

FLOURISH

October 2022

‘STEP BACK FROM NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE’



Pope's dramatic plea to Putin

THE world is at risk of nuclear war. I urge you to step back from the brink of catastrophe' ... that is the dramatic plea from Pope Francis to Russian leader Vladimir Putin this month as the conflict in Ukraine deepens.

The Holy Father devoted his whole Sunday Angelus address to the crisis last week. He said: "The course of the war in Ukraine has become so serious, devastating and threatening, as to cause great concern..."

"I am deeply saddened by the rivers of blood and tears spilled in these months..."

BY RONNIE CONVERY

Certain actions can never be justified! And what about the fact that humanity is once again faced with the atomic threat? It is absurd.

"I deeply deplore the grave situation that has arisen in recent days, with further actions contrary to the principles of international law. It increases the risk of nuclear escalation, giving rise to fears of uncontrollable and catastrophic consequences worldwide."

"My appeal is addressed first and foremost to the President of the Russian Federation, imploring him to stop this spiral of violence and death, also for the sake of his own people."

"On the other hand, profoundly saddened at the immense suffering of the Ukrainian people as a result of the aggression they have suffered, I address an equally confident appeal to the President of Ukraine to be open to serious proposals for peace."

"Please let the younger generations breathe the salutary air of peace, not the polluted air

of war, which is madness!

"After seven months of hostilities, let us use all diplomatic means, even those that may not have been used so far, to bring an end to this terrible tragedy. War in itself is an error and a horror!"

"Let us trust in the mercy of God, who can change hearts, and in the maternal intercession of the Queen of Peace, as we raise our Supplication to Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompei, spiritually united with the faithful gathered at her Shrine and in so many parts of the world".

New film launched to spread the vital message of *Laudato Si'*

A MAJOR step forward in spreading Pope Francis' teachings on the environmental crisis took place this month with the launch on the feast of St Francis of Assisi, of the documentary film, *The Letter*.

The film tells the story of the Pope's *Laudato Si'* encyclical letter and how the climate crisis is strongly affecting the Earth and all those who inhabit it and contains never-before-seen footage of the Holy Father.



It is the fruit of a few years of work of the *Laudato Si'* Movement in partnership with

Off the Fence (Oscar-winning producers of *My Octopus Teacher*) and the Vatican.

Pope Francis is the film's main protagonist and spent a lot of time with the film makers during the production, sharing his insights and emotions. Other voices are also featured, of people who are experiencing first hand the ecological crisis,

The film premiered in Vatican City on October 4, the Feast of St Francis.

A spokesman for the film makers said:

"We hope the launch will be followed by an ocean-like ripple with screenings around the world and a campaign to provide concrete tools for communities to take bold action for climate and ecological justice."

■ The film – *The Letter* – can be shown in parishes free of charge. No special licence is needed. It can be accessed and downloaded free from YouTube at www.youtube.com/originals/videos

Something old, something new as St Leo's marks 60th birthday

EVEN bishops have bus passes and Archbishop Nolan used his to make a point about the passing of time – and the importance of looking forward – when he celebrated the Diamond Jubilee Mass of St Leo's Dumbreck.

Displaying his own bus pass, the Archbishop told parishioners: "The good thing about reaching 60 is that you get one of those – I'm sorry but that does not mean everyone gets one."

"And when we reach 60, as your parish has, we tend to look back to everything that has happened since it was founded."

"For example in 1962 Vatican II was just beginning and this led to so many changes in the Church over the years."

"And as individual parishioners it is human instinct for you to think about all the events that happened

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

to you in this church – the marriages, the funerals, the baptisms over the past 60 years.

"And of course you also think of the many people involved in the church who make up this parish – according to a list Father Gerry gave me earlier there are 20 different organisations who contribute in their own special way to emphasise that the parish is alive and people fully committed to each other."

Urging parishioners to be inspired by the past to build for the future the Archbishop spoke of the inspiration of their patron Pope St Leo the Great.

He said: "He was a Pope of the 5th century at a time when the Holy Roman Empire was under threat from

its enemies, so not only was he a great religious leader but an outstanding civic leader as well who did so much for the society he lived in.

"And that's something for us as well – not only to be involved in the Church but do so out in the world and be involved in the life of the state as well."

"So we pray that in the coming years we do not go into decline but instead become revived and refreshed from the inspiration of those who have gone before us."

At the end of the Mass, in which he was joined by parish priest Monsignor Gerry Fitzpatrick and retired priest Father Brendan Murtagh, Archbishop Nolan blessed new altar and pulpit falls designed by Netta Ewing and embroidered by members of the Sacred Threads Group, based in at St Leo's.



Vatican's appeal to musicians

A CALL has gone out from the Vatican for musicians to write a new hymn which will become the theme music of the Jubilee Year 2025.

The Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization, in charge of coordinating the Holy See's efforts for the Jubilee Year, is launching a competition, open to all, for the composition of the Jubilee hymn.

Anyone interested in the competition is invited to set to music a text proposed by the Vatican.

The hymn is intended to be used in the liturgy and should be capable of being sung by a Church congregation and by a choir or schola cantorum.

Choir

Entries are to be sent in by 25 March 2023.

Compositions must be original by the author and unpublished, and must have the parts for a schola cantorum, and for the 4-voice singing of the refrain and stanzas.

Participants are also required to submit the score for voice and organ, and the entry must not be the work of a paid commission, and must never have been performed before in a concert or public event, or transmitted by any broadcast media.

Further conditions for the entries are contained on the webpage created for the Jubilee 2025 Hymn competition

Application forms for the competition will be accessible at www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/inno.html starting

January 16, 2023 and ending at 8 p.m. (Italian time, CET) on March 25, 2023.

The Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee every 25 years. It is a time to revitalize the daily life of the Church and of every Christian.

Each Jubilee Year has a theme. Pope Francis has

chosen "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme of Jubilee 2025.

A Jubilee is "ordinary" if it falls after the customary 25-year period, and "extraordinary" when it is proclaimed by for some outstanding event. The 2025 Jubilee will take place in line with the 25-year gap period.



New artwork recalls parish patron

EMBROIDERED by a dedicated group of highly skilled women to mark St Leo's 60th anniversary, this magnificently unique and ornate pulpit frontal and lectern fall will delight generations of the faithful, as well as parish priest Monsignor Gerry Fitzpatrick.

Created by the Silver Threads Embroidery Group, and designed by its director and St Leo parishioner Netta Ewing, work on both pieces was delayed for several reasons including Covid restrictions.

Netta said: "The designs for this project were completed about eight years ago, but many events, including lockdown, interrupted construction. Our tiny guild came back together this year determined get everything ready for the archbishop's visit and the 60th anniversary."

The centrepiece of the altar fall, embroidered in exquisite detail, depicts the famous scene in which Leo the Great met with Attila the Hun on the outskirts of Rome and persuaded him not to invade and destroy the Eternal City in the year 452AD.

Angels with trumpets, religious figures, saints, bishops and representatives of religious orders are also included in the adjoining panels while the smaller lectern fall is dedicated to St Leo, adoring angels

and the Cross.

Members of the group also created the colourful St Leo chasubles worn by the Archbishop and Monsignor Fitzpatrick during the anniversary mass.

Netta formed the Guild after she designed the vestments for the first Papal Visit to Glasgow in 1982.

The group has completed a number liturgical works since then, including the Four Seasons mural at Pluscarden Abbey and the Scottish Saints Vestments.

Netta also designed the ten murals at St. Stephen's church, Dalmuir, and pieces for churches in Kirkintilloch, Dreghorn, Saltcoats, and Indiana USA.

The group has always been ecumenical in its membership, and past members include Church of Scotland, Episcopal, Jewish and Buddhist members.

Monsignor Fitzpatrick, who has been parish priest at St Leo for 29 years - almost half of its existence - said: "Over the years Netta and her colleagues produced such marvellous works – it's literally a labour of love which will be appreciated not only by us but admired for many generations to come."

"They celebrate their 40th anniversary this year and shortly we will be organising a mass to mark that special occasion."



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ORDINATION SPECIAL

Cathedral joy for new Fr Douglas

In the place where his faith journey began, as a member of St Andrew's Cathedral Choir, Father Douglas Green became Glasgow's newest priest bringing to an end a joyful summer of ordinations which gave the Archdiocese three new priests and two new permanent deacons.

For the newly ordained Father Green, 57, it was the faith he encountered among fellow choir members that encouraged him to convert to the Catholic faith and later to study for the priesthood which culminated in his ordination in the Cathedral on September 15, The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

As with earlier ordinations this year, Archbishop Nolan, who celebrated the Mass of Ordination with Archbishop Conti, gave heartfelt advice to the new priest

He said: "As we heard in the readings tonight Paul said he was the least of the apostles and not worthy to be one but only became an apostle by the Grace of God.

