

# FLOURISH

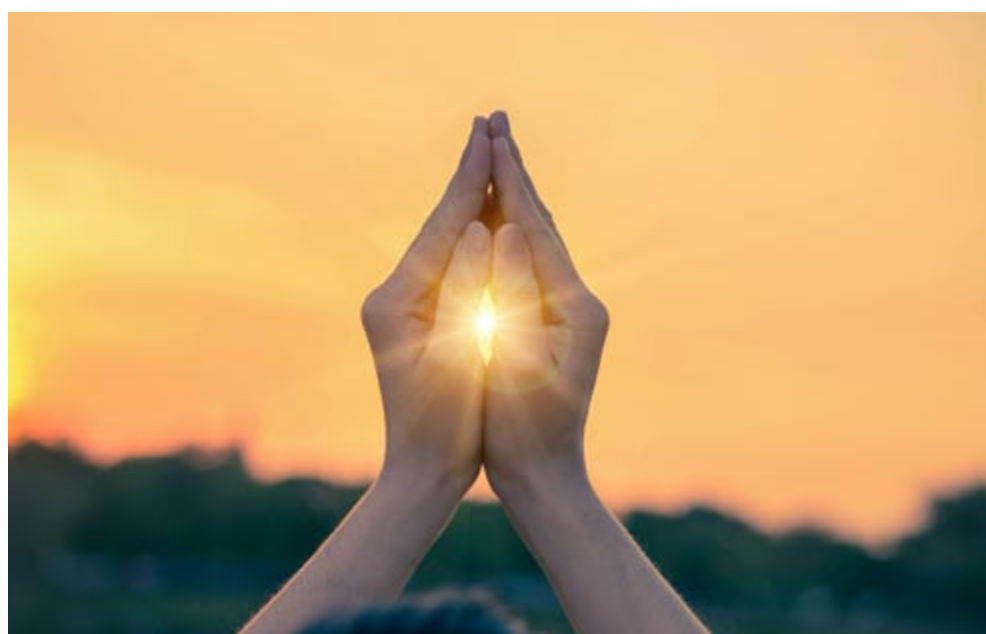
Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

October 2021

SPECIAL EDITION COP26

**“We have severely harmed the Earth, our common home. Yet we have reasons for hope. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now...”**

**—POPE FRANCIS**



**FULL COVERAGE OF PAPAL VISIT PLANS FOR COP26 — PAGE 3**



# Archbishop Philip remembered – on football pitch

**A PRIMARY school football tournament to commemorate the late Archbishop Tartaglia, a lifelong fan of the beautiful game, has been such a success that it will now become an annual affair.**

Hosted by Our Lady of the Missions, and played at Muirend Pitches, Giffnock, the inaugural tournament consisted of three separate competitions.

Winners of the P6, 7-a side championship tournament were OLM City; P6 seven a side Runners up Cup went to OLM United and the P7, 9-a-side Champions winners were St Joseph's Primary, from Clarkston.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

Cara Gallagher was chosen as P6 Player of the Tournament while Ellie McIlwham was named P7 Player of the Tournament.

Prizes were presented by the Archbishop's brother Canon Gerry Tartaglia, parish priest at St Margaret's Clydebank.

He told Flourish: "It was a wonderful tribute to my brother who loved the game of football and who had a lot of time for young people, particularly when celebrating their talents and their faith."

"It was impressive to see so many families brought



Pictures by Paul McSherry

together through the ingenuity and work of our Catholic schools, schools which the Archbishop loved and encouraged.

## Encouraged

"The families were led and encouraged beautifully by head teachers, staff and school chaplains and of course the young people had a terrific time."

Outlining the background to the tournament OLM Head Teacher Catherine Dillon Ruddy said: "The idea for the tournament came



St Joseph's winners with Canon Gerry

from the St Ninian's cluster - St Cadoc's, St Clare's, St Joseph's and ourselves and given that the Archbishop's love of football was very well known we did not have to look very far for a way of commemorating him.

"And of course he was also a former Bishop of Paisley and always took a very close

interest in our schools.

"On the day of the tournament we had a tremendous turnout from parents and friends which just shows the real affection in which the Archbishop continues to be held."

"We also raised money from stalls and were able to send a donation to St Mar-

garet's Hospice, Clydebank and we are already planning to make the tournament an annual event."

"Our grateful thanks go to OLM coach Stuart Hayes, parent Michael Cairns and classroom assistant Julie Capaldi who made sure everything ran smoothly on the day."

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## Pope backs plans to relocate Scots College

**PLANS to relocate the Pontifical Scots College in Rome have been backed by Pope Francis.**

Archbishop Leo Cushley met with the Holy Father at the Vatican on last month to discuss the proposed move.

Speaking after the meeting, Archbishop Cushley said: "Pope Francis expressed his full support for the intentions of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland to move the college into Rome city centre."

"I was delighted to hear that and I know my fellow bishops will be too."

The decision to relocate the seminary, where young

men in Scotland train for the priesthood, was announced in December after building upgrades were deemed too costly.

The current college is on the Via Cassia, around 10km from the city centre. The Bishops aim to sell the building and believe a more central location is the best option for the formation needs of the community and for future provision.

Archbishop Cushley added: "Saying goodbye, the Pope asked for our prayers for him, which I was happy to promise him on behalf of Scotland's Catholics".

## Record year for garden

**TEN years after its first participation in Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival, St Andrew's Cathedral Italian Garden and Arandora Star Memorial saw its most successful and busiest weekends ever.**

There have been many thousands of visitors to the Italian Garden over the past 10 years from many different countries - but this year was record breaking.

Ralph Gonnella, who has guided visitors round the space throughout that time said: "It is a real privilege and pleasure for the volunteer guides to give talks and tours of The Italian Garden and to tell the story of the Arandora Star tragedy with their personal input and family stories."

Ralph, who lost his grandfather in the disaster, said: "We never tire of telling the story of the tragedy and showing the visitors the layout and design of the Garden and Arandora Star Memorial."

The Monument of large mirrored plinths is the

centrepiece of the garden commemorating the Arandora Star tragedy and the 805 men who lost their lives. The mirrored plinths have inscriptions from the gospels and the great Italian poets and writers and are set in a grass and slate landscape.

