

DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

FREE

# FONTES

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MAGAZINE



## Lumen Christi

Celebrating the Joy  
of the Resurrection  
around the Diocese  
p14-15

+ Bishop in Lourdes for HCPT East Pilgrimage

+ New Apostolic Nuncio appointed to Great Britain + Learn more about SPRED

+ Schools come together in faith for Caritas Cup Football & Netball finals



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# Bishop's Diary

2nd May - Bishops' Conference of Scotland Meeting

3rd May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St James the Greater, Coatbridge, for St Timothy's Primary

4th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Patrick's, Shotts

9th May - 11.30am - Diocesan Fabric and Planning Committee - 2.00pm - Diocesan Finance Committee - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Edward's, Airdrie

10th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Andrew's, Airdrie

11th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Joseph's, Blantyre

15th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Margaret's, Airdrie, for All Saints Primary

16th May - 10.00am - Pre-Confirmation visit, St Bernard's Primary, Coatbridge - 11.30am - Pre-Confirmation visit St Monica's Primary, Coatbridge - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Joseph's, Blantyre, for St Blane's Primary

17th May - 7.00pm - Sacrament of Confirmation in Corpus Christi, Calderbank 7.00 pm

22nd May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St David's, Plains

23rd May - 2.00pm - Meeting of Diocesan Trustees - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Bernard's, Coatbridge

24th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Stephen's, Coatbridge

25th May - 9.30am - Association of Catholic Primary Head Teachers (ACPHT) Mass in Cathedral - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Monica's, Coatbridge

27th May - 12noon - SSVF Rosary Procession and Mass at Carfin Grotto

29th May - 7.00pm - Meeting of recently ordained priests and deacons in St Columba's, Viewpark

30th May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Bride's, East Kilbride, for St Hilary's Primary

31st May - 7.00pm - Confirmation, St Mary's, Caldercruix



## A word from Bishop Toal

### I write these words during Easter Week during the HCPT Easter Pilgrimage.

I am chaplain to Group 121, and I am enjoying the experience again of being with a particular group and also participating in the liturgies for the Scottish Region and the Trust Mass today for the whole pilgrimage group. Joining with other people from different countries is very uplifting, especially as we celebrate our faith together in such a joyful manner with the young people who are the most important pilgrims. It is good that HCPT offers these youngsters this experience of sharing faith and special care at Our Lady's beautiful shrine at Lourdes. A word of thanks to all in the Diocese who have made the pilgrimage possible after the Covid years and to all the helpers who give so much in ensuring it is such a wonderful week for the children and young adults.

I look forward to returning to Lourdes in July with the Motherwell Diocesan Pilgrimage. Once again it is a fresh start after the interruption of recent years, and there has been a good response of people wishing to join the Pilgrimage. It will be good to have the Pilgrimage as we mark the Diocese's 75th Anniversary and once again express and enjoy our being part of the Roman Catholic Church, made up of so many diverse nationalities and with a special place for those

most in need of God's healing love and mercy.

Talking of the Universal Church we have just been told of the appointment by Pope Francis of the new Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia. As the Papal Ambassador to our country we welcome him and look forward to him coming to Scotland, and in particular our own Diocese.

I ask your prayers for Deacon Colum Martin who will be ordained a priest on Friday 19th May at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell. As today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Vocations' Sunday is approaching please pray also for further Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life.

With continued prayers and good wishes through this Joyful Eastertide,

*+ Joseph Toal*





# Padre Pio devotion in Scotland is stronger than ever!

As one of the most well-known and loved modern saints in the world, the intercession of St. Pio of Pietrelcina — more commonly known as Padre Pio — has been the source of many alleged miracles over the years. He is a saint of our time.

by CRAIG MATTHIESON,  
Padre Pio Events Scotland

Last month, thousands of people flocked to various parishes in Scotland to venerate the relics of Padre Pio and to hear the visiting Capuchin, Father Bryan Shortall OFM (Cap), the new director of the Padre Pio Apostolate based in Dublin.

The relics of Padre Pio made a very rare visit to several parishes, and it was standing room only for the 5 nights. 1300 people crammed into every nook and cranny of St. Augustine's in Coatbridge for mass and to hear the stories of Padre Pio from the visiting Capuchin.

Padre Pio bore the stigmata of Christ and he wore brown fingerless mittens on his hands which covered the bandages, and he never removed these mittens except on the altar when offering mass each day.

As Catholics, we have an ancient tradition of the veneration of saint's relics and for many the relic of a saint can connect us with the Divine. Ever since his death, people have desired to venerate the relics of Padre Pio and people will go to great lengths and travel far and wide to be blessed with the 'glove' so it was no surprise that people travelled from all parts of Scotland and even from England for the rare

opportunity to receive an individual blessing with the 'glove' of Padre Pio from Father Bryan.

