

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

September 2024



Bishop Andrew welcomed **page 5**



Glasgow's first Polish deacon **page 9**

Red letter days of celebration for Bishop Andrew and Deacon Andrzej

The way ahead

Clearer picture emerges for future of parishes after widespread consultation

THE future of parish provision in the Archdiocese is taking shape after a year-long consultation involving priests, religious and lay-people.

The next 10 years are likely to see fewer parish churches with the number of priests active in parish work likely to fall to around 50 across the Archdiocese.

The changes are likely to lead to larger, more vibrant, parish communities, situated strategically to match the changes in

population. Hefty repair bills running into millions of pounds will mean some churches become unsustainable and will have to close.

Amalgamations of current parishes should lead to sharing of resources, finance and expertise, sharing ministries and rescheduling of liturgies leading to more effective evangelisation.

■ **Read the full story and analysis on pages 10,11 and 12.**

St Patrick's, Anderston will face closure



Catholic TV is now free to all

A LOCAL Catholic TV channel has made a major step forward by being broadcast on Freeview.

And the volunteers are extending their reach with plans for programmes in Gaelic and Polish as well as English.

Being Catholic TV was set up in St Augustine's Parish, Coatbridge in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With churches closed for many months, a small team of enthusiastic Catholics looked to develop the Church's mission online using digital media.

From its humble beginnings as a parish media platform, it is now reaching thousands of homes each day in Scotland and around the world.

A spokesman for the apostolate said: "This source of media from the Church is a lifeline to those who are un-



BY **RONNIE CONVERY** able to attend Mass physically due to their medical needs.

So many of our congregation are housebound, in hospitals, or in care homes, removing their ability to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday

as well as during the week.

"This is why Saint Clare of Assisi is patron of televisions. As Clare grew older, she experienced poorer and poorer health.

Emotion

"It's said that one Christmas Eve, Clare was too sick to attend Mass and was overcome with emotion at being bedridden. The Holy Spirit came to her rescue, however, and projected the images and sounds of Mass on the wall of her room in order to allow Clare to be "present" at the Mass.

"It is wonderful that, in a modern world, we too can do this and reach our housebound community.

"We hope people will tune in and spread the word about Being Catholic TV to those who this applies to. Bringing Mass and daily prayers and devotions to them is a great comfort and continues that sense of community within our Church."

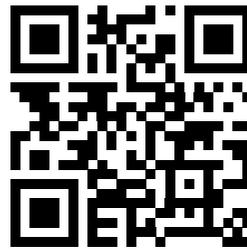
"We now broadcast a full daily schedule from 10am - 9.30pm every day. This content includes live Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, novenas, devotions, daily rosary, history and interest series, catechesis and talks, retreats, meditations, night prayer, religious

films, Christian music programmes and much more.

"We broadcast Sunday Masses in English, Gaelic and Latin. On the first Sunday of the month we also offer a Mass with a sign language interpreter.

"We are excited to launch the new Gaelic section of our programming, featuring Holy Mass, devotions and other feature series. We are already looking to develop a Polish section to reach out to the sizeable Polish speaking audience in Scotland and throughout the UK."

■ **Being Catholic TV can be accessed through: Freeview Channel 293 or by downloading the apps on the following platforms, just search "Being Catholic TV": Amazon Fire Stick TV; Roku TV; Apple or Android app stores; YouTube or www.beingcatholic.org/watch-live or scan the QR code below.**



Bishops reject euthanasia bill

THE Bishops' Conference of Scotland has responded strongly to a proposed assisted suicide bill in the Scottish Parliament.

Their clear message states that assisted dying is not care, but rather a 'cheap death'.

The bill was proposed in the Scottish Parliament in March of this year and would allow terminally ill patients to be assisted by health professionals to end their life. If the bill passes, Scotland could become the first part of the UK to legalise assisted dying.

In a 16-page formal response the Bishops' Conference highlighted the threat that this bill poses to the value of life. "Assisted suicide attacks human dignity and results in human life being increasingly valued on the basis of its efficiency and utility..."

"The proposal, to be blunt, provides a quick, cheap alternative to good palliative care."

In their response, the bishops quote research from other areas of the world where assisted sui-



cide is legal – such as the US state of Washington, where the health department reported that 59% of patients request assisted suicide because they feel they are a "burden."

The bishops also mentioned the Netherlands, where in 2022, there were nearly 9,000 deaths by euthanasia or assisted suicide. And in 2023, five people younger than 30 died by assisted suicide, citing autism as their reasoning.

The Scottish Parliament expects it to be debated this autumn with a final vote expected in 2025.

INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF ALL GARAGE DOORS

DALY GARAGE DOORS

Family Business With Over 30 Years Experience

Extensive range of doors including:

Henderson, Hormann, Garador, Gliderol, Caradale, Novoferm etc.

- Electric operators installed to new & existing doors
- Roller doors & spares
- Free estimates & advice

24 Hour Call-Out

TELEPHONE: 01355 261601

MOBILE: 07821 679606

www.dalygaragedoors.co.uk

Email: markpdaly@blueyonder.co.uk

1 Kendal Road, East Kilbride G75 8QT

HANDY MAN SERVICES

HMS

ROOFING WORK
GUTTER WORK AND DOWNPIPES
GENERAL BUILDING
HOUSE PAINTING (EXTERIOR)
FENCE REPAIR
BRICKWORK
FITTED KITCHEN
PLUMBING
JOINERY
TILING
STONE REPAIRS
LIME MORTAR POINTING

Tel: 07546 110339

Email: handypandyservices@gmail.com

O'HARE



ANNIVERSARY

Precious memories of our parents David, a cherished husband to the late Esther (née Murray), much loved Dad and Papa who died February 13, 2002 and whose birthday occurs on September 3rd; and our Dear mum, Gran and adored Great-Gran who died November 7, 2014 and whose birthday occurs on August 7.

Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Thérèse, pray for them.

Forever in our hearts. Inserted by their ever loving family.

Pope's words of thanks to the world's altar servers



Picture: Imago Mundi

THE important role of altar servers has been highlighted by Pope Francis in a summer gathering in Rome.

In his address to 70,000 altar servers from all over the world, gathered for a week-long pilgrimage to Rome, Pope Francis highlighted the deep meaning of the motto chosen for the international event: "With you?"

The Pope said: "When we receive Holy Communion, we experience that Jesus is

'with us' both spiritually and physically," not in words, but with that "act of love, which is the Eucharist."

In Communion, the Pope continued, altar servers too "can say to the Lord Jesus, 'I am with you', not in words, but with your heart and your body, with your love."

Being with Jesus, therefore, implies also being close to our neighbours, "even to those we might not like, who are different from us; to foreigners; to those we feel do not understand us; those

who never come to church; and who say they do not believe in God."

The Holy Father thanked the altar servers for coming to Rome "to share the joy of belonging to Jesus, of being servants of his love, servants of His wounded heart that heals our wounds, that saves us from death, and that gives us eternal life."

The pilgrimage was organised by the international association for altar boys and girls, Coetus Internationalis Ministrantium.

Church leaders unite against nuclear weapons

Picture by Paul McSherry



ARCHBISHOP Nolan has urged governments of the nine nuclear powers to stop treating weapons of mass destruction as 'comfort blankets' when in reality they are causing massive insecurity and wasting precious resources.

The Archbishop made the call at a Christian peace vigil held at Faslane naval base last month which he attended alongside the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rev Dr Shaw Paterson and Scottish Episcopal Church Bishop Andrew Swift.

The event, organised by Justice and Peace Scotland, took place to mark the 79th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima

BY **ANDREW SMITH** and Nagasaki, which is estimated to have been responsible for 246,000 deaths.

Led by the three faith leaders, attendees gathered to pray, reflect on scripture readings, and sing hymns together, in the shadow of a base that has been the location for the UK's nuclear arsenal for almost six decades.

The Archbishop lamented the fact that non-proliferation treaties from the 1960s and 1970s, and similar de-escalation agreements during the Cold War had subsequently given way to refusals to countenance even reducing nuclear arsenals. He likened the nuclear

powers' attachment to nuclear weapons to the modern attachment to mobile phones.

"Our governments are expanding and updating the nuclear arsenal. Pope Francis has spoken not just about the immorality of using these weapons, but the immorality of producing and possessing them. A great waste of human and financial resources that could be used elsewhere.

"Pope Benedict said that the concept of a deterrent had only increased the arms race because in order to keep their deterrent effective, countries had to continually renew and update their weapons systems.

"I would urge our politi-

cians and our governments to give up that comfort blanket. And just as a previous generation signed up to a non-proliferation treaty I would urge today's governments to sign up to the treaty banning possession of nuclear weapons that has been passed by the United Nations so that we don't go on creating new updated weapons of mass destruction."

The Moderator said: "We need to pray and continue to pray and not just think this is a once-a-year activity. Our present is shaped by the past, our future is shaped by the present. What we do, how we behave, how we love our neighbours determine what that future is like."

Women's support group's new home



A SUPPORT group for women affected by separation and divorce, founded in July 2021, as part of the Archdiocese's mission of New Evangelisation, has found a new home at Immaculate Conception Parish Maryhill.

The group has been running with a core group of around 20 women for three years but hope their new home base will allow more women to join.

Founding volunteer Tricia Macfarlane said: "The group was born from my own experience of separation and divorce as I felt that there was something missing from a pastoral perspective to include women more at this hour of need when in many ways they feel rejected, and experience shame and guilt. It's a wonderful group and safe environment for women, there's just as much laughter as there are tears."

Originally, the group set up in Dumbarton, thanks to the support of Canon Gerry Conroy and Fr Ross Campbell, but in response to feedback from women across the Archdiocese who need support, organisers are moving the

group to Glasgow thanks to the generosity of Fr Jim Lawlor.

Members from the group shared the positive impact it has had in helping them navigate through the trauma of separation and divorce.

One described it as "a most welcoming, non-judgemental, confidential, compassionate and understanding group of women in friendship."

Another said: "I was in despair at my new circumstances which few friends or family could understand. Through the amazing work of this group, I now feel listened to, connected and supported in my trauma, and I have gained invaluable strength enabling me to better support myself and my young family."

The next group will be held on Friday, 13th Sept from 6pm until 8pm in the Church Hall at The Immaculate Conception, Maryhill.

Get in touch in confidence by emailing: archdioceseofglasgowwomen@gmail.com or via the Faith Living (Archdiocese of Glasgow) Facebook page.

Faith flourishes in Pollok

WITH banners held aloft, flags flying and the joy of their faith evident for all to see, almost 400 members of Glasgow's St Thomas Syro-Malabar community brought colour to the streets of Pollok last month as they celebrated the feast of their patron, St Thomas the Apostle, and St Alphonsa, India's first female saint.

Many of those taking part in the Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Nolan wore the traditional dress of Kerala, Southern India where the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church was founded in 52 AD.

The Glasgow community have been based in St Conval's for the past six years and the annual feast day is seen as one of the major highlights of the year for the community.

The festivities began with a nine-day Novena, with the main feast being celebrated on the final day with a traditional procession from the church following the



BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

Thanksgiving Mass.

One of the trustees of the community told *Flourish*: "It was wonderful that the Archbishop honoured the community by being the main celebrant, delivering a powerful sermon and imparting the final blessing.

"The event was a resounding success, with nearly 400 people in attendance, reflecting the deep faith and unity within the community."

The move to St Conval's, which was completed by Christmas 2018, could not have been achieved without the enthusiastic backing of Parish Priest Fr Michael Kane. He said: "The Syro-Malabar community put

families at the very heart of everything they do – they are enthusiastic, deeply committed and incredibly well-organised.

"They spend hours planning programmes and courses for children, teenagers, families, engaged couples and newlyweds.

"And they are all very well attended – the people really want to be there."



Heart start training for the Archbishop

ARCHBISHOP Nolan Ajoined Glasgow's Shia Muslim community recently to learn the importance of cardiac resuscitation technique, following an incident which almost cost the life of one of Glasgow's Muslim leaders.

Shabir Beg told *Flourish*: "A year ago my son Simon (Shazad) suffered a cardiac arrest and by the grace of Allah and the prompt response taken by a bystander and the exceptional efforts of the Scottish Ambulance Service he survived after being resuscitated four times by the crews attending the emergency.

"As a father along with my family we are grateful to the Scottish Ambulance Service and have realised the importance of being trained in CPR.

