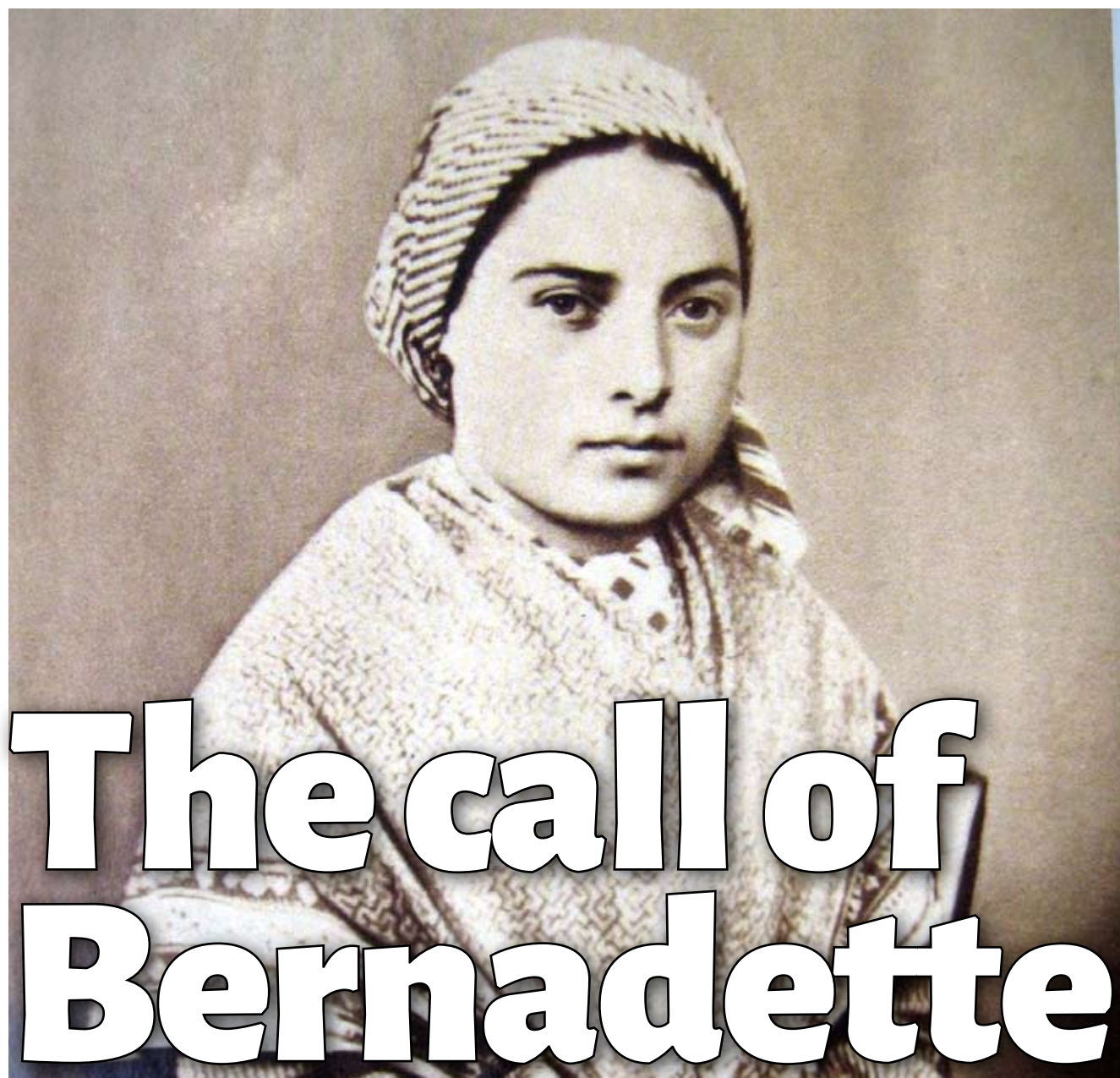


# FLOURISH

September 2022

## Saint's relics will come to Carfin



**C**OME to Carfin ... that's the appeal being made to Catholics this month as the Lanarkshire shrine welcomes the relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes and marks its 100th anniversary.

A special national pilgrimage is planned for the last weekend in September to coincide with the arrival of the relics of the little French visionary whose experiences led to the foundation of the shrine at Lourdes.

Bishop Joe Toal of Motherwell said: "Normally we have the National Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at Carfin on the First Sunday in September

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

and clergy and faithful from across Scotland and beyond have participated.

"It is always therefore a Day of Celebration of our Catholic faith as we gather to worship God and pray for the needs of the Church and the World...

"This is a very special year though and the National Pilgrimage has been moved to the last Sunday in September, Sunday 25th. It is a special year as it marks the Centenary of the Grotto and that, in itself, is reason enough to encourage a

strong and wide participation in the Pilgrimage.

"Sunday, September 25th, will be very special as the Relics of St Bernadette will be with us at Carfin that day and will remain there throughout the rest of that week. It has been decided therefore to have the Pilgrimage on that day".

Archbishop Nolan is encouraging parishes and individuals to make the mini-pilgrimage to Carfin to greet the relics. He said: "The Carfin story is hugely inspiring – and there could be no better way to mark 100 years of our own national shrine than to welcome the relics of

St Bernadette.

"I would say to people who maybe haven't been to Carfin for years to go along and experience the new facilities, the new shrines and feel the great surge of energy that comes from sharing our faith in such a special setting at such a special moment."

Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette, and in thanksgiving for the 100 Years of the Grotto, will be 3pm, with the Rosary Procession afterwards. The Bishop of Motherwell will lead the Liturgy and will be joined by Archbishop Nolan and bishops and priests from across Scotland.

### NEW PRIESTS

## Special report on ordinations

FULL REPORT **PAGES 10–11**



### SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLICS

## Is this Scotland's most vibrant parish?

FULL REPORT **PAGE 7**



### REFUGEES

## The TRUTH about life as an asylum seeker

FULL REPORT **PAGE 14–15**





## Jubilee joy for Canon Willie



**T**HE oldest parish priest in the Archdiocese celebrated his Diamond Jubilee at a Mass with his family and declared: "I'm not ready to hang up my stole quite yet!"

Canon Willie McGinley, 84, has been parish priest at St Patrick's, Old Kilpatrick, for the past nine years and on June 29th, the feast of St Peter and Paul, he celebrated 60 years of the priesthood – on the very day he was given the all clear from Covid.

He said: "I was exhausted, but I had great support from the parish as I have had from the day I came here."

"It was a wonderful occasion but a lot of my family were away on holiday and couldn't make it for one reason or another so we held a family Mass as well more recently – my jubilee celebrations seem to have gone on longer than the Queen's!"

Gorbals-born and one of a family of three, Canon Willie studied at Blairs and

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

St Peter's Cardross before being ordained at St Andrew's Cathedral and then taking up his first appointment at St Bernard's, Nitshill.

He said: "Ten of us were ordained on the same day and there are just two of us left now. There are one or two priests older than me but they don't have parishes, so I suppose I have set a record of some sort."

"I don't have a secret formula – all I can say is I love it here, I've got my health, my mobility and my marbles but above all a great wee parish."

"During Covid I was able, with their permission, to visit folks at home to administer the sacraments and to anoint the sick and so on and they looked after me too and I'm very grateful for that."

*Ad Multos annos!*

# St Aloysius to be restored



**A £350,000 interior refurbishment of St Aloysius, Garnethill, routinely described as the most beautiful church in the Archdiocese, is currently underway which will see seven layers of paint removed dating back to 1910 when the only Jesuit church in Glasgow was built.**

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

ince of £100,000.

The work on the A-listed church, expected to be completed in time for Christmas, is the latest in a series of refurbishments, both interior and exterior, which began in 2004, and which included the discovery of two original 10ft x 10ft canvases by an unknown artist hidden under a layer of wallpaper which showed Jesuit founder St Ignatius Loyola and St John Ogilvie bowing before the Madonna and Child.

Local artist Nichol Wheatley and his assistants spent eight weeks on scaffolding 80ft off the ground painting the figures of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John as an angel, lion, ox and eagle on

the corners of the dome.

The dome itself was regilded by craftsman Scott Telfer and Stewart McLaren, and a mosaic of the Last Supper above the altar and the church's magnificent stained glass windows were deep cleaned by specialists.

In 2015 a new organ was bought in a joint venture between the church and St Aloysius' College and paid in part by a significant donation from Glasgow hotelier and former college pupil Maurice Taylor.

Further restoration work was carried out in 2019 which involved urgent masonry repair work to the bell tower which was paid for by donations from parishioners of £100,000, £93,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £140,000 from Historic Environment Scotland.

## Legion of Mary celebration

**F**OUNDED by faith in times of need, and fuelled ever since by the simple desire to reach out to the vulnerable and homeless, The Legion of Mary Wayside Club is to hold a Mass of thanksgiving to mark 90 years of caring for others later this month.

Volunteers past and present, office bearers and those who have used the service for many years will join priests and deacons who have been closely associated with the for the Mass at Blessed Duns Scotus, Ballater Street, at 3pm on Sunday September 18 when Archbishop Nolan will be the principal celebrant.

From a base in Midland Street in the city centre, for more than 40 years, generations of volunteers have faithfully provided food and friendship to the marginalised, the lost, the lonely, the displaced.

The small matter of

BY BRIAN SWANSON

World War II, and more recently Covid restrictions did not prevent the work – often described as "Catholicism with its sleeves rolled up" – from continuing to meet the needs of those in need.

They do this every single night of the year as well as every Saturday afternoon. It is an astonishing commitment.

Founded in Dublin in 1921 by Frank Duff, a Catholic layman who dedicated his life to caring for the poor, the Legion of Mary now has a presence in almost 200 countries worldwide.

Then, as now, it depends on volunteers like the dedicated helpers in Midland Street.