There is also a 160-year-old olive tree gifted by the



people of Tuscany as a sign of peace and reconciliation and there is also a small fountain and stream of water that crosses the centre of the garden. On the east wall of the garden there is a marble plaque where the names of all 94 of the Italian/Scots who died in the Arandora Star tragedy are remembered.



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# Glasgow ready to host Pope as Francis pleads for climate action

BY **RONNIE CONVERVY**

**IT'S a race against time, and we have a moral obligation to avoid causing irreparable damage to the planet.**

That's the message Pope Francis is expected to deliver in Glasgow in just a few weeks, in one of the most historic speeches of his pontificate.

The Holy Father is expected to arrive in the Dear Green Place on All Saints Day, November 1, to meet with and address world leaders.

Though he will only spend four hours in Glasgow his visit could go down in history as the most important foreign visit of any Pope in living memory.

While details of the Holy Father's itinerary are not yet public, he is expected to land in Scotland on the morning of Monday November 1. The city will be locked down under the largest security operation in Scotland in peace time as world leaders including President Biden of the USA, President Macron of France and Prime Minister Draghi of Italy gather to hear the Pope's message in person.

The United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference will run from October 31-November 12, and al-



though there will be no opportunity for parishioners to meet the Pope, there is an array of events planned.

On Sunday November 7 an international Mass will be held at St Aloysius which is expected to bring together the Vatican delegation to the talks and the Bishops of Scotland. Bishop William Nolan of Galloway will preach at the liturgy which will be open to the public as well as members of the national delegations, with tickets expected to be bookable via Eventbrite – more details will be released via the Archdiocese of Glasgow website – [www.rcag.org.uk](http://www.rcag.org.uk)

Meanwhile leaders of all the main world faiths have

signed a so-called Glasgow Declaration.

"Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world". Thus begins the Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26. Among the signatories are: Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Brian McGee, president of the Catholic Committee for Interreligious Dialogue of the Scottish Bishops' Conference; Catholic Bishop of Salford, John Arnold, responsible for the environment for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Other signatories to the Declaration include the President of the Methodist Church; the General Secretary of

the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the representatives of the Jewish, Muslim, Baha'is, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain communities.

"We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees", the religious leaders said. "We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change. Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations".

## Taizé brothers will lead vigil



**THE powerful spiritual experience of the world-famous Taizé monastery in France is coming to Glasgow in time for COP26.**

Taizé Brothers from the mother house in Burgundy will travel to the city in the days of the world climate conference and lead sessions of prayer and chant across the city from 7 – 12 November.

The effects of climate change and the struggle to reduce it have mobilised many young people and many churches. In Taizé, climate change has been part of the reflection in workshops held over the past few years.

A spokesman for the Community said: "We invite readers to take part in a pilgrimage of prayer in the period preceding and during the COP26 gathering. These prayers could take place anywhere, in small groups or in larger assemblies, if possible also visiting local initiatives related to the climate emergency, or offering times of sharing around the theme.

"We will post on our web page [www.taize.fr/glasgow](http://www.taize.fr/glasgow) a suggested prayer service in October and the beginning of November. These will include intercessions gathered by the Iona Community in Scotland from young people all over the world, as well as ones given by youth taking part in the 2021 reflection week in Taizé at the end of August.

And the Taizé Community have a special invitation for those who live and

work in and around Glasgow.

The spokesman added: "The brothers, together with a team of local young people, will take part in prayers from Monday 8 to Friday 12 November each midday near to the University and every evening in different parts of the city. On Thursday 11 November, there will be the main vigil prayer in St Aloysius' Church on Rose Street, Glasgow.

"If you can help with music, are willing to give a hand for practical questions, or would like to let us know about a time of worship or gathering, please write to [glasgow2021@taize.fr](mailto:glasgow2021@taize.fr)

The Archdiocesan Youth Office is helping organise the visit and are appealing for parishioners to get involved.

Youth Office co-ordinator, Mairi-Claire McGeady said: "Together with Fr Ross Campbell, the chaplain at Glasgow University, and a few others from various denominations based in Glasgow, we are helping to coordinate the ecumenical prayer event. The Taizé community will be hosted by different churches and run different events during their visit. The event that we are working together on is a Taizé Night of Prayer for the World in St. Aloysius on November 11, in the evening.

"Given that the working group is ecumenical, we would really like to get the word out in the Catholic community that all are welcome."

## Climate pilgrims are on their way

**HUNDREDS of Christian pilgrims of various denominations, including many Catholics, have begun their "Walk to COP26".**

Their goal is to arrive in Glasgow on the eve of the climate conference on 30 October, to lobby political leaders to deliver on their promises.

The pilgrimage began in St Ives, Cornwall, after the G7 meeting last June, and is organized by the "Young Christian Climate Network", an association of young Christians aged 18 to 30 who organise various initiatives to protect the environment.

The 8,000 km route includes several stops, approximately every fifteen kilometres, where groups of young people hand over a "relay baton" consisting of a message "Relay to COP26" and also "There is no planet B". The website "Young

Climate pilgrims stop off for a break on their way north to Glasgow



BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

Christian Climate Network" lists the legs of the pilgrimage and the proposed initiatives, including Masses and religious services, and a chance to write postcards to political leaders to remind them of their environmental pledges.

There are stops in major UK cities from London to York, Bristol, Leeds, Man-

chester and Oxford. Christian Churches across the UK, which have repeatedly called on the government to have more ambitious environmental targets, encourage their faithful to participate in the initiative. More information on the pilgrimage can be found at [www.yccn.uk](http://www.yccn.uk)

In addition, SCIAF is working with various Cath-

olic organisations from mainland Europe who are currently on pilgrimage to Glasgow. One group from Sweden left on the 19th July and a group from Poland left last month. In total 30 people from the two groups, 10 from Sweden and 20 from Poland will be in Glasgow after being hosted by Catholic parishes during their trip.



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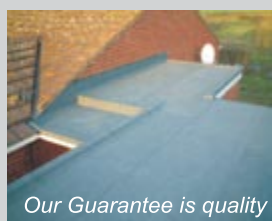
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# Ready, steady, study at Freshers' Mass



**T**HE sound of music and laughter echoed through Glasgow University's Catholic Chaplaincy last month as the Fresher's Mass signalled a welcome start to the new academic year for students and staff.