"At the Al Huda Islamic Centre we have started a long term project to re-

ceive CPR training and defibrillator awareness training from the Scottish Ambulance Service.

"We are grateful to Claire Leah Harry and both ambulance crews on duty that night for starting to teach our community these life-saving emergency procedures.

"Our thanks also to His Grace Archbishop Nolan of Glasgow Archdiocese for attending the inaugural CPR training sessions."

Archbishop Nolan said: "We have recently installed a defibrillator on the front wall of the Archdiocesan offices which will also serve the cathedral, and which can be used in an emergency to save lives.

"It is good for all of us to learn the basics of CPR... you never know when it could – literally – mean the difference between life and death for someone who takes ill in our presence."

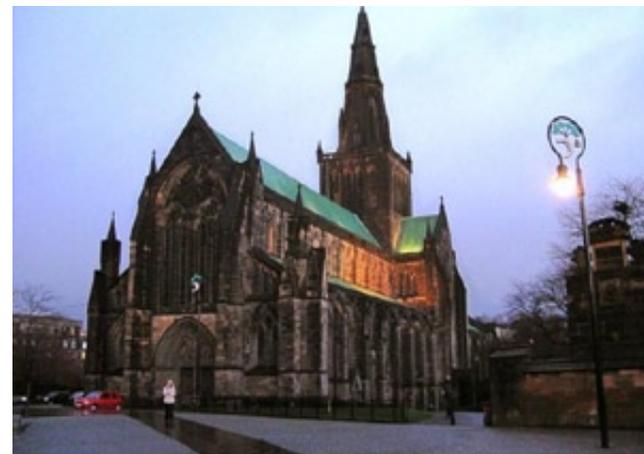
Sign up now for 'home' Glasgow pilgrimage

PILGRIMAGES don't have to be to far-flung, exotic locations like Fatima, Lourdes or Rome ... this month will see a major youth pilgrimage to Glasgow.

This year, following previous pilgrimages to Dunkeld and St Andrews, the city will host the National Youth Pilgrimage, bringing teens and young adults together from across the country to celebrate their Catholic faith.

Mairi-Claire O'Donnell, RCAG Youth Officer, will help welcome young pilgrims from across the country to walk in the footsteps of the saints.

She said: "We are going to make a pilgrimage walk from St Mungo's Cathedral to St Andrew's Cathedral, exploring the life and witness of Saints Mungo, Enoch and St John Ogilvie. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity for our young people to learn more about Glasgow's rich Catholic heritage whilst being inspired by the lives of the men and women who



BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

have walked this journey before us.

"Archbishop Leo Cushley, Bishop for Youth, will join Archbishop Nolan to lead this pilgrimage walk, which will conclude with the celebration of Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral."

Mairi-Claire, a veteran of several previous youth pilgrimages says the experience is impactful, with

young people realising they are part of a wider community of young Catholics and being reminded that sainthood is what they are aspiring to.

She said: "Looking at the lives of the local saints, with your peers, is such an eye-opening experience for our young people. Many will have no idea that Glasgow's motto comes from an old homily of St Mungo, most will presume that 'En-

och' was an old man, not Mungo's mother, and some will have passed along Tron-gate time and time again and have no idea that it's where one of our great saints was martyred.

"Upon discovering more, it's our hope that it will fan the flame of faith in their hearts and spur them on their journey of sanctity."

The National Youth Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, 21st September and is open to all who are in S1 through to 35 years old, with the group journeying in two pilgrimage tracks with their peers.

Beginning at 1230 in St Mungo's Church, Townhead, the group will walk through the city before concluding with Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral. The day is expected to end at 5pm.

■ **For more information and to register for this free event, check out this link: www.tinyurl.com/rcagnyp24**

SPRED's spread reaches Australia

SPRED is spreading... One of the most cherished ministries in the Catholic Church in Glasgow which offers religious education and support to parishioners with additional support needs is making an impact as far away as Australia.

Lisbeth Raeside, Director of SPRED Glasgow, recently carried out a 2-week visit with SPRED Toowoomba Diocesan staff and catechists in Queensland (right). Lisbeth guided staff, catechist leaders and catechists in a masterclass in slowing down the pace as a way of enriching the catechetical process.

Inspired by a road sign that read "SLOW YOU DOWN", spotted during a

recent trip through Norfolk, Lisbeth invited attendees to "slow down" and reflect on what makes SPRED sessions spiritual experiences.

"We live fast-paced lives, always on the move," said Lisbeth, "SPRED is an invitation to slow down." She explained that catechists should be guided by, and adapt to, the pace of their friends who live with an intellectual disability.

"If we allow their pace to guide us, it affirms their natural way of being, and gives everyone space; it's their gift to us. And it's this space that can allow each of us to encounter God."

Lisbeth reminded everyone that the most important relationships to nurture in



SPRED are the relationship between their friend and God, and the one between the community and God.

"Lisbeth's workshops with our catechists have been priceless learning opportunities," said Loretta Coman, Toowoomba SPRED Coordinator. "She is incredibly knowledgeable about the SPRED method, and her gentleness is infectious. We are very grateful to have this time with her."

Since November 2016, Lisbeth has been the Director of SPRED in the Archdiocese of Glasgow. She has been responsible for delivering and developing the SPRED catechetical pro-

gramme for adults and children with learning disabilities in parishes throughout the Archdiocese, and at the purpose-built SPRED Centre in Robroyston.

■ **SPRED in Glasgow is always in need of new volunteers to help parishioners who have a learning disability to take part in parish life. To find out about SPRED's work contact the SPRED office on 0141 770 5055 or glasgow.spred@btconnect.com. You can also support SPRED's work by contributing to the special collection that will be taken up in parishes on the weekend of 7/8 September.**

Adeje - Tenerife



Playa Fañabé

Superb one bed apartment with sunny balcony with remote control awning, overlooking pool. Everything supplied. 100 yards from beach. Restaurant, bars, pools, gym and entertainment in complex. Sleeps 4.

Email office@domsweeney.com for pictures.

£60 per night • Contact 07778 160193



Bernard Corrigan Ltd

WHOLESALE FISHMONGER • POULTERER & GAME DEALER

1 KEPPOCHHILL PLACE
PORT DUNDAS BUSINESS PARK
GLASGOW G21 1HS

Telephone: 0141 552 4368 • Fax: 0141-552 4731

Bishop Andrew's Dunkeld welcome

It is a mere 80 miles from St Andrew's Cathedral in Glasgow to its namesake in Dundee, but for the new Bishop of Dunkeld the journey is about more than just the road and the miles to that fine city.

His many friends in Glasgow, and indeed Bishop Andrew McKenzie himself, are still getting used to the fact that in a matter of weeks he has gone from being Administrator at Glasgow's St Andrew's Cathedral to being chosen by the Holy Father as the 10th Bishop of Dunkeld,

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

succeeding Bishop Stephen Robson who has retired.

As anyone who has attended the ordination of a bishop will know, these are solemn, sacred affairs steeped in rituals designed centuries ago... and yet those who gathered in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee on the Feast of St Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr will agree that the ceremony of episcopal ordination also had the feel of a family affair.

The bishops, clergy and deacons wore the blood-red vestments recalling the feast-day martyr, while his proud parents, extended family, and coachloads of parishioners from his former parishes including St Joseph's, Tollcross, and St



Joachim's, Carmyle wore something different – the most joyful of smiles.

Other guests included First Minister John Swinney, his wife Liz and son Matthew who are regular attenders at St Andrew's Cathedral in Dundee. There was a warm exchange of good wishes after the Mass ended.

The lead consecrator was Archbishop Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh, in whose province the Diocese of Dunkeld lies, assisted by Archbishop Nolan and Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell.

The ordination began with the reading of the mandate of appointment signed by the Pope and it ended with sustained applause of welcome for Bishop Andrew who responded with these words: "Over the past few weeks I have been a little overwhelmed with all that is going on so I spoke to a good friend and I said: what if I can't do all that?"

"He stopped me in my tracks by saying 'Andrew you are not a superman – God doesn't want supermen and women.'

"So I will not try to be a superman – but with God's grace and with your help I will do my very best to be your good and faithful bishop."

His new diocese could hope for nothing better than that.

Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer come away and be with the Lord

OUR AUTUMN RETREATS & EVENTS

October 4-6, Spirit & Truth

October 14-18, Family Week

October 25-27, Be Transformed

November 8-10, The Lion & The Lamb

November 15-17, By His Wounds We Are Healed

November 29-1, Kingdom Come (Youth)

Please visit www.craiglodge.org/events for details

To book or find out more please contact us at
mail@craiglodge.org

Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer
Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AR
T: 01838 200216
Scottish Charity SCO23203

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS

Pope calls for migrant welcome

Dear brothers and sisters!

The biblical narrative of Exodus, depicting the Israelites on their way to the promised land, naturally comes to mind ... it is possible to see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland.

Their journeys of hope remind us that "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

The images of the biblical exodus and of migrants share several similarities. Like the people of Israel in the time of Moses, migrants often flee from oppression, abuse, insecurity, discrimination, and lack of opportunities for development.

Like the Jews in the desert, migrants encounter many obstacles in their path: they are tried by thirst and hunger; they are exhausted by toil and disease; they are tempted by despair.

Yet the fundamental reality of the Exodus, of every exodus, is that God precedes and accompanies his people and all his children in every time and place. God's presence in the midst of the people is a certainty of salvation history: "The Lord your God goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deut 31:6) ...

Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement.

Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him.

How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany mi-



Holy Father's letter for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024

grants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!

God not only walks with his people, but also within them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalised. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation.

For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted.

The final judgment in Matthew 25 leaves no doubt: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me", and again "truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me". Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help.

In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters, on this day dedicated to migrants and refugees, let us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them, as well as the forthcoming Synod Assembly, "to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey."

Francis

Happy pilgrims' Lourdes reunion



It was a case of smiles all round as Archbishop Nolan caught up with fellow pilgrims at a Mass of Thanksgiving in Immaculate Conception, Maryhill, following last month's annual Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

In his homily at the traditional post pilgrimage Mass the archbishop, who led the pilgrimage to the famous French shrine for first time since his appointment two years ago, said: "In our life journey we all

have experiences that can encourage us, and of course we can have experiences that are not so positive, but are all part of life itself.

"All of you here today, with the prayerful experiences of Lourdes which brought you all closer to God and Our Lady still so fresh in your hearts and minds, will know that taking part in a pilgrimage is one of the most uplifting and treasured experiences any of us can have."

Faith leaders unite to condemn racist riots

MUSLIM and Christian leaders came together last month to call for unity, and an end to the violence and hatred seen during far-right riots across England.

The faith leaders met at Glasgow Central Mosque, as communities shared their fear of the violence spreading to Scotland.

Archbishop Nolan said: "It was heartbreaking to see the racist violence taking place across parts of the UK in recent weeks. This has caused many to be anxious and frightened, fearful of leaving their homes or going to their place of work.

"I join my brothers and sisters of peace, in calling for an end to all hatred, violence and vandalism, and for a commitment to the peaceful coexistence of all people in our country."



Tariq Iqbal, the President of Glasgow Central Mosque said:

"Many in our communities are understandably anxious and fearful, having seen the Islamophobic and racist terror spread across towns in England and in Belfast.

"We have strong community ties here in Scotland. I hope people of all faiths and none can take heart in this meeting, where Muslim and Christian leaders reaffirmed their commitment to nurturing those community ties and reject the narrative of division."

