, while the men largely abandoned him.

As well, it was women, not men, who set off for his tomb on Easter morning, hoping to anoint his dead body with spices – so it was women who were in the garden when he first appeared. B

ut there is, I believe, a deeper and more symbolic reason. Women are the midwives. It is generally women who attend to new birth and women who are more paramount in initially nurturing new life in its infancy.

In any birth a midwife can be helpful. When a baby is born, normally the head pushes its way through the birth canal first, opening the way for the body to follow. A good midwife can be very helpful at this time, helping to ease that passage through the birth canal, helping ensure that the baby begins to breathe, and helping the mother to immediately begin to nurture that new life.

A midwife can sometimes mean the difference between life and death, and she always makes the birth easier and healthier.

Jesus' resurrection birth-

ed new life into our world, and in its infancy that life had to be specially midwifed, both in its emergence and in the initial breaths it took in this world.

The resurrection birthed many things, and these had to be midwifed; initially by the women to whom Jesus first appeared, then by the apostles who left us their

eyewitness accounts of the risen Jesus, then by the early church, then by its martyrs, then by the lived faith of countless women and men through the centuries, and sometimes too by theologians and spiritual writers. We still need to midwife what was born in the resurrection.

And many things were

Harold Copping,
Women at the Sepulchre, 1927



born in that event – an event as radical as the original creation in what it gave birth to. The resurrection of Jesus was the “first day” a second time, the second time light separated from darkness. Indeed, the world measures time by the resurrection.

We are in the year 2023 since it happened. (Christianity was born with that event. New time began then. But scholars calculated that Jesus was thirty-three years old when he died and so they added thirty-three years so as to begin new time with the date of his birth.)

Prominent within what the resurrection gives birth to and what needs still to be midwifed, is hope. The

Scribblings of the spirit

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



resurrection gives birth to hope.

The women in the Gospels who first met the resurrected Jesus were the first to be given a true reason for hope and were the first to act as midwives of that new birth. So too must we. We need to become midwives of hope. But what is hope and how is it given birth in the resurrection?

Genuine hope is never to be confused with either wishful thinking or temperamental optimism. Unlike hope, wishful thinking isn't based on anything. It's pure wishing.

Optimism, for its part, takes its root either in a natural temperament (“I always see the bright side of things”) or on how good or bad the evening news looks on a given day. And we know how that can change from day to day. Hope has a different basis.

Here's an example: Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a deeply faith-filled scientist, was once challenged by an agnostic colleague after making a presentation within which he tried to show how the story of salvation history fits perfectly with the insights of science regarding the origins of the universe and the process of evolution.

Teilhard went on to suggest, that the end of the whole evolutionary proc-

ess will be the union of all things in one great final harmony in Christ.

An agnostic colleague challenged him to this effect: That's a wonderfully optimistic little schema you propose. But suppose we blow up the world with an atomic bomb. What happens to your optimist schema then?

Teilhard answered in words to this effect: If we blow up the world with an atomic bomb, that will be a set-back, perhaps for millions of years. But what I propose is going to happen, not because I wish it or because I am optimistic that it will happen. It will happen because God promised it – and in the resurrection God showed that God has the power to deliver on that promise.

What the women who first met the risen Jesus experienced was hope, the kind of hope that is based on God's promise to vindicate good over evil and life over death, no matter the circumstance, no matter the obstacle, no matter how awful the news might look on a given day, no matter death itself, and no matter whether we are optimistic or pessimistic.

They were the initial midwives helping to give birth to that hope.

That task is now ours.

Reflections on bad words and blasphemy

LET'S talk about bad language. I'm not going to lie. I'm no stranger to the occasional swear word.

I once heard a wise old priest – long gone now – describing bad language as the refuge of the inarticulate. I looked it up and the full quote, which is attributed to Wendell B. Harris Jr, an American filmmaker and actor, is “profanity is the last refuge of the ignorant, the insensitive, and the illiterate.”