"I want you to remember in your priestly ministry the humility of Paul and his awareness of his faults and failings but above all his awareness of the Grace of God.

"Paul preached the good news to the people of God and you too are asked to preach to the people by word and deed, and by your actions, by your kindness to others and by sharing the love and compassion of God.

"As a minister of the sacraments you will be honoured to act in Christ's name. The people will see you ... but it is Christ the people are encountering in the sacraments."

During his final placements leading up to his ordination Father Green

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

served as a deacon at a number of churches in the Archdiocese who sent representatives to support him with their presence and prayers.

These included St Michael's Parkhead, St Dominic's Bishopbriggs and St Robert Bellarmine, Househillwood, where he worked closely with the late Father Jim Dean who died in April just five years after becoming parish priest following his ordination.

The solemnity and joy of the evening was enhanced by the uplifting contribution by St Andrew's Cathedral Choir whose interpretation of specially chosen sacred music was simply outstanding in honour both of the occasion and their former choir member.

Following the prayer of consecration, as is the custom during priestly ordinations, Douglas was vested with his stole and chasuble.

He was helped by his fellow Beda College student Father Philip Bua from the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles who was himself ordained earlier this summer.

The pair studied together at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome and became good friends during their formation.

Father Green, who worked as a housing officer in Glasgow and who is shortly to be appointed to a parish the Archdiocese, said: "I am so grateful to so many people - including my friends in the choir, all the priests and parishioners I have met. I look forward to taking up my first appointment and beginning my new life as a priest."



Deacon Tony gets things done

THROUGHOUT the summer of ordinations Archbishop Nolan has been constant in delivering the same core message to our new deacons and priests: 'do not forget the poor'.

And when Tony Murphy was ordained as the newest permanent deacon in the Archdiocese his fellow parishioners at Sacred Heart, Cumbernauld, took the advice to heart and, rather than giving him a personal gift, they presented the Archbishop with a cheque to help the work of SCIAF.

The ordination gift will be used to help fund a project to help families support themselves by buying small plots of land to grow and sell vegetables.

The gesture came as no surprise to Deacon Tony, 57, who, along with his wife Tilda, helped to form a charity during the pandemic called Cumbernauld Resilience to which local people responded magnificently by delivering 110,000 meals to those in need.

The charity, which continues to operate to help people cope in times of rising food and energy costs went on to win a major award from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Services.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

Speaking about his journey to the Permanent Diaconate Tony, who works as a business adviser, said: "Tilda and I met through the Catholic Church and both have a deep devotion to Our Lady.

"Our Lady has been a constant inspiration in both our lives and has guided us both throughout and in a particular during my wonderful Diaconate journey. I always knew that I had a calling but just wasn't quite sure what it was.

"From a very young age I considered the priesthood, however Our Lord

placed Tilda in my life and I knew my vocation was to be a husband and father.

"After praying and discerning for over 12 months I decided to take my first steps to becoming a Permanent Deacon.

"Our Lord has placed so many amazing inspirational people on the path of my life during the past five years and I am truly humbled by the contribution of each and every one of them. I have also been running a Men's Breakfast in our Parish for over seven years and we have been truly blessed to have had some inspirational speakers.

"In particular I want to

thank our parish priest Fr John Campbell, Deacon Kenny McGeachie, and the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St Lucy's who have all been a tremendous support to us both throughout".

Tony and Tilda, who have been married for 31 years have two sons, Kieran, 30, and Ryan, 27, who flew from his home in North Carolina. Deacon Tony's mum Maureen was unable to attend his ordination for health reasons but was present in spirit.

Tony joins 17 other Permanent Deacons serving parishes in the Archdiocese with three more men in formation.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Invitation to young people: Come to Lisbon!

WHEN someone says to me “World Youth Day”, I immediately have flashbacks to our Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Krakow in the summer of 2016.

My memories of sore feet, copious amounts of hotdogs and not getting much sleep are very quickly subdued by the beauty of seeing our young people on this journey.

There were many special moments – seeing those who were initially shy come out of their shells and grow in friendships, watching them kneel before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, witnessing their courage and trust as they arose and went to Confession, and joining with them as they joyfully walked through the streets of Krakow belting out chants of their own making and songs they had reworded for our group.

Accompanying our young people from across the Archdiocese as they walked with one another and grew more aware of God’s love and plan for them was the experience of a lifetime and a marvel to behold.

“World Youth Day has helped me be open to a possible vocation to the priesthood!”

Glasgow Pilgrim, Krakow 2016

We had some young people who were avid World Youth Day pilgrims, there



BY MAIRI-CLAIRE MCGEADY

for the 2nd, 3rd and even 4th time because they recognised that the experience would strengthen and renew them on their journey as young disciples of Jesus.

We had others who already attended Mass and came out of curiosity or with the encouragement of their family and found a home and a community with other young Catholics, making friendships that remain strong to this day.

“The pilgrimage helped me understand and experience my faith on a deeper level and also allowed me to meet and build friendships with people my age who love their faith as much as I do.”

Glasgow Pilgrim, Krakow 2016

We also had many who really just ‘found themselves on the pilgrimage’ through

sponsored places offered in their parishes and schools. Some of these young people testify that their main motivation for going was because it was a free holiday – one that turned out to be so much more.

The Lord made a way for them through the generosity and support of others and they came to encounter Jesus and begin anew their walk with Him.

“The WYD experience has helped me appreciate the Catholic Faith more after seeing the overwhelming numbers of young pilgrims in one area of the world.”

Glasgow Pilgrim, Krakow 2016

Now, as we look forward to, and finalise our plans for, World Youth Day in Portugal next summer, we are excited to see who will respond to the Lord’s call with that initial ‘yes’ to coming on this joyful and transformative adventure and how He will draw them closer to His heart as we journey together



to Lisbon.

The Archdiocesan pilgrimage welcomes young people aged between 16 (as of February 2023) to 35 (at time of travel) to join RCAG Youth and Archbishop Nolan on this trip of a lifetime taking place, provisionally, 30th July – 8th August 2023.

We will be hosting an Information Evening for potential pilgrims on Monday, 10th September at 7pm in our offices. More information can be found here: www.tinyurl.com/rcagwyd

Finally, if you are reading this and perhaps not as young in years as the pilgrims who will be joining us, we would love to partner with you. Please spread the word to any young people you know, please keep this pilgrimage and our group in your prayers as God prepares

our hearts, and please, if you are able, consider financially supporting a young person on this journey.

Donations can be made by cheques made payable to the ‘Archdiocese of Glasgow’ and sent to the Youth Office: Youth Office, 196 Clyde

Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. If you would like to donate through another method, please call Mairi-Claire McGeady on 0141 225 2614 or email youth@rcag.org.uk



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Fr Jim remembered in parish library

In a unique and touching tribute to a much-lived priest, parishioners of St Gregory's, Wyndford, have named their refurbished library in memory of the late Fr Jim Dean.

Fr Jim – former parish priest of St Robert's House-hillwood – served the St Gregory's community as a deacon for many years before being ordained to the priesthood.

Father Jim, who died aged 70 in April, is remembered with great affection by those who knew him at St Gregory's, according to parish priest Fr Allan Cameron.

He said: "I was given a number of Fr Jim's books so it seemed a good idea to both refurbish our library and name it after him at the same time."

"I can't take credit for the library, it was set up by my predecessor Fr Joe Mackle since our patron St Gregory was famous for setting up libraries, particularly in Bergamo and Padua, back in the 16th century."

"But over the years our library wasn't that well used and became simply a store-room for books."

Picture by Paul McSherry



BY BRIAN SWANSON

But now thanks to the hard work by a number of parish volunteers it has changed beyond recognition and now looks like the library it was always intended to be.

Now it is bright and inviting – having been painted and carpeted – and for the first time in years the books have been properly catalogued.

A framed picture of Fr

Dean attached to the library door bears the words, "A heart for service and a friend for life".

Books given to Fr Cameron by his good friend the late Fr Andrew Coleman from Paisley Diocese who died, aged 58, earlier this year, have also been added to the collection.

One of the volunteer parishioners Leonie Healey, who moved from Macclesfield two years ago said: "I've always been passionate

about books and I appreciate just how important libraries are, so when there was a chance to get involved I was delighted to help".

"Although I didn't know Fr Jim he was very highly thought of in the parish so it was very thoughtful to name the library in his memory."