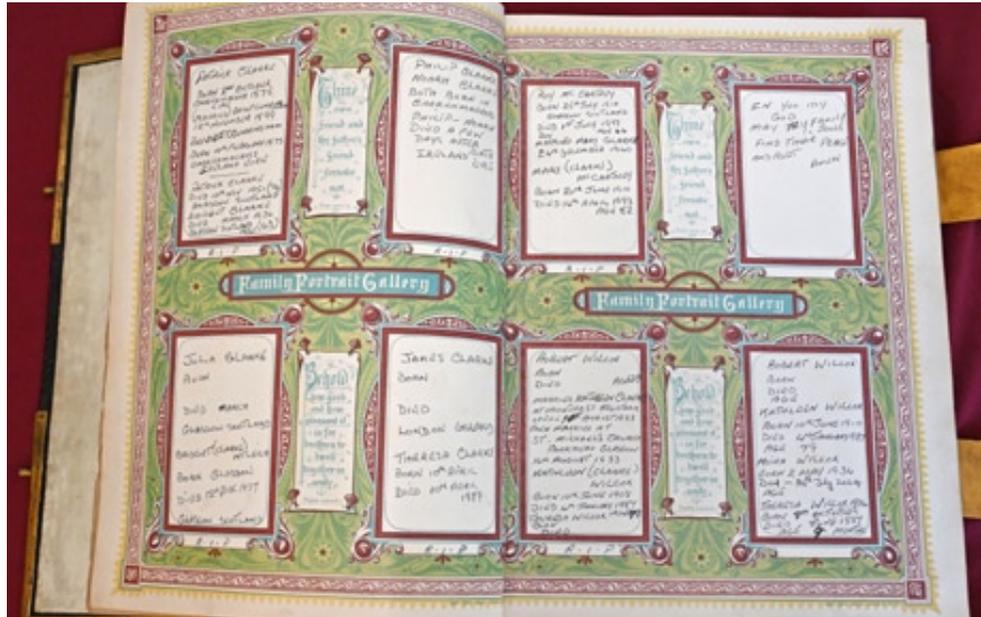
Moira's Bible may hold clue to lost family

A FAMILY tree written in a treasured family Bible owned by a 90 year old lady who was Glasgow's first woman bus driver... with these clues the search is on to trace the late Moira Wilcox's relatives.

Though she had no visitors during her 18 years in Craighbank Nursing Home, in Possilpark, devout Catholic Moira was a popular and sociable resident but when she died recently it fell to staff arrange her funeral after efforts to trace any living relatives failed.

Her large brass-bound Bible was to have been placed in the coffin with her for cremation, but it was saved thanks to Father Paulinus Oechukwu, parish administrator of St Teresa's of Lisieux and chaplain to the nearby nursing home.

Father Paulinus said: "A few days before her passing,



I was called upon to administer the last rites to her.

"When I held her Bible, I sensed that I was in possession of something extraor-

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURE BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

dinary – a treasure that should not be lost. I took the Bible back with me, and to my astonishment, I discovered within its pages a genealogy – a family tree.

"This deeply moved me, prompting me to realise that this precious piece of history could not be destroyed... It contained detailed information about her family history so it seemed to me important to ensure that such a valuable testament is preserved rather than lost.

"It is my hope and prayer that some member of her family who reads this will come forward."

Father Paulinus, ordained in Lagos four years ago, served as an assistant priest in Lagos University for four years before moving to Scotland where he completed a doctorate in Cancer Research and Precision Oncology at Glasgow University last year.

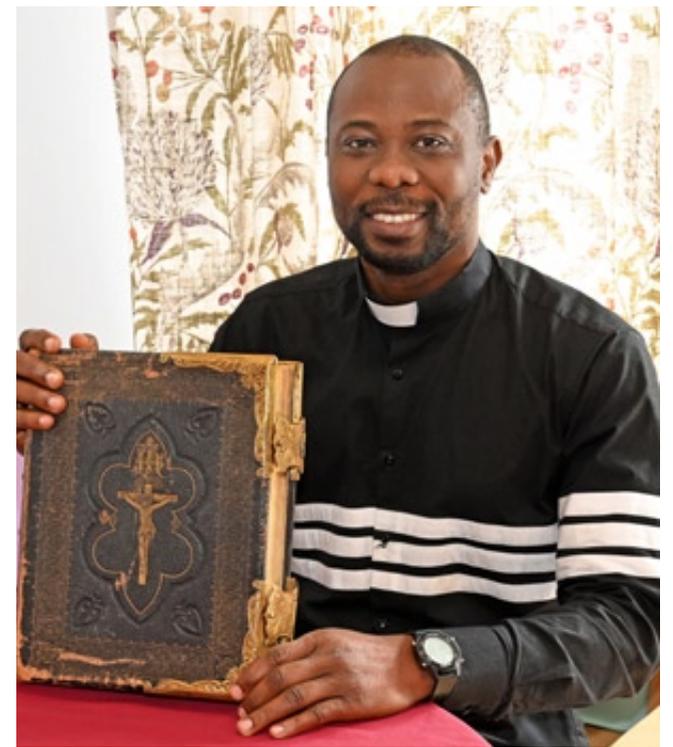
Delivering the homily at Moira's funeral at Glasgow Crematorium he said: "The Bible Moira treasured is now a precious legacy, not just for her, but for all of us. It serves as a reminder that even in our moments of solitude, we are part of something greater – a family that transcends time and space, united in faith and the love of God.... her story has become part of the Church's story, an assurance that we are never truly alone, that our lives are woven into the fabric of God's family."

It has now emerged that

Moira was a familiar and popular figure among a generation of Glaswegians as one of the city's legendary clippies before becoming the city's first ever female bus driver back in the early seventies.

Nursing home manager Claribel Durairaj said "She may have been alone but she was never lonely because we were her family.

"She was very proud of being the first woman bus driver in Glasgow and once



we arranged as a surprise for one of the vintage corporation buses to come to the nursing home.

"She just came alive when she saw it and got very excited and said 'That's my bus, I used to drive that bus!' – it was wonderful to see her reaction."

Records held by the nurs-

ing home show that Moira and her mother lived in a number of council house addresses in the city including Parkhead, Shettleston and Pollokshaws.

■ **If you have any information about Moira's family please email Brian Swanson@rcag.org.uk**

Is God calling you?

to a life of silence and solitude within a community of fellow seekers?

The Cistercian monks at Nunraw Abbey offer such an opportunity.

With them you can praise God through the psalms and liturgy at set times during the day. You will have time to study the ways of God and to meet God in your *lectio divina*. And, you will find work that will keep body and soul together.

If you have good reason to believe God may be calling you to be a monk, write to:

Vocation Director, Nunraw Abbey
HADDINGTON, EH41 4LW, Scotland
Or email: nunraw.abbot@yahoo.co.uk

Scottish Charity No SCO22611

GLASGOW'S OLDEST TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING SILVERSMITH

VISIONS IN SILVER
MORRISON-IGNATIEFF SILVERSMITHS

Specialist in quality repairs and restoration of all silverware

Call into our workshop at **34 Argyll Arcade, 3rd Floor, Glasgow G2 8BD**
Telephone **0141 204 1083** or **07957 834265**
www.visionsinsilver.co.uk

Read **FLOURISH** online



flourishnewspaper.co.uk



ST. MARY'S MONASTERY

KINNOULL, PERTH, SCOTLAND

Courses and Retreats 2024

There is still the opportunity to book for most of the individual weeks on our popular seven week sabbatical courses: 13th October – 27th November, 2024

Ministry of Healing in the Church today
20th – 23rd October

Transitions of Life
27th – 30th October

**'Go, rebuild my Church':
Pope Francis's vision**
3rd – 6th November

**Catholic Moral Reasoning:
Living the Gospel Today**
10th – 13th November

Exploring the Gospel of St. Matthew
17th – 20th November

For all these weeks arrive for supper (19.00hrs) on Sunday and depart after lunch (13.00hrs) on Thursday.

Advent Silent Retreat
Friday 15th December – Sunday 17th December

Individuals and parish groups are welcome throughout the year for a time of rest, reflection or retreat.

All enquiries to: St. Mary's Monastery, Hatton Road, Perth PH2 7BP
info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk · Tel +44 (0)1738) 624075

Members of the UCM and the Legion of Mary meet the Nuncio



Papal Nuncio leads Carfin pilgrims of hope

ALL roads led to the National Shrine at Carfin as the faithful gathered from across Scotland to spiritually prepare themselves for the Holy Year of 2025.

Pilgrims began arriving early on a day for which the term 'dreich' had surely been invented but, as the rain stayed away, the crowd

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

grew to one of the largest seen for years.

And as many commented, it was wonderful to see so many young people among their number – a sight which must also have also

delighted the special guest – Papal Nuncio His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, who was on official visit to Motherwell and Paisley Dioceses.

“Enjoy being Catholic and share the joy that God’s love brings” ... that was the simple uplifting message from one of Scotland’s newest

bishops as he addressed a large crowd of the faithful.

Bishop Frank Duggan, who became Bishop of Galloway in March, told them: “If this upcoming Jubilee Year were to be a year when we just enjoyed being Catholic then that would be one heck of a witness to give to others! And how many people would then say, ‘Who are you? What do you do? Where does your joy come from?’

“The Holy Father has also invited us to intensify our prayers for the year ahead using a lovely term – making a symphony of prayer – and he asks us to be signs of hope in the Jubilee Year itself. And no wonder, because so many people are struggling to find hope in anything.”

Listening intently to

his words was Bishop Andrew McKenzie, ordained last month to the Diocese of Dunkeld, along with Archbishop Nolan, Archbishop Leo Cushley, Bishop Joe Toal, Bishop John Keenan and Bishop Brian McGee.

Bishop Duggan, who before his appointment was parish priest at St Bride’s East Kilbride, added:

“There is a hopelessness among so many and they look in all sorts of different places for hope and often look in the wrong places.

“Someone must show them what to hope in – that’s our job and one we can fulfil by just living a joyous Christian life by saying to them here is God and here is something to hope in.”



Edinburgh will host annual Margaret Sinclair Day

ADAY of prayer, devotion and reflection to celebrate the life of Margaret Sinclair and pray for the miracle that will lead her to sainthood is being organised later this month

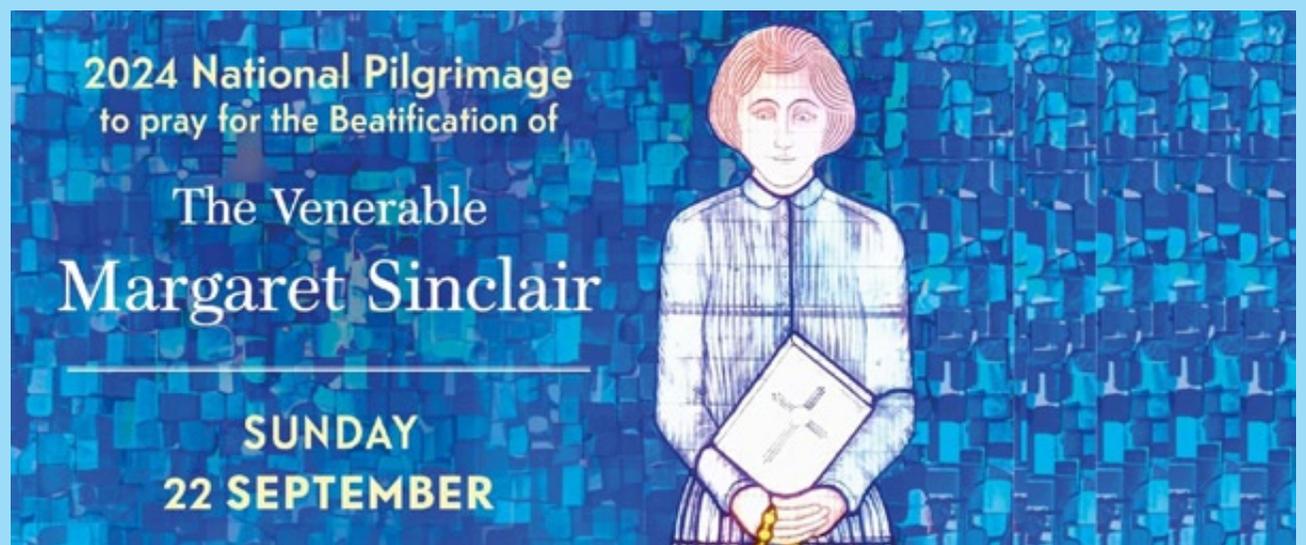
Many thousands have prayed at the shrine in St Patrick’s Church, Edinburgh where her remains are interred, and it will be in this church that the event will take place on Sunday 22 September.

It was in 1965 that Pope Paul VI declared that Margaret had practised the Christian virtues to a heroic degree and gave her the ti-

tle ‘Venerable’.

A strong devotion to Margaret has since developed throughout the world, and especially in Scotland.

On September 22 St Patrick’s will open to pilgrims at 12.30. There will be a Holy Hour (Exposition, Rosary, Benediction, Confessions) at 1.30pm. Individual Blessings at Shrine will follow at 2.45. At 3.30 there will be a Reflection and Novena prayers, with a presentation from pupils of Sinclair Academy. The day will culminate in a Mass offered by Archbishop Cushley at 4.30pm.



Glasgow welcome for our first ever Polish deacon

THE newest permanent deacon in the Archdiocese has been ordained – and Polish-born Andrzej Brzuchalski was quick to praise his wife Monika, whose chance remark encouraged him to take the first step on his diaconate journey.