That's a harsh take, I'd say, and not one I would wholly agree with. So, let's ask the question, is it ever acceptable to use an expletive? Do I hear you saying

Mary's musings

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



no? OK, buckle up while I argue the case for the odd wee swear word being tolerable and then I'll tell you where I draw the line.

The argument goes like this: swearing is great stress buster, alleviates frustration and used judiciously can add humour. It can add

verbal emphasis, express emotion and is a proven pain-reducer.

A study compared a group asked to put their hands in a bucket of ice cold water while remaining silent with another cohort who were allowed to swear. Those who could cuss to their hearts'

content were able to keep their hands in the water for significantly longer.

In the opposing corner we have the view that swearing demonstrates a lack of self-control, is uncouth, and offends and upsets. Those words which are derogatory and demeaning to women have a particular vulgarity attached to them and are taboo for any decent person.

My view is that, while it is not an either or, far more offensive than the odd swear words are the cruel and hurtful things people say without ever using anything like a profanity.

What has to be considered

is how a swear word is used. If it's used humorously or in exasperation that's quite different to it being used in an intimidating or aggressive manner.

This brings me to where I draw the line. Blasphemy.

Every single time I hear the Lord's name being used as a profanity it is like a dagger to my heart. Tolerance and respect is a one-way street in the world of woke. It seems you can hardly speak for fear of offending someone. Not so when it's blasphemy. Then it's a free for all.

Endless iterations of the name of Our Blessed Lord, examples of which are too

awful to think of never mind quote in a Catholic family newspaper. The secular trumps the sacred every time.

Where there can be a blurring of the lines is when an invocation or aspiration is used. In moments of relief, when some potential family crisis has been narrowly averted, I say 'thanks be to God and his Holy Mother.'

My children don't bat an eyelid because they know it's just another occasion when I am asking Our Lady's intercession or thanking her for a favour granted.

I won't tell you what I say when I stub my toe!

Prolonging the joy of Easter is our challenge of the month



Fr Tom Kilbride

HAVE you finished your Easter eggs yet? Some people like to polish them off in one go while others prefer to make them last. Much as I love chocolate, I can only take it a bit at a time, so Easter eggs do tend to last a while with me!

But maybe that's how we should take our Easter liturgy too: we don't just mark Easter Sunday and move on immediately. Rather, we savour its glow and its joy.

We take our time, accompanying the first disciples as they spend their 40 days with the risen Jesus and the 10 days of prayerful waiting for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We should maybe take our time then to draw out the lessons of the season, pondering how we live out its lessons in our faith and our witness to the Gospel.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A

Over these weeks, the Easter Gospels take us back to the Last Supper, to Holy Thursday, and to Jesus preparing his disciples for all that is about to happen. This week, in a text familiar to us from funeral liturgies, we are told not to be troubled but to trust in Jesus.

Whatever comes, he will guide us.

Thomas and Philip intervene, and Jesus goes deeper: if we stay close to him, we will be on the right path. He is our way to the Father. Indeed, we have already seen the Father, the goal of our life's journey, when we see Jesus. When we put our trust in him and recognise him present to us, we know him, love him and are united with him.

In the Second Reading, Peter tells us that to have Christ at the heart of our lives is to have something precious that makes sense of everything else (the "key-stone") but that this also makes something precious of us (a "royal priesthood").

In the First Reading, we hear how the early Christians find a practical solution to meeting the two key aspects of the Church's mission – to preach the word and to serve others, especially those in need – by the selection of the first seven deacons.

Believers bring God's word and God's compassion into the world: the same "works" as Jesus performed, are now ours to continue in his name.

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

The mission of proclaiming the good news and of touching the world with God's power and love is seen again in the First Reading today, but this week we are reminded that it is the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sends which enables us to carry out that mission.

Philip's preaching and the prayer of Peter and John bring faith and the Spirit to the Samaritans.