It's worth noting that while very few of those who benefit from the work of the Legion of Mary are, strictly speaking, homeless, it does not diminish

their needs.

Many have their own tenancies but struggle to cope with rising food prices; others 'sofa-surf' at friends' houses, or sleep in temporary accommodation while a very small number choose to sleep rough.

The dedicated volunteer team at Midland Street have also found that an increasing number of migrants and asylum seekers use the service.

Yet despite the changes in both society and individual circumstances the ethos of the Legion of Mary remains unchanged.

As Lawrence McGarry, a parishioner of St Ninian's and Holy Family, Kirkintilloch (who has been involved with the charity for more than thirty years) put it in an earlier interview with *Flourish*: "As long as people come to our door we'll be here to open it for them."

*Ad Multos Annos!*

## JERICHO †

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**CLERGY CHANGES**

# Pastures new for priests

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

**SEPTEMBER will be a bitter-sweet month for priests and parishioners across the Archdiocese as they bid farewell to much-loved priests and welcome new pastors.**

At the start of the month the Cathedral will bid farewell to Canon Gerald Sharkey who becomes parish priest of Saint Margaret's and Our Holy Redeemer's, Clydebank. Fr Joseph Walsh will also bid farewell to Clyde Street after more than 15 years of quiet and much-

appreciated service. Continued health issues mean he can no longer continue his Cathedral ministry.

Canon Andrew McKenzie, currently parish priest of Saint Joseph's, Tollcross and Saint Joachim's, Carmyle, becomes Administrator of Saint Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral. It won't be a totally new experience for Canon Andy as he is often on duty at the Cathedral as the Archbishop's Master of Ceremonies.

He will be welcomed by Father Chiedozi (Chido) Ezeribe (Diocese of Minna, Nigeria) who was recently appointed to Saint Andrew's



Canon Gerald Sharkey



Canon Gerard Tartaglia



Fr Stephen Hannah



Canon Andrew McKenzie

Cathedral and is already making many friends with his welcoming and hard-working approach.

Another big change will be in Clydebank. Canon Gerard Tartaglia, currently parish priest of Saint Margaret's and Our Holy Redeemer parishes in Clydebank will pack his bags after more than a decade in post to take up the new challenge of becoming parish priest of the three parishes of Holy Family and Saint Ninian and Saint Flannan's, Kirkintilloch, and Saint John of the Cross, Twechar. He will be joined by newly ordained Fr Edward Toner.

**Clydebank**

Father Len Purcell steps down as parish priest of Saint Flannan's, Kirkintilloch and Saint John of the Cross, Twechar, to take up a ministry in hospital chaplaincy.

Father Stephen Hannah, currently parish priest of Holy Family and Saint Ninian's, Kirkintilloch becomes parish priest of Saint Joseph's Tollcross and Saint Joachim's, Carmyle.

Later in the month a second set of moves will take place.

Father William Monaghan (parish priest, Saint Agnes', Lambhill) is retiring after a long ministry and will take up residence in Saint Paul's, Whiteinch. Father Anthony Ejikeme (parish priest,

Saint Martin's, Renton) will take Fr Willie's place as the new parish priest of Saint Agnes', Lambhill.

**Emotion**

In the west end there will be much emotion as Canon Peter McBride leaves office as parish priest of Saint Peter's and Saint Simon's, Partick to return to his home parish as parish priest of Saint Martin's, Renton.

Stepping into the west-end role will be Monsignor Paul Murray, the long-serving and popular parish priest of Saint Helen's, Langside. Father Frank McKendry (recently ordained) will work with Monsignor Paul as assistant priest at Saint Peter's and St Simon's.

The ever popular and active Father Benneth Onyebuchukwu (until now parish priest, Our Lady of Perpetual

Succour and Corpus Christi) is to be the new parish priest of Saint Helen's, and Chaplain to Holyrood Secondary School.

Father Augustine Aboyomi gets a new challenge as he leaves his role as assistant priest at Saint Peter's and Saint Simon's, Partick to become parish priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and Corpus Christi, also in the west end of the city.

## Br Rene's fond farewell

**CLERGY and parishioners at St Aloysius, Garnethill have paid a fond farewell to Brother Rene De Los Reyes as he begins his discernment to the priesthood.**

Brother Rene, 54, is currently back home in the Philippines for the first time in many years and will now actively seek ordination in a diocese in the UK.

In the past two and a half years since Brother Rene came to Glasgow he has made himself hugely popular for his unswerving faith and enthusiasm.

A superbly talented artist he painted the Church's annual liturgical calendar illustrated with exquisitely detailed images of Scottish wild flowers and scenes of Highland landscapes as well as creating 3D Nativity and Easter scenes for the sanctuary using old cardboard boxes and scrap materials.

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

His work with refugees will be sorely missed, according to English language class co-ordinator Kevin Wyber.

He said: "His work with the school has been a real blessing – he was the first in and the last to leave and always freely and happily contributed his organisational skills, creative energy and enthusiasm."

"His empathy with and friendly support for our refugee friends was clear to see."

## Fr Antony heading south

**FATHER Antony Connelly C.P., ordained a priest at St Mungo's Townhead two years ago but a member of the clergy team since 2017, has taken up a new post with the Passionists at their parish and retreat centre at Ministeracres, County Durham.**

The move means that he has had to give up his part time role as a chaplain to Stella Maris, the international welfare organisation for seafarers which was founded in Glasgow just over a hundred years ago.

Father Connelly said: "It goes without saying that I will miss all my friends from St Mungo's and Stella Maris but equally I'm looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities."

"And it's not as if I'll be living at the other side of the world – I'm only 150 miles away."

Parish Priest Father Frank Keevins said: "Just a few months after Brother Antony became Father Antony, along came Covid, and lockdown, and so, for a good part of his first two years as a priest, Fr Antony was celebrating Mass in our Oratory in Bishopbriggs, streamed live on YouTube, which he had been instru-

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

mental in setting up.

"It was an unusual beginning to his life as a priest, but, since things returned to the new normal, we have come to know him as being a thoughtful, excellent preacher, very often sprinkling his homilies with quotes from his favourite films, especially Lord of the Rings."

"There were a few, more personal special moments as well. Here in St. Mungo's, he conducted the wedding of his wee sister, Jill, to Ryan, and later had the delight of baptising their baby son, and his nephew, Liam."

"Father Antony as a man of many talents, coupled with great energy and enthusiasm but also, speaking personally, I will miss him as a good friend."

"In the Book of Job, it says that the Lord gives, and the Lord takes away, blessed be name of the Lord."

"As Father Antony is taken away from us, we look forward to welcoming Father Gareth back to ministry here in St. Mungo's. Father Gareth will join us at the end of this month to form the new dream team with myself and Fr John, and not forgetting Fr Justinian out at the house."

A spokesperson for Stella Maris said: "We are grateful to Fr Antony for providing vital pastoral and practical support to seafarers and fishers during his time as port chaplain in the Clyde region."

"Among other things, he celebrated Mass for hundreds of crew members who had to remain on board cruise ships temporarily laid-up at ports in and around Glasgow during the Covid-19 pandemic."

Stella Maris Scotland senior area chaplain Deacon Joe O'Donnell, who worked alongside Fr Antony said, "We're very thankful and grateful to have had him as a colleague, and for his ministry to seafarers and fishers. We wish him well."

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Editor-Flourish@rcag.org.uk



## BEATIFICATION OF JOHN PAUL I

# The smiling Pope is now Blessed

**I WASN'T old enough to remember where I was when JFK was shot. But I remember precisely the tea and toast I was consuming at 8am one late September morning in 1978 when the local radio news broadcast the headline, 'The Pope is dead'.**

My first reaction was that this must be some kind of embarrassing broadcasting hitch – the news of August 6 (when Pope Paul VI really had died) had somehow been rebroadcast a month later. What an error!

I was wrong. The new Pope, the smiling Pope, had indeed died in the night.

The death of John Paul I shocked the world. Sinister theories abounded. Had he been killed by the Mafia because he was going to close down the Vatican bank? Were mysterious groups in Rome so worried by his plans for renewal they had poisoned him? Whatever the truth ... it was quite shocking to lose two Popes in two months.

Fast forward to September 2022 and the shortest-reigning Pope in recent history becomes 'Blessed John Paul I' this month – 44 years after his sudden death.



**Ronnie Convery**  
Editor of Flourish

Albino Luciani, Patriarch of Venice, was elected to the Papacy following the death of Pope Paul VI in the summer of 1978. He served for just 33 days, but in that month his smile, his simple wisdom and his evident goodness won over the world.

A few of his simple sayings during still cause me to reflect ... "We are the objects of undying love on the part of God. We know he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother. He does not want to hurt us. He wants only to do good to us, to all of us. If children are ill, they have additional claim to be loved by their mother. And we too, if by chance we are sick with badness, on the wrong track, have yet another claim to be loved by the Lord."

**A Pope who dares to say that God is maternal as well as paternal was – and is – powerful to read.**

The man who was to become Pope was born on October 17, 1912, near Belluno in Northern Italy, to a family of modest circumstances. He was immediately baptized by the midwife because his life was in danger. His father John, a man of socialist views, worked as a seasonal migrant.

Much has been written about the unexpected death of Pope Luciani and its causes. The suspicions and confusion were fostered by the decision of the Vatican authorities – taken by surprise at the events on the morning of September 29 1978 – to give, in the official press release of the Press Office, a ver-



sion that was not true.

It said there that the pope had been found dead by his secretary, the Irish priest, Fr. John Magee. Instead, he had been found by Sister Vincenza Taffarel, accompanied by Sister Margherita Marin, who were concerned because the pope had not yet gone to pray in the chapel at the usual time.

At the collection of documents for the beatification, the testimony of Sister Margherita Marin, the only one still alive among the four nuns present in the papal apartments that day, was finally taken and her narration dispels all doubts.