BY **BRIAN SWANSON**

PICTURES BY **PAUL MCSHERRY**

Speaking after he was welcomed into his new role at a joyful Mass of Ordination celebrated by Archbishop Nolan in St Peter's Partick, Andrzej, 35, said: "When Monika heard that a deacon could have a wife, she asked me if this could be an invitation from God for us.

"So, we talked about it a lot and about a year later we were on a retreat together and I prayed about what Monika had said. And gradually the conviction to become a deacon became so strong that I stopped resisting it because I knew that this was God's plan for me – and now here we are!"

During the Ordination Mass, which took place on the Feast of St Bartholomew, Archbishop Nolan summed up the duties of deacons like Andrzej – to serve, not to be served, to be effective in action and constant in prayer.

After his ordination, with Monika by his side, and surrounded by his family and friends he revealed that even as a schoolboy growing up in rural Poland, Andrzej felt a powerful urge to serve God. When he was 15, he left

his home town of Elk in north-eastern Poland and joined the Minor Seminary of the Franciscan Friars near Kraków, because, in his words: "I fell in love with St Francis and his passion for nature, the poor and the needy."

He spent three years there, completed a year of novitiate followed by year of study at the Major Seminary in Kraków before deciding to leave and join his brothers who had already moved

from Poland to Northern Ireland.

Andrzej, who works in a centre caring for people with autism, added: "I still had a great desire to return to monastic life so I spent a year there working with the Franciscans of the Renewal in Derry, who recommended that I should go to Craig Lodge in Dalmally, a house of prayer which organises retreats and I stayed for a year before moving to Glasgow where I got involved in various Charismatic Renewal communities, both Scottish and Polish.

"Then in 2015 in the parish



Deacon Andrzej gives Holy Communion to his wife Monika



of St Simon in Glasgow, I began working with a woman who was also a member of the Polish community and together we began organising events for the lonely and homeless in the parish. That's how I met Monika, who became my wife two years later."

Then five years ago, after receiving great encouragement from Deacon James Kernaghan from St Peter's Partick, he began his studies which led to him becoming

the 21st permanent deacon to be ordained in the Archdiocese since 2009.

Deacon Kenny McGeachie, Archdiocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate, said: "It is wonderful to see another permanent deacon ordained for the Archdiocese of Glasgow. Andrzej is a lovely and faithful gentleman who will bring patience and a caring focus to his ministry and service.

"Andrzej has great faithfulness and pastoral concern

for people in abundance, and I am sure he will be a great parish deacon."

■ If you are interested in finding out about the Permanent Diaconate in Glasgow, or feeling that God might be calling you towards becoming a deacon, please contact Deacon Kenny McGeachie for an informal chat in the first instance: Kenneth.mcgeachie@rcag.org.uk or 07772 392682.

Fond farewell to Fr Twist



PARISHIONERS and clergy have paid a fond farewell to Father John Twist SJ, a 'wise and humble servant of God', as he prepares to leave St Aloysius, Garnethill, where he has ministered for the past six years.

During his time at St Aloysius, Fr Twist, 84, was largely responsible for overseeing its large-scale refurbishment which was finally

completed 18 months ago.

Last year he celebrated 50 years of priesthood and will shortly move to a Jesuit retirement home in Preston.

Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Superior for the Jesuits in Scotland, said: "In a long and distinguished ministry John has shown himself to be a humble servant of God and His people. It has never been about him but always others – literally thousands

of those he has helped over the years know that only too well."

Fr Roger added: "As you look round this beautifully refurbished church it shows that when John undertakes a task, he pursues it to the end. And as always, he never draws attention to himself and always makes himself available for others as a true servant of God's people."

Ordination

His roles in the Jesuit community since his ordination in 1973 have been many and varied and included that of Assistant Chaplain to Manchester University, Chaplain at Leeds University, Parish Priest Sacred Heart Wimbledon, Superior of the Jesuit Community Stamford Hill in London, Parish Priest of St Aloysius Glasgow between 1998 and 2005, and Chaplain at Stonyhurst College before returning to St Aloysius.

Thanking parishioners for their good wishes at a Mass of Thanksgiving, Fr Twist described his priesthood as a daily blessing from God.



Young boy in an IDP camp in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique

Will you help suffering displaced young Christians?

Millions of internally displaced Christian children around the world urgently need your help today – food, shelter, education, and material and spiritual care. Will you help ACN raise **£500K4HOPE**? **All donations will be matched up to £225,000.**

This is your chance to take action! You can offer hope to displaced and orphaned children and young people suffering from persecution and violence just for being Christian.



PHONE: 0345 646 0110 DONATE: acnuk.org/fl-teamred-donate

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE



Aid to the Church in Need

0345 646 0110 | www.acnuk.org | acn@acnuk.org

Office G4, Dalziel Building, 7 Scott Street, Motherwell ML1 1PN

A registered charity in England and Wales (1097984) and in Scotland (SC040748)

Rev/Sr/Mr/Mrs/Miss: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I enclose £100 £50 £25 Other £ _____ to help displaced Christian children.

I enclose a cheque to Aid to the Church in Need OR please debit my VISA/MasterCard

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Valid From Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Signature strip code (last block of digits): ____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Yes, I would like to boost my donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 I donate.

Yes, I want to Gift Aid my current donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to 'Aid to the Church in Need'. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donation in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

Please send me information about setting up a regular gift.

A24P2FL Please photocopy this form if you do not want to cut your copy of Flourish.



The future is taking shape

Clergy redeployed to serve the parishes of the future

THE decline in priestly vocations has been evident for decades, but in the next few years it will begin to impact dramatically on the life of the Archdiocese.

This autumn sees the retirement of three parish priests, and the loss of five priests from religious orders and congregations who have been serving in the Church in Glasgow, while one priest leaves after being named a bishop of another diocese.

In addition, six parish priests are close to, or past retirement age. There have been no priestly ordinations for the Archdiocese this year and none are expected for the immediate future.

As of this month, 27 churches now have no resident priest, with little prospect of that changing. Indeed as time passes more and more parishes will face this reality.

In the face of this major loss of clergy the need for parish mergers and closures is painfully evident.

The following retirements and appointments take effect in the month of September:

• **Fr Peter Dowling SSS** is appointed parish priest of St Michael's, Parkhead and Sacred Heart Bridgeton.

• **Fr Renato (Rene) Esoy SSS** is appointed Parish Priest of St Columba's Parish with responsibility for the pastoral care of the Filipino community.

• **Fr Patrick Currie**, parish priest of St Joseph's, Milngavie, is to retire.

• **Fr John Lyons** is appointed parish priest of St Joseph's, Milngavie.

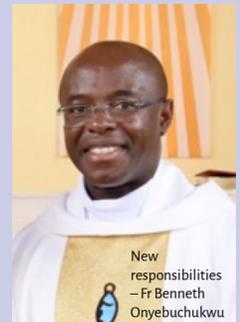
• **Fr Benneth Onyebuchukwu** is appointed parish priest of St Albert's, Pollokshields (in addition to St Helen's).

• **Mgr John Hughes**, parish priest of St Joseph's, Helensburgh, is to retire.

• **Fr Gregory Zungdet** is appointed parish administrator of St Joseph's, Helensburgh and parish administrator of St Gildas', Rosneath.



Retiring – Fr Pat Currie



New responsibilities – Fr Benneth Onyebuchukwu



On the move – Canon David Wallace

• **Canon Thomas White** is appointed parish priest of Holy Cross, Croy.

• The Xaverian Missionaries withdraw from the Archdiocese.

• **Fr Joseph Sullivan** is appointed parish priest of St Bartholomew's, Castlemilk and St Margaret Mary's, Castlemilk.

• **Fr Paulinus Okechukwu** is appointed parish administrator of Our Lady and St Helen's, Condorrat.

• **Canon Tommy Hendry**, formerly parish priest of St Teresa of Lisieux has retired.

• **Fr Paul McAlinden** is appointed Parish Administrator of St Teresa of Lisieux, Possilpark.

• **Fr John Mulholland** is appointed parish priest of St Mary's, Calton and St Alphonsus', Calton.

• **Fr Liam McMahon** is appointed parish priest of St Margaret's, Clydebank and Our Holy Redeemer, Clydebank.

• **Fr Joseph Mackle** is appointed as new parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald.

• **Fr Michael Maloney** is appointed parish priest of St Andrew's, Bearsden.

• **Canon David Wallace** is appointed Administrator of St Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral.

• **Fr Vincent Toal** is appointed parish priest of St Mahew's, Cardross (in addition to St Michael's, Dumbarton).

• **Fr John Twist SJ** is leaving the Jesuit community at St Aloysius' and is being replaced by Fr Ladislav (Laco) Sulik SJ.

• **Deacon Paul McNair** is appointed to Our Lady and St Helen's, Condorrat.

• **Deacon Michael O'Donnell** is appointed to St Constantine's, Govan.

Meanwhile the following changes will take place at the Franciscan community at Blessed John Duns Scotus in the Gorbals:

• **Fr Ed Highton** moves to another Friary within the Province.

• **Fr Niall O'Connell OFM** will serve as Guardian and Director FMU.

• **Fr Ninian Arbuckle OFM** (semi retired) will serve as Franciscan Vicar

• **Fr Caoimhín Ó Laoide OFM** is due for appointment as parish priest in October 2025.

• **Fr Dónal Walsh OFM** serves as Parish Priest until October 2025.



Archbishop: We have to use our resources well

THE work has been done, the results have been analysed and now a clearer picture has emerged of the future of parish provision in the Archdiocese.

This month *Flourish* can reveal the likely shape of parish life over the next decade, following an extensive consultation process involving clergy and parishioners from every parish in the Archdiocese.

Archbishop Nolan had asked parishes in local areas to meet and discuss frankly their pastoral needs as they look ahead, given the declining number of priests and the need for each parish to be a vibrant, active, and evangelising unit.

They were also asked to consider the expected steep decline in active parish clergy over the next decade which is likely to fall from almost 80 parish-based priests at present to fewer than 50 serving in the next decade.

Taking these circumstances into account, Deanery Resource Groups were asked to gather parishes into three Groups based on long, medium and short term viability.

BY RONNIE CONVERY

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

Group One contains parishes which will remain fundamental to pastoral care into the next decade and beyond due to their greater size, location or other key factors which make them well-placed to respond to significant needs over a large pastoral area.

Group Two contains parishes which will be key to supporting the provision of pastoral care throughout the archdiocese covering important geographical areas. These parishes can be expected to remain in this key role over the medium term.

Group Three lists parishes which will be less central to pastoral care in the archdiocese due to their smaller size, location, or other key factors. These parishes may face closure, amalgamation, or realignment at some point in the future.

Archbishop Nolan said: "I am very grateful to everyone who took part in the consultations over the last year.

These recommendations will help us to plan for the future.

"While we would all love to maintain every building we have at present, no matter the cost; and we would all love to have a plentiful supply of priests to staff every parish, the truth is that we can't!

"We have limited human resources and limited financial resources so it is essential that these resources be used where they can have the greatest effect in providing good pastoral care and effective evangelising hubs.

"It is important to note that the groupings being published do not in any way constitute a 'hit list'. There is no masterplan to announce mass closures of parishes.

Repair

"But when events come along – that might be the loss of a priest, or a major repair bill or some other significant circumstance – we will use the list to decide how best to use our resources, and inevitably that will see the reduction in the number of parishes.



"I would point to the example of the parish I chose to live in when I came to the Archdiocese – St Patrick's. It's a lovely church, full of historical resonance, with a devoted group of parishioners. But it faces huge bills which it has no realistic way of paying and caters for a very small number of people who could

worship at churches nearby. Much as we hate to admit it, there is no viable way forward for that parish and so it will likely face closure in coming years.

"There are similar cases across the Archdiocese where a priest is needed elsewhere for a bigger congregation, or the escalating costs of repairs, or heating and other bills are way beyond the capacity of the parish.

"I would say this to parishioners who find their parish has been listed in Group Three: the inclusion of your parish in this group does not mean that this parish will imminently close.

"Rather it indicates that given the restraints that are being put upon us, the retention of this parish in the future is less likely, given the overall framework of pastoral care in the archdiocese.

"Our ultimate aim is good pastoral care and evangelising communities that are viable into the future. To get there we will have to make painful decisions, but there is really no alternative as we look forward to the middle years of the 21st century."