Jesus had prayed for his followers to receive the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit of Truth", and that is what in fact happens. It is a power to live out the new commandment Jesus gives, to love as he loved us, a sure sign that Jesus is alive in us.

In the Second Reading, Peter encourages us to have confidence in our faith and to be able "to give reasons for the hope" we have, even if we face challenge or rejection.

The proclamation of God's



Giotto, Pentecost, c. 1310

message and the lived witness to his love which the Spirit empowers will not always be welcome. The world may not receive it, as it did not receive Jesus himself, but it is a truth and a life which needs to be shared.

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A

Having celebrated the Lord's Ascension to the Father, we join with the Apostles, Mary and the others in praying for the Holy Spirit to come to us again (First

Reading).

This will be the Spirit whose strength will help us be witnesses to Christ in our words and actions, even if that witness comes at a cost to us (Second Reading).

Having heard about the disciples at prayer, the Gospel gives us a glimpse into Jesus' prayer too.

Here, he prays about the "glory" which is to be revealed from the Cross, in the Resurrection and in his Ascension to the Father, a glory which his disciples will see and which they must proclaim.

He prays for us, then, that we might have strength to live in him, to keep his word and to live and share that life and word in the world. He brings us to his Father.

Some consider these verses of Jesus' "priestly prayer" to be related to the first part of the "Our Father", the prayer he taught his disciples. The prayer we say so often is understood in this way as a reflection of Jesus' own intimate prayer to his Father.

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

Over these Sundays of Easter, the readings have

pointed us to the gift of faith and to the mission that it asks of us. These are the heart of the Pentecost readings too.

In the story in Acts of the Apostles (First Reading), the Holy Spirit gives "the gift of speech" and the crowd hear the disciples proclaiming "the marvels of God." This reflects what happened on that first Easter Sunday (Gospel), when Jesus breathed on the disciples to give them the Holy Spirit, sending them out, as he had been sent by the Father.

The Spirit empowers us to witness, to mission, to share the good news with others and to work for each other's good (Second Reading). Moved by the Spirit we call Jesus "Lord" (Second Reading), recognise him risen among us and know his peace (Gospel).

The Vigil Gospel presents us with an invitation: come to Jesus, believe in him, and receive the Spirit he offers. Faith and mission, following Jesus and bringing him to others by our witness and our words – this has been our Easter calling; this is our Pentecost challenge!

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SCIAF helps make dreams come true

Following his recent trip to Ethiopia with SCIAF, **Bishop Brian McGee**, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, continues to share his diary

Monday

Over the weekend I travelled to the Ethiopian/Kenyan border and I can honestly say that I have never been in a hotter place in my life. Severe drought has brought serious food shortages to Southern Ethiopia.

For those who live near the river this provides sources of food. However, the water is unsafe to drink. Therefore, I was pleased to visit a water purification centre funded by SCIAF and now run by the community. The water pump and hose carrying water from the river to a holding tub then passes through a filter and chlorine is added before flowing into the tub.

Ten taps are available for people to collect clean water free of charge. This important facility makes life much safer for both the villagers and the homeless.

Tuesday

Everywhere we have gone we have been greeted with

a warm welcome and kindness. Whether in cities, in the desert or in the Highlands, people's friendliness and hospitality has been rich.

Ethiopians love coffee and delight in their traditional serving ceremony which we received in houses, projects and churches. Incense is burned. Grass, a symbol of life and plenty, is spread on the ground. The beans are roasted over a fire then carried to each guest to smell the aroma.

The ritual is simple but does take some time and effort. It made me wonder: why are we always in such a rush in the West? How often do we take simple but beautiful steps to make people feel welcome and important?

Wednesday

Today we met Arkerech and her two young children. Last year she participated in a SCIAF Income-Generating project. After com-

pleting a vocational training course she then took out a £75 loan, guaranteed by SCIAF. She purchased a calf and has since diligently cared for it.