The faithful were reminded that Jesus Christ is the healer and receiving the sacraments is the most powerful of all blessings and Padre Pio spent his whole life witnessing to this.

In September, another Capuchin from Malta, Fr Hayden Williams OFM (Cap) will visit Scotland to celebrate the feast of Padre Pio on the 23rd. The week before that we will run a Padre Pio retreat and a Padre Pio concert. More details on Facebook: Padre Pio Events Scotland



## Parishes on a Mission

**The Parishes of St Ignatius' in Wishaw and St Brigid's in Newmains have recently enjoyed a Parish Mission led by the Sion Community.**

The Mission, organised by Fr Stephen Rooney, parish priest of both parishes, aimed to help the parishes both flourish in faith and bring the Good News to all.

The Sion Community are a community of laity and clergy, based in Brentwood, Essex, who have been leading parish and school missions across the UK for over thirty years.

Picture: Members of the Sion Community who led the Mission after a service in St Brigid's Church.



# East Kilbride Church Purchases Life Saving Defibrillator

by PAT O'MEARA

Saint Leonard's Church in East Kilbride has purchased a defibrillator, a life-saving device that can restart the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest.

Fr Dominic Quinn, Parish Priest said "One of our parishioners collapsed in our chapel during Holy Mass and unfortunately did not survive. Following this distressing event the family and one of our congregation who is a paramedic, helped Saint Leonard's raise over £900 to

purchase a defibrillator that is now signposted and accessible within the sacristy. Training was offered in how to do cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and large numbers ranging in age from six to eighty came along to learn how easy it is to help save a life".

Should any parish want information on purchasing a defibrillator, Fr Quinn can be contacted by email at [stleonard@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stleonard@rcdom.org.uk).



Pic: St Andrew's Hospice

## Hospice bids farewell to Sr Maria

**St Andrew's Hospice recently said goodbye to Sister Maria who recently left Airdrie for London.**

Sister Maria, a Religious Sister of Charity, left St Andrew's Convent in Airdrie, where she has been based for many years to move to St Joseph's in London.

During her years in Airdrie,

Sister Maria has been a much loved and valued part of the Hospice team, with many people thanking Sister Maria on Facebook for the spiritual care and support which they and their families received from her in St Andrew's Hospice.

A Mass was celebrated in the Hospice Chapel as Sr Maria prepared to head down south.



Pic: St Thomas', Wishaw

## Birthday celebration as Fr Devine turns 70

Parishioners of St Thomas' in Wishaw recently celebrated the 70th birthday of Father Thomas Devine who is resident in the parish. A celebration tea was held in the parish hall after Sunday Mass complete with a birthday cake for Father Devine.





# HCPT back in Lourdes

**Bishop Toal joins priests and people of the Diocese taking part in the**

International Catholic charity HCPT (the Hosanna House and Children’s Pilgrimage Trust) has been celebrating its biggest Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes since the Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly 1,000 disabled and disadvantaged children and young people, aged eight and over, enjoyed a life changing week away. They were supported by an army of volunteer helpers, priests and nurses, including several priests and a large number of helpers from Motherwell Diocese.

Two Archbishops and eight Bishops, including Bishop Toal, led the pilgrimage. HCPT volunteers from Merseyside organised the liturgy for the week with the theme “The Good Shepherd”. At the main Mass of the week, on Thursday 13th April, celebrant Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool said in his homily “Like sheep, we have to follow the Shepherd. That means following Jesus. We know that is a wonderful thing

to do because He will lead us to joy and to happiness. He will lead us in a way which leads to his Father in Heaven.”

Also travelling on the pilgrimage were Bishops from across the UK, Ireland and the USA including from Scotland, Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh, and our own Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell Diocese.

The Trust Mass featured HCPT favourites “Rise and Shine” and “Sing it in the Valleys” with the music led by musical director Dr Marie Giles, with musicians and

singers from Merseyside. With more than half the people on the pilgrimage aged under 30 years old, there was plenty of lively dance, drama and visuals, broadcast on huge screens. Thousands watched the event live on the internet.

The pilgrimage consisted of over 3,500 people in total. 2,341 of them, from England, Scotland and Wales, travelled with HCPT. The remainder came from sister organisations in Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the West Indies and the USA.

Conditions experienced by the hundreds of children taking part included learning difficulties (33% of participants), behavioural problems (22%) and autism (19%). Other common conditions included asthma, Down’s Syndrome and epilepsy. 8% of the pilgrims were wheelchair users.