Beautiful buildings... and hard truths

THE widespread shift in the Catholic population over the last half century and a large number of aging buildings has led to some parishes facing ruinous bills which the reduced number of parishioners can never hope to finance.

Among the buildings affected is St Albert's in Pollokshields which needs works totaling £1.25 million. At Our Holy Redeemer in Clydebank the bills could top £2 million.

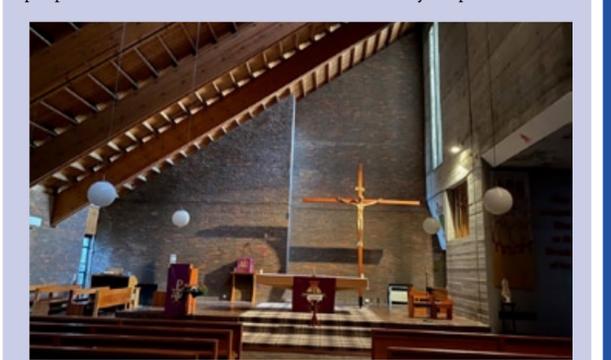
Another typical case is St Peter's in Bellsmyre, Dumbarton (below).

Based on a recent report by chartered surveyors, essential works and medium term works would total more than £600,000 and since the electrical installation is over 50 years old the church also needs re-wiring.

With a Mass-going population of around 150 people that would require £4000 to be found by every man woman and child just to keep the church open – clearly an impossible challenge.

St Anthony's in Govan (top right) faces a similar situation.

A recent surveyors' report listed an array of problems requiring immediate and medium-term remedial works totaling more than £1.75 million. With a Mass-going population of around 170 the bill comes out at more than £10,000 per parishioner!



St Patrick's in Anderston (top) is a church where closure has already been announced as inevitable.

Parish Priest Canon Paul Gargaro said: "When we look around the church we can see our average age... our daily Masses and devotions can sometimes be attended by only five or six people.

"The shortage of priests means that the Archdiocese needs to send priests where places are busier – there are some parishes with more people at weekday Mass than we get over the whole weekend."

Compounding the problems faced by St Patrick's is the fact that the venerable old church faces a medium-term repair bill of almost £2 million.

Canon Gargaro said: "We don't have £2 million, and there is no realistic way of raising it, and even if we could get it, would this be the best way to spend it?"

Consultation reflects priorities for communities of decades to come

THE widespread consultation aimed at identifying the parishes which will be needed in future, operating as vibrant centres of faith, has been ongoing for over a year.

This exercise considered the numbers of practising Catholics and the projected shortage of priests within each deanery over the next 10 years and each deanery responded.

Looking to the future, deaneries were asked to gather parishes in their local area into one of three groups as detailed below.

Parishes in group one will be fundamental to the provision of pastoral care in the local area and expected to remain so for the next decade and beyond.

Parishes in group two are seen as supporting pastoral care in important geographical areas. Deaneries may expect these parishes to remain in this key role for a period of five to 10 years.

Parishes in group three

are identified as less central to the overall framework of pastoral care in the archdiocese by virtue of their smaller size, location or other key factors. The local deanery anticipates that these parishes may face closure, amalgamation or realignment within five years.

Deanery Resource Groups were asked to be mindful of two important points which provide context ... the inclusion of a parish in Group Three does NOT mean that this parish will close. Rather it indicates that given the restraints being faced, the retention of this parish beyond a period of five years is less likely, given the overall framework of pastoral care in the archdiocese.

Parishes will only be realigned when the archbishop decides that this is necessary. It is therefore not being proposed that on a given day a specified number of parishes will close.



Group one

St Joseph's, Cumbernauld
Sacred Heart, Cumbernauld
Holy Cross, Croy
Our Lady & St Helen's, Condorrat
St Matthew's, Bishopbriggs
Holy Family & St Ninian's, Kirkintilloch
St Andrew's, Bearsden
St Joseph's, Milngavie
St Kessog's, Balloch
Our Lady & St Mark's, Alexandria
St Michael's, Dumbarton
St Patrick's, Dumbarton
St Joseph's, Helensburgh
St Margaret's, Clydebank
St Mary's, Duntocher
St Stephen's, Dalmuir
St Helen's, Langside
Blessed John Duns Scotus, Gorbals
Christ the King, King's Park
St Bartholomew's, Castlemilk
Our Lady of Lourdes, Cardonald
Our Lady and St George's, Penilee
St Mary Immaculate, Pollokshaws
St Gabriel's, Merrylee
St Conval's, Pollok
St James', Crookston
St Peter's, Partick
St Aloysius', Garnethill
St Ninian's, Knightswood
Immaculate Conception, Maryhill
St Andrew's Cathedral
St Michael's, Parkhead
St Mary's, Calton
St Augustine's, Milton
St Catherine's, Balornock
St Mungo's, Townhead
St Philomena's, Provanmill
St Anne's, Dennistoun
St Paul's, Shettleston
St Joseph's, Tollcross

Group two

St Lucy's, Cumbernauld
St Dominic's, Bishopbriggs
St Flannan's, Kirkintilloch
St Martin's, Renton
St Eunan's, Clydebank
Holy Cross, Crosshill
St Brigid's, Toryglen
St Constantine's, Govan
St Vincent's, Thornliebank
St Robert's, Househillwood
Turnbull Hall
St Laurence's, Drumchapel
St Paul's, Whiteinch
St Brendan's, Yoker
St Columba's, Woodside
St Gregory's, Wyndford
Sacred Heart, Bridgeton
St Teresa's, Possilpark
St Aloysius', Springburn
St Roch's, Garngad
St Jude's, Barlanark
St Barnabas', Shettleston



St Paul's, Whiteinch

Group three

St John of the Cross, Twechar
St Mahew's, Cardross
St Peter's, Dumbarton
St Gildas', Rosneath
St Peter & St Paul, Arrochar
St Joseph's, Faifley
Our Holy Redeemer, Clydebank
St Patrick's, Old Kilpatrick
St Margaret Mary's, Castlemilk
St Albert's, Pollokshields
St Leo's, Dumbreck
St Anthony's, Govan
Holy Name, Mansewood
St Bernard's, Nitshill
St Patrick's, Anderston
St Benedict's, Drumchapel
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Broomhill
Corpus Christi, Scotstounhill
St Charles', Kelvinside
St Alphonsus', Calton
St Agnes', Lambhill
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Balornock
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Dennistoun
St Maria Goretti's, Cranhill
St Bernadette's, Carntyne
St Joachim's, Carmyle
St Mark's, Shettleston



St Maria Goretti's, Cranhill

We believe in **giving back** to our local communities.

This means charities, sports teams
and great causes across the UK.

Proud to support
Flourish



Arnold Clark

Archbishop's call to pray for priests



UNITED by devotion to God and His people, these faithful jubilarian priests of the Archdiocese gathered in gratitude at a Mass of Thanksgiving in St Andrew's Cathedral celebrated by their brother priest, Archbishop Nolan, to mark almost 600 combined years of service.

In a powerful homily Archbishop Nolan called for prayers to support not just the Jubilarians but all priests saying: "I would ask you today to pray for these priests and not just for those celebrating their anniversaries,

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

but for all priests, because as you know it is not easy to be a Catholic these days, nor is it easy being a priest."

He added: "Anniversaries are occasions which spur us to look back, and these priests can look back on the day of their ordination all those years ago and remember the joy of that celebration, remember their enthusiasm for the ministry that lay ahead, remember their hope for the future.

"But we know that the world today is different from what it was like twenty-five, forty, fifty and sixty years ago..."

"At that time these newly-ordained priests had to have trust in God because although they had made a commitment to God in the priesthood they did not know what lay ahead and where that ministry was going to take them and what and it was to entail.

"So, I would like to commend these priests on their perseverance. They have weathered the storms that

have come our way over that period of time. They are still here with us – still serving the Lord, still serving God's people.

"If you ever get to meet the Holy Father, Pope Francis, he always ends that meeting by saying 'pray for me' and it is genuine – he knows he needs prayers of the people. And priests too need your prayers.

"Priests pray for the people and the people should pray for their priests to support each other on that journey through life.

"We pray that the young people of today will listen to God's call and answer it and imitate these priests who celebrate their anniversaries with us today,

"They heard God's call all these years ago and dedicated their lives to that calling and we pray that others will do as they have done."

Class of 2024 jubilarian priests

OF the fourteen priests celebrating their special anniversaries this year, the longest serving is Monsignor Gerry Fitzpatrick who was ordained 60 years ago.

Marking their Golden Jubilee are Fathers Michael Conroy, Michael Woolford, Anthony Sweeney, Willie Monaghan, and Dermot Healey.

Ordained 40 years ago were Canon Joseph McAuley, Father Charles McElwee and Monsignor John Hughes.

These celebrating 25 years of the priesthood are Canon David Wallace, Canon Tom White, Father Liam McMahon, Father John Mulholland, and Father John McGrath.

AGAP Fringe sellout

THE Archdiocese's Arts Project has had a triumphant run at the Edinburgh Fringe, exceeding all expectations with sell outs at every performance.

The play 'Gaudi, God's Architect' also won praise from critics for its narration of the life story of the devout Catholic architect behind Barcelona's Sagrada Familia church.

An example of 'gentle evangelisation' the script focuses on the faith of the great architect, whose cause for canonisation is now open, and allowed audiences with no particular religious convictions to understand the role of religion in society.

The triumphant run at the Fringe is even more remarkable as there were over 3500 shows on in Edinburgh in the course of the Fringe Festival, some of which inevitably played to very empty houses, despite the talent of the performers.

AGAP Creative Director welcomed Archbishop Nolan and a group from the Archdiocesan Youth Office to one of the shows. He said: "I am overjoyed by the support that we have had for the production. It is a real sign that there is still an appetite for faith-based theatre, even in such a competitive environment. I don't take that support for granted and thank God for it. I hope that we can return to the Fringe again next year with something else."



St Nicholas Care Fund

Please consider The Pastoral Care Trust – St Nicholas Care Fund when you are making a will or leaving a legacy.

The Pastoral Care Trust – St Nicholas Care Fund aims to help in Christ's name those in need in our communities.

Email pct@rcag.org.uk · Telephone 0141 226 5898
Scottish Charity SC029832

Your funeral wishes
At the lowest price locally.
Guaranteed.

Funerals from
£750

Our Price Promise

We promise to match the prices of any funeral director within 5 miles of our locations.

Terms and conditions apply.



TALK TO US ANYTIME

Whatever your funeral wishes or budget, we can provide a funeral to suit you. Prepaid funeral plans also available.

JOHN KANE | Dumbarton | G82 1BA | 01389 888 071

JONATHAN HARVEY | Kilbowie Road | G81 6QS | 01389 887 146

JOSEPH POTTS | Belshill | ML4 1QU | 01698 442 991

JOSEPH POTTS | Blantyre | G72 0YS | 01698 442 955

T & R O'BRIEN & SON | Glasgow | G20 7QS | 01415 306 649

www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

We are very proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing a 5 star service to families across the U.K.



Leave a Lasting Legacy



Fertility Care Scotland Limited is a local charity which empowers couples by teaching a safe and effective method of natural fertility regulation.

We offer FREE clinics for women and couples trying to achieve or postpone pregnancy naturally. We also offer volunteer opportunities and accredited teacher training programmes.

When making a will, please consider leaving a legacy to Fertility Care Scotland to support women and couples across Scotland.

Contact us at info@fertilitycare.org.uk or 0141 221 0858

Registered Charity SC051574

Where there's a will, there's a better way

It's important for you to make a will whether or not you think you have many belongings, property or much

money.

When someone dies, emotions are raw and people need time and support as

they grieve. By making a will you can take a huge burden of stress off your relatives, allowing them to focus on their emotional and spiritual needs.

Dying without a will is called dying intestate. If you don't have a will, rules called the rights of succession dictate how your money, property or belongings are distributed after your death. This may not be the way that you wanted your money and belongings to be distributed.

If you're not married or in a civil partnership, your partner won't automatically inherit your money, unless you have a will. This applies even if you're living together or have been together for a long time.

They will have to go to court to try and get some of your property and belongings.

Partners who are married or in a civil partnership should make wills too. Making a will means you can decide what to leave your partner, and other people, when you die.

If you have children, you can name a guardian for your children. You can also leave instructions on how they should be cared for. You might want to consider setting up a trust.