To mark the occasion, University Rector, Lady Rita Rae and Vice Principal Sir Anton Muscatelli were on hand as was former University Chaplain, Bishop John Keenan, paying a joyous return visit to his old home.

Bishop John offered Mass in the Chaplaincy and told the congregation: "I am always glad to make my way back to the University campus and chaplaincy, which were so integral to my life for well on two decades, first when I was myself a student here in the Eighties and then as Catholic chaplain through the early years of the new millennium. It is a place of which I now consider myself a son and which I still like to call home".

In his homily he exhorted the students and staff to nourish what he called 'good ambition'.

He said: "Saint James pro-

vides us with course notes for the class on good ambition which he calls a wisdom that comes down from above. It is about striving to find a kindly and considerate response to another's different point of view; it is about being full of compassion with those who struggle with life and it shows itself not in words or slogans but in doing good.

"It is about not too quickly taking sides, and doing our best to remain impartial, not favouring the popular or powerful view over the lives of those on the margins.

"And it avoids hypocrisy, another nice Greek word that comes from acting on a stage, and encourages us to be less concerned with virtue signalling and more focussed on being genuinely virtuous inside and out.

"The benefit of such noble ambition is, of course, that it makes for peace in a world all too convulsed and overloaded with assertions and passions.

"To form such decent ambition is the essence of the University whose identity and purpose we find this time in Latin roots: Unus-

versus; versus, that is all of us turned, converted, transformed and facing the same unus: the one Source of meaning that holds everything together in all its diversity; that one thing that alone matters, when all is said and done".

Fr Ross Campbell, the current Catholic Chaplain to the University was delighted with the event. He told Flourish: "None of us here at the chaplaincy really knew what to expect with regards to our Freshers' Mass this year but for the first time since the pandemic began we had a full Church!

"It was so uplifting to see so many younger people come together to begin their academic session with Mass. We were delighted to have a number of staff attend as well, including our Principal Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli and our recently installed Rector Lady Rae.

"It was really a joyous and hopeful occasion, and it was nice to finally have a social in the chaplaincy after the Mass. All in all, it was a great start to the academic year."

## Covid reflection parliament pilgrimage postponed

BY BRIAN SWANSON

**A**NATIONAL pilgrim-age of reflection to Iona Abbey due to take place early this month to remember those who died of Covid has been postponed until Spring because of concerns over the pandemic.

Organised by members of the Iona Community but open to all, pilgrims would have gathered at the Scottish Parliament on October 9 for a blessing from Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh before making the journey to Iona Abbey.

But as *Flourish* went to press organisers announced that they had 'reluctantly' decided to rearrange the event for next year.

A spokesperson for the Covid Reflection Pilgrimage Planning Group said: "The pandemic is very much alive and after discussion we felt it was best to wait until the spring until the situation improves.

### Focusing

"We are also very much aware that the country is, rightly, focusing on Cop26, leaving little time for people to stop and remember so for both these reasons we have taken this decision with sincere apologies for the inconvenience this has caused.

"Our Facebook page will remain open with updates. Please stay in touch with us. Finally, thank you for responding so positively to what will be a wonderful experience for everyone. Those who had died from this terrible condition will not be forgotten."

One of the organisers, Edinburgh-based Helen Wass O'Donnell, whose sister Katie, 66, died from Covid with underlying health issues while a resident in a care home, said "Ideally, during our reflections on the pilgrimage next year we would like to name every single person in Scotland who has died from Covid."

■ For more details contact Helen on 07885 979026.

## St Ninian's welcomes visitor from the East

**I**T might not have been the feast of the Epiphany but pupils in a local secondary school welcomed a wise man from the east last month as Archbishop Cushley visited.

The Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh came to offer the patron's day Mass at St Ninian's High in Kirkintilloch and later chatted with pupils and staff.

The Archbishop told *Flourish*: "It was a real pleasure to visit the Archdiocese of Glasgow to mark the saint's feast day with Holy Mass. Thanks to head teacher Paul McLaughlin, staff and pupils at St Ninian's High School for a warm welcome."





# Writing a book with the Pope

**LOOKING back on the handwritten notes he sent me last year, some things Pope Francis said have stayed with me.**

Like this one: 'I agree with the idea of the book,' he told me in mid-May. 'In principle, I am disposed ... but I will need a lot of your help. I leave it in your hands.'

The more I've looked back on that line, the more I now realise it defined the whole project that became *Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future*, which came out a few weeks before Christmas. It is Francis' coronavirus book, his response to the pandemic and the new horizons – both dark and light – it has unveiled.

I have described the book as spiritual guidance on a global scale, taking up a metaphor that has come to me often these past years: that Francis is like the director of an Ignatian retreat, accompanying us, opening us to the graces on offer, and warning us of the obstacles and temptations that close us off to God's action in us. The real agent of change, of course, is the Holy Spirit. But the director matters, for it is he or she

BY **AUSTEN IVEREIGH** who creates the space and the opportunity, and guides us.

Remember 27 March last year, the *Urbi et Orbi* address in that wet, dark, empty St Peter's Square? Francis was like another Moses, shepherding God's people through the desert, assuring us that he was there with us, and helping us grasp the meaning and opportunity of the moment, but always as one of us, suffering with us.

## Reflections

He agreed to an interview with me that came out in *The Tablet* just before Easter: 3,000 words of coruscating reflections on this extraordinary moment, full of wisdom about how to nurture our present crisis to create a better future. I couldn't have asked for more. But something made me (It's the magis).

Listening to his homilies over Easter, and hearing he had set up a post-Covid commission that would allow the Church to be at the centre of reshaping the world, I got back in touch with Francis in May, this time to suggest a short book



in which he could make his leadership insights available to the wider world. It seemed to me that, while every leader had views on the crisis and what it should lead to, Francis was the only one who understood the process of conversion itself: the interplay of God's grace and human freedom, why sometimes great calamities and stoppages – wars, plagues, economic collapse – lead to great advances, and why, conversely, some-

times humanity slips backwards. That's what I asked if he would be willing to explain. But I had little hope he would say yes.