Also included is the statement of the Pope's doctor, Renato Buzzonetti, who certified the John Paul I's death and considered it a sudden, natural, instantaneous death, which occurred around 11pm from acute myocardial infarction. A heart attack.

An extensive medical history of Pope Luciani's health through-

out his life until his last days is also added. Basically – despite the plots and theories and blockbusters – his sudden death was not foreseeable.

The new Blessed is the latest in a long line of 20th century Popes to be named Blessed or Saint. Indeed when the Bishop of his home diocese first spoke to the Vatican about opening the cause for the beatification of John Paul I, it was pointed out to him that, in addition to the already canonized Pius X, the causes of Pius IX, Pius XII, John XXIII and Paul VI (and later John Paul II) were underway and, perhaps for the time being, these popes would suffice!

In November 2017, Pope Francis recognised Papa Luciani's "heroic virtues," and in October 2021 a decree concerning the miraculous healing of a little girl in Buenos Aires suffering from acute encephalopathy. This opened the way for the beatification.

## He charmed us with his simplicity...

**The simple, gentle soul that was Albino Luciani shines through in the words of his first Angelus message, delivered the day after his election:**

**YESTERDAY morning I went to the Sistine Chapel to vote tranquilly. Never could I have imagined what was about to happen.**

As soon as the danger for me had begun, the two colleagues who were beside me whispered words of encouragement. One said: "Courage! If the Lord gives a burden, he also gives the strength to carry it." The other colleague said: "Don't be afraid; there are so many people in the

whole world who are praying for the new Pope." When the moment of decision came, I accepted.

Then there was the question of the name, for they also ask what name you wish to take, and I had thought little about it. My thoughts ran along these lines: Pope John had decided to consecrate me himself in St Peter's Basilica, then, however unworthy, I succeeded him in Venice on the Chair of St Mark, in that Venice which is still full of Pope John. He is remembered by the gondoliers, the Sisters, everyone.

Then Pope Paul not only made me a Cardinal, but some months earlier, on the wide footbridge in St Mark's Square,

he made me blush to the roots of my hair in the presence of 20,000 people, because he removed his stole and placed it on my shoulders. Never have I blushed so much!

Furthermore, during his 15 years of pontificate this Pope has shown, not only to me but to the whole world, how to love, how to serve, how to labour and to suffer for the Church of Christ.

For that reason I said: "I shall be called John Paul." I have neither the "wisdom of the heart" of Pope John, nor the preparation and culture of Pope Paul, but I am in their place. I must seek to serve the Church. I hope that you will help me with your prayers.





## Divorced or separated? You're not alone

**SUPPORT for Women Affected By Separation and Divorce is a new, and much needed, ministry across the Archdiocese of Glasgow and has been set up by a small group of women who know what it's like to carry the hurt, guilt, shame and anxiety caused by marriage breakdown.**

The organisers have all walked this journey and have had to start life over and have been delighted to support other women over

the last few months who need a listening ear, help, guidance or just to know that life will get better, and it will, because you are a daughter of God.

They understand that taking the first step to seek support can be difficult and you never need to share personal details of your situation, but often it helps to speak to others who have been where you are.

They can promise you that a warm welcome awaits along with great

cake, tea, coffee and lots of tissues (just in case).

Dates of the next meeting is Friday, 7th October in St Patrick's Church Hall in Dumbarton from 6pm until 8pm.

You can contact the group prior to the meeting at:

Email: [glasgowarchdiocesewomensgroup@gmail.com](mailto:glasgowarchdiocesewomensgroup@gmail.com)

Facebook: Faith Living (Archdioceses of Glasgow)

Twitter: @GAWomenSupport



## Synod response finalised

**THE Catholic Church in Scotland has submitted its response to the Vatican following the call from Pope Francis in 2021 to participate in a two-year synod process, which will inform discernment in the coming year on the life and priorities of the Universal Church.**

Each diocese in Scotland took part in the consultation. Meetings and events held across the country reported a post-pandemic climate of faith, with the final document describing "the first shoots of new ecclesial life".

### Determination

The national summary reports a determination to improve lay participation in the life of the Church and reach out to those who may have felt rejected in the past.

The document states: "As a Church, we wish to welcome those who are divorced, those who have had abortions; those of different sexual orientations, those who lack the inner conviction of realising that they have faith. None is to be ignored. The Church reaches out to everyone."

The Scottish document which will feed into the global process of discernment of the way forward for the Catholic Church ahead of a gathering of bishops from all over the world in Rome in autumn 2023.

**You can read the Scottish Bishops' Conference final document on the website of the Archdiocese of Glasgow – [www.rcag.org.uk](http://www.rcag.org.uk)**

# Fr Eugenio's appeal will change the lives of children in Africa

**A NEW charity founded by a Glasgow-based Xaverian missionary priest and a retired businessman has raised thousands of pounds to pay for life changing surgery for children in Sierra Leone.**

And now the pair have set themselves a target of £100,000 to fund many more operations over the coming years.

Mission Sierra Leone was formed when Father Eugenio Montesi, based at St Bartholomew's, Castle-milk, found himself sitting beside George Paterson, who has a background in charity fund raising, at a dinner for supporters of the Xaverians.

Father Montesi, who spent most of his missionary life working in Sierra Leone

BY BRIAN SWANSON

in West Africa said: "I had not met George before so when I told him all about the poor children and how they suffered with clubfoot which is a really terrible condition he was very touched and concerned."

"I showed him pictures of what had been achieved and he was moved right away to help."

George, a parishioner of St Joseph's Clarkston, said: "I had the pleasure of having Fr Montesi, as a fellow guest at dinner and he showed me disturbing photos of young children with cleft palate and neglected clubfoot, all of whom required urgent surgery."

"Until Fr Montesi became



Picture by Paul McSherry

ill with malaria and had to return to Glasgow he spent many years in Sierra Leone and was active in the setting up of hospitals, schools and colleges as well as a care facility for children with conditions excluding them from the community of their birth.

"One of our medium term objectives is to focus on education and training for the children, most of whom have been excluded from society, as disability is considered the work of the devil in the more remote parts of the country."

"Father Montesi really is an amazing guy and I was so moved by what he told me that I was determined to help."

And by the time guests at the dinner were having coffee they had pledged donations totalling several

thousand pounds and Mission Sierra Leone was born.

Father Montesi said: "George was an answer to our prayers because he was so enthusiastic! Soon after we talked, he began researching ways of finding ways to get operations for the children - and he was successful."

George contacted a charity in Freetown Sierra Leone called Enable the Children and found out that a German surgeon was prepared to carry out corrective surgery on a small number of children at his own expense.

George explained "He had funds in place for the surgery but he needed money to pay for travel, food and after care for the children so I mentioned this to Fr. Montesi and

together with two friends we sent £4,500 to Enable the Children to make the necessary arrangements. Funding for 22 sets of crutches was included for use in the recovery stage."

Since the initial series of operations - and thanks in part to money raised by Mission Sierra Leone - a further 33 children have been successfully operated on with more operations planned once funds are in place.

Father Montesi said: "George said to me we should have a target figure of £100,000 'think big' he said so we have. Nothing is impossible with prayers and good people so we are confident."

**To donate, go to [www.justgiving.com/campaign/clubfootmsl](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/clubfootmsl)**

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# 'I want my whole life to be inspired by love'

As Scotland prepares to welcome the relics of the little saint of Lourdes, *Flourish* recalls the story of St Bernadette

**ON January 7th 1844, Bernadette Soubirous was born in Lourdes, a small town in the Pyrenean mountains, to a miller's family who enjoyed relative prosperity during the early years of Bernadette's life.**

Gradually, the family suffered financial problems and were obliged to leave the Boly Mill when Bernadette was 10. They moved from house to house, each place less expensive and smaller than the previous one, until finally they were given free accommodation in the Cachot, a single, dark and unhealthy room, in the town's disused prison... described by Imperial Attorney Dufour as "a sordid and dark hovel where no human being could live."

The Soubirous family became trapped in a spiral of misery: unemployment, eviction, exclusion, contempt. Bernadette suffered from ill-health. She had stomach pains, also persistent asthma as a result of a cholera epidemic. She was one of the many children in France who, at this time, did not know how to read or write because they had to work. Occasionally she attended school in a class for poor children in the Lourdes Hospice run by the Sisters of Charity of Nevers.

On 11th February 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette left the Cachot with her sister and a



BY RONNIE CONVERY

friend to collect firewood on the banks of the River Gave at Massabielle.

It all began with a gust of wind. In the crevice of a rock, Bernadette noticed a "lady dressed in white"

"I thought I had made a mistake ... I rubbed my eyes ... I looked again and I still saw the same lady."

"Would you do me the favour of coming here for the next fortnight?"

Between February and July 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette.

In late February, Bernadette received a message: "Pray for sinners" ... and the Lady asked her "to drink at the fountain and wash yourself there." After scratching the muddy ground in the grotto, Bernadette discovered a spring.

On 2nd March, the Lady assigned a double mission

to Bernadette: "Go and tell the priests that people are to come here in procession and to have a chapel built here."

"She was looking at me. It was just like two people in conversation."

These amazing encounters with Mary made Bernadette realise that God was interested in her, that he was close to the poorest, to those ignored and excluded by the world.

During all this time, Bernadette did not allow herself to be intimidated either by her questioners or by the crowd. She remained simple and free.

"I have been asked to tell you about it, not to make you believe it."

After this she stayed at the Hospice in Lourdes, run by the Sisters of Charity of Nevers. For her it was a time to reflect on what she wanted to do with her life.

She was welcomed as an "au pair boarder." There she

stayed for 8 years.

Each day she saw the Sisters looking after the sick, the elderly poor and the young daughters of families without resources.

The community welcomed Bernadette and left her free to make up her own mind. She took some time to make a decision: "I'm going to join the Sisters because they didn't put any pressure on me ..." and "I love the poor. I like to care for the sick. I will stay with the Sisters of Nevers."