You might be able to reduce the amount of tax payable on

what your family and friends inherit if you get inheritance tax advice when a will is made.

You might have digital assets, like an online shopping account with credit in it or social media accounts with personal information. You need to make plans about what to do with them.

If you're not sure whether to make a will, you should consult a solicitor or a Citizens Advice Bureau which can give you lists of solicitors – where to get advice.

If your personal circumstances change, it's important that you make a will or change your existing will to ensure that your money and possessions will be distributed according to your wishes. The law on this is complicated and you might need to get legal advice.

For example, you might need to change your will if you have children, get married or become civil partners, get divorced, dissolve your civil partnership or separate, sell or gift your assets, inherit property or money.

You should discuss how these changes affect your will and inheritance planning with a solicitor.



The Legion of Mary Wayside Club



At Wayside we offer no miracle cures but thanks to the support of many people who give their time or financial support we are available to the marginalised and the lonely 365 night a year at our premises in 32 Midland Street where our patrons can enjoy a warm friendly non-judgmental environment while availing themselves of the support on offer from enjoying some food to freshening up in our shower facilities or spending time in prayer within our oratory.

To find out more about our work please call in and we would love to show you around or if you would like to support us financially this can be done by cheque / standing order or bank transfer to:

The Legion of Mary Wayside Club
Sort code: 80 07 61
Account Number: 00906559
Please keep the work of the club in your prayers.

Hughes Shaughnessy McFarlane

INCORPORATING McDAID FARRELL

HSM

SOLICITORS

OUR SERVICES

Residential conveyancing
Wills
Powers of attorney
Guardianships
Executry

Get in touch!

216 Kilmarnock Road, Shawlands,
Glasgow G43 1TY · 0141 636 5115

256 Castlemilk Road, Kings Park,
Glasgow G44 4LB · 0141 649 9772

20 Croftfoot Rd,
Glasgow G44 5JT · 0141 634 0437

www.hsm-solicitors.co.uk



The Notre Dame Centre (Est 1931)
Providing support for children, young people and their families

The Notre Dame Centre is a registered charity which operates as a Company Limited by Guarantee with a Board of Directors.

Originally founded in 1931 in response to the demands of parents, educators and other professionals to address the complex needs of children and young people (pre-school to adolescent) experiencing emotional and psychological distress. We are based in the North of Glasgow and provide services to education, social work and NHS boards across Scotland.

Can I ask that you please consider The Notre Dame Centre when you are making a will or leaving a legacy

The Notre Dame Centre, Parkhouse Business Park, Kelvin House
419 Balmore Road, Glasgow, G22 6NT
T: 0141 339 2366 E: info@notredamecentre.org.uk
Charity No. SC. 002851



Holmes Mackillop
Solicitors

Commitment. Professionalism. Experience.

Holmes Mackillop are proud to provide pragmatic, local legal advice, with experience in:

Residential Conveyancing Estate Agency Wills & Estates
Powers of Attorney Inheritance Tax Planning
Commercial Property Corporate & Commercial Employment
Litigation Matrimonial & Family Matters

Contact Carol Ann McKellar for more information
109 Douglas Street, Glasgow, G2 4HB
Tel: 0141 226 4942
Email: cmk@homack.co.uk
www.holmesmackillop.co.uk
with offices at Glasgow, Giffnock, Johnstone, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs and Prestwick



LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

By leaving a memorial gift to SPUC, you will help protect unborn babies and their mothers.

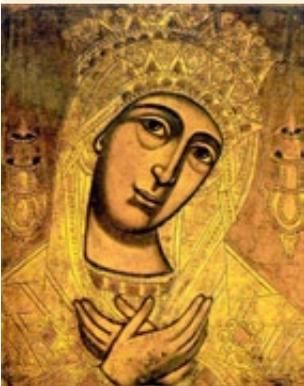
For more information, call 020 7091 7091 or visit www.spuc.org.uk/legacy

"Every unborn baby saved, every mother helped...each of these things will echo through eternity." -SPUC SUPPORTER, ESSEX

 Society for the Protection of Unborn Children


www.spuc.org.uk





Celibacy: What's to be said?

SOME years ago, an op-ed piece appeared in the *New York Times* by Frank Bruni, entitled 'The Wages of Celibacy'. The column, while provocative, was fair.

Mostly he asked a lot of hard, necessary questions. Looking at the various sexual scandals that have plagued the Roman Catholic priesthood in the past years, Bruni suggested that it was time to re-examine celibacy with an honest and courageous eye and ask whether its downside outweighs its potential benefits.

Bruni, himself, didn't weigh-in definitively on the question; he only pointed out that celibacy, as a vowed lifestyle, runs more risks than are normally admitted. Near the end of his column, he wrote: "Celibate culture runs the risk of stunting [sexual] development and turning sexual impulses into furtive, tortured gestures. It downplays a fundamental and maybe irresistible human connection. Is it any wonder that some priests try to make that connection nonetheless, in surreptitious, imprudent and occasionally destructive ways?"

That's not an irreverent question. It's a necessary one. We need the courage to face the question: is celibacy, in fact, abnormal to the human condition? Does it run the risk of stunting sexual development?

Thomas Merton was once asked by a journalist what celibacy was like. I suspect his answer will come as a surprise to pious ears because he virtually endorses Bruni's position. His response: "Celibacy is hell! You live in a loneliness that God himself condemned when he said: 'It is not good to be alone!'"

However, that being admitted, Merton immediately went on to say

Scribblings of the spirit

Flourish's regular columnist, Fr Ronald Rolheiser offers practical insights each month into the life of faith



that just because celibacy is not the normal human condition doesn't mean it cannot be wonderfully generative and fruitful, and that perhaps its unique fruitfulness is tied to how extraordinary and abnormal it is.

What Merton is saying, in essence, is that celibacy is abnormal and dooms you to live in a state not willed by the Creator; but, despite and perhaps because of that abnormality, it can be particularly generative, both for the one living it and for those around him or her.

I know this to be true, as do countless others, because I have been deeply nurtured, as a Christian and as a human being, by the lives of vowed celibates, by numerous priests, sisters, and brothers whose lives have touched my own and whose "abnormality" served precisely to make them wonderfully fruitful.

Moreover, this particular abnormality can have its own attraction. I once served as a spiritual director to a young man who was discerning whether to join our order, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate or to propose marriage to a young woman. It was an agonizing decision for him; he wanted both. And his discernment, while perhaps somewhat overly romantic in terms of his fantasy of both options, was at the same time uncommonly mature.



Here (in words to this effect) is how he described his dilemma:

"I grew up in a rural area and was the oldest in my family. When I was fifteen years old, one evening just before supper, my dad, still a young man, had a heart attack. There were no ambulances to call. We bundled him up in the car and my mother sat in the back seat with him and

held him, while I, a scared teenager, drove the car on route to the hospital some 15 miles away. My dad died before we reached the hospital.

"As tragic as this was, there was an element of beauty in it. My dad died in my mother's arms. That tragic beauty branded my soul. In my mind, in my fantasy, that's how I want to die – in the arms of my wife. Given the grip of that fantasy, my major hesitation about entering the Oblates and moving towards priesthood is celibacy. If I become a priest, I won't die in human arms. I'll die as celibates do – held in faith but not held in human arms.

"But one day in trying to discern all of this, I saw another picture: Jesus didn't die in the arms of a spouse; he died lonely and alone. I've always had a thing about the loneliness of celibates and have always been drawn to people like Soren Kierkegaard, Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, and Daniel Berrigan, who didn't die in the arms of a spouse. There's a real beauty in their way of dying too!"

Bruni is right in warning that celibacy is abnormal and fraught with dangers. It does run the risk of stunting sexual development and especially of downplaying a biblically mandated fundamental human connection, namely, the fundamental anthropological dogma contained in the story of God creating our first parents and his pronouncement that it is not good (and dangerous) to be alone!

Celibacy does consign one to live in a loneliness that God himself condemned, but it is also the loneliness within which Jesus gave himself over to us in a death that is perhaps the most generative expression of love in human history.

S
I
S
A
O

Nourish your soul with our monthly spirituality supplement

The challenges and joys of children in church

HEROES of our time. You can keep your elite Olympians and your feted philanthropists. All due respect to them for their achievements and their contribution to the greater good.

I'll reserve my unending admiration for parents who take their children to Mass, week in, week out. I say this as someone who has skin in the game.

We have four couples, all with little children. Two of them are in the parish and another now comes for the added support that two children under two requires. That's a laugh.

The other couple and their baby will be in their own or the wee fella's other grandparents' parish. Either way the wee man is outnumbered and that counts as a win.

For a hot second as the priest, deacon and altar servers process up the aisle,



Mary's musings

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

all is well with my world. I scan my family around me and feel blessed. I ride this feeling as far as it will go. It's not far.

It's never lasted longer than the Gloria and that was only once.

It could be something as innocuous as a dropped dummy. Or it could be a two year old attempting to sit on the mammy's knee when the four year old has called dibs.

Either way one of the parents will intervene with a withering look in the direction of said culprit. It's 50:50 at this point. Will the

recalcitrant child be called to heel or will we be heading for a meltdown?

A babe in arms isn't too much of a challenge. You can take them out if they cry and if there are two of you it's a simple case of rotation. Factor in a toddler and it can get a bit knotty. A pre-schooler, a toddler and a baby is a tough gig in anyone's language.

At the moment we have a nearly two-year-old who is giving us the runaround. Last week my little namesake redeemed herself by correctly identifying Mary and Joseph in her book of

bible stories. We glossed over the fact she was probably just thinking of herself and her cousin, Joseph, who was sitting beside her.

The toddler finds herself slightly disconcerted if she hears Guardian Angel played on the violin post-Communion. It's her bedtime lullaby and she's hearing it at 11.15 in the morning. Who wouldn't be confused?

Then there's the perennial dilemma. Should we sit at the front where they can see everything and we can explain as we go? Risky strategy, that one. Our family has opted for the safer option and sit further back where there have been pews removed to allow prams and wheelchairs.

Among the benefits is that parishioners in the row in front are not unintentional victims of assault by flying Lego. Another plus is that those less tolerant of

little children don't sit in these pews. It's a win-win.

As we prepare to leave after Mass I am always grateful to other parishioners and pass keepers who keep a weather eye out for stray teddies and the random paraphernalia that accompanies today's Mass-going wean.

Every Sunday I do my due diligence to ensure we don't leave a trail of devastation. Otherwise, it would look like a cyclonic aftermath.

Outside where parents gather to chat I am reminded of our own early parenting days where a crowd of us would gather to swap scraps. Whose toddlers were the worst behaved and how could we improve our situation? In faith and friendships those relationships endure today.

Then and now, Sunday Mass with a bunch of pre-schoolers is a hymn to resilience.

Holy Year: the countdown begins

THE countdown has begun ... and the Holy Year will open in just over three months time.

On Christmas Eve, the Holy Father will symbolically strike the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica with a hammer which will then be opened to allow pilgrims to pass through.

The 2025 Jubilee is expected to be the largest Holy Year ever, with more than 30 million people expected in Rome to visit the basilicas, pass through the Holy Doors and obtain the indulgence.

The remaining months of this year of preparation are to be marked as a time of special prayer in preparation for the event. To mark the current Year of Prayer, the Vatican has prepared a series of useful materials and aids which can be used by Christian communities and individuals in their preparations for the 2025 Jubilee.

A new guide "Teach us to Pray" is available online and a digital version can be downloaded free from the website.

The booklet, inspired by the teachings of Pope Francis, is written as an invitation to intensify prayer, understood as a personal dialogue with God, and to lead



readers to reflect on their faith, and their commitment in today's world, in the various contexts in which they are called to live.

The aim is to offer reflections, ideas, and advice to help people to

live their dialogue with the Lord more fully in their relationships with others. The guide is made up of sections dedicated to prayer in the parish community, and in the family, with other sections dedi-

cated to young people, cloistered communities, catechesis, and spiritual retreats.

But what else can individuals

and parishes do to gear up for the Holy Year ahead?

The Vatican has made available an array of material to help:

- A Holy Year hymn has been written which can be downloaded free for parishes to learn and sing
- A Holy Year prayer has been composed by the Holy Father which can be recited before and during the Jubilee
- A Holy Year app has been developed for smart phones allowing anyone thinking of going to Rome to book a slot to pass through the Holy Door.