When I asked her what difference this has made to her life she said that previously she was poor and had owned nothing. From childhood she had dreamed of owning a cow but this had always seemed impossible. However, she now felt she had dignity, that "I am now somebody in my village."

Arkerech's plan is to sell the cow and buy two calves, pay off some of her loan and save the rest. When I asked Arkerech if I could see her cow she immediately said "yes" and brought me to the communal tribal land.

The photo cannot capture the pride that radiated from her beautiful smile! Well done Arkerech for never giving up on your dream. Thanks also to you, SCIAF supporters, for offering her the opportunity to begin fulfilling her potential, which only poverty had previously prevented.

Thursday

We have now moved on to Tigray in the north. Ethiopia has suffered from several conflicts in recent times and for two years has borne the brunt of a brutal war. Tigray has only recently reopened. It was intense and emotional. I freely admit that I was nervous before going but I am glad that I did because listening to such traumatised people was, although brief, a privileged ministry.

SCIAF was already supporting many projects in Tigray and its partners were among the first to return in December. I was pleased to visit them and witness, despite their own pain, an inspiring determination to support their neighbours.

We can rebuild homes, schools and hospitals. We can nurse the wounded, comfort the heartbroken and grieve with the bereaved. But we can only do so much. There will remain the need for a deeper healing which only God can bring.

Please pray for all who suffer in Ethiopia and from every conflict throughout the world.

Bishop Brian meets Arkerech and family



■ If you would like to find out more about SCIAF's work with our sisters and brothers in countries including Ethiopia, please visit www.sciaf.org.uk



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Sobering statistics and an act of faith

At the beginning of this month, I travelled over to our Passionist Retreat Centre in Crossgar, County Down.

The reason for my journey was to attend a meeting of leaders and administrators from different parts of the newly expanded St Patrick's Province – Ireland & Britain.

The task before us was to make progress towards a unified approach to elements of our Passionist life that previously would have had a slightly, or in some areas, more than slightly, different approach when we were two distinct provinces.

This applied to areas such as mission, finance, media & communications, safeguarding, formation, and others. It was a very big agenda to get through, and we will be at this task for some time to come.

Miraculously, I had no problems on my travels. Flights departed and returned on time. Despite them being small, propeller type aircraft, and the weather being stormy, everything went smoothly.

When I arrived at Belfast City Airport on Monday night, Father Antony was there to meet me. He had travelled by car from Minsteracres to take the Cairn-



Fr Frank's log

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

ryan-Belfast Ferry. He had planned his trip to fit in a visit to the brethren in Holy Cross, Ardoyne, and then on to collect me for the final stage of the journey.

As a note of interest to St Mungo's people, on that same day, Father Terence McGuckin, much loved in St Mungo's in years past, left Holy Cross to take up residence at Mount Argus in Dublin, where he will be able to be better cared for, as he, like most of us, gets older and frailer.

When I was first posted to St Mungo's, after ordination in 1983, it was to replace Father Terence as Vocations Director. At the beginning I had to struggle to be accepted, simply because of people's sadness at seeing Father Terence go. In the end, however, people's goodness and kindness, and their love for the Passionists in general, won them over – as well, of course, as my sparkling personality!

Arriving at Crossgar, Fa-

ther Antony's classmate, Father Aidan, came down to open the gate for us and then, after a quick hello to those who had arrived earlier, we retired for the night, both of us being very tired.

Sobering

In preparation for the meeting, our Provincial Secretary had put together a document outlining our personnel situation as we expect it to be at the end of 2023. It makes for sobering reading.

If there are no deaths, which in itself seems unlikely, there would be 52 members of St Patrick's Province; 4 of whom would be over 90; 20 of whom would be over 80; 14 of whom would be over 70; 8 of whom would be over 60, and only 6 of whom would be under 60.

We would also have 3 members on loan from other provinces, two from India and one from Africa, all of whom would be in their 40's. Obviously, the stark realism

of that has to be taken into account in moving forward. Still and all, we travel with faith and hope.