In 1866, she left for the order's HQ at Nevers and from then on she remained with the Sisters of Charity of Nevers.

On arrival, she would have seen the words "Deus Caritas Est," engraved in the stone on the front of the house, words which echoed the spirit of the Congregation since its foundation.

The following day, in the presence of 300 Sisters and

still wearing her Pyrenean costume, Bernadette told the story of the apparitions for the first and last time.

Afterwards she began her religious formation.

During the 13 years spent at Nevers, Bernadette was successively assistant-nurse, nurse-in-charge of the infirmary, sacristan and very often sick herself. Her life was simple and ordinary. Bernadette had a joyful character and was always available for whatever was required of her.

"I want my whole life to be inspired by love."

She remained in the infirmary for long periods. She suffered greatly from a knee tumour and lung tuberculosis. She died on 16th April 1879, at the age of 35 and was buried in Saint Joseph's Chapel in the centre of the garden.

On 8th December 1933, she was canonised and declared a saint.





# Is this Scotland's most vibrant parish?



BY **FR MARTIN KANE**

PICTURES BY **JOBIN THAMPI**

**BACK** in 2006, three priests were sent out (Apostles) from the Kerala region in India.

Their mission was to meet the spiritual needs and pastoral care of the rapidly growing Syro-Malabar community in Scotland. The community wished to celebrate Holy Qurbana liturgy "Mass" in the Syro-Malabar Rite in their native Malayalam tongue.

Many had come here from their native country from 2000s onwards seeking permanent work and settlement. Since then, the community of faith has grown and flourished remarkably in all three dioceses those priests were sent to.

The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain (Eparchy being a sort of Diocese within a Diocese or jurisdiction elsewhere) was established by Pope Francis in 2016, the third outside of India. At present there are 181 Mass centres and 58 priests to serve nearly 50,000 Syro-Malabar Catholics in Great

**A flourishing Catholic community has been growing on the south side of Glasgow for 20 years ... yet many are unaware of their presence. The families who make up the Syro-Malabar community at St Conval's in Pollok are an inspiration to the wider community as Fr Martin Kane explains**



Britain.

Their first task was to gather together the Syro-Malabar community scattered throughout the country.

The Glasgow Kerala Christian Community was then formed. Initially, the community enjoyed short periods in various churches but thanks to an arrangement formalised by myself and Fr Binu, the St Thomas Syro-

Malabar Mission of Glasgow finally settled into a permanent place of worship and residence in St Conval's Pollok in 2018.

St Conval's was delighted to welcome the new community and remain grateful for their presence, vibrancy and contribution to the parish.

The faithful number around 400 with several families crossing from the Island of Arran for Sunday

Qurbana. Under the care of Fr Binu, the community continues to flourish in both faith and numbers. It comes as no surprise that given their exponential growth the Syro-Malabar community is seeking additional places of permanent worship throughout the UK.

At the centre of their structure is the Basic Christian Community of which there are nine in Glasgow. Within these units there is a firm focus on family, Mass, scripture, community, the importance of marriage and faith development of the children.

The Glasgow mission has 36 altar servers and growing!

The children attend weekly catechism classes after Sunday Mass. With 12 catechists, a headteacher, and two written exams a year a firm foundation and knowledge of faith for future years is assured.

Their overall structure is synodal, participative and consists of an extensive parish council who have just completed their pastoral plan for the next five years. A premium is placed on pre-

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serving culture, heritage, faith and identity for the future.

The community were delighted to have the presence of Archbishop Nolan for their annual feast day, held this year on August 7th. The day commenced with Holy

Qurbana Mass, followed by a musical street procession, cultural festival in the hall and concluded with a traditional community Indian cuisine meal. Their model of Church leaves us much food for thought!

## St Aloysius hears the voice of Ukraine

**St Aloysius Church, Garnethill was the setting for an emotional evening of songs from her homeland beautifully sung by a daughter of Ukraine.**

Soprano Natalia Gorban, and her pianist colleague Anna-Madleen Poll from Estonia, who both graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, enthralled their audience, including several Ukrainian exiles, who later showed their appreciation with an impressive £1000 collection for the

SCIAF Emergency Ukraine Appeal which, thanks to the generosity of the people of Scotland, now stands at just over £1m.

Natalia, who left Ukraine at a young age to study classical singing in Portugal and is now based in Glasgow, said: "It was a very emotional evening for me because I still have family members back home and I think about them all the time."

"I wanted to raise money for my country with an evening of song but I had no

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURE BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

idea where but a friend of mine who comes here every week suggested it and took me to meet the parish priest and he was happy for me to hold the concert here.

"The people have been so generous and it was my pleasure to sing in such a beautiful church."

Parish priest Father Gerard Mitchell SJ said: "I was very happy to allow Natalia

to sing so beautifully for us and to remind us of the suffering of the people of Ukraine who are constantly in our prayers."

The generosity from people all over Scotland has been tremendous, with supporters donating over £1.1 million in just a few weeks. This outpouring of support, along with £500,000 of funding from the Scottish Government, will allow SCIAF to continue reaching out to those who need help most.



Picture by Paul McSherry



# New rector for Rome college

**THE Scots College in Rome, which has formed priests for Scotland for more than 400 years, has a new Rector.**

Father Mark Cassidy, 60, from the Diocese of Dunkeld, took up his new post at the beginning of August succeeding Father Dan Fitzpatrick, 55, who has been rector for the past seven years and who has returned to his home Diocese of Paisley.

The appointment, approved by the Vatican's Dicastery for the Clergy, was made on the recommendation of the

Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

Fr Cassidy, a parish priest in Dundee, who studied at the Rome college and was its spiritual director from 2011 to 2018 said: "I am aware of the trust that the bishops have expressed in nominating me as the next Rector of the College in Rome.

"I am aware too, of the vital importance of the seminary in the life of the Scottish Church and look forward to being involved once more in the formation of a new generation of priests for service



Fr Mark Cassidy

in Scotland. Fr Dan and his predecessor Mgr John Hughes brought their own gifts and talents to the role of Rector, and I intend to do all I can to build on the good work that they did."

"I have been blessed over the past four years by the generous and unstinting support of the parishioners of St. Mary's Loch, St Columba's and St Leonard & St Fergus in Dundee and of my two fellow priests Fr Alex Obiorah and Fr Jean Gove. They have formed me anew in my priesthood and it is with a heavy heart that I leave this pastoral role."

Bishop Hugh Gilbert, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, said: "On behalf of all the bishops of Scotland, I wish Fr Mark every blessing in his new role, while extending our gratitude to the Diocese of Dunkeld for allowing him to serve the Church nationally in such a crucial position. I wish him every success in his new and important responsibilities.

"On behalf of the Bishops' Conference, I offer our warm thanks to Fr Dan Fitzpatrick, for his dedicated service and wise stewardship of the Scots College."

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FOR WOMEN  
EXPLORING  
FRANCISCAN  
VOCATION

## Motherwell clergy changes

**SOME changes among the Diocesan Clergy in Motherwell have been announced which will take effect on the last weekend in October. They are as follows:**

Fr Brian Lamb, at present Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Blantyre, will succeed Fr Gerry Chromy as Administrator of Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell.

Fr Chromy will become Assistant Priest at St Joseph's, Blantyre, where the new PP will be Fr Martin Delaney, at present PP of St Aloysius', Chapelhall. St John Ogilvie's is now part of St Joseph's Parish, which Fr Delaney will be responsible for and will also be School Chaplain of St John Ogilvie's High School.

The Syro-Malabar Community will move from St Cuthbert's, Burnbank, to St John Ogilvie's, High Blantyre, at the end of October also. As well as providing Mass for his own community and residing at St John Ogilvie's, Fr Johny Abraham will assist Frs Delaney and Chromy in St Joseph's Parish.

Fr Mark O'Donnell, at present Assistant Priest in the Cathedral Parish, will become Parish Priest of St Aloysius, Chapelhall, which includes Sacred Heart, Salsburgh, and will be Chaplain to St Margaret's High School in Airdrie. Fr Mark will continue as Chaplain of the Diocesan Youth Ministry.

Parishes of Glasgow, Paisley, Motherwell, Edinburgh  
Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo  
18th–22nd October 2022



### Tuesday 18th October 2022

Depart EDI. 20 Minutes transfer to Knock Shrine. Free time. Dinner and welcome meeting

### Wednesday 19th October 2022

A Day in Knock. Tour of Museum and Grounds. Mass. Optional Confessions. Get souvenirs and mass cards. Lunch included. Private Time. Evening Dinner & Entertainment.

### Thursday 20th October 2022

Mass in Fr. Peyton Centre with tour. Lunch. Onwards to Museum of Country Life. Return to Hotel for Dinner. Free evening.

### Friday 21st October 2022

Morning Mass in Ballintubber Abbey with Tour of Grounds. Onwards to Westport for Lunch

and visit Croagh Patrick, the holy Mountain. Shopping Time and Return to hotel for Farewell Dinner and Irish Entertainment.

### Saturday 22nd October 2022

Morning Mass. Private time before return flight to EDI.

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# St Vincent de Paul volunteers' work 'more necessary than ever'

**F**OR St Vincent de Paul Society members in the Archdiocese the highlight of the summer was the eagerly awaited visit of their International President-General Renato Lima de Oliveira.

His UK tour included Mass in Blessed John Duns Scotus celebrated by Archbishop Nolan who warmly praised the work of the society whose founding principles are rooted in the

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

philosophy of welcoming the stranger.

That message was hammered home by the President

General who reminded the congregation that their work was as vital today as when the society was founded in France in 1833 with the Glasgow Conference following just 15 years later.

Joe McGuire, Scottish

national president, who was among those to welcome the President General said: "Renato is very strong on transparency within the St Vincent de Paul Society from the top down.