Full information on all of the above can be found at the official website of the Jubilee <https://www.iubilaem2025.va/en.html> or by clicking on this QR code.



Jubilee protection for the Pietà

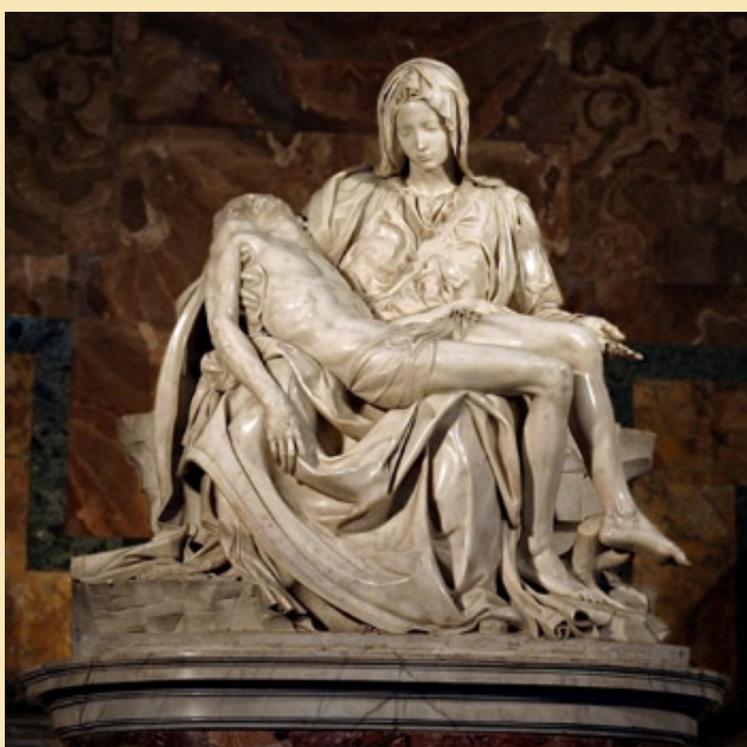
THE Vatican is installing a new set of nine bullet-proof and shatter-proof glass panels in front of one of its most famous works of art, Michelangelo's marble "Pietà" sculpture in St. Peter's Basilica in preparation for the millions of pilgrims expected during next year's Holy Year.

The new glass panes were crafted for improved security and "maximum transparency" to improve visibility for the thousands of visitors who stream through Christianity's largest church each day, according to the Fabbrica di San Pietro, the office responsible for the upkeep of the basilica.

Specially designed by a team of experts, "it will be equipped with an innovative high-tech anchoring system, carefully studied in every component for the best protection and enjoyment of the venerated and admired sculpture" according to the Vatican.

In the runup to the Holy Year 2025, restoration work on the side Chapel of the Pietà, housing the sculpture, and the glass barrier in front of it began in May. Work is expected to finish later this month.

Because the sculpture was not visible to the public during the works, the basilica was showcasing its "official" copy, a plaster replica created by Francesco Mercatali in 1943. It moved the replica in mid-July from the basilica's museum in the Vatican



sacristy to the front of the chapel that is blocked off to visitors for the restoration.

The enormous sculpture, carved from a single block of Carrara marble, has been protected by a transparent barrier ever since a 33-year-old, Hungarian-born Australian geologist, Laszlo Toth, attacked it with a hammer in 1972. It was restored after his blows shattered the left arm of Our Lady and chipped her nose,

left eye and the veil covering her hair.

The sculpture depicts Mary holding the body of her dead son, Jesus, in her lap after his crucifixion.

Michelangelo was just 23 years old when he sculpted the piece in just nine months between 1498 and 1499. It is the only sculpture the artist signed when he inscribed his name on a ribbon falling from Mary's shoulder.

Holy Doors will open... but only in Rome

THERE will be no Holy Door opened in St Andrew's Cathedral for the forthcoming Holy Year.

Instead, for the Jubilee of 2025 Holy Doors will only be opened in the four Papal Basilicas of Rome: St Peter's in the Vatican, St John Lateran's, St Mary Major's and St Paul's Outside the Walls.

The only exception – at the express request of the Holy Father himself – will be a Holy Door which will be opened by the Pope at a prison "to offer prisoners a concrete sign of closeness".

The Vatican made the announcement after some bishops around the world had asked if 'Holy Doors' were to be opened in diocesan cathedrals.

The clarification came from the Dicastery for Evangelisation, which is responsible for organising the next 2025 Jubilee. "The question has recently been raised of designating and opening a Holy Door in Cathedral Churches, in international and national Shrines, as well as in other particularly significant places of worship ... while considering the sensitive pastoral and devotional motivations that may have prompted this ... we must recall the precise indications established by the Holy Father in the for the Indiction of the 2025 Jubilee".

As stated in the Bull, the Pope will open the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on December 24, 2024, marking the beginning of the Jubilee year. The



following Sunday, December 29, 2024, he will open the Holy Door of the Cathedral of St John Lateran, which on November 9 of this year will celebrate the 1700th anniversary of its dedication.

Then, on January 1, 2025, the Solemnity of Mary the Most Holy Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Mary Major (Santa Maria Maggiore) will be opened. Finally, on Sunday, January 5, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls will be opened.

These last three Holy Doors will be closed by Sunday, December 28. The Jubilee will officially close on January 6, 2026 with the closing of the Holy Door of St Peter's in the Vatican.

The Vatican Dicastery recalled that the "identifying sign of the Jubilee Year, as handed down since the first Jubilee of the year 1300, is the indulgence which expresses the fullness of God's forgiveness which knows no bounds, through the Sacrament of Penance and the signs of charity and hope".

September's scriptures offer us a timely reminder of the constant need to get our priorities right

In late July and through August, we stepped aside from Mark's Gospel to hear from John and the teaching of Jesus about the Eucharist: Jesus, the Bread of Life.

This month, we return to Mark's Gospel for our Sunday readings and reach something of a high point in it too.

At the same time, we begin hearing from the Letter of James in our Second Readings. Unlike Paul's letters, written to specific communities with their particular questions, the Letter of James was probably written to be shared around more generally.

Also, unlike Paul, James is less interested in theological ideas but very focussed on the practical living of faith. As we learn from Mark what faith in Jesus means, we learn from James how to apply it. The two go hand-in-hand this month!

Twenty-Second Sunday B

Having finished our reflections on the Bread of Life, we are offered today a



Fr Tom Kilbride

Rector of the Royal Scots College, Salamanca, Spain

reflection on what religious faith and life is all about. The First Reading praises God for the gift his People have received in the Torah or Law. It is a sign of great wisdom, prudence and understanding that they can share in a sense of who God is when they live by the justice and fidelity of the Covenant.

In the Gospel, however, Jesus rebukes people for getting so caught up in the daily details of law-keeping that they have forgotten the essential point: that fidelity to God is about justice, goodness and love for God and neighbour, rather than about how to wash dishes!

If only we were as concerned about keeping our

hearts clean as we can be about keeping the pots clean! James puts it in typically practical terms: listen to God and don't delude ourselves. "Getting it right" is about helping those in need as God tells us to; everything else is secondary.

Twenty-Third Sunday B

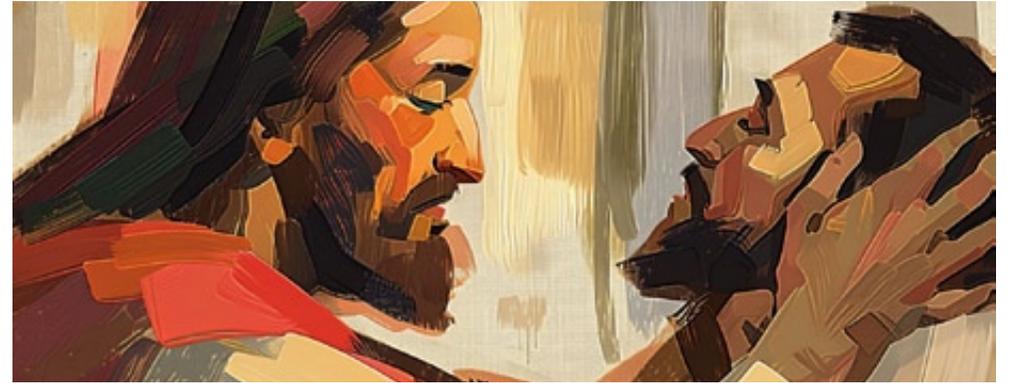
There is a lot about being "open" this week. The deaf man whose ears are opened and whose tongue is loosened (we hear a word in Jesus's own native language today: "Ephphatha", "Be opened"). He is able to hear Jesus's word and to respond properly to it, presumably by speaking it and using his voice to praise God too. It is a sign of what God had promised would happen when he comes to save his people (First Reading) and the crowds around Jesus recognise this.

It is a kind of climax in Mark's Gospel in terms of the reaction of the crowds to Jesus (at first puzzled and now praising him). If being "open" is a sign of God at work, then James puts it in familiar terms: be open to other people.

How easily we can jump to conclusions about people or put them in boxes, James says. Our faith in God's saving love for everyone should challenge us to be just as open and generous to all.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday B

If last week was something of a high-point in terms of the positive reac-



tions of the crowds around Jesus, this week we reach a high-point in the disciples' understanding of him too – at least partly. At Caesarea Philippi, Peter reveals who the true disciple will accept Jesus to be: the Christ, the promised Messiah.

But it's not so simple. Peter's words aren't so far from those of the crowds last week, who see God at work in the power Jesus has over sickness. And so "the Christ" could be a way of saying Jesus is about power, and that the Kingdom is about victory. Jesus goes on to show that his kind of power and victory will come through suffering and death, but Peter struggles to grasp that. Jesus explains that just as his Kingdom is about sacrifice and comes even at the cost of his life, so will it be for those who follow him. They must carry the "cross" if they really want to be his followers.

James again puts it in practical terms: take care of others in need. Put yourself out for the sake of others. Having faith isn't just a feeling or a badge of honour. It has to be seen in action too, in service, in generosity and giving something of yourself.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday B

This Sunday provides a second prediction by Jesus of his suffering and resurrection: the disciples (this time all of them) don't seem

to have heard or taken it in; so, Jesus again teaches them that his self-giving should shape their discipleship.

The teaching centres this time on humility: the "little one" is the one to be honoured, not the "greatest". Jesus' kingdom comes in humility, even if that leads to his death.

The First Reading reminds us that suffering and selflessness are where true values lie, and not in setting oneself up over others. Again, James in the Second Reading is quite explicit: when we act like that and seek to "get one over" on others, divisions and in-fighting ensue. That, he says, is hardly becoming of the followers of Jesus! Humility, service, kindness – the real fruits of wisdom and faith – make for peace and that peace spreads.

From a core of truly humble prayer – not demanding what we want from God but offering ourselves to God and to what he wants of us – our hearts will grow to be more like Christ's.

Twenty-Sixth Sunday B

The question of what makes a true believer is a complicated one. None of us gets it right all the time, after all! So, Jesus reminds John that anyone carrying out acts of kindness or demonstrating the power

of God's Kingdom should be encouraged. Moses thought the same of Eldad and Medad when they prophesied (First Reading): "Wouldn't it be great if all God's people were like that!" The problem, Jesus says, arises when believers begin to act in ways that go against the faith they profess, either hurting others or giving in to personal sin. That's what we should really be on our guard against!

James (Second Reading) makes it explicitly an issue for rich people who think they're people of faith but give into the temptation to cheat or even just to disregard their responsibilities to others or to their employees. It can be easy to think we're on the "inside", judging others we consider to be on the "outside". The harder part, sometimes, is examining ourselves to see if the power, the values and the effects of God's Kingdom can be seen in what we do or if, in fact, it's something else that's showing through in our actions and attitudes.

While Jesus teaches us about justice, service, humility and so on, James gives us very practical lessons in how that might look in action. His words can be challenging and make us uncomfortable, but maybe we need that once in a while!

www.franciscanvocations.org.uk

FOR WOMEN
EXPLORING
FRANCISCAN
VOCATION

Alex Black Funeral Care
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE

SERVICE ROOM AVAILABLE WITH
PRIVATE REST ROOM

HEADSTONES AND MEMORIALS



Drumchapel: 0141 949 1234
Knightswood: 0141 959 1234
Maryhill: 0141 946 1234
Possilpark: 0141 336 4000

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans



JERICHO †
The Compassion of Jesus

Drug & Alcohol Rehabs., Refuge for Victims of Domestic Violence, Supported Accommodation for the Destitute, the Distressed, and all being 'passed by on the other side.'