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Scottish Charity No SCO22611

Holy Cross feast day with precious relic



Picture by Paul McSherry

ONE of the most precious relics of the Archdiocese was venerated last month to mark the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The parish of Holy Cross in Croy has a fragment from the wood of the Holy Cross. The attached certification states 'ex Ligno sanctissimae Crucis D. N. Jesu Christi' (from the wood of the Holiest Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ) found by St Helen around 327AD.

The piece of the cross – now enclosed in a precious reliquary – was certified by the

Holy See on 17th Sept 1929. The Relic was presented to the Parish by Rev A McSparran with a request to pray for the donor.

Fr Joe Sullivan, Parish Priest in Croy, arranged for the precious relic to be made available for veneration after Mass on the Feast Day at the end of all Masses the following weekend.

Children from the local primary school were invited to mark the feast day Mass and showed great interest in the relic of Christ's Cross.



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Wayside Club puts Pope Francis' teaching into action

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

ARCHBISHOP Nolan warmly praised volunteers at the Legion of Mary Wayside Club as he celebrated Mass to mark its 90th anniversary.

He told them: "If Pope Francis had been around 90 years ago he would be delighted at the initiative of the Legion of Mary in setting up the Wayside Club because it conforms in every way to how Pope Francis tells us we should deal with the poor."

Delivering his homily at a well-attended Mass at Blessed John Duns Scotus Church in the Gorbals, the Archbishop went on: "Pope Francis tells us not to just

throw money in a basket or a collection bag – he tells us to look the poor in the eye, to recognise their human dignity and to show them respect as a fellow child of God – and that is what the Wayside Club does.

"Of course money is important but the volunteers give much more than money – they give themselves".

Giving

"By giving of your very self and showing love and humanity to those you are caring for, you are showing to them the love of God because God acts through you.

"In carrying out these good works you are also carrying out God's work.

"We know of course from the Gospel story of the Good

Samaritan when Jesus talks of those who pass by on the other side. Certainly the Legion of Mary and the Wayside Club do not do that. They recognise when someone is down on their luck for whatever reason, needs help and you do not neglect them.

"The Legion volunteers do not pass by on the other side – and for 90 years they have done that and it is a wonderful achievement and a great cause for celebration.

"What's sad though is that while the Wayside Club was necessary 90 years ago it is still necessary today – things have not changed as there are people still very much in need of that care."

Afterwards the Archbishop, whose concern for the poor and support for



issues of justice and peace are well known, spent some time mingling with guests and chatting to officials, volunteers and clients from

the Wayside Club before the cutting of a celebration cake.

And in the true spirit of charity the leftovers from

the food provided by parishioners was later delivered to the Wayside Club's Midland Street base in the city centre.

90 years of serving Glasgow's poor

THE Wayside Club has been reaching out to the homeless and vulnerable of Glasgow since August 1932.

For many years Irish migrants struggling to survive were a significant group who benefited from the support of the Club.

This has changed significantly over the years with those currently seeking support coming from a range of groups including those in work as well as the unemployed who are struggling with poverty; migrant

BY DEACON JOHN FLETCHER
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR OF THE
WAYSIDE CLUB

groups, refugees; asylum seekers as well as many with addiction issues.

The need for support is just as important now in 2022 as it was in 1932.

The Legion of Mary Wayside Club seeks to "lead the people we encounter, to a greater knowledge and faith in God and to increase the faith and holiness of



our own members through prayer and service to Our Lord".

The Wayside Club has operated from a number of different premises around Glasgow since 1932 including North Street, Anderson; South Portland Street; and Midland Street.

The Covid pandemic forced the Wayside Club to provide a 'take away' service in order to be able to continue to reach out to the patrons throughout the lockdown. There are now plans to re-establish a range of services within our premises over the coming months which will include free hot and cold food; emergency food parcels; emergency clothes; sleeping bags; basic medical help; foot baths; showers and shaves; haircuts; Sunday Mass and time for prayer; small library, bingo and quizzes.

Celebrating 90 years of 'reaching out' is an opportunity to be thankful for the Legionaries who formed the club and have worked in the

club over the years.

It is also important to remember and pray for the patrons who have benefited from the support of the Wayside Club, as well as the archbishops, bishops, priests and religious who have supported the club.

The Legion of Mary also expresses grateful appreciation and thanks to the thousands of volunteers of many faiths and none for their work, which has enabled the club to provide the range of vitally important services to the patrons since 1932.

The ninety years anniversary is a proud moment in the life of the Wayside Club community.

As we reflect on the past, we also look to the future with a renewed sense of purpose. As we emerge from the pandemic, so may the Legion of Mary Wayside Club continue through devotion to Our Lady, to be a place of God's light to those who are searching to find it.



Finance and Operations Officer

Salary: £22,500–£24,500 p.a pro rata depending on experience
(P/time 15 hours/week: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday by negotiation)
Location: Govanhill, Glasgow

The Space is an initiative of The Louise Project, a Vincentian project operating in Govanhill to enable families to live flourishing lives and communities to thrive. Govanhill is the most multicultural area of Scotland, and we welcome all people to the project. The dominant group supported by the project are the European Roma from Romania and Slovakia.

The Space focuses on crisis support, integration into community and city life, enhancing wellbeing and adult education. We are seeking to recruit a Finance and Operations Officer to work alongside the Chief Executive at The Space to lead on finance tasks, administration, office, and facilities support and IT.

Role

We are looking for a person with the necessary skills in managing financial systems and who is inspired by our value base. We are seeking someone who is non-judgemental and who has a sense of social justice and a desire to see people move out of poverty.

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Ideally this will be someone with experience of having developed and maintained administrative systems within an office, experience of charity accounts and an understanding of the challenges faced by families living with the impacts of poverty.

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Fake or fortune?

BBC investigates mystery church painting



CLUES from the Archdiocese of Glasgow's archives have helped to identify the mystery artist responsible for a 500-year-old painting which has been on display at St John the Baptist Church in Port Glasgow for more than 150 years.

Art historian Ian Macdonald spent years trying to discover who created the unsigned painting, known as the 'Lamentation of Christ', but passed away leaving the mystery unsolved.

His widow Marjorie turned to the makers of the long running BBC programme 'Fake or Fortune' and asked presenters Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould to investigate using notes her husband had left which indicated that the work was by a Flemish artist working in the 1500s.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

Countless religious paintings were created during that period; and to cope with the demand they were often produced by a workshop. As such workshops had a number of artists the paintings were rarely signed.

The 'Fake or Fortune' team first needed to find out how the painting ended up the Port Glasgow Church and a key moment in the research came when presenter Fiona Bruce visited the Curial office in Clyde Street where Dr Mary McHugh found a report of the church's opening in 1854 reported in the Catholic Directory for Scotland.

The report showed that a wealthy widow called Isabella Hutchison (nee Cunningham), a convert origi-

nally from Port Glasgow but whose late husband was an Edinburgh businessman, gifted lavishly to the church in Port Glasgow to celebrate its opening.

A description attached to the painting says it was the reredos in the Port Glasgow church from the church's opening in 1854 until 1895. A reredos is a decorative screen or altarpiece behind the high altar. Although no mention was made specifically of the painting in the Directory, it is assumed it was included in the "altar, tabernacle, chalice, ciborium, all the altar linens and furnishings, together with vestments" which were presented by her.

Meanwhile, using dendrochronology (the dating of wood), experts consulted by art historian Philip Mould were able to say this wood-

en-panel painting could not have been painted before 1574.

Ian Macdonald had long believed it to be the work of a Flemish painter, and the evidence led 'Fake or Fortune' to focus on Flemish painter Michiel Coxie (known as the 'Flemish Raphael') and his workshop. After consulting art experts, it has now been established that the painting is most likely the work of his son Raphael with a value of some £60,000-£70,000.

Archdiocesan Archivist Dr Mary McHugh said: "It was fascinating to watch and to contribute to the research being done, and the use of both technology and history, to arrive at a conclusion".

■ The programme, 'Fake or Fortune' Series 10 No.4 Flemish Old Master, can still be viewed on BBC iPlayer.

Glasgow writers' Vatican date

APROJECT born in Glasgow was launched in Rome last month as a group from the Dear Green Place spoke at the World Congress on Catechesis in the Vatican.

The 'Reclaiming the Piazza' project aims to promote dialogue between Catholic culture and the secular world, focusing on respectful exchange and opposing the so-called 'culture wars'.

Founders of the project, Dr Leonard Franchi from Glasgow University and the Archdiocese's Director of Communications, Ronnie Convery, were invited to speak about the project in the Aula Paolo VI, the audience hall in the Vatican.

They were joined by London-based Sister Carolyn Morrison who spoke on Catholic culture and the arts and award-winning Glasgow restaurateur,



Giovanna Eusebi who spoke of the connection between food, family and faith.