"As he has visited the various countries where the Society has a presence this has been a mainstay of his advice to national presidents in every country he has visited.

"Working on behalf of our poor remains the primary objective of the Society and he spoke warmly of the work he has witnessed here in Scotland during his visit to these shores. For us here in Scotland it has been a great pleasure to have him and his secretary Laszlo with us.

"Their humility and effort is not lost on us and it gives us an example to follow and a boost to continue our efforts in Scotland to make it a better place for our poor."



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# A summer of ordinations

Within weeks of their ordination, Glasgow's two newest priests and newest permanent deacon have begun serving the community in parishes. While these appointments, coupled with the upcoming ordinations to the priesthood of Rev Douglas Green and to the permanent diaconate of Tony Murphy next month have brought great joy to the faithful, Archbishop Nolan has called for continued prayers for more vocations not only in the Archdiocese but throughout Scotland, as Brian Swanson reports

## Shettleston's joy at new priest Fr Toner

**I**n a packed church, in an atmosphere of faith-filled joy, Father Edward Toner became the first of three new priests to be ordained in the Archdiocese this summer.

At 27 he is now the youngest priest in the Archdiocese, a fact that was reflected in the gratifyingly large number of people of his own age group, who with family and friends, meant it was standing room in St Paul's Shettleston where the Mass of Ordination was celebrated by Archbishop William Nolan assisted by Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti.

Around 50 priests joined them in the sanctuary and in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion Archbishop Nolan had heartfelt words of advice for the new priest.

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

He said: "You have been anointed in the service of God, you have been anointed to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. As our second reading pointed out no one takes this honour on himself.

"I know that your family and friends here at St Paul's parish think you are wonderful but it's not for that reason you have been ordained, not for your own merits, it's because you have been chosen by God who for his own reasons has chosen you to carry out this ministry.

"The spirit of God has been given to you, not for your own good but given to you for the good of others and to you to proclaim the good



news to the poor, to heal the broken hearted and to build up the kingdom of God and of course you follow in the footsteps of Christ who came not to be served but to serve, so remember that you are ordained as a servant of others."

"We are told that when Pope Francis was elected one of the cardinals said to him: 'Do not forget the poor'.

"Edward – do not forget the poor."

The evening ordination also featured traditional hymns and psalms by the East End Deanery Choir

and soloist Aileen Marley, a solicitor and close friend of Father Toner.

She said: "I've known Edward for years and when he asked me to sing at his ordination of course I said yes and I must say I found the whole thing quite emotional. Everyone has been very supportive of him and we all know he's going to make a great priest. I'm sure the whole parish is very proud of him – I know I am."

His father Eddie said: "I can't put it into words how proud of him we are tonight. You have just got to look at

how many people are here – they are all proud of him too.

"It's such a journey he's been on, but it really starts from here and I want to thank everyone who has helped him along the way".

Father Toner is one of four new Scottish priests ordained this year who all studied together at the Pontifical Scots College in Rome and who joined him at his ordination mass.

They were Father Malcolm Hutchison, Diocese of Dunkeld, Father Josh Moir, Archdiocese of St Andrews

& Edinburgh, and Father Kevin Rennie, of Galloway Diocese.

Father Toner will serve as an assistant priest to Canon Gerard Tartaglia, at Holy Family, St Ninian's and St Flannan's Kirkintilloch and Saint John of the Cross, Twechar.

Father Toner said: "I feel blessed tonight and now I can't wait to begin my work in the parish. I want to thank everyone – too many to mention by name – for their prayers and good wishes."



## Delight in Croy as Fr McKendry completes journey to priesthood

**ALWAYS be like Mary Magdalene and never stop proclaiming the Good News of the resurrection ... That was the simple yet heartfelt message from Archbishop Nolan at the ordination, in Holy Cross, Croy, of Father Frank McKendry who made his priestly promises on the feast day of the saint known as the Apostle of the Apostles.**

As Father Frank listened intently – and with his family and friends looking on – Archbishop Nolan went on: "As a minister of Christ your duty is to do what Mary Magdalene did to tell others of the resurrection of Jesus and proclaim that good news to the whole world because it is indeed good news!"

And within weeks of hearing these words Father

Frank was putting them into practice at St Helen's in Shawlands alongside Monsignor Paul Murray, before taking up a posting as Assistant Priest at St Peter's Partick, with Mgr Paul, later this month.

In his remarks at the ordination the Archbishop added: "Mary Magdalene ran from the tomb to tell the others the good news so

anxious and keen was she to spread the news of the resurrection.

"Every priest should be equally anxious and keen to spread that good news to everyone. As a priest you must proclaim that good news and in the administration of the sacraments you act in the person of Christ.

"It is through your actions in the sacraments that people will encounter not you – but Jesus Christ. Each act in the sacramental life is an act of Jesus Christ himself.

"You yourself are not the attraction – it's Jesus that is

the attraction and you must not be an obstacle but a conduit to bring people closer to Jesus."

Before he received the call to the priesthood, Father Frank, 67, who studied the for past four years at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, spent his working life as a chartered surveyor working throughout Europe and the Middle East during his career in the international oil and construction industry.

Speaking to *Flourish* later Father Frank said: "It's difficult to put into words how

I feel really but essentially to be there to bring people to God and God to the people as part of one big family is a wonderful privilege."

Fr Frank has been assigned to St Peter's and St Simon's in Partick where he will work alongside new Parish priest, and Archdiocesan Chancellor, Mgr Paul Murray. In his first weeks after ordination he has been serving at St Helen's, Langside with Mgr Paul. The new appointments will take effect in late September.



Ordination Mass of Fr Frank McKendry in Holy Cross, Croy



Fr Toner's first blessing for Archbishop Nolan

## Deacon Paul's debt of gratitude to family and friends

**D**EVOTE yourself to God and to the people of God, proclaim the Gospel, carry out works of charity with humility and you will always be always be strengthened by God's love.

That was the advice given by Archbishop Nolan when he ordained former community nurse Paul Brady, 61, to the Permanent Diaconate in a moving and historic Mass at St Robert Bellarmine, Househillwood.

In his opening remarks Archbishop Nolan referred to the 'wonderful summer of vocations' while encour-

aging prayers to provide priests and deacons for the Archdiocese.

The joyous occasion – which marked the first ordination in the parish for over 60 years – was in contrast to the previous visit in April by the Archbishop when he was the principal celebrant at the funeral Mass for much loved parish priest Father Jim Dean.

Father Jim, who was appointed to St Robert's shortly after he was ordained five years ago in his late sixties, died from a heart attack shortly before he was due to celebrate Mass on April 3

this year.

Deacon Paul, speaking to *Flourish* after his ordination was quick to acknowledge the influence of his late colleague and friend.

He said: "The support I received from Father Jim is something I will always be grateful for – his friendship, guidance, wisdom and memory is something I will always treasure."

A father and grandfather who is a parishioner of St Patrick's Kilsyth, Paul credits his brother Knights of Saint Columba for first encouraging him to study for the diaconate.

He added: "I have been a member of the Knights of St Columba for many years and a few years ago I felt I wanted to deepen my faith in some way but I wasn't sure what direction to take. "I talked about it a lot with my brother Knights and a couple of them said I would make a good deacon and the more I thought about it the more sense it made / and here I am today.

"Above all though I want to thank my wife Marie, our children and grandchildren – I could not have completed this journey without them."







NEWS FROM THE VATICAN AND THE CATHOLIC WORLD  
In association with **Crux** – taking the Catholic pulse

**WHENEVER the next papal election occurs, in the run-up to the big vote airwaves and column inches will be full of traditional wisdom about conclaves, often expressed in familiar soundbites destined to be recycled almost endlessly.**

One such classic is, “He who enters a conclave as a pope exits as a cardinal,” usually taken to mean that favorites don’t win, and that the result will come as a surprise. Another is the vintage Italian saying, “You always follow a fat pope with a thin one,” meaning that the next pope will represent a departure from the one who came before.

Then, of course, there’s the oft-repeated maxim “those who know don’t talk, and those who talk don’t know,” suggesting it’s impossible to predict the outcome of a conclave because the only people who matter don’t reveal their thinking, and everyone else is simply serving up meaningless chatter.

In that galaxy of purported wisdom, for the last 100 years or so there’s been another virtually iron-clad axiom, which goes like this: “There can’t be an American pope.” Among other considerations, the assumption is that the Vatican can’t have a “superpower pope,” because it would fatally compromise its geopolitical and diplomatic independence.

Most of those other bits of alleged wisdom are at least partly bunk, so there’s no special reason to believe the one about Americans holds much water either.

Take the bit about entering as a pope and exiting as a cardinal. Over the last 100 years, from 1922 to 2022, there have been eight papal elections, and clear front-runners actually prevailed in three of them: Pius XII in 1939, Paul VI in 1963 and Benedict XVI in 2005. In three other cases, the winner was only a moderate surprise, meaning somebody who was considered a second-tier candidate before the fact: Pius XI, John Paul I and Francis.

Only in two cases over the last century, John XXIII and John Paul II, could the winner be described as a genuine surprise.

Following a fat pope with a thin one? Well, Pius XI largely continued the policies of Benedict XV, Pius XII was already in charge of Vatican diplomacy before he was elected, Paul VI implemented the vision for Vatican II launched by John XXIII, and Benedict XVI had already been the intellectual architect of John Paul II’s reign. Of course, we don’t

## Conclave soundbites are anything but intelligible

Picture: Imago Mundi



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

know how John Paul I would have turned out.

Perhaps only with John XXIII, John Paul II and Francis over the last 100 years could the cardinals be said to have opted for a clear break, and even then, the depth of the change probably wasn’t entirely clear in the moment. It’s worth recalling, for example, that many observers regarded Bergoglio in Argentina in 2005 as a “John Paul II bishop” at odds with his more liberal confreres.