At the end of the meeting, I was brought to the airport for the journey home by Father Tom, the rector of Crossgar. Also in the car was Father Martin, one of our English brethren. I was fascinated to hear Father Martin speak of his current Passionist life as a leader in a community in North London, quite near to the Passionist church of St Joseph's in Highgate, which is part of the Catholic Worker Movement founded by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933.

Hospitality is one of the keystones of the Catholic Worker Movement and, at present, Father Martin lives with two other leaders, and nine guests, most of whom are asylum seekers. It's a hard life, and I have great admiration for him in the selfless work that he does, which he easily and rightly connects with our Passionist spirituality as having a care for the crucified of today.

I think it's fair to say our province is now more diverse than ever before. Pray for us.

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

Recalling legend that was Fr Tony

FATHER Tony Walsh, the oldest priest in the Archdiocese of Glasgow, who has died aged 98, was a man of great faith who well deserved the description of a 'good and faithful servant'.

Those were the words of Archbishop Nolan as he celebrated the priest's funeral Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald.

Outlining his family background, the Archbishop said that Father Tony, who was born in Hamilton, was the youngest of seven children whose parents Maurice and Mary, from County Donegal, passed on their strong Catholic faith to their children from an early age.

His siblings, Grace, Patrick, Rose, John and May have all pre-deceased him while his sister Annie, aged 101, is a resident in Nazareth House where Father Tony also lived after retiring from active priesthood in 1991 and remained there until his death.

Father Tony Walsh was in his early forties, having worked in the offices of an engineering company for many years, when he felt the call to serve and studied for the priest-

hood in All Hallows College, Dublin, which has since closed.

He was ordained by Archbishop Scanlan for the Archdiocese of Cape Town, South Africa, in St Martin's Castlemilk in 1971.

Archbishop Nolan added: "His first ministry as a priest was to serve the Church in Cape Town in South Africa and he had many fond memories of his time there."

"His many duties included visiting the sick two days a week walking four miles each way in the heat."

"He witnessed hardship and poverty and once said there were times when he thought he was back in Glasgow when he saw men carrying knives!"

"After three years he returned to Glasgow and throughout the years served in a number of parishes including St Constantine's Govan, St Robert's, Househillwood, St Michael's Parkhead and Holy Cross Crosshill."

He was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Glasgow in 1979 and once home he enjoyed sport on TV: darts,



snooker and football, listening to commentaries of his beloved Celtic on the radio and sharing the season ticket at Parkhead with his brother Pat and his nephew John – it helped that his parish was St Michael's Parkhead!

In retirement, Fr Tony supplied many parishes in the Archdiocese. He was famous for his long, dry sense of humour-filled sermons. As one former parishioner quipped, he certainly did not require the use of a microphone – he could be heard in Africa!

The Archbishop added: "He lived in the family home with his brother Pat, sister Annie and nephew John. His

love, care and devotion to looking after Pat and Annie after John married in 2009 was immeasurable."

"After Pat died, he remained true to his care of Annie until under medical advice, she was admitted to long term care."

"He himself, after reflection, decided to move into the care of the Sisters in Nazareth House. Shortly after that he asked if Annie could live in Nazareth House too, where she remains at the great age of 101."

■ **Fr Tony Walsh. Born, Hamilton 1924. Ordained Glasgow 1970. Died Glasgow 2023. Requiescat in Pace.**