Leonard said: "We were very touched to be asked to speak about Reclaiming the Piazza at the Vatican by Archbishop Fisichella - who wrote the preface to the third volume of our series of books.

"Our vision was for the Church to enter the 'piazza' of public affairs, of debate, of academic life and civil

society not to impose but to propose the insights and offer suggestions and solutions to the great issues of the day based on 2000 years of lived experience of humanity.

"We wanted to say to the secular world - 'The Catholic vision and tradition has something to say to the great issues of the day and we would like to offer you those insights in a spirit of respect and dialogue.'

"In this 3rd volume we try to reach out in a non-partisan way to a wide audience with short accessible chapters written by serious experts from around the world - from Spain and Italy, from the USA and England and Scotland - which seek to offer a summary of what we might call a 'Catholic vision' of so many areas of life.

"There are chapters on the most unlikely - and therefore most fascinating- topics. Catholic culture and architecture. Catholic culture and fashion. Catholic culture and journalism. Catholic culture and economics ... and Giovanna's lovely chapter on faith family and food.

■ The Reclaiming the Piazza project has a website at www.reclaimingthepiazza.com

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Dear young friends we invite you to pray and
to listen: If today you hear His voice, open wide
your hearts to Christ!

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty The Queen.

Over 70 years, she led with quiet determination and selfless devotion.

On behalf of the Clark family, we send our condolences to the Royal Family and we join those around the world mourning her loss.

Arnold Clark

Archbishop remembers Queen 'who proclaimed her faith openly'

QUEEN Elizabeth set an example by openly expressing and practising her Christian beliefs in a society where faith is regarded with a 'certain suspicion', Archbishop Nolan said as he offered a Requiem Mass at the Cathedral for the late monarch.

Delivering the homily during a sombre and reflective liturgy, he went on: "Today at this Mass we entrust Queen Elizabeth to the hands of God and pray that she will enjoy the fullness

BY BRIAN SWANSON

of life in God's presence, and we ask God to inspire us with the same faith that inspired her."

"In the days following the death of Queen Elizabeth, radio, television and newspapers have, quite naturally, been full of reminiscence – that is what we do when someone dies, and it is human nature to do so.

"But in this Church today

we do not look just to the past but to the future.

"That's why, in our Gospel reading – The Beatitudes – Jesus is able to say 'happy are those who mourn' because our sadness is tinged with the hope of resurrection and a new life with Jesus

"Queen Elizabeth shared our Christian faith but not only that – she expressed her faith openly.

"We live in a culture and a society where faith is not appreciated and looked on with a certain suspicion, yet it was the faith of Queen Elizabeth which inspired and sustained her for a very long time.

"Looking on Queen Elizabeth as a woman of faith should show us how much society, our nations, benefits from example.

"We pray today for Queen Elizabeth, as we pray for everyone who dies, and we entrust them to the loving mercy of God because as our first reading said 'the souls of the just are in the hands of God'.

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St Margaret of Scotland Hospice

On behalf of Sister Rita and the Board of St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, we wish to express our deep sadness at the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty The Queen visited the Hospice most recently in July 2012, a day celebrated by all in our local community.

We give thanks for her service over the last 70 years and will remember Her Majesty and all of the Royal Family in our prayers at this very sad time.

May she Rest in Peace.

St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, East Barns Street, Clydebank G81 1EG
Scottish Charity Number SC005623

100 years of “Lourdes’ little sister”

History was made last month when Carfin Grotto in Lanarkshire was proclaimed Scotland's National Marian Shrine. The proclamation came as the Lanarkshire Lourdes grotto celebrated its hundredth anniversary. A Mass celebrated by the Bishops of Scotland marked the occasion which was made more special by the visit of the relics of St Bernadette



BEING Scotland it rained. Being Carfin it didn't matter...

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

And so, with the respectful devotion born of a shared faith, the people came in their thousands to venerate the relics of St Bernadette on the day that Carfin Grotto, in its 100th anniversary year, was proclaimed Scotland's National Marian Shrine.

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.

It was, as Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell, principal celebrant at the National Pilgrimage Mass, put it: "A day of special joy and fervour."

It was also a day to recognise both the unswerving passion of former parish priest of St Xavier's Carfin, Canon Thomas Taylor whose vision led to the Grotto being created and the devotion and selfless labour of the unemployed miners whose sweat and faith built it in the harsh winters of the early 1920s.

It was for them quite literally, a labour of love which has evolved into a place of peace, of prayer, and of pilgrimage.

You can be sure that their descendants were among those sharing the joy of pilgrims of all ages who came from Scotland and beyond to share in the days of grace in the presence of the Saint's precious relics which arrived the day before the National Pilgrimage Mass.

In contrast to the rain on

the day of the Mass, glorious sunshine of the sort seen as an answer to prayers, greeted the relics when they arrived on the morning of Saturday September 24 having been driven from Our Lady and St Joseph's Church, Carlisle which was one of 50 destinations in England and Wales chosen to host the little saint of Lourdes.

On arrival, they were piped into the Grotto by John Nevens, a Deacon from Motherwell Diocese where they were greeted with spontaneous applause by the large crowd – some of who would later find themselves queuing for more than four hours to venerate, pray before them and leave petitions. Mobile phones, of course, recorded everything!

Guarded by members of the ever faithful Knights of Saint Columba, the exquisite golden reliquary encased in a glass case and, perhaps smaller than some had imagined, was placed next to an icon of St Bernadette written by a Carmelite nun from a monastery in Latvia as a reminder of the many Latvian families who settled in the area over the years.

Nearby a small statue of Our Lady, resting on a bed of flowers had been positioned in readiness to be carried at a later torchlight procession.

Behind the reliquary skilled stonemasons had created a new drystone dyke which swept like a river round the altar calling to mind the River Gave which



flows through Lourdes.

The other river was made up of people and they too flowed around the relics to venerate them in respectful silence.

All generations were represented. Old men, some of whom appeared to have something in their eye, stood with young children who one day will tell their grandchildren of this day, family groups stood alongside visiting nuns – 'Devotions are wonderful for the people,' one said.

"Do you get paid for this son?" someone shouted to a young lad in a high-viz vest in a burst of humour.

"No mate," came the quick reply "I get paid in grace!"

It was that kind of day when none were ashamed of their beliefs while in the queue new friendships were created, old ones renewed in

a lengthy line of the patient faithful.

Few probably paid much attention to the new wall but it too is another very visible sign of faith and devotion by those who love this sacred place.

The building of the wall and renewal of the altar in similar style were just two examples the months of hard work – twelve hour days were by no means unusual – that a small army of volunteers undertook to make sure the grotto looked its best.

This reporter can confirm that they succeeded.

At the entrance to the grotto, adorned with fresh cut flowers, Statues of Our Lady and a young Bernadette gleamed in the sunshine, while the once tired-looking holy water font had been given a new coat of

white and gold paint.

Nearly row after row of devotional candles flickered, faded and were constantly renewed by the eager faithful.

Elsewhere grassy areas had been manicured, hedges trimmed, statues and shrines renewed and cleaned all in preparation for the pilgrims from every diocese in Scotland who arrived by coach on their allocated day to celebrate Mass and venerate the relics throughout the week of the historic visit.

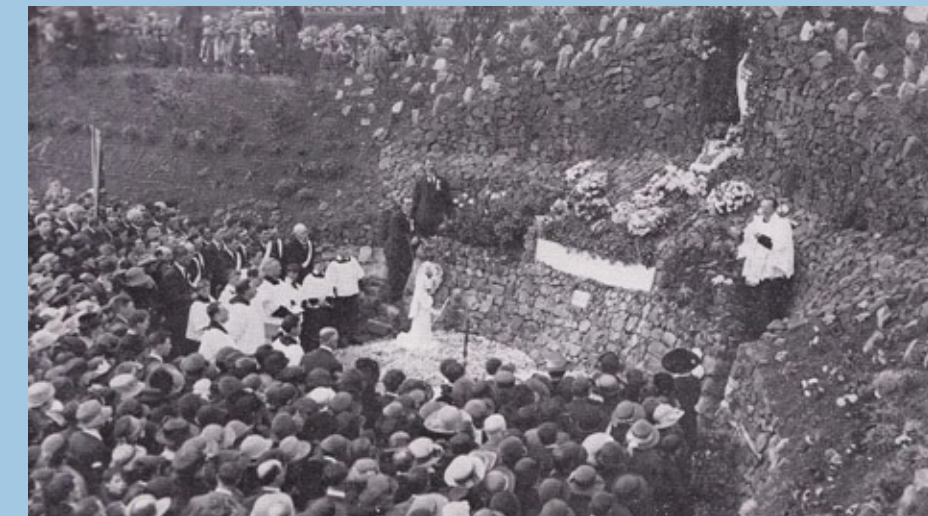
In a few weeks the relics, a piece of bone from Bernadette Soubirous' thigh, will return to the Upper Basilica at Lourdes where in pre-Covid times they were venerated annually by more than three million people.