Then I got the note: 'I leave it in your hands'. He wanted a plan, a strategy, a means by which a book could be written but not absorb too much of the time he simply didn't have. So I came back with a proposal: a book that could be read in one sitting, divided into a three-part see-judge-act structure,

in which I would use his writings and his recorded answers to my questions to craft a text in both English and Spanish that could light a path for the world.

In the course of writing the book over the summer two unexpected things happened. One was that, at Francis' suggestion, I drafted first in English – unprecedented for a book of this genre. The second – my editor's idea – was to eliminate me altogether from the text, so that, rather than the usual question-and-answer format, Francis addressed the reader directly. The result was that *Let us Dream* – the first book by a Pope in response to a world crisis – sounds entirely natural in English, and as intimate as if he were sitting across from us.

Francis gave me complete freedom to draft – 'feel free to say: look, Pope, you're old and you're talking nonsense, and what you're telling me doesn't work,' he jokingly told me at the start of a recording with his first reflections – but then worked very

hard on the text to make sure it came out right. It is a paradox that sums him up: he trusts those he works with, while doing everything he can to support them.

There is a lot packed into the book's 150 pages – anecdotes, insights, many moments of humour and compassion – yet the text moves smoothly and swiftly. It is about the crisis we are living, but there is a timeless quality to it. And since the book came out, I think I've come to see what that is.

It's the way Francis passes through this crisis: what he sees, and how he sees; what is revealed; and how, with this new clarity, we can choose a better way.

## Theme

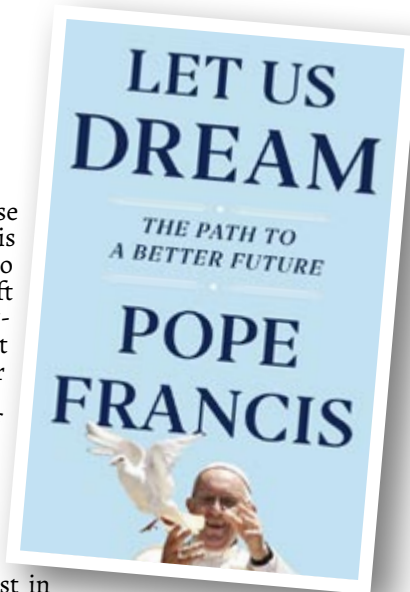
If there is one big, overriding theme, it is the awareness of human dignity that the pandemic has surfaced, both its violation and its reclaiming. Francis' startling diagnosis is that the disrespect we have shown the created world and each other arises from our loss of dignity as a people, which is in turn born of a forgetting that all is gift. But his hope lies in the unveiling of this truth, and the desire for its recovery, above all in the people's movement from the margins.

'The people always hold in their hearts a promise,' he says, 'an invitation that leads them towards what they desire, despite the exclusion they suffer ... an ancestral awareness of God's closeness and of their own dignity.' It is why they followed Jesus: he showed the people that awareness was real.

It is the Church's task, now, to walk with the people again, and show them the same. We can't waste this crisis.

■ **Pope Francis' *Let Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future*. In conversation with Austen Ivereigh is published by Simon & Schuster.**

A version of this article first appeared in the journal *Jesuits and Friends*.



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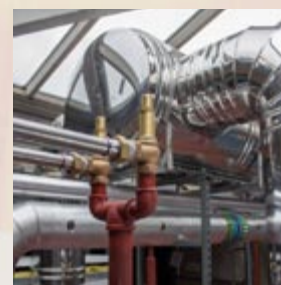
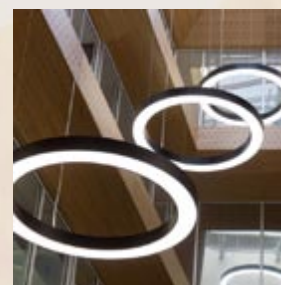
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# ‘Let Glasgow Flourish’... St Mungo’s Singers mark half century of music with Cathedral Mass

**As fanfares marked the 50th anniversary of the St Mungo Singers, co-founder Monsignor Gerry Fitzpatrick revealed that opposition to the idea of starting the choir came from an unlikely source ... none other than Cardinal Winning!**

Giving a brief outline of the history of the group at a Mass of thanksgiving in St Andrew’s Cathedral, Monsignor Fitzpatrick, parish priest at St Leo’s Dumbreck, brought smiles to the congregation when he said:

“Archbishop, later Cardinal, Thomas Winning let me

WORDS BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

know that he really didn’t want a choir but rather wanted people to sing, and was reluctant to be persuaded that in fact the choir could and would give a strong lead to the congregation in the singing of the psalm and Mass parts, enrich it with harmony, find new repertoires, and encourage creativity.”

“Within five years we had sung in or supported 70 parishes throughout the Archdiocese with choir or the

loan of cantors and he gradually changed his mind and over the years he became really rather proud of us!”

He recalled: “The Glasgow Church Music Association held a very successful Music Day at St Aloysius’ Garnethill in 1969 and that was when we decided to establish a proper liturgical choir which then became known as the St Mungo Singers, a name given to by Archbishop Scanlan.

“The choir was founded in 1971 to promote the development of liturgical music in the Archdiocese of Glasgow, to support Music Days, and to help parishes on request.

“In the 1970s and 80s we organised concerts with the Glasgow Jewish Choral Society and the Kedron Choir, we marked St Cecilia Days in the early 1980s, and led in another concert with Glasgow Churches Together for the Great Jubilee.

“We also provided a concert at Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem and another at the Cathedral in Salamanca.

“However, liturgy was, and is, our main concern and throughout the years we have been in existence we always took care to ensure that

music serves the liturgy and not the other way round.

“Looking back we are glad to have served the Archdiocese in the annual ‘ordinary’ events such as the RCIA Mass on the 1st Sunday of Lent, the Chrism Mass, and the Pentecost Mass.

## Served

“We also helped to organise and sing for the funerals of Archbishops, Bishops and Priests, the Annual Archdiocesan Requiem for the Clergy, the Ordinations of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, the re-opening of the Cathedral and the Installation of three Archbishops.

“We were also closely involved in events with civic links such as the deaths of Princess Diana and the Queen Mother, the 16th Centenary of St Ninian, the 14th Centenary of St Gregory the Great, of St Columba, and of our own St Mungo.