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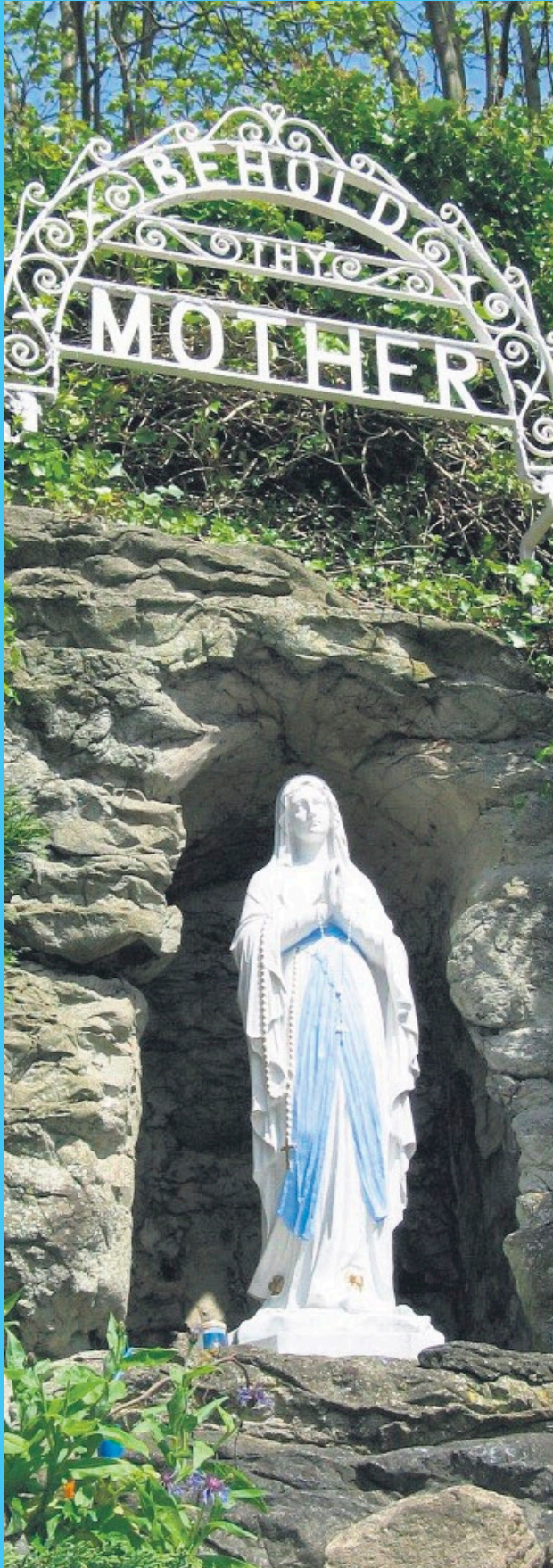
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Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes CARFIN

PILGRIMAGE SEASON 2023



MAY

Holy Rosary every night at 8.00pm in the grotto
(led by Primary schoolchildren from different schools in the Diocese).

Sat 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Mon 29th	Feast of Mary Mother of the Church. Holy Mass at 8.45pm in the grotto (after Holy Rosary)
Wed 31st	Celebration in preparation of the Synod with Bishop McGee

JUNE

Sun 4th	Legion of Mary Annual Thanksgiving 7:30pm–9:30pm
Sun 11th	HCPT Annual Thanksgiving Mass
Tue 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Fri 16th	Pioneers – Sacred Heart Mass at 7.30pm
Sun 18th	Ukrainian Pilgrimage
Sun 25th	Motherwell Lourdes Hospitalite, Pilgrimage Mass at 3.00pm

JULY

Thu 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
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AUGUST

Sun 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Tue 15th	Feast of the Assumption 1.00pm Mass with Anointing of the Sick in St Francis Xavier's Church
Sun 27th	Polish Pilgrimage

SEPTEMBER

Sun 3rd	National Pilgrimage (Prayer for Peace in the Ukraine) Holy Mass at 3.00pm
Wed 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Sat 23rd	SVDP Family Day

OCTOBER

	Holy Rosary every night at 8.00pm in the grotto (led by Secondary school pupils from different schools).
Sun 1st	Little Flower Sunday , Torchlight Procession at 8pm
Sun 8th	Rosary Sunday , Torchlight Procession at 8pm
Fri 13th	Legion of Mary Monthly Pilgrimage Rosary Procession at 7.30pm, Holy Mass at 8.00pm followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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