Left: Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Eamon Martin joins a young family (right) to venerate the relics



A century of grace and graft



WORK on the Carfin version of the Lourdes Grotto began in the early 1920s. The shrine was built, by hand, by local parishioners on a site opposite the St Francis Xavier's parish Church.

Many of the builders were coal miners from Carfin and neighbouring villages out of work during the 1921 Coal Miners' Strike.

The Grotto was the brainchild of the Parish Priest of Carfin, Fr Taylor, who was aware of the need to keep these workers occupied to minimise the effects of unemployment on their morale.

Starting with a bare field in 1920, thanks to the faith and zeal of the volunteers, the shrine was largely complete within two years. It officially opened in 1922. The grotto's central scene depicted Our Lady's appearance to Saint Bernadette in a bricked, terraced garden which included an altar for outdoor Mass, when the West of Scotland weather allowed.

Father – later Canon – Taylor's book of the shrine's first 30 years records over 300 volunteers working on the grotto in its first two decades. He also records a single pilgrimage of over 50,000 pilgrims in 1924.

The shrine opened in late 1922 and it quickly became a pilgrimage site for Catholics from across Scotland and the rest of the world. Services were held for the Polish and Lithuanian communities that had settled in Scot-

land.

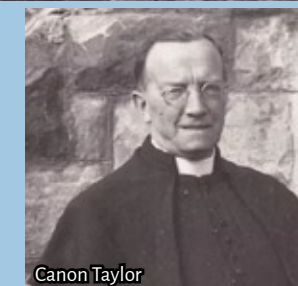
The shrine expanded beyond a single field to many acres between 1922 and the 1960s. The grotto later added a Glass Chapel situated on a raised "Headland" above the main pilgrim walkway.

The grotto grounds now house many life-size depictions of Christ, Our Blessed Lady and many saints. It also contains a life-size representation of Jesus' life with Mary and Joseph in their house and carpentry shop, which is depicted in a cave; a Reliquary; as well as a sunken garden.

Other depictions include the Way of the Cross, a large number of statues of Saints, and a statue honouring Our Lady, Star of the Sea, complete with a miniature lake.

On Sunday afternoons at 3pm, between May and October, Rosary processions are held. These are traditionally attended by thousands of visitors. The rosary is led by the parish priest, a tradition started by Fr Taylor and carried on by his successor, Fr George Mullen (later Canon George Mullen).

The priest would stand on the parapet of the Glass Chapel, from which a clear view could be obtained, both of the Grotto itself and of the movement of the procession along the shrine's gravel paths. Each Sunday procession culminated in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the upper Glass Chapel. Many local people remember the discomfort of kneeling in the gravel as



Canon Taylor

children, at the moment of adoration in the Benediction service!

By the time of Canon Taylor's death in 1963, the Carfin Lourdes Grotto enjoyed a high national profile and attracted tens of thousands of pilgrims annually. Among the many seasonal pilgrimages to the shrine, each May, First Communicants from surrounding dioceses visited for procession, with lines of white-dressed girls and school-blazer boys. As the region is rich in Irish immigrants, local Hibernian groups attended the shrine annually on procession. Lithuanian and Polish groups also attended the shrine on annual pilgrimage.

In recent years the Carfin has undergone a renaissance with the addition of new shrines to saints of the modern world, including St John Paul II and Blessed Carlo Acutis.

The National Pilgrimage of 2022 – marking the centenary of the opening of the shrine – also sees it officially designated as Scotland's national Marian Sanctuary ... a fitting way to mark a century of faith and devotion, and surely an honour of which Canon Taylor would very much approve.

Queues, relics and new friends

THE scales have fallen from my eyes.

After the Queen died and queues began forming to pay their respects in Westminster Hall I asked myself, and anyone else who would listen: a) could you do it? and b) if so, how long would you be prepared to queue for?

At its longest the queue stretched for almost 10 miles with a waiting time of more than 24 hours. For me it was the human interest story of the week. Questions about the overnight temperatures, toilet facilities and what people could and couldn't take in with them dominated my thoughts.

Then there was the issue of the 'fast-track' queue and more recently the rumpus over Philip Schofield and Holly Willoughby, previously the nation's media darlings, getting stick for queue-jumping in what some are now referring to as 'queuegate'.

Like my mother before me I've never waited for a bus, preferring to walk to

Mary's musings

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



the next stop and take my chance of missing the next one due. What's the likelihood I could cope with ten minutes never mind 10 miles?

And then I went to Carfin for the visit of the relics of St Bernadette on the day of the national pilgrimage and suddenly I understood. In typical queue-averse fashion my wee heart sank as we made our way into the grotto and I saw the crowd waiting to venerate the relics. Himself looked at me as if to say, "Oh ye of little faith!"

It took only a second or two to immerse myself in the wonder and beauty of it all and any misgivings were dispelled. If it was small fry by Westminster standards

it surely surpassed it in both camaraderie and reverence.

We were no sooner in line when we struck up conversation with a couple of ladies in front of us. The national pilgrimage Mass had not long ended and buses were departing for some of the various parishes.

A tannoy call went out for some remaining passengers for a bus about to leave. One of our new pals immediately quipped "whit a riddy" and in that moment I realised how people were able to queue to see the queen lying in state.

The rain came on, and on it stayed throughout the torchlight procession, extinguishing the candles of many of us. In all of this the stewards guided and shep-

Picture by Paul McSherry



herded us.

At the veneration of the relics, they good-naturedly chivvied along those who wanted to pray just that little bit longer in front to the relics so as to ensure we all got our turn. They were on hand to assist those who needed any help and they chatted and answered queries. The hours were long for them and many helped all week.

When I went to Tuesday evening's torchlight procession, I met a volunteer I had chatted with on Sunday and we greeted each other like old friends.

Those first missing parishioners from their buses were not alone in their lateness and announcements continued to be made for, as they say in airport departure lounges, 'the last remaining passengers'.

Stewards did the rounds of the grotto searching for them. My money would have been on their being in the Xavier Centre having a cuppa. It's where you'd usually find me.

The queue may not have been as long as the one a couple of weeks ago in Westminster Hall. Had it been I would have waited all day and all night, and then some.

ART OF THE MONTH

The art of Our Lady of the Rosary

THE mandatory memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on 7th October each year according to a decision of Pope Saint Pius X.

The feast, also known as Our Lady of Victory, was established in 1573 by Pope Saint Pius V in celebration of the victory of the Battle of Lepanto which had secured European Christendom against a Turkish invasion on October 7, 1571.

We may well pray the Rosary to win God's favour in combatting anti-Christian forces in our days. Great artists such as Caravaggio and Barocci have painted the Madonna but often in rather crowded scenes with symbols and images of their patrons. Not so, Simon Cantarini in this delightful portrait principally of Mary and the Child.

Cantarini born early in the 17th century in Pesaro and, not surprisingly, known as il Pesarese, was also a skilled etcher as well as a painter. He employs bright, lively colours which endow the

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

scene with a certain attractive and peaceful joy.

Mary holds her Son firmly but tenderly as her beautifully depicted face seems to concentrate on her rosary.

Her red robe signifies her love and passion as it is the colour of blood. Her blue cloak, the colour of the skies, depicts her heavenly nature as she seems to

be carried and surrounded by angels. The Child, in the purest shining white has a charming expression on His face as he seems to play with the beads.

Have you ever given a baby beads to hold? They hold them tightly and wave them about joyously ... much as Jesus seems to do! If you give your children or grandchildren rosary beads, it may just be the beginning of a Marian devotion. Try it!



Simone Cantarini, *Our Lady of the Rosary* (about 1640)



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PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Lord, open our hearts to your grace. May we, who learned to believe, through the angel's message, in the incarnation of Christ your Son, be brought by his passion and cross, at the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to the glory of his resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.



EXACTLY one year from now, assuming nothing unexpected happens in the meantime, Italian Cardinal Angelo Comastri will turn 80 and lose his right to vote in a papal election.

By that point, 10 of his fellow Princes of the Church also will have crossed the 80-year-old threshold, leaving the number of cardinal electors at precisely 120.

That number, 120, is the ceiling established by St. Paul VI in 1975 for the total body of cardinal electors, though popes ever since routinely have exceeded the limit when they distribute new red hats. The reasoning is that since you never know when an election will occur, by the time it happens the number probably will have come back down to around where it's supposed to be. In 2005 and 2013, the actual number was 115.