**A COMMUNITY OF MEN OF PRAYER
FOR OUR TIMES (founded 1970)**

Vocation info. from Bro. Patrick Mullen,
The Jericho Society, Mater Salvatoris,
Harelaw Farm, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire. PA10 2PY
Scottish Charity SC016909 Tel: 01505 614669
Email: theJerichosociety@gmail.com

**B MAIN
SCULPTORS**

OPEN 7 DAYS

We have 100 different styles of headstone to choose from at our showyard

2'6" POLISHED GRANITE HEADSTONES FROM

£450

0141 641 0088

WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO!

282 Main Street, Cambuslang, Glasgow (at Railway Station)
www.mainheadstones.co.uk

PHONE FOR A FREE BROCHURE

A tale of friends, ferries and *Flourish*

JUST before the holidays, after celebrating the 10 o'clock Mass in St Roch's, Father Gareth, Brother Conor and I set off for our Passionist Retreat Centre at Crossgar, County Down, in Northern Ireland.

The purpose of our journey was to attend an assembly of our province, the main thrust of which would be the launch of a rather extensive review process which will be unfolding between now and our Provincial Chapter, which is scheduled to take place in June 2025.

Father Gareth assumed the driving responsibilities as we made our way to Cairnryan for the Stena Line ferry to Belfast. We were making good time and so, rather than be there too early, we stopped off in Girvan.

It was a beautiful day, so we had a stroll along the seafront, and then found ourselves a little café where we could sit in and have some refreshments. We then continued the journey and got ourselves checked in at the terminal.

At one point, as we relaxed in the terminal, waiting to be called back to our vehicle, I decided to take a walk outside, just to stretch my legs and get a breath of fresh air. It was obvious that the ferry was going to be very busy as the lanes of cars, vans and lorries waiting to board



Fr Frank's log

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

were all jam packed.

There is just a very narrow lane, principally designated for dog walkers, which offers the opportunity to take a stroll, and so I walked along there as far as I could go, and then turned to walk back again.

Suddenly, a man approached me from between the cars, and asked me if I was Father Frank Keevins. When I responded in the affirmative, uncertain of what was to come next, he told me that he had recognised me from my picture in *Flourish* while reading my log the day before, for the very first time, having picked up a copy from the church in which he and his wife had attended Mass whilst visiting their daughter, who was living in Glasgow.

It turned out that his wife was the daughter of the man who, for many years, had been my dentist in Dublin, during my student days in Mount Argus in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

When I started the parish folk group in Mount Argus

in 1976, two of his daughters and one of his sons became members, and so I got to know the family quite well. Whenever I would make an appointment to see the dentist, I would always be scheduled in for the last appointment before lunch, and he would then insist that I accompany him across the road to his house for a bowl of soup and a sandwich with him and his dear wife.

He would insist on this, even though my mouth would still have been numb from the injection that preceded any treatment, and so, that usually meant that I was slurring the soup down my chin, with more of it going on to my jumper than into my mouth. He would then go back to the surgery, and I would go back to the monastery, clean my chin, and throw my jumper in the wash.

He was such a good, decent and friendly man, and always full of chat. When I was in the dentist's chair, he would always try to drill into me the benefits of den-



tal floss (no pun intended), but when I was in his home, the chat would be about family, faith, and his many memories and anecdotes of Mount Argus.

He is long dead now, God rest him, but it was such a delight to be then brought over to their car to meet his daughter, and to catch up with her on all the other family members whom I had known so well back in the day.

I returned to my colleagues, only to discover that another Passionist, Father Frank Trias, was also booked on this ferry, having been home in Glasgow over the weekend with the sacristan from Holy Cross, Ardoyne, where Father Frank now ministers.

The main reason for their trip was to attend a big wrestling event in the Hydro, but of course Father Frank was also taking the opportunity to visit his mum.

The ferry journey passed very pleasantly with lots of

good chat, and of course we would meet up with Father Frank again the next day at the assembly. The assembly went very well. Brother Conor was staying on in Crossgar, and so Father Gareth and I set off on the Tuesday evening for the

ferry back to Cairnryan. We arrived back to Bishopbriggs around half past midnight, tired but safe, and ready for work next day.

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

T. McGowan & Sons Monumental Sculptors



FAMILY FIRM ESTABLISHED 1947

St. Kentigern's Cemetery
109 Tresta Road, Glasgow G23 5AA
Telephone: 0141 946 2429

Linn Cemetery
602 Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45 9SP
Telephone: 0141 634 8515

Dalbeth Cemetery
1920 London Road, Glasgow G32
Telephone: 0141 778 4916

Philipshill Cemetery
Westerfield Road, East Kilbride G76
Telephone: 0141 644 4535

NEW MEMORIALS • ADDITIONAL LETTERING • CLEANING
All work completed in any cemetery. Brochure available on request

www.tmcgowan.co.uk

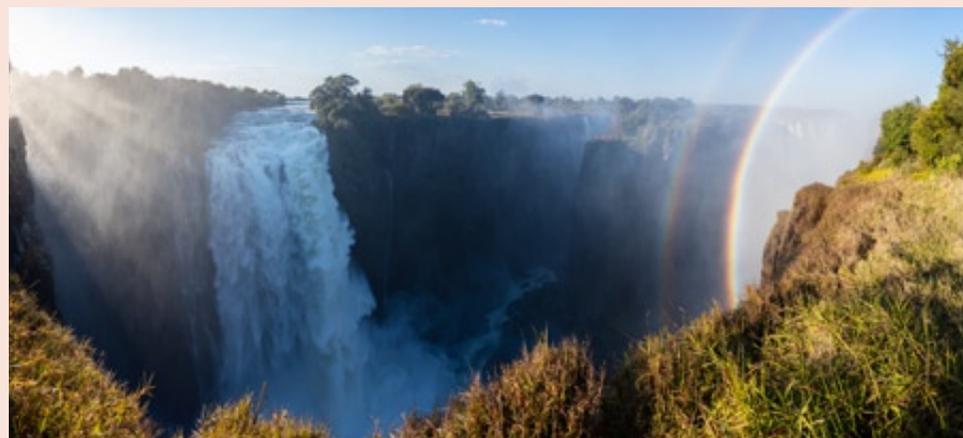
Even in Africa's paradise, peace is always at risk

WHEN I was in Zambia over the summer, I took the opportunity to record a chat with pupils from St Columba's, the school our charity Zam-ScotEd supports. The podcast is on the Pax Christi Scotland website.

Zambia is a peaceful country. In the quarter of a century I have been involved in educational projects there, there have been a few nonviolent demonstrations about political issues and once there was a 'riot' at a school that certainly wouldn't have been classed as such in Scotland!

That peace is quite remarkable, considering there are 72 tribes living within the boundaries drawn by Britain in colonial times – 72 diverse cultures sewn together in a rich tapestry since independence was granted on October 24, 1964.

And so it seemed like a good idea to talk to Charlotte Nketiah, Sunday Zulu, Sibongile Daka and Nicho-



las Phiri about the issues they face in their future – four very articulate young people, proud of their heritage and of the peace their country has maintained for six decades.

But peace is fragile, as we have seen in the Middle East and in Ukraine. Sudan is suffering and people are starving because of food insecurity. Syria is still in the throes of civil war, with over 60% (that's 13.7 million peo-

ple) of the pre-war population displaced.

And while I was in Zambia, two of its neighbours threatened the peace the teenagers confidently boasted about.

Malawi shares a border with Zambia. Indeed, it disputes territory which was parcelled out by the British in the drawing of those controversial borders as they withdrew from their colonies.

Because Malawi's government is shaky, that border is never secure. During my stay at St Columba's Secondary School I was living with the Teresian Sisters who run the school. This is an order we chose to be our partners back in 2016 because they operate excellent schools in Malawi and Zambia. Now those Sisters fear that the fragile political situation in Malawi will become volatile, threatening

peace in the region.

At the same time, Zambia's other next-door neighbour, Zimbabwe, decided that its own economic crisis is due to Zambia taking the lion's share of the tourist trade because it has most of the famous Victoria Falls on its side of the border.

There are many reasons why visitors might not go to Zimbabwe. Seizing the greater part of the Victoria Falls as its territory won't rectify the problem. Nor will threatening Zambia help the situation. When President Emmerson Mnangagwa visited President Putin in June he suggested Zambia is allowing the US to establish military bases there, claiming this threat-

ened Zimbabwe's security – a false accusation.

But from such accusations, the sparks of interstate hostility are ignited and the peaceful future that Charlotte, Sunday, Sibongile and Nicholas feel confident is theirs could so easily be shattered.

Our own children's peaceful future has been threatened in recent weeks by riots fuelled by dis-information and mis-information. Sparks of hostility are too easily ignited wherever we are in the world. But as both Muslim and Christian communities in England have shown, reaching out in peace can engender a nonviolent society.



Marian Pallister

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

Malawi's plea: 'Please don't get bored hearing about our struggle to survive'

MALAWI is currently facing one of the most severe food insecurity crises in history.

According to a recent report, 4.2 million people are experiencing hunger this year and 5.7 million are expected to be worse off during the lean period between October 2024 and March 2025.

This is following the El Nino weather conditions which negatively impacted the agriculture productivity in the country. This has also been made worse by the compounding effects of disasters such as floods, tropical cyclones, droughts, and dry spells, which have severely impacted the agriculture sector in the country.

Climate change means events like these are more frequent and more intense, presenting bleak prospects for countries like Malawi.

Despite efforts by the Government of Malawi

BY CHIMWEMWE SAKUNDA
NDHLOVU
CARITAS MALAWI

and other stakeholders to address the situation, the demand for humanitarian assistance far exceeds the support available. The current situation has caused basic food staples to rise, making it difficult for the average Malawian to be able to buy.

For instance, the cost of 50kg bag of maize – a staple food in the country is currently at MK50,000 (£29) which many Malawians can't afford. A bag of maize on average can feed an average Malawian household for a month.

In response to this crisis, Caritas Malawi has been mobilizing resources to reach out to the affected households with food assistance. SCIAF recently provided cash transfers for more than 300 families in the Dedza district. The

most vulnerable groups were prioritised for assistance including the elderly, women, people with disabilities, and child-led households.

Earlier this year, Caritas Malawi launched an emergency appeal through Caritas International, seeking financial help to alleviate the severe food crisis. We are deeply grateful to supporters of SCIAF (Caritas Scotland) for supporting this appeal. However, only 32% of the appeal has been funded, which is far below the expected support. The need is just so great!

While short of our target, generous donations have allowed us to reach out and help a further 459 families in the Dedza district. With this, most households have been able to purchase maize and other food items, which will sustain them for four to six weeks.

Eliza Joni from Mchanja GVH shared her experi-

ence: "With this cash, we have been able to buy maize and feed our children. They had to miss classes because they couldn't attend school on an empty stomach. Now, they can attend classes. We are so grateful to Caritas Malawi and SCIAF for their support."

At one of the distribution points, Nelly Mphwina, Caritas Malawi Field Officer for Dedza Diocese, remarked: "As a Church, we have gone beyond providing spiritual support to offering tangible assistance to households affected by hunger. We are taking a holistic approach."

People in Malawi need more support both in the short and long term, to reach those in dire need.

With the additional pledges, Caritas Malawi intends to extend the support offered to other districts with both cash transfers as well as distributing soya corn flour to families with



under-fives, who are also at a great risk of malnutrition.

Sadly, the hunger continues in Malawi and neighbouring countries like Zambia where a state of emergency was declared a few months ago. We are very fortunate that we have people in counties like Scotland who take time to care and donate what they can.

We are also very fortu-

nate that organisations such as SCIAF – Caritas Scotland – reach out in love in everything they do. Their current Africa hunger appeal will go towards immediate relief for families in need and help build long-term solutions to help people help themselves out of poverty.

Thank you so much to our friends in Scotland who continue to support us so generously.

URGENT APPEAL
AFRICA HUNGER
CRISIS



£14 CAN PROVIDE A FAMILY WITH ENOUGH MAIZE FOR THREE MONTHS. HELP PUT A MEAL ON THE TABLE.



Donate now at
sciaf.org.uk/donate

***Text SCIAF14 to 70085 to donate £14 today**



Catherine, Zambia

SCIAF
Uniting for a just world
Caritas Scotland

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo by Colin Hattersley. Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text SCIAFNINFO instead.