But the choir has another string to its bow – so to speak. Mgr Gerry said: “Ecumenism is a serious part of our work – we were happy to support the Baptists at the Coats Memorial and Church of Scotland events in Paisley and Elderslie in the 1980s,

the Mission to Seamen in Govan, the Glasgow Garden Festival in 1988, the City of Culture in 1990, and the launch of Glasgow Churches Together in 1990.

“Glasgow is twinned with Bethlehem, and we were also very happy to have organised Carols for Peace at the request of former Lord Provost Alex Mosson in 2000 and to initiate ‘Glasgow the Welcoming City’ in 2003 at the request of the then Lord Provost Liz Cameron.

“We, the St Mungo Singers, have enjoyed friendship and support over these 50 years – being absent, due to Covid19, for more than a year from what we do has been difficult.

“We look forward to continuing our friendship, enriching the Church’s life and helping others and ourselves in our prayers through music.

“I thank all the members present and past, the organists and conductors, the Archbishops and clergy and all who have valued our presence in the Archdiocese and beyond.

“Let Glasgow Flourish – and the St Mungo Singers with it!”

## 50 YEARS OF MUSIC



## The Spirit of St Francis – 800 years old and still game

BY GEORGE FERGUSON

**I**n the year 1221 St Francis of Assisi founded an order of lay people, not for priests, monks or nuns, but for lay people. Initially they were called the Penitents of Assisi. These Penitents could live the Gospel life, married or single, working in their own chosen way of life.

Today they are called Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (OFS), or Secular Franciscans. And they are alive and active here in Glasgow.

I, myself, am in formation at John Duns Scotus Fraternity in Glasgow. We follow a Rule that has its roots with the Penitents of Assisi, a rule which was updated and approved by Pope St Paul VI in 1978. Although its roots go back 800 years ago it still has relevance today.

To be a Secular Franciscan in today’s world is a tremendous spiritual challenge, just as it was in St Francis’ day, with wars, corruption, desecration and the absence of the knowledge of God which pervaded his time as well as ours.

Secular Franciscans, following in the footsteps of St Francis, are called to observe the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ especially through the careful reading of the



Gospel, and going from Gospel to Life and from Life to Gospel. We are called, as lay people, to be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of our human lives. As St Francis said, “Go forth and preach the Gospel, but only use words if necessary”.

Franciscan Spirituality is woven through the life of the Secular Franciscan even in today’s world. St Francis is the Patron Saint of Ecology and with the dangers of Climate Change his words and spirituality are needed even more today.

It was the little saint of Assisi who wrote the Cantic of Creatures in which he speaks of Creation being

family to us – Brother Sun, Sister Moon and Stars, Sister Mother Earth, Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, etc. Exploiting these family members has often led to the abuse of Creation.

“Praised be You my Lord, with all Your creatures especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You gave us light...”

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Moon and the stars in heaven. You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord through Brother Wind and through the air, cloudy and serene in every kind of weather, through whom you give us

sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised to You, my Lord through Sister Water who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praise to You, my Lord through Brother Fire through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us and who produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.”

(Excerpt from the Cantic of the Creatures courtesy of the Secular Franciscan Handbook).

In the middle of August this year the UN warned that the current environmental crisis was produced by the human race. Exploitation of the Earth’s resources has led to its abuse, due to our demands for instant gratification in energy in particular.

This November will see a very important meeting regarding the world’s climate and the change to it that has come about through humankind’s interaction with the Earth and its resources.

In this year in which the OFS celebrates its 800th birthday, the local Secular Franciscan fraternity is determined to have the Franciscan voice heard on this important occasion. Like a “voice that cries

in the wilderness”, though small in number Franciscans are determined to be heard.

If we take a look at part of the Rule of the OFS we can see why. Chapter 18 states “They should respect all creatures, animate and inanimate, which ‘bear the imprint of the Most High’, and they should strive to move from the temptation of exploiting creation to the Franciscan concept of Universal Kinship.”

This Universal Kinship means that when our Sister, Mother Earth, is wounded it affects us as well. When Sister Water is abused/polluted we are hurt as well. It might seem a bit extreme to put it like this, but when you think of it this is what is happening today in terms of climate change.

Even in our own lush, green land we are affected by climate change, extreme heat in the summer, flooding in other parts of the year. Eventually the machair, arable land on our western coast, especially in the Hebrides, will be lost to the sea rising due the melting of the Arctic ice cap.

The local Fraternity of the OFS plans to have information available in Glasgow during COP26, especially at St Patrick’s in Anderston on 31st October after Mass. There will be an Open Day at Blessed John

Duns Scotus on Saturday 6 October 11.00 am – 4.00 pm when we will be happy to share our views on climate change and to talk with those interested in learning more about our Order.

“Secular Franciscans participate in the Divine Office praying Morning, Evening and Night Prayer. They also recite the Franciscan Rosary or Franciscan Crown – the Seven Joys of Our Lady. We have monthly Fraternity meetings because ‘Fraternity’ is important to the Secular Franciscans. The fraternity meeting is not a prayer group, we meet to share what’s been going on in our lives since we last met, building up one another with the sharing. There is also on-going formation, expanding the knowledge of what being a Secular Franciscan means and on Franciscan Spirituality. We always begin and end the meeting in prayer.

For more information on joining OFS and living a simple life of prayer and action, inspired by St Francis and all the Franciscan Saints, please come along to Blessed John Duns Scotus Friary, Ballater Street, Glasgow, on Saturday, 6th November, or go to [www.ofsgb.org](http://www.ofsgb.org) for more information. Peace and all Good!





# Mission Sunday is a call to exercise ever more compassion

**POPE Francis is very clear that Mission Sunday is more relevant today than ever.**

In his message for this year he writes: "In these days of pandemic, when there is a temptation to disguise and justify indifference and apathy in the name of healthy social distancing, there is urgent need for the mission of compassion, which can make that necessary distancing an opportunity for encounter, care and promotion."

"The Lord's word daily rescues and saves us from the excuses that can plunge us into the worst kind of scepticism: 'Nothing changes, everything stays the same'. To those who wonder why they should give up their security, comforts and pleasures if they can see no important result, our answer will always remain the same: 'Jesus Christ has triumphed over sin and death and is now almighty. Jesus Christ is truly alive' and wants us to be alive, fraternal, and capable of cherishing and sharing this message of hope."