We can probably assume that between now and September 2023, Pope Francis won't hold another consistory. So far, Francis has staged eight consistories, with an average gap of 14.5 months between them. As a result, we can take a look down the line right now at what the group of cardinal electors will look like the next time it hits that magic number of 120.

One key point: Of the 11 cardinals who will lose voting privileges over the next year, all are appointees of either Pope John Paul II or Pope Benedict XVI. By that point, of the 120 cardinals eligible to vote, 82 will have been appointed by Francis, representing 68.4 percent – in other words, above the two-thirds threshold needed to elect a pope.

Three observations about the group a year from now suggest themselves.

First, among the 11 cardinals who will age out, seven are Italian. That will leave the Italians with 14 cardinal electors, which is still the largest contingent of any single nation but considerably below their historical peak.

In fact, should the next conclave take place a year from now with this lineup of electors, the North American bloc actually would be equivalent to the Italians, since there would be 10 voting cardinals from the U.S. and four from Canada. Those numbers make the Americans the second-largest national group, and they also represent a historical peak for Canada.

Second, seen in continental terms, the distribution of voting cardinals isn't dramatically different than when Francis took over.

Who will elect the next Pope?

Picture: Imago Mundi



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

Here's how it will break down in a year's time. Europe: 45 (38 from western Europe, 7 from central and eastern Europe); North America: 14; South America: 21; Asia: 21; Africa: 16; Oceania: 3.

Europeans still will be significantly over-represented relative to their Catholic population. Worldwide, Europe accounts for just over 20 percent of the Catholic total of 1.3 billion people, but its 45 voting cardinals will represent 37.5 percent of the total.

Meanwhile, Brazil and Mexico will still have a good argument that they're getting the shaft, despite a decade under history's first Latin American pontiff.

Brazil is the largest Catholic country in the world, with around 125 million people, but it will have six voting cardinals. Do the math: If it happened a year from now, there would be just one vote in the next conclave for every 21 million Brazilian Catholics, but one for every 7 million Americans and for every 3.5 million Italians.

Mexico, the second-largest Catholic nation, has an even more dramatic case for under-representation. In a year's time it

will have 100 million Catholics but only two voting-age cardinals, meaning one vote for every 50 million people.

Third and finally, however, looking at the lineup by continent or country misses the point. The real impact of the Francis revolution is far more keenly felt in terms of where these voting cardinals come from within continents.

In general, Francis has bypassed established centers of ecclesiastical power and created cardinals in non-traditional venues.

In the United States, for instance, there are four dioceses which at one point or another were led by cardinals that don't have one presently: Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Baltimore and St. Louis. Meanwhile under Francis, Indianapolis briefly had a cardinal before Joseph Tobin relocated to Newark, and San Diego now has one.

In Europe, among the 15 cities with the largest Catholic populations, all of which have had cardinals at some point throughout history, only eight currently have one. Of that total, only four have been named by Pope Francis – the other four are holdovers from either John Paul II or Benedict XVI. Archdioceses once considered automatic for

a cardinal, such as Paris, Prague, Milan and Warsaw, are all currently without a Prince of the Church.

The same pattern applies pretty much everywhere else.

In the consistory last month, Francis created a new cardinal in Nigeria, which makes perfect sense given that it's one of the Catholic powerhouses of Africa. However, he didn't elevate the Archbishop of Abuja, the national capital, but rather Peter Okpaleke of the relatively obscure diocese of Ekwulobia. Similarly, he picked a Brazilian from the Amazon, an Italian from a small town in the north and a Ghanaian from a small provincial city.

Reaching back further, when Francis created a cardinal in Haiti in 2014 he skipped the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince to elevate Cardinal Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, which has a population of around 70,000 souls.

In historical terms, what's happened under Francis is a break with the "institutional" model of naming cardinals. During the John Paul and Benedict years, it was fairly easy to anticipate the composition of a consistory – you'd simply go down the list of Vatican gigs and red-hat sees that always got cardinals, circle the ones that were presently empty, and you could usually guess at least two-thirds of the next crop.

Francis has adopted a more "pastoral" approach, meaning he elevates figures he regards as having the pastoral, spiritual and ecclesiological qualities he wants to promote, regardless of what institutional position they hold.

As a result, when the clock strikes midnight on Sept. 17, 2023, and the roster of cardinals eligible to vote returns to its theoretical cap of 120, it may not be possible to anticipate what they'll do – but one can at least say for sure that it'll be very much Francis's men who do it.

CRUX
Taking the Catholic Pulse

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MISSION SUNDAY

Ethiopia revisited

Missio Scotland’s work with missionaries is changing the lives of countless people in the Horn of Africa

In October 1984, BBC newsreader Michael Buerk’s powerful report on the famine in Ethiopia shone a light on the tragic situation taking place in the oldest independent country in the African continent.

BY GERARD COUGH

This poignant piece of journalism touched the hearts of many people in Scotland – and indeed throughout the world – and the country’s Catholics, both individuals and parish groups, were inspired to provide whatever support they could to those in need.

In the Church, we often speak about putting our Faith into action and it is something that Missio Scotland – and our partners in the Pontifical Mission Societies – can honestly say that we do 365 days a year.

However, we couldn’t do it without the support of Scotland’s Catholics – who are, in effect, lay missionaries – and the missionary priests and sisters worldwide who are charged with identifying a need for certain projects, helping to get them off the ground and maintaining them once they are up and running.

This year, Missio Scotland’s fundraising focus falls on Ethiopia. This is due in no small part to the example set by the lay missionaries from St Teresa’s in Dumfries whose parishioners were among those greatly moved by the famine in the 1980s and who set up a lifelong link with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady in what would be known as The Ababa Project.

“Like the rest of the world, we were so moved by the sight of hungry, suffering people that we wanted to help,” Beatrice Gardner, one of the co-ordinators of the Ababa Project, said.

“At that time, in Langholm, the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady had

a nursing home and the initial contact was made there through the sisters’ Ethiopian connection. They put us in touch with the wonderful Sr Colette Ellis, an Irish sister who had spent more than 30 years in Ethiopia, teaching English and nursing to the sisters there and working with the poorest of the poor.”

From that point, the parish began to run a number of fundraisers and began to learn more and more about some of the hardships faced by the Ethiopian people from Sr Colette on her visits back to Ireland via Scotland.

Fuelled with this knowledge, the St Teresa’s parishioners began to diversify their support into women’s projects, medical assistance, feeding programmes and teaching training schemes to name a few.

Community

The Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Sisters have been in Ethiopia since 1910. They live prayerful lives in a community dedicated to caring for others, especially those most in need. In this atmosphere of kindness and goodness, they support each other’s professional and spiritual needs and draw strength from their shared community. Sisters pursue various career paths in medical, professional and other fields and work in various capacities.

Responding to the spirit of God in their lives, they live lives of integrity, making vibrant their shared evangelical life. They reach out in reverence and compassionate service to every person, especially those most in need, and work to make a significant difference in the world.

Since they arrived in Ethiopia, they have been involved in tremendous social and development activities, in addition to their core mission of pastoral services in the area where their community is located.

Over the years, St Teresa’s has supported many different projects in Ethiopia, but one of the most successful to date is the one that was set up at the same time that they gave their mission project its official name in 2012.

The parish patroness – and Patroness of Missionaries – is St Thérèse of Lisieux, known as the ‘Little Flower.’ The Ababa is the flower that links both communities and the parish decided to make this connection more evident in their project title.

The TEACH (Teresa Educating A Child) programme, which was set up in the same year, invites parishioners to sponsor children from the neediest backgrounds to attend school. The cost of sponsorship is £20 per child, per month, which helps to pay for the teacher’s wages, materials, uniforms, a hygiene pack and a daily meal.

“In its first year, we sponsored 54 children,” Derek Cochrane, another of the Ababa’s Project’s co-ordinator’s, said. “In 2022 we are sponsoring 117 children. This is the 10th year of the project and its popularity has grown steadily over the years. Fr Jim refers to it as ‘the jewel in the parish’s crown.’”

It’s fitting that this example of Faith in action from the parishioners of St Teresa’s, in conjunction with the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady, has an educational focus as it has inspired Missio Scotland to make our own contribution to help support education in Ethiopia using the Ababa Project channels.



MISSION SUNDAY

We are all missionaries, says the Pope

EVERY year something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY joins all Catholics around the world into one community of faith, praying together for a special intention.

Message

At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation to be missionaries in our own lives, we reflect on the work on Missionaries round the world and pray for them and we contribute to a special appraisal to fund the Church’s missionary work.

Pope Francis’ message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: “You shall be my witnesses”.

He reminds us that, “every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ’s disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church ...”