# for Easter Pilgrimage

biggest HCPT Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes since Covid-19 pandemic

HCPT's pilgrimage groups each wore colours unique to their group, and were prominent within the shrine area and at other sites around the town connected to St Bernadette of Lourdes. HCPT swelled the torchlight procession on the Tuesday evening, and the Blessed Sacrament procession on the Thursday, carrying colourful banners.

Being a children's pilgrimage, there were also opportunities in the week for arts and crafts, singing, parties and fancy dress.

At the end of the Trust Mass the baton was passed over to HCPT Scotland and revealed that the theme for the 2024 season will be 'Let your light shine'.

The pilgrimage is a major undertaking for all concerned. All volunteer helpers are trained and prepared to support the children and young people and to keep them safe. To transport the UK contingent to Lourdes

and back, HCPT chartered 10 flights each way from local airports.

HCPT's pilgrimage season continues from May to October at its Hosanna House facility. The house, in the hills above Lourdes, will host over 1,500 pilgrims of all ages, many of them with disabilities or life-limiting conditions.

*HCPT is a volunteer-based UK charity founded in 1956 in response to Our Lady's invitation to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes. Its aim is to enable those who may need help, especially the young, to experience pilgrimage, and they do that in small caring groups, seeking to share, with joy, the gift of God's love.*

*Interested in travelling on an HCPT pilgrimage? Visit [www.hcpt.org.uk](http://www.hcpt.org.uk) to find your nearest group.*

*Top Photos: Bishop Toal offers blessings during the Scottish Region Closing Mass; A young pilgrim from Motherwell Diocese during the Trust Mass; Bishop Toal with the Motherwell Priests in Lourdes taking part in the Pilgrimage: L-R: Frs Danny Rooney, Kenny O'Brien, Frank Dougan, Bishop Joseph Toal, Frs Stuart Parkes, Pat Hennessy, Stephen Reilly and Kevin Lawrie.*

*Bottom photo: HCPT Scotland receive the baton after the Trust Mass.*





# St Rita of Cascia: A Saint for Our Time

by FATHER FRANCIS MCGACHEY

**Saint Rita of Cascia's feast, which falls on the 22nd May, was re-introduced into the Church's calendar by the late Pope Saint John Paul II, who felt that her life and example had much to say to people of our own time.**

Born in 1381 at Roccaporena, in Umbria, Italy, she was the only child of peasant farmers. While still a teenager, she told them that she felt called to the Religious life. Although devout people, and despite her protests, they forced her to marry when she was eighteen. Ferdinando Ferri, her husband, was an impulsive, irascible man, who tested Rita's faith to its very limits. He had a violent temper, and his outbursts often ended in beatings; into the bargain, he was a heavy drinker and regularly unfaithful. Rita endured her husband's insults and infidelities for eighteen years. But they were blessed with two sons, Giovanni and Paulo, each inheriting their father's temperament. After many tears and prayers, their marriage was healed, and they were reconciled.



Some weeks later, Ferdinando was carried home dead, murdered because of a vendetta waged against him by a fellow villager. His sons wanted to avenge their father, but Rita managed to persuade them to forgive instead. As it happens, both sons would die shortly after.

Rita felt drawn again to the Religious life and she joined the Augustinian sisters in Cascia. According to tradition, one day, after hearing a sermon about the Passion, she returned to her cell, and kneeling before her crucifix, she begged Our Lord to "let me have a share in your sufferings." It is said that one of the thorns detached from Our Lord's crown of thorns lodged itself in her forehead. The wound became so bad that gangrene set in; and because of the foul odour from the wound, the other sisters shunned her.

She died on 22nd May 1457, and after her death, her face was fully restored, and the foul odour was replaced with the fragrance of roses. Her body has remained incorrupt to this day.

Like Saint Jude, she is invoked as a patron of hopeless cases, but she is also remembered as a patron of couples with marriage difficulties. Her feast is an opportunity to pray for all married couples, but especially those whose relationship, for whatever reason, is strained or tested, that the Lord will bring them healing and renew their love.



## Feasts in May

MAY 1

• St Joseph the Worker

MAY 2

• St Athanasius

MAY 3

• Sts Philip & James

MAY 10

• St John of Avila

MAY 13

• Our Lady of Fatima

MAY 18

• ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 20

• St Bernadine of Siena

MAY 22

• St Rita of Cascia

MAY 26

• St Philip Neri

MAY 27

• St Augustine of Canterbury

MAY 28

• PENTECOST

MAY 29

• Mary, Mother of the Church

MAY 31

• Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**All you holy men and women,  
pray for us**

# Exploring the Resurrection through the Scriptures

by