"In our present circumstances, there is an urgent need for missionaries of hope who, anointed by the Lord, can provide a prophetic reminder that no one is saved by himself."

MISSIO Scotland supports the training of priests, brothers and sisters throughout the world, so they can follow their calling. These men and women play an essential role in establishing a network of trust and love with local communities, which is particularly essential in many developing countries where sharing the Gospel and the Catholic Faith is scarce, such as in Papua New Guinea.

With more than a thousand tribes across PNG, conflicts over such things as land claims and religious differences continue to cause widespread grief. The Catholic Church and local priests play an important part in reducing the hostility and animosity between the tribes. As respected leaders of the community, the priests act as mediators and encourage harmony and reconciliation.

One priest from Papua New Guinea who has been supported by Missio Scotland is Elias Zambria who hails from the Mendi Diocese in the southern part of the country. Like many

**Mission Sunday falls this year on October 24 and Pope Francis has decreed that the theme should be, "We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard". The Holy Father has called for this year to focus on a 'mission of compassion'. In this special focus we look at the work of Mission Scotland in a faraway land – Papua New Guinea – which is very much united to Scotland in the faith.**

BY GERARD GOUGH

of his fellow priests who attended the Holy Spirit Seminary in Port Moresby, Elias has experienced tribal conflict first-hand in his home village. He knows the important role the Catholic Church plays in reducing tribal conflict throughout the country, as well as the crucial work of the Church in areas such as evangelisation and building schools and hospitals.

Elias first experienced his call to priesthood when he was just 16 years old. However, after finishing school, he started working as an auto-electrician, and slowly drifted away from his once strong faith. With the help and guidance of his grandmother, Elias returned to the Church and decided to follow his calling and he is now a priest.

In preparation for the priesthood, Elias and his fellow priests reached out to the people of Papua New Guinea while they were seminarians by offering not only spiritual support, but also practical support. Every week, Elias helped the Canossian Sisters provide basic health care to people on the outskirts of Port Moresby who, because of their extreme poverty, are unable to afford the high fees in the city hospitals. Elias and his brothers were assigned to different areas and had different responsibilities, such as leading prayer, providing health education and medication, distributing nutritious food and weighing patients. Priority is given to children who are often sick with coughs, influenza, malaria, diarrhoea, headaches, fever or sores.

Elias really enjoyed the pastoral work; for him it was a unique opportunity to meet the people, help them and be with them.

"It prepared and equipped me with practical experiences to be an effective pastoral worker as a priest in the future universal Church of Christ," he said. "It helped



Sr Mary Claude Gadd

me to know how best to work with people who are poor and underprivileged by reaching out to them with the help of the Lord and showing His love and compassion."

He thanks those who have helped him fulfil his calling saying: "Our Church is still young and your donations really helped us... when we receive donations we feel someone is responsible in terms of faith and existence... what you are contributing is some encouragement. I now have to reach out to the people and experience God's love in the heart of the people to an even greater extent. Loving God is loving the people."

MISSIO Scotland also supports Religious Sisters in their precious work in Papua New Guinea. 87-year-old Sister Mary Claude Gadd, a Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SSCJ) hails from San Antonio, Texas in the USA, but has lived in Papua New Guinea for 36 years. During that time, she has been responsible for developing child protection programmes, but the programme most recently founded by the energetic sister is perhaps her most impressive to date.

"I developed a Universal Inclusive Early Childhood Programme (IECD), so that every child in rural and remote rural areas may have a chance to start out in life

with the hope of a brighter future," Sr Mary Claude said.

Currently, there are 258 IECD centres. Each is connected to one of the 31 parishes in the area, with many of those having as many as 58 satellite smaller churches/Christian communities. The IECD centres take in children at the age of three and boast some 300 teachers, who are given further training while in post.

"Thus far, the government doesn't financially contribute in any way to this programme," Sr Mary Claude said. "It is all community and parish sponsored. Our partnership agreement with UNICEF ended almost two years ago and now we are on our own completely."

This year though, Missio Scotland, through its support for Sr Mary Claude and her fellow sisters in Papua New Guinea, aims to show that they are not on their own completely and

that they can rely on their brothers and sisters in Scotland as part of the universal Church.

Sr Mary Claude explained exactly what the most pressing need and where Missio Scotland's funds will be directed.

"What we need help with right now is suitable library material for little children. We encourage the children to learn English and they love it. It's the first language

of Papua New Guinea closely followed by Tok Pisin and Motu, but there are very little local publications that can speak to a child about their own culture and so on.

"We are most grateful for any way in which Missio Scotland might be able to help us purchase these books. May God continue to bless you, keep you well and safe."

■ To learn more about the work of Missio Scotland you can visit: [www.missioscotland.com](http://www.missioscotland.com), like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/missioscotland>, and follow us on Twitter: @Missio\_Scotland

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# Contemplating the face of Christ

## POEM OF THE MONTH

*St Veronica* by Kathryn Heim.

The face she wiped  
the pain she eased  
the care she bore  
a moment seized

A lasting image  
of agony  
the suffering  
her sympathy

A simple act  
she felt the need  
to care for one  
whose blood was seized

A point in time  
torture's delay  
yielding a  
snapshot  
sought today.

**T**HERE is something about this month's piece of art which I find absolutely astonishing.

This work, completed in 1649 is entitled, "The Face of Christ" by Claude Mellan who was an expert engraver. I wonder if you can spot its astonishing quality? It is one single uninterrupted line!

It begins at the tip of the nose of Jesus and spirals out from there. If you Google the piece you can zoom in and see the continuous line. Underneath the image, Claude wrote, "Formatus Unicus Une."

These words, meaning "one formed in one", could apply not only to the drawing but also to the Christ Himself.

Mellan was inspired to produce this work having meditated on the miracle given to Veronica when she wiped the face of the Redeemer on the road to his death at Calvary; the cloth retaining the true likeness of Christ.

The image is known as *vera icona* (true image), giving rise to the name "Veronica". The event is not recorded until the Middle Ages but is commemorated by the sixth station of the cross.

The work is also entitled "The Sudarium of Saint

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

Veronica". Sudarium is a Latin word translated as

"sweat cloth" used for wiping the face and neck clean and dry. There is a cloth kept in the Cámara Santa of the Cathedral of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain which might be the Sudarium but, because of contamination, it has not been possible to date it back to the time of Christ.

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus arose in France where it was believed that those who contemplate the Face of Jesus here on earth, shall see it radiant in heaven. Pope Pius XII in 1958 formally declared a Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus.

In his 2005 book *On the Way to Jesus Christ*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote an analysis of Holy Face devotions. He stated that discipleship involves seeing Jesus in the face of the poor and the oppressed, and caring for them, but to properly see Jesus in the face of those in need, believers first need to become better acquainted with Jesus through the Eucharist.



## PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Dear Lord, Saint Veronica served You on the way to Calvary by wiping Your Beloved Face with a towel on which Your sacred image then appeared. She protected this treasure, and whenever people touched it, they were miraculously healed. I ask her to pray for the growth of my ability to see Your sacred image. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

joy

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## Let Scripta flourish!

**A NEW Catholic magazine is available this month thanks to the efforts of students at Glasgow University.**

The first issue of *Scripta* is hot off the press showing a dramatic sunset over the main university building at Gilmorehill.

The magazine is an initiative of the University's thriving Catholic Society. Maria Ward of the production

group said: "It is going to be completely free and made up of GUCA members' contributions. We hope that it will make our voices a little bit more heard on campus".

Editor of the new magazine, student Fletcher Erskine, said: "GUCA very much represents the Church on campus, and as such we have in various ways made an effort to evangelise in the university culture in the past.

"Unfortunately, we were rather limited in

our outreach over the last year, as was the case for so many clubs and societies at the university. In that sense, *Scripta* 1451 will be, I hope, a sort of phoenix for GUCA: it is an opportunity for broader outreach, more involvement, and a platform for the promotion of what is Good, True, and Beautiful.

"In conversation with GUCA's outgoing president, Rohan Bald, it occurred to us that, in an especially polemical and overly political media environment in our times, there is such a need for what is edifying and transcendent.

"It has been a pleasure in this first issue to see already the fruits of this mission in the articles submitted by members of the community. The future is bright!"

From one Catholic publication to another – Let *Scripta* flourish!





# Mark's Gospel has so much to teach us as it winds its way to the Passion and Cross



Fr Tom  
Kilbride

**SUPPOSE we can say "the nights are fair drawing in" now.**

We're well past the autumn equinox, and there's already a sense that the end of the year is looming: it's getting darker earlier; there's that hint of murk and mist in the mornings; the clocks go back this month. Even here in Salamanca, "sunny Spain" feels a long time ago (honest!).

Our Sunday readings too begin to point us towards endings, as Mark's Gospel wends its way towards Jerusalem and the Passion.

But all is not dark, at least not yet. Jesus still has much to teach, and, along the way, we will meet individuals who will help us glimpse what Jesus has been trying to show us all along. "The Kingdom is near", he said right at the start; in these weeks, we will find that Kingdom already at work, already present, despite the looming shadow of the Cross.

## Twenty-Ninth Sunday B

Before that, however, we have our first "last". We don't hear the words of Jesus in the Sunday Gospel, but as our passage opens, Jesus has just told his disciples for the third and last time that he is now making for Jerusalem, where he will suffer, die, and rise again. Then, James and John – like Peter and the others before them – put their size tens right in it. They really don't get it!

Rather, they are still thinking of Jesus in terms of glory and power, and they want a piece of the action. (Have they learned nothing from the previous two discussions?!) So, for the third time, Jesus carefully teaches them what true discipleship means, and it is, again,

based on who he is.

As he is the one who gives his life, who "came to serve and not to be served", so should the disciple forego any thought of power, glory or status and follow his example of service.

The First Reading, which we hear in full on Good Friday, reminds us that the one who suffers for others ("taking their faults on himself") is God's "servant". Notice how Mark makes a link here between the Baptism of Jesus (in the Jordan) and the Cross. He came to join us in our weakness and to take our faults on himself on the Cross. This is his "baptism", his "cup" – a cup we will hear of again in Gethsemane – and James and John should be ready to take their share in it. As should we...

## Thirtieth Sunday B

Bartimaeus, whom we meet this Sunday, is a wonderful character. Though blind, he sees the truth. Sitting on the side, he is thrust into the centre. Scolded to keep quiet, he shouts "all the louder". Told to "Go", he instead "follows" Jesus, whom he calls "Son of David", a royal title like "Christ".

He recognises Jesus as a king, but rather than seeking a privileged position, like James and John, he seeks only mercy. From that mercy, he hopes for healing, and it is given to him. That, for Mark, is what the Kingdom of God means: God's free gift of mercy brings freedom, life and light if we only "repent and believe" (like Bartimaeus, throwing off his cloak, his old life).

His faith saves him, he sees clearly, and he leaves all his security, all he has (his cloak) behind to follow the Master "along the road".

It really says "on the way".



But to where? For Jesus, it is the way to the Cross, but "the Way" was also the earliest name for Christian faith. The healing of blind Bartimaeus is the last story Mark tells us before Jesus reaches Jerusalem. But it also feels like the story of the first true Christian disciple. One on the margin becomes a model of faith, of trust, of joy, of dedication – a model for all disciples!

## Thirty-First Sunday B

Teachers of the Law in ancient Judaism often discussed which of the 365 commandments and rules in the Law of Moses was the most important. How Jesus answers the question is not, by any means, a surprise.

After all, what we hear in the First Reading today – "to love God with all your heart and soul and strength" (the Great "Shema" or "Listen") – was written in little scrolls on the doorposts of every Jewish home, strapped to the devout believer's arm or recited many times in

prayer each day.

Jesus, however, reminds us that another little line, buried among other laws, should have as much importance: "love your neighbour as yourself". The scribe who asks the question sees the wisdom of Jesus' words, for which reason Jesus commends him: he is close to the Kingdom, a Kingdom of love, service, mercy, and faith.

It is the last question Jesus is asked, and Mark wants us to know it is a good one, from one who has grasped Jesus' teaching. In the other Gospels, it is presented as a "test" for Jesus, but not for Mark. Instead, he presents it as born of a genuine desire to understand God's ways and live them. The scribe "has understanding". The penny is dropping here at least, even as Jesus faces his final days.