On World Mission Sunday, we join our Holy Father in supporting the missions. As we pray and respond here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord’s mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in mission countries

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday offers each one of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,150 mission dioceses.

How You Can Help

Give generously to the World Mission Sunday (Propagation of Faith) collection at your parish.

Promote World Mission Sunday on your social media to bring about awareness.

Talk to friends and family about World Mission Sunday and how their generosity can impact others, bringing God’s love, mercy, hope and peace to the poor.

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Prayer for Missionaries

We adore you, Jesus our Shepherd and Saviour. And we praise and thank you for your living among us. We ask you to walk beside your missionaries as they seek to proclaim your Gospel. Cherish, guide, and strengthen them; help them to be patient when they meet frustrations, and encourage them when they are disappointed. Lead them, we beseech you, along the path you desire for them. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us. St Joseph, pray for us. St Teresa of the Child Jesus, pray for us. St Francis Xavier, pray for us.

Prayer for Seminarians

We praise you, merciful Father, for sending your Son into the world to free us from sin and enrich us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To continue His mission He sent His apostles, the bearers of his love, to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples and offer believers new life through Baptism and

the Eucharist. Look kindly, Lord, on the men who train for the priesthood, especially in the mission churches. Inspire them with perseverance and courage so that they may reach their goal of ordination and continue the work of the apostles in today’s world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Evangelisation

Lord you call us to witness to you in this world. Help us to walk with you on the way of the beatitudes; give us strength, courage, perseverance and hope, and fill our hearts and minds with the conviction that you are present with us. Help us to reach out to the men and women of our time; open our hearts and communities to the needy, the afflicted, the oppressed, so that we may share the joy of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Amen.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us. St Joseph, pray for us. St Teresa of the Child Jesus, pray for us. St Francis Xavier, pray for us.



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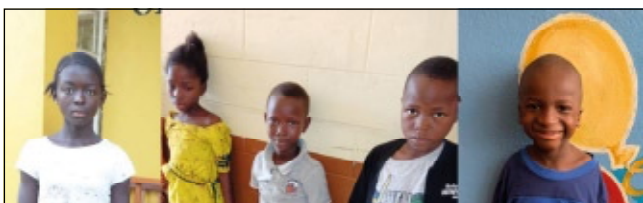
As the years pass it's easy

to 'give in' to a variety of problems which, with a bit of care, can be easily overcome.

It might be issues around weight gain or mobility, it

might be a question of dental health – teeth don't have to fall out or get yellow because of old age! – or it might be a question of accessing help to live with a chronic illness.

Often it is family members who bear the brunt when a person begins to show signs of ill health, but it's worth checking out what help might be available from health professionals, charities and the state before simply accepting poor health as a fact of life. Experts agree that a small effort at physical exercise, eating more fruit and vegetables, avoiding excess alcohol and tobacco and keeping a regular check on things like blood pressure, heart-rate, oral hygiene and weight can add years of healthy living to the average life.



CLUB FOOT MISSION SIERRA LEONE

Sinnah and her disabled companions will soon play active games like the other children, thanks to you, German surgeon Dr Fritjof, and Mission Sierra Leone.

The contribution which was made, paid for the visits to and from the hospital by the children and carers, X-rays, plaster casts and dressings, crutches, all meals for children and carers and also the wages of the carers for three months following surgery. The good news is that the children are well and free of the dressings!

Our funding target is £100,000, which will enable Mission Sierra Leone to assist by providing gap funding for worthwhile projects that improve the lives of disabled children in Sierra Leone.

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Pope Francis hails the
‘heroes of healing’

In his message for this year's World Day of the Sick, celebrated earlier in 2022 Pope Francis paid tribute to healthcare professionals recognising that their service is more than a job. "It is a mission," he said.

He added: "Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails."

The Pope continued: "Jesus' invitation to be merciful

like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer.

"Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission..."

"Patients are always more important than their dis-

eases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can omit listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given.

"It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a

closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her pathology. For this reason, I would hope that the training provided to health workers might enable them to develop a capacity for listening and relating to others".



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Following Jesus is about more than just keeping the rules!



Fr Tom Kilbride

WE have been walking the road to Jerusalem with Jesus over these past few months and this month we're on the final stretch.

However, there is still a lot to explore as disciples following his path.

Over four Sundays, we hear two life encounters and two parables, each shedding light on the others. Words are given flesh in real events, while the events are interpreted through the words.

Jesus's teaching, Luke reminds us, is not just about ideas: it is about lives. So, discipleship is not just following a code or a philosophy: it is about our real lives and how we live them. Yet we reflect on those lives in the light of Jesus's words.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday C

The story of the ten lepers has many layers. First, we are "on the border", a place of potential conflict and tension, but which becomes a place of healing. Also, we are told that at least one of those healed was a Samaritan, a "foreigner", a sure sign that, as with Naaman the Syrian in the First Reading, God's grace is for all.

Jesus had told the people of Nazareth this way back at the start of his ministry, using the story of Naaman as an example, but they were less than welcoming of the news!

In another layer, it is a story of mercy: the lepers begin distanced from Jesus, but when he is healed, the Samaritan throws himself at Jesus' feet. Fear and the estrangement give way to joy and embrace.

It is a story about thanksgiving too and the importance of recognising and

praising God for the good things he does for us and the graces we receive. L

Lastly, it is a reminder that following Jesus is about more than keeping rules. After all, the nine go to the priests as the Law requires. The Samaritan, not being held to the Jewish Law, doesn't see the need to carry out this requirement but, instead, returns to thank Jesus. Asking about the other nine, Jesus is perhaps suggesting that they had got things the wrong way round: the Law guides our actions in response but giving thanks to God should come first.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday C

The healing of the ten lepers last week begins with their plea to Jesus: "Master! Have pity on us!" Their appeal is, of course, heard and they are healed. Such an attitude of faith and trust is the key to Jesus' teaching today.

Sometimes, we are tempted to think of prayer as simply demanding things from God and we lose heart when the response isn't immediate. Jesus reminds us that God answers prayer in his time, not ours, and does so always in a way that is right for us.

If an unlikeable, lazy person like the judge in the parable will eventually come round for the sake of getting some peace, how much more will God in his love and providence give what we need, Jesus suggests.

We should not think of God as unconcerned if we feel he is taking his time. Keep praying and don't lose heart! The closing question of the text, however, is challenging: will we persevere, or will we give up?

Thirtieth Sunday C

For the third Sunday in a row – even if we haven't noticed – we are taught something about prayer today. This is something Luke's Gospel does a lot!

The lepers called on Jesus for mercy and their appeal was heard. We learned about prayer and thanksgiving. The parable last week taught us about prayer, trust and perseverance. This week, we hear a parable about prayer and humility.

The tax collector goes to God repentant and humble, aware of his sins and shortcomings. He simply asks for mercy – and his prayer is heard. Meanwhile, the Pharisee lists all his virtues. He tries to show off to God, even to the point of disdain for his praying neighbour. In the end, however, he is praying "to himself". He might as well be talking to a mirror: "am I not the fairest of them all?" He has made himself his own idol.

The tax collector knows his need of God and of mercy (like the lepers) and goes home "at rights" with God. God knows us thoroughly and loves us; our prayer must simply be honest and humble.

Thirty-First Sunday C

All summer, we have been "on the road" with Jesus making for Jerusalem. The story of Zacchaeus today is the final encounter on that road.

The story is like the Gospel in miniature – this last meeting, down in the Jericho valley, before Jesus takes the steep, winding road up to Jerusalem, touches on much of what Luke has been trying to teach us about Jesus from the beginning.

Here, a tax collector recognises and makes amends for his past sins and finds mercy. Here, the "today" which Jesus introduced back in Nazareth, a time of salvation, happens for Zacchaeus. Salvation comes to him in Jesus. Here, Zacchaeus is a real-life Prodigal Son



who was "lost and is found", embraced by mercy and the celebration of repentance – while his "older brothers" complain!

And, as always in Luke, the encounter with Jesus leads to joy. A little detail we might miss is that, although Zacchaeus seems to be the main figure, it is Jesus who first calls to him by name. Luke reminds us that Jesus knows us already and that he wants to be part of our lives, even despite ourselves. He calls us by name.

How will we respond? Zacchaeus has a lot to teach us about that!

Thirty-Second Sunday C

Although this Sunday falls within our monthly reflections, it really goes with the Sundays which follow, as we find ourselves at last in Jerusalem.

Jesus will speak about death and resurrection, about persecution and hope, and about the salvation he brings. If the Gospel seems a strange one, it is because

it is starting from the kinds of questions people were asking in Jesus' day, about whether there was such a thing as resurrection.