In other words, discontinuity isn’t written into the stars either.

As for “those who know not talking,” that might have been true some time ago, but this is the 21st century. Ease of travel now means cardinals gather in Rome well before the actual conclave starts, and they actually talk a lot before they file into the Sistine Chapel.

They speak to one another during daily general congregation meetings, and their

comments almost always leak out in real time. Many also give talks around Rome, celebrate Masses, hold press briefings, and otherwise make themselves available. They also meet privately with one another, in twos and threes and tens and twenties, and more often than not, the contents of those sessions also make the rounds.

Decoding what’s being said usually isn’t all that arduous. For instance, if a cardinal says, “What the church needs is a pastoral figure,” they usually mean a moderate-to-liberal. If he says, “We need clarity,” that generally means a more conservative option.

It’s true, of course, they’re not going to say out loud “I plan to vote for X,” but that doesn’t mean pope-watchers are operating in a complete vacuum.

That brings us to the old saw about Americans.

As an historical matter, the election of Karol Wojtyla of Poland in 1978 ended the Italian monopoly on the papacy, just as the

choice of Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina in 2013 broke the European stranglehold. We’re now in an era in which the next pope could come from anywhere.

Moreover, the informal veto against a “superpower pope” doesn’t have the same bite because today we live in a multipolar world, in which there no longer two dominant blocs but multiple centers of power and influence. If you’re going to ban an American pope, then you’d probably have to do the same thing for China and Russia, and perhaps a few of the emerging new superpowers such as India and Brazil, and, hypothetically anyway, the EU too – and once you start down that path, you’re seriously limiting the talent pool.

To prove the point, it’s worth remembering that in the conclave of 2013 which elected Francis, Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston got some serious attention, and many observers believe that if the cardinals hadn’t quickly coalesced around Bergoglio, he might have been a real possibility.

Granted, the Italians refer to O’Malley as *il cardinale meno americano tra gli americani*, meaning “the least American cardinal among the Americans,” because of his command of languages, his deep global experience and his brown Capuchin habit and beard that remind locals of Padre Pio. The fact is, however, he’s still an American, but nobody anymore thinks that makes him unelectable.

The bottom line is this: When the time comes, it’s always worth considering what conventional wisdom might have to say. Just remember that while popes may be infallible, conclave soundbites are anything but.

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## ART OF THE MONTH

# When a picture preaches a thousand sermons...

**MATTHEW, Mark and Luke all recount the Transfiguration of Our Lord in which the Apostles are reassured that the Christ who was soon to suffer and be crucified was, nonetheless, the Messiah.**

This vision would sustain them when, in their desire for holiness, they had to bear their own cross.

Perhaps we have become familiar with the Transfiguration of Christ through praying the fourth luminous mystery of the Rosary.

Shortly before his early death in 1520 at the age of 37, Raffaello Santi, known simply as Raphael, who had been orphaned by the age of 11, left uncompleted his final work, "Transfiguration" which hangs in the Vatican.

The work was commissioned by Cardinal Giulio de Medici, a cousin of Pope Leo X, who himself became Pope Clement VII.

Floating in the clouds beside the Lord are Moses on the right and Elijah on the left with James, Peter and John underneath, contemplating His glory.

The incredible use of colour in the lower part of the painting, probably influenced by Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, is expressive of human grandeur and contrasts with the shining whiteness of the upper part. The artist's skill is seen in the folds of the garments.

The man on the lower left with opened book, perhaps Matthew or Andrew, is portrayed as if he is explaining to the kneeling woman, whom no one else notices, what is happening.



Raphael, *The Transfiguration*  
Vatican Museums

Above, Jesus raises his arms depicting the communion between Father and Son and gazes, transfixed, with love, understanding and serenity.

Below, the eyes of the poor tormented boy and his uncontrolled gestures betray his unsettled state which may be epilepsy or even demonic possession. His parents anxiously holding the lad, look to the nine apostles pleading for help but they were unable to heal the child.

The calmness of the upper part of the painting, in

contrast to the chaos of the lower section, is relieved by the two who point to Jesus, who alone can heal the boy of his troubled state.

## PICTURE PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Let us Pray: O Lord, we pray, transform us into the likeness of your Son, whose radiant splendour you willed to make manifest in his glorious Transfiguration. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



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## Reading the signs of the times

**If you live in Ukraine, or the Democratic Republic of Congo, or Nigeria, or Small Town, USA, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine or Myanmar, you would have good reason to feel that peace and nonviolence may never be the norm.**

I could, of course, add to that list, but it would become a very long one. I think you get my gist.

Not all of the above are officially at war. Residents of Small Town, USA, must feel under threat simply because weapons are legal, easily available, and easily used to shatter the peace of a neighbourhood, a school, a shopping mall.

We reformed our laws after the Dunblane shooting. Change can happen.

There is no 'war' status in DR Congo, but according to the UN there has been what it calls 'an alarming uptick' of violence from armed groups – one of which, the 23 March Movement, known as M23, is now able to operate like a conventional army. More than 150 civilians were killed in the east of the country in May and June and 700,000 people have been displaced.

The British Government's Nationality and Borders Act threatens the safety of those who seek refuge in the UK. Our voices can still bring about change to that inhumane Act.

In DR Congo, Nigeria, Mozambique and Tanzania, violence is associated with the exploitation of fossil fuels (mainly by major Western companies) as well as a long history of territorial claims.

Our voices are needed to halt such exploitation, which is exacerbating the climate crisis.

We seem capable of turning a blind eye to the



### Marian Pallister

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



Pope John XXIII

horrors wreaked on the people of Yemen and Syria – horrors in which the UK is implicated because we sell sophisticated arms to the aggressors that kill babies, tear off limbs, leave children orphaned.

If we don't want weapons of mass destruction (and with the power of today's weapons, that doesn't just mean nuclear warheads), we can remove our cash from the banks and pension funds that invest in such weapons (explore Don't Bank On The Bomb's website [nukedivestment.scotland.org](http://nukedivestment.scotland.org) to make informed choices).

One thing that Boris Johnson got right was that the media focused on him instead of the issues that should concern us all. The media absolutely should have focused on the then

Prime Minister – but it should also have reported fully on situations such as these, because we can't make up our minds about who should run our country and engage with the world if we aren't informed.

Our faith tells us we should discern the "signs of the times". We heard it first from Jesus (Matthew 16:4), and it was reiterated by Pope John XXIII when he convened Vatican II.

In the 21st century we have more means to examine the signs of the times than ever before; every electronic device available to us to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor – so we are interlinked as the climate crisis worsens.

Let's not just stick our earbuds in and listen instead to the cry of Adele.

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## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



“Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees” is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees which is marked on the last Sunday of September. Pope Francis highlights the message that we are all called – without exception – to assist migrants and refugees, leaving no one behind

# Pope's plea on migrants: 'No-one must be excluded'

## Dear brothers and sisters!

**THE ultimate meaning of our “journey” in this world is the search for our true homeland, the Kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ, which will find its full realization when he comes in glory...**

In our daily efforts to do the Lord's will, justice needs to be built up with patience, sacrifice, and determination, so that all those who hunger and thirst for it may be satisfied ...

No one must be excluded. God's plan is essentially inclusive and gives priority to those living on the existential peripheries. Among them are many migrants and refugees, displaced persons, and victims of trafficking.

The Kingdom of God is to be built with them, for without them it would not be the Kingdom that God wants.

Building the future with migrants and refugees also means recognizing and valuing how much each of them can contribute to the process of construction.

I like to see this approach

to migration reflected in a prophetic vision of Isaiah, which considers foreigners not invaders or destroyers, but willing labourers who rebuild the walls of the new Jerusalem, that Jerusalem whose gates are open to all peoples.

In Isaiah's prophecy, the arrival of foreigners is presented as a source of enrichment ...

Indeed, history teaches us that the contribution of migrants and refugees has been fundamental to the social and economic growth of our societies. This continues to be true in our own day. Their work, their youth, their enthusiasm and their willingness to sacrifice enrich the communities that receive them.

### Potential

Yet this contribution could be all the greater were it optimized and supported by carefully developed programs and initiatives. Enormous potential exists, ready to be harnessed, if only it is given a chance...

The presence of migrants and refugees represents a great challenge, but at the same time an immense opportunity for the cultural and spiritual growth of everyone. Thanks to them, we have the chance to know better our world and its

beautiful diversity.

We can grow in our common humanity and build together an ever greater sense of togetherness. Openness to one another creates spaces of fruitful exchange between different visions and traditions, and opens minds to new horizons. It also leads to a discovery of the richness present in other religions and forms of spirituality unfamiliar to us, and this helps us to deepen our own convictions...

The arrival of Catholic migrants and refugees can energize the ecclesial life of the communities that welcome them. Often they bring an enthusiasm that can revitalize our communities and enliven our celebrations. Sharing different expressions of faith and devotions offers us a privileged opportunity for experiencing more fully the catholicity of the People of God.

Dear brothers and sisters, and, in a special way, young people! If we want to cooperate with our heavenly Father in building the future, let us do so together with our brothers and sisters who are migrants and refugees.

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## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

“I met a young man from Syria. A former tailor, he told me the worst thing is boredom. Forbidden from taking a job, he is ‘paid’ £5 a week”

# Asylum seekers – the real story

BY MARGARET LYNCH

**I** FIRST got involved in helping refugees when a pal of mine was the chaplain at the Dungavel Detention Centre. Nearly 20 years ago now, he dropped in for a coffee after a shift at the prison.

He was really distressed at the state of the children who had been in the prison for over a year with scant access to education, stimulation or the normal happy pursuits of childhood. They had become withdrawn and depressed.

Bishop Mone, who was then the Chair of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission took up their case and was able to secure meetings with David Blunkett, then Home Secretary. And things changed.

Several years later, a pal asked me to help a woman who was a “failed” asylum seeker. The woman in question had left an abusive and violent husband, and in doing so she lost her right to remain in the UK.

Several attempts to navigate the complexities of the immigration system saw her couch surfing with her 8-year-old child – a beautiful, but silent wee girl.

I met her child the day I went to pick her up from a flat in a high rise block in Glasgow which had been sub-let – and then sub-let again – and was a temporary home to around ten men, the mother and her child.

She paid rent by the day – when she could afford it, and slept rough when she could not.

I brought them home with me. It took me nearly 10 months to persuade the mother to allow her child to enter the school system.

Some years later I ran



**Asylum seekers and refugees are often portrayed in the media – and by politicians – as scroungers living on benefits. In reality, they face appalling conditions, are forbidden to work and live close to destitution in our midst, as Margaret Lynch reports**

into Unity Sisters. This is an amazing self-help group of around 50 women with about 150 kids of all ages. They are a mixture of immigrants with UK citizenship, the right to remain, women going through the immigration process and those who have been kicked out of it.

With very scant resources, they have spun a web of love and support for each other.

We were gathering clothes for the women and children and needed a place to store them. I am not sure Father Martin Kane knew what he was getting himself into when he offered us some space in the parish house at St James' in Pollok!

I collected clothes from friends and family and we would meet to sort them. Sitting around that table with these women was a

rare privilege.

These amazing women, who were living on the edge of an unforgiving world talked so naturally of their God and the many blessings he bestowed upon them. I – who had so much more in terms of security and wealth – could not tap into the same feelings of joy and gratitude.

One of the women there, irritated the life out of me. She unfolded clothes we had folded, put them in the wrong pile and created so much extra work for us. Gently, Virgine, the group's leading light, encouraged Elyssa (not her real name) to share her story with me.

She was in her mid 60's, on her own and had been living outside of the asylum system for a long time. Couch surfing and some-

times staying in a friend's house.

It dawned on me that Elyssa was reminiscent of my old aunties... able to talk about the past but couldn't remember what she had for breakfast.

She was living a hand to mouth existence relying completely on the good will and donations of others for shelter, food, clothes, money, toiletries, everything.

I felt totally ashamed of myself, and was really struck by the precarity of Elyssa's situation. God alone knows what will happen to her.

Her only safety net is the companionship and concern and the willingness of Unity Sisters to share the very little they have with her and others like her.

Last week I met a young man from Syria, who is staying in a hotel in Perth. A former tailor, he told me the worst thing is boredom. Forbidden from taking paid employment, he is ‘paid’ £5 a week to meet all his other needs – food and shelter being provided.

The quality of the accommodation and the food provided in hotel accom-

modation is woeful. The damage that living this kind of existence does to mental health is incalculable.

But those living in the community are only marginally better off – they get £40.85 a week to live on. If you are a pregnant woman, you get an extra £3!

The government does not know how many, like Elyssa, are living under the wire.

In 20 years, not much

has improved. Surely we can do better?

Unity Sisters are looking for donations of sewing machines. They want to start a sewing circle and raise funds for the group. If you have a spare sewing machine you could donate – they would be very grateful. And so would the tailor from Aleppo.

■ **If you can help contact Margaret Lynch at [redmagz@hotmail.com](mailto:redmagz@hotmail.com)**

### Prayer of Pope Francis for Migrants and Refugees

Lord, make us bearers of hope,  
so that where there is darkness,  
your light may shine,  
and where there is discouragement,  
confidence in the future may be reborn.  
Lord, make us instruments of your justice,  
so that where there is exclusion,  
fraternity may flourish,  
and where there is greed, a spirit of sharing may grow.  
Lord, make us builders of your Kingdom,  
together with migrants and refugees  
and with all who dwell on the peripheries.  
Lord, let us learn how beautiful it is  
to live together as brothers and sisters.  
Amen



# Making a will can be a true act of charity

**Making a will is not only a sensible bit of financial planning ... it can also be an act of charity to those who will have to deal with our affairs when we die.**

That's why more and more people – even those of limited means – are deciding to take this step. It costs relatively little, but can save time, money and heartache for loved ones when the time comes.

## Mistakes

It's best to use a solicitor to make sure your will is legally valid and there are clear instructions for your executors. If you write the will yourself, it's easy to make mistakes that can cause complex problems after your death. Sorting out misunderstandings and disputes in court can result in legal costs that reduce the amount of money your loved ones will receive.

Some common mistakes people make when making wills without legal supervision are:

- not knowing about the formal requirements needed to make a will legally valid
- failing to include directions about what happens if a beneficiary dies either before you or before the estate is settled. A will can be drafted to take account of what happens to the beneficiary's share if this happens
- changing the will. If these changes are not signed and witnessed, they are invalid
- being unaware that marriage or civil partnership does not invalidate a previously made will or that divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership does invalidate most provisions in a will relating to the ex-spouse or ex-civil partner

A will can also allow

you to make gifts of treasured objects to family and friends without embarrassment or conflict, and you can write into it your wishes for your own funeral arrangements – whether you want to be buried or cremated, any special elements of the funeral you wish included or charitable donations you wish made from your savings.

## Valid

So, as autumn approaches, why not take the bull by the horns and make the call? It could be one of the most useful calls you will ever make.

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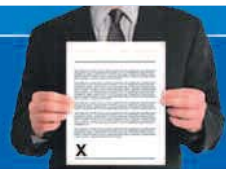
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**Please consider The Notre Dame Centre when you are making a will or leaving a legacy.**

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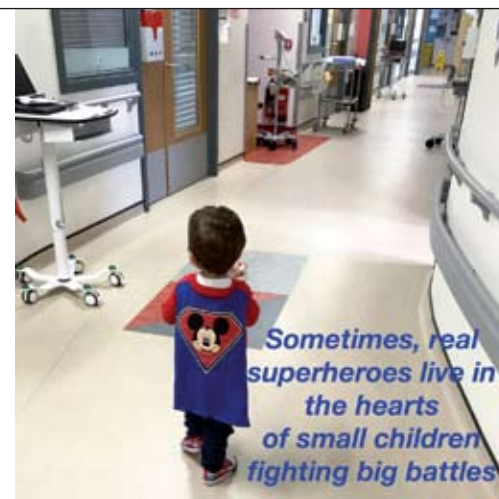
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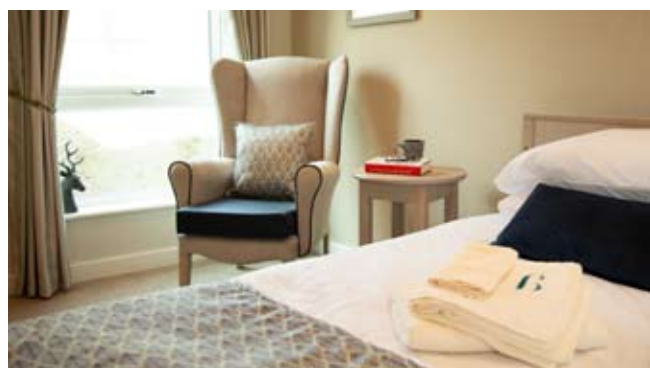
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you have to miss out on your favourite things and with a hairdresser on site you never need to miss a future appointment. There's a café bar to enjoy a cup of tea and slice of homemade cake and we provide a warm welcome for your family and friends to come in and join you and to be a part of our Boclair community.

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# A road trip to Calvary and beyond: September Sundays challenge us



Fr Tom Kilbride

**As summer ends and autumn encroaches, we find ourselves back on the road with Jesus, the rocky, dusty road he is resolutely taking to Jerusalem.**

As we follow him along it, we learn this month about God's mercy, about justice and about what being a follower of Jesus might cost us, hearing some of Jesus' most famous and most powerful parables.

After all, he is heading for the Cross, and he wants us to know what that means, both for him and for you and me.

## Twenty-Third Sunday C

As we resume our journey with Jesus, we are reminded that it is not an easy path, nor one we take up lightly. Jesus' words in the Gospel today are challenging, reminding us that nothing should come between us and our desire to follow him.

He is taking this road to the cross "resolutely": we have to be just as resolute,

just as committed. The little parables of tower-building and campaigning kings are meant to make us reflect not only whether we are so committed, but also on where our foundations lie. The answer? Jesus.

He is laying out the blueprint, the plan, for us to follow and put into action. He also gives us the wisdom (First Reading) and the love (Second Reading) we need to see it through.

As an aside, Paul's letter to Philemon is his shortest letter, written to a Christian leader whose slave (Onesimus) has run away. Paul exhorts Philemon not to do what his culture expects and punish Onesimus, but to see him in a new way, as a brother rather than as his property, and to receive him back in love as though he were Paul himself. Such is the challenge to see things in a new way, to see others through the eyes of Jesus rather than to follow the expectations of the world around us.

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday C

The glimpse we get into the story of Philemon and Onesimus last week is almost a real-life version of the famous parable of the Prodigal Son we hear today.

Paul wanted Philemon to see his former slave through the eyes of Jesus, through God's eyes, the eyes of mercy and love, rather than through those of the "elder brother" who stands on his own rights but fails to love. It is a powerful story and one we know well.

In fact, we heard these parables earlier in the year, during Lent. There, we heard them as penitents, reassured of the all-embracing forgiveness God has for us, waiting patiently for our return, rejoicing in our being found, and restoring us to our relationship with him.

Now, as we hear these parables on the road to Jerusalem, and as part of the unfolding teaching we are being given on discipleship, perhaps we are being invited to reflect not only on God's mercy towards us, but also on how we, as disciples, extend that mercy to others.

Do we imitate the unlimited mercy of God, or are we more "elder brother" towards others, like the Pharisees to the "sinners" in the context? Do I reach out in love to those who hurt me, or stand on my dignity and hold it against them?

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday C

If we hadn't noticed that the parables of forgiveness were also challenges to us as disciples, this week again offers us important teaching on discipleship. This time, it is about the use of material things, things we are not to be afraid of, but



James Tissot, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, 1862

which we must use wisely.

Besides, Jesus has already taught that we should be prepared to give up our possessions for the sake of the Kingdom. Now we hear why: we must be wholehearted in our dedication to God.

We cannot serve two Masters: we have to choose, and our best choice is God who will never fail us as opposed to material things, social status or power, all of which can be lost.

The other readings too, in their own way, reinforce this message: the things we need in life are there to be used justly and shared evenly (Amos) while only God can guarantee peace and well-being and so he alone is worthy of our love and honour (Paul).

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday C

Last week's hint at the just use of material things is brought into stark focus today with the famous and powerful parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

The former has surrounded himself with such luxury and material comfort that he is blind to the suffering Lazarus at his door. He has stopped caring, stopped looking outward, so fixated is he on his own happiness to the exclusion of others.

The "great gulf" fixed between them after death was not placed there by Abraham or God but by the rich

rose from the dead has spoken to us of these things: do we really listen to him?

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday C

The last Sunday Gospel in this series of teachings challenges us not to think we are disciples just for a reward or to get a pat on the back. We should forgive like the Father, be just and compassionate, detached from material possessions, and reach out to the poor because it is "our duty" and we are mere servants.

In the mini-parable of the Master and his servants Jesus reminds us that these things are not one-off events or done for some kind of reward. Rather, when we forgive, act justly, reach out in compassion, we must do it again, and again. They are to become second nature to us, not things we do just because we are told to.

That takes practice, but it also takes grace and God's power at work in us. Habakkuk tells us we will not "flag" if we are at rights with God, even when it is hard; Paul invites us to "fan into a flame" the gift of God in us, the Spirit he shares with us, relying on his power alone.

The road to Jerusalem we are walking with Jesus is not an easy one, but he shares his strength, the Holy Spirit, with us. We can walk his path confidently with him by our side. This month's readings ask us if we are really committed to following him along it, really willing to respond to what it asks of us!

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Precious memories of Esther (née Murray), a cherished wife to the late David, mum, gran and adored great-gran, who died on November 7, 2014, and whose birthday occurs on August 7. Our Lady of Lourdes and St Thérèse, pray for her. Forever in our hearts. Inserted by her ever-loving family.

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**WELCOME back to Father Frank's Log. The month of July was relatively quiet, as is usually the case.**

This past week I enjoyed a few relaxing, prayerful days in Schoenstatt. I stayed in St. Joseph's Cabin, self-catering, and availed of the many beautiful walks in Campsie Glen, on the Thomas Muir Way, and along the old Strathkelvin Railway line.

I found a trail I hadn't walked before, up to the Allanhead Waterfall. It was called the Eritrean Martyrs Woodland Trail, created by the Eritrean Community in Scotland to commemorate those who had died in the fight for independence. I also spent many fruitful hours in the beautiful little chapel.

Early in the month I had to bring some papers down to the Archdiocesan Offices in Clyde Street. After I handed them in, I went into the cathedral to say a few prayers.

While I was there a lady approached me and asked me if I knew where she might find a priest to sign a Mass card which she had just purchased in the repository. I told her I was a priest and that I would be

## From Campsie Glen to Cathedral confessions



### Fr Frank's log

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

happy to sign her card, and I produced my credentials to verify it.

She then decided to phone her pal to ask if she had managed to get a Mass card. The friend hadn't, so she bought another card for her friend and got me to sign that as well.

**Before I got on my way, I was approached by two other people to ask if there were any Confessions available, so I ended up finding a quiet spot and hearing a couple of Confessions as well. Maybe the Archbishop will give me a job!**

Later in the month I went for a Shingles vaccination. I received a letter asking me to go to the Glasgow Central Mosque at 7pm of a weekday evening. I had never set foot in the mosque before.

My first inclination was to

leave the car at St. Mungo's and walk down, as I don't like bringing the car into the city. However, I was a bit short for time and so I drove down.

When I got there, I got confused because of road works and a mesmerising number of traffic cones. I followed signs that instructed me to drive on a cycle lane, and I ended up in a car park nearly as far away as St. Mungo's would have been! I put money in a meter and traced my steps back.

Not knowing any better, I went in by the main entrance to the mosque, looking around to see if there were any signs telling me where to go for the vaccination.

I then found myself by the prayer room, which was very beautiful, and a very kindly gentleman came by whom I



was able to show my letter to and ask if he knew where I was to go. He asked firstly if I would take my shoes off, which I was happy to do, and he walked with me to the office.

I discovered where I was

to go, and so I went back to retrieve my shoes and made my way across a courtyard to the Vaccination Centre, where I received my jab, and just about made it back to the car before my meter money ran out.

A few days later I travelled to Dublin for meetings. This was my first time on an aeroplane since January 2020. The airport, both in Glasgow and Dublin, was jam packed, as were the planes themselves. It was a bit scary, if truth be told, but thankfully all went smoothly enough, and I seem to be none the worse for the experience.

Father Antony left us on the 23rd of August to take up his new appointment, and we hope to announce a replacement soon. Brother Conor has been with us for these past few weeks, enjoying time to read and pray, and to see a bit of Glasgow. He will return to Northern Ireland soon to prepare for his Final Profession which will take place in Holy Cross, Ardoyne. Father John continues to settle and, apart from his ministry, he regularly plays badminton, 7-a-side football, and now wants to learn to swim. Father Justinian continues to defy the years and is doing well. He hopes to travel with Father Antony to attend Brother Conor's Final Profession.

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

**AFTER his first arrest, the peace activist Daniel Berrigan went into hiding.**

After four months, he was captured, but during those months underground, although a threat to no one, he was put on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list. There's an irony here that did not go unnoticed. Someone put up a poster of him with this caption: Wanted – Notorious consecrator of bread and wine. Disturber of wars and felonious paper burner! The fugitive has been known to carry the New Testament and should be approached with extreme caution. Disarmed and dangerous.

Disarmed and dangerous! Corny as that may sound, it expresses the real threat to injustice, violence, and war. Disarmament is dangerous. Someone who is genuinely unarmed is ultimately the one who poses the greatest danger to disorder, immorality, and violence. Violence can withstand violence, but it can be brought down by non-violence. Here are some examples.

In our own generation, we have the example of Christian de Cherge, one of the seven Cistercian monks who were kidnapped and later killed by Islamist extremists in Algeria in 1996. His journey, and that of the other monks who died with him,

## Disarmed and dangerous

### Scribblings of the spirit

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



is chronicled in a number of books (including some of his own letters and diaries) and in the award-winning film, *Of Gods and Men*. Living within a small community of nine monks in a remote Muslim village in Northern Algeria, Christian and his community were much loved by that Muslim community and, being French citizens and enjoying the protection of that citizenship, their presence constituted a certain protection for the villagers against Islamic terrorists. Alas, the situation was not to last.

**On Christmas Eve, 1995, they received a first visit from the terrorists with the clear warning that they had best leave before they would become its victims. Both the French and the Algerian governments offered them armed protection. Christian, acting alone at first, against the majority voice in his own community, categorically refused armed protection. Instead, his prayer became this: In face of this violence, disarm us, Lord. His response to the threat was complete disarmament. Eventually, his entire community joined him in that stance.**

Six months later they were kidnapped and killed, but the triumph was theirs. Their witness of fidelity was the singular most powerful gift they could have given to the poor and vulnerable villagers whom they sought to protect, and their moral witness to the world will nurture generations to come, long after this particular genre of terrorism has had its day. Christian de Cherge and his community were disarmed and dangerous.

There are innumerable similar examples of other persons who were disarmed and dangerous. Rosa Parks, disarmed and seemingly powerless against the racist laws at the time, was one of the pivotal figures in ending racial segregation in the USA, as was Martin Luther King. The list of dangerous unarmed persons is

endless: Mahatma Gandhi, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Desmond Tutu, Oscar Romero, Franz Jagerstatter, Dorothy Stang, Daniel Berrigan, Elizabeth McAlister, Michael Rodrigo, Stan Rother, and Jim Wallis, among others. Not least, of course, Jesus.

Jesus was disarmed and so dangerous that the authorities of his time found it necessary to kill him. His complete non-violence constituted the ultimate threat to their established order. Notice how both the civil and religious authorities at the time did not so much fear an armed murderer as they feared an unarmed Jesus ... Release for us, Barabbas! We prefer to deal with an armed murderer than with an unarmed man professing non-violence and telling people to turn the other cheek! Give them credit for



Cistercian monks martyred in Algeria

being astute. Unconsciously, they recognized the real threat, someone who is unarmed, non-violent, and turning the other cheek.

However, turning the other cheek must be properly understood. It is not a passive, submissive thing. The opposite. In giving this counsel, Jesus specifies that it be the right cheek. Why this seemingly odd specification? Because he is referring to a culturally-sanctioned practice at the time where a superior could ritually slap an inferior on the cheek with the intention not so much of inflicting physical pain as to let the other person know his or her place – I am your superior, know your place! The slap was administered with the back of the right hand, facing the other person, and thus would land on the other person's right cheek. Now, in that posture, its true violence would remain mostly hidden because it

would look clean, aesthetic, and as something culturally accepted.

However, if one were to turn the other cheek, the left one, the violence would be exposed. How? First, because now the slap would land awkwardly and look violent; second, the person receiving it would be sending a clear signal. The change in posture would not only expose the violence but it would also be saying, you can still slap me, but not as a superior to an inferior; the old order is over.

Disarmed and dangerous. To carry no weapon except moral integrity is the ultimate threat to all that is not right.

■ Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author. He can be contacted through his website [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com). Now on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser](http://www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser)



# I'll be holding back the floodwaters from Patience's village... long after I'm gone.

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Patience Peter aged 1, Malawi. Photograph by Thoko Chikondi.

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