## Thirty-Second Sunday B

Over these weeks, we have met blind Bartimaeus and an unnamed scribe, two

of her all. Literally, "she has put in her whole life". If anyone in the Gospel can be said to reflect the sacrifice, love, and generosity of Jesus, it is this poor, lonely, silent, devoted widow.

Mark's Gospel will tell no more stories of miracles, exorcisms or healings after this point; Jesus' ministry is coming to an end. There is one chapter of teaching on the "last days" and then Passover and the Passion begin.

In this sense, over these weeks, we are reaching the end of the story Mark has shared with us this year, but it is not entirely fading into darkness.

This little widow is, in some ways, a climax to the gospel: this is what being a disciple means, this is what following Jesus' way should look like. After 12 chapters of teaching and activity, a widow's two little coins sum it all up: "give, and don't count the cost".

For Jesus, and for us as his followers, there really is no more to it than that.



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## PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask a special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus and place in within your heart where your father sees it, then with his merciful eyes it will become your favour, not mine.

Amen

Say it three times for three days and your favour will be granted.

Never known to fail, must promise publication of prayer.



**MURRAY**

Patrick James

In loving memory of our dear and much loved father who died October 29 1987.

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Leo, Paul and Angela

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**As I write this week, the Novena to Our Lady of Sorrows is well under way.**

It has been good to see old, familiar faces, devotees of this Novena over many years, returning to our church, after only being able to celebrate it online last year.

I was thinking back to the Novena in 2016 when, at the closing Mass, which I attended because I was at home on vacation, Father Jim Sweeney, the Provincial of the Passionists in Scotland and Ireland, introduced me as the new rector and parish priest of St. Mungo's. That seems so long ago now but, here we are, in post-Chapter mode once again.

The Provincial and his council are at present considering new appointments and I wonder if, at the close of this year's Novena, on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, we will be announcing

# Priests are always waiting on a call

any changes to the present Passionist team.

Change is part of the life of a religious. Since I joined the Passionists in 1975 I have moved communities 15 times, sometimes it was back to places I had been before, only this time to take up a different role; but most times it was to new places where I had never lived before. There is a belief that moving home is one of the most stressful things a person can experience and often that was what I felt, but, after a time, you settle in and put down new roots, even if knowing that, in time, you may be pulling them up again. Some changes have certainly been more difficult than others, but always,



## Fr Frank's log

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

they have been challenging and grace-filled.

In the earlier years of our Passionist Congregation, the religious were permitted to have very little in their cells – as their rooms were then called. And even within the monastery itself, men would be asked to move cells from time to time. This was so as to encourage a spirit of detachment.

For example, in the old

monastery at Mount Argus in Dublin, the cell of Father Charles was turned into a little museum after his cause for canonization was introduced. But this was only the cell that he happened to be living in when he died. Throughout his many years in Mount Argus, he had lived in different cells.

I imagine it must have been much easier for the religious to move, not just from cell to cell, but from monastery to monastery, when they had so little in the way of goods to bring with them. Times have changed, of course, and we are permitted to have more than we used to have. Like many people, depending on varied personality types, there can be a tendency to accu-

mulate stuff, and that can make the process of moving even more stressful. To bring or not to bring, that is the question?

For me, books have always been the problem. I have never accumulated much of anything else, except perhaps documents connected with various roles I've held, but I have never been one for accumulating clothes, shoes, or nick-nacks.

However, as a voracious reader of just about anything and everything, deciding what books to bring and what to leave behind has always been painful. The best thing about having had to move 15 times over the years is that this cull has been periodic.

If I had never moved I might, by this stage, have been unable to navigate my cell for books, as indeed is the case in my brother's house. Also being a voracious reader, he has books piled high in just about every room where, remarkably, he seems to know exactly where each one is and, if I were ever to move one when I'm in tidy-up mode,

he won't be long in noticing, and asking me where I put it.

One of the small pleasures of his enforced retirement, due to ill-health, is that he is returning to read books that he first enjoyed many years ago, and finding the pleasure in them once again.

When I moved from Dublin five years ago, I brought just enough books to fit in the bookshelves that were already in the room, and, with the help of my Kindle, I have managed to restrict the number of physical books to the space available – so, I am ready to move for the 16th time, if necessary. Although, my guess is, that I won't be asked to move this time around, and, at aged 90, I doubt if Father Justinian will be asked to move either.

That leaves the dynamic duo, Father Gareth and Father Antony. It would be so sad to lose either of them, but we will need to wait and see. Watch this space!

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

## Fr Alex's 25 priestly years



BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

**WHEN Father Alex Strachan marked 25 years of the priesthood with a Mass of thanksgiving, the choice of celebrant was obvious...his lifelong friend Bishop John Keenan.**

Both men shared the same home parish of St Gregory Barbarigo, Wyndford where they were ordained within a year of each other.

Bishop John was ordained on 9th July 1995 while Father Strachan was ordained on 29th June 1996.

The link emerged during the Jubilee Mass of thanksgiving for Father Strachan organised by parishioners of St Thomas the Apostle, in Riddrie where the former Army chaplain has served as administrator since June.

Glasgow-born Father Strachan, 57, whose parents were teachers, originally followed a career in nursing, working in various hospitals in Glasgow.

But some years later and



influenced by, among others, Mother Teresa, whom he met twice, and whose order his sister had joined in 1986, he began to study for the priesthood at Chesters and Scotus Colleges, Bearsden, and graduation from the University of Maynooth.

Parish placements were St Conval's, Pollok (as deacon); Holy Family and St Ninian, Kirkintilloch and St Margaret Mary's, Castlemilk.

Four years later he was granted permission by Cardinal Thomas Winning to work as an Army chaplain

Top: Bishop Keenan leads the anniversary celebrations for Fr Alex; below, a flashback to ordination day with the late Cardinal Winning and Bishop Taylor

– a post he held for 18 years where his deployment included stints in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He returned to the Archdiocese at the request of Archbishop Tartaglia and became assistant priest at Holy Cross, Crosshill, in March 2020 before taking up his present role at St Thomas's Riddrie.

*Ad multos annos!*

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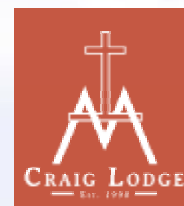
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