The Sadducees thought not; the Pharisees and others thought there was. Jesus is clear: there is a life beyond this one, in which we hope, and this life has always been part of God's plan for us. That life will be heralded by his own Resurrection and he will offer us a share in it. But that is for next month's reflections!

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Remembering a hero of the war against poverty

ONE day in September I attended the funeral of Cathy McCormack. The next, we learned of the death of Queen Elizabeth. Two remarkable women, each leaving their mark on today's world.

You may think I'm being very presumptuous in placing Cathy, Easterhouse activist, in the same paragraph as Queen Elizabeth II – but I'm going to continue that presumption and say that I believe that these two women will be received as equals when they knock on heaven's door.

Cathy may make a wee bit more of a fuss. As Rev Malcolm Cuthbertson said in his eulogy, she would inspect God's many mansions for black mould and bring it to the attention of St Peter if there was so much as a speck.

We probably all know as much as there is to know about the Queen, living



Marian Pallister

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

as she did in the glare of publicity for most of her long life. I was taken by the words of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who said in his tribute on social media that the Queen was 'a reassuring presence through decades of change'. As someone concerned with peace, I'm sure that reassuring influence went far beyond these often-troubled shores.

Many people in many countries knew and mourned Cathy McCormack, too. In his forward to Cathy's story, *The Wee Yellow Butterfly*, which I co-wrote

with Cathy, publisher Derek Rodger said, 'The person that is Cathy McCormack is a marker for our times.'

He added, 'She is a woman with a passion, with an ingrained sense of justice, a campaigner, a carrier of humanity, a bearer of standards of decency. She is a doer and a thinker. Hers is a mind with no space for cant, hypocrisy, spin or cliché.'

She campaigned against damphousing, about health, about what she called 'the war without bullets' that she saw being waged against the poor – and when she



took her crusade for better housing to Europe, when she was called to speak on health issues to the UN's World Health Organisation in New York, was invited to

visit Nicaragua, South Africa and elsewhere, she took on board that this war was being waged worldwide – a war in which she said that instead of mines to blow

people up, people's very souls are undermined.

As a journalist, I wrote about Cathy's campaigns. When Derek Rodger asked me to work with her on her book, I was pleased and proud to be involved. We spent many hours recording her amazing story. Yet despite all the attention, Cathy was never anything but grounded in the Glasgow housing scheme that spawned her first steps faltering steps as an activist.

So this isn't an obituary. It's a clarion call to all who seek a world of nonviolence – because what Cathy called 'the war without bullets' against the poor continues. She heard the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. Fired by her faith she kept poverty on the agenda and continued to her dying day as a voice crying out for basic human rights. She personified all Pax Christi Scotland aspires to.

“THE cock will crow at the breaking of your own ego – there are lots of ways to wake up!”

John Shea gave me those words and I understood them a little better recently as I stood in line at an airport: I had checked in for a flight, approached security, saw a huge lineup, and accepted the fact that it would take at least 40 minutes to get through it.

I was all right with the long wait and moved patiently in the line – until, just as my turn came, another security crew arrived, opened a second scanning machine, and a whole lineup of people, behind me, who had not waited the forty minutes, got their turns almost immediately.

I still got my turn as I would have before, but something inside of me felt

Lessons learned in an airport queue

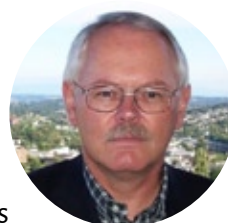
slighted and angry: "This wasn't fair! I'd been waiting for forty minutes, and they got their turns at the same time as I did!" I had been content waiting, until those who arrived later didn't have to wait at all. I hadn't been treated unfairly, but some others had been luckier than I'd been.

That experience taught me something, beyond the fact that my heart isn't always huge and generous.

It helped me understand something about Jesus' parable concerning the workers who came at the 11th hour and received the same wages as those who'd worked all

Scribblings of the spirit

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



day and what is meant by the challenge that is given to those who grumbled about the unfairness of this: "Are you envious because I'm generous?"

Are we jealous because God is generous? Does it bother us when others are given unmerited gifts and forgiveness?

You bet! Ultimately, that sense of injustice, of envy that someone else caught a break is a huge stumbling block to our happiness. Why? Because something in us reacts negatively when it seems that life is not making others pay the same dues as we are paying.

In heaven we will be given what we are owed and more (unmerited gift, forgiveness we don't deserve, joy beyond imagining) but, it seems, we will not be given that catharsis we so much want here on earth, the joy of seeing the wicked punished.

The joys of heaven will not include seeing Hitler suffer. Indeed, the natural itch we have for strict justice ("An eye for an eye") is exactly

us, it must be given everybody; and if God does not avenge our misdeeds, God must not avenge the misdeeds of others either. Such is the logic of grace, and such is the love of the God to whom we must attune ourselves.

Happiness is not about vengeance, but about forgiveness; not about vindication, but about unmerited embrace; and not about capital punishment, but about living beyond even murder.

It is not surprising that, in some of the great saints, we see a theology bordering on universalism, namely, the belief that in the end God will save everyone, even the Hitlers.

They believed this not because they didn't believe

in hell or the possibility of forever excluding ourselves from God, but because they believed that God's love is so universal, so powerful, and so inviting that, ultimately, even those in hell will see the error of their ways, swallow their pride, and give themselves over to love. The final triumph of God, they felt, will be when the devil himself converts and hell is empty.

Maybe that will never happen. God leaves us free. Nevertheless, when I, or anyone else, is upset at an airport, at a parole board hearing, or anywhere else where someone gets something we don't think he or she deserves, we have to accept that we're still a long way from understanding and accepting the kingdom of God.



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JUST after I finished the log last week and sent it off to our webmaster for posting, along with the newsletter, word came in of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

We prayed for her respectfully at the Novena Mass that evening, and at the Masses next day. Since then, of course, it has been blanket coverage.

I was born in June 1951, while George VI was still king. He died in February the following year and Elizabeth immediately acceded to the throne. Her coronation took place in June 1953. So, Elizabeth has been queen for almost all of my lifetime. Being from an Irish immigrant Catholic family, the queen didn't feature hugely in our consciousness.

In our tenement home in Partick, we had the usual pictures of the Pope, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Saint Anthony of Padua. There was no picture of the queen, but neither was there any anti-royal sentiment. I suppose what I remember most is the national anthem being played at the end of a night at the cinema, or at the dancing,

Musings on being 'part of history'



Fr Frank's log

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

at which I probably felt a slight awkwardness, but stood anyway, as everyone else was standing.

I think that came to an end sometime in the early 1970s. On hearing of Queen Elizabeth's death, I surprised myself by feeling quite emotional. Over the years I had come to respect her as a woman of deep faith, and someone whose faith informed an extraordinary life of dedicated service, and devotion to duty. I admired her when, as the country became less and less Christian, she continued to express her Christian faith quite strongly in her Christmas messages, and on other occasions when she addressed the nation.

I do, however, feel a sense of being part of history as King Charles III accedes to

the throne. We will pray also for him. I still remember a remark he made once, along the lines of, that to imagine the universe was created by accident, was like believing a hurricane could blow through a scrap yard and create a Rolls Royce. I think he actually had a Rolls Royce at the time!

He too, I believe, is a man of strong Christian faith, and I'm sure that will inform his reign too, like his mother.

In terms of being part of history, the last time I felt that was when I was in Africa at the time of the first free elections in South Africa, which took place on 27th April 1994, now known as Freedom Day. In the lead-up to the elections, I had



spent a few months looking after a parish, including a black township, in South Africa, near Pretoria. I remember clearly the tensions running high and I experienced a few scary moments during that time. I remember too, the efforts made to inform black and coloured people of the process of casting their vote, as it was something completely new to them. I felt embarrassed at the things we take for

granted.

Before the elections took place, I moved on to Botswana for a time to work with Passionist postulants and novices. I finished my African trip at our Theology house in Kenya, near Nairobi, and I was there when the elections in South Africa took place.

Coincidentally, it was while she was in Kenya, that the then Princess Elizabeth heard of the death of her fa-

ther. A few days before the elections, South Africans living in other countries were facilitated in casting their votes. I recall clearly three of our Theology students putting on their best clothes and queuing for hours to cast their vote in Nairobi. They were so excited, and so proud. It was, for me, very humbling.

So, yes, I feel a sense of history in these present days. Someone mentioned to me that when the new postage stamps come out, the king's head will face in the opposite direction to that of the queen's on current stamps. I'll take their word for it!

The last time I took an interest in stamps was when the postal service in Ireland brought out a first-class stamp to commemorate the canonisation of St Charles of Mount Argus. As rector at the time, they obliged me with a generous number of first editions which I was able to distribute to deserving recipients. I suppose, in Passionist terms, that was history too.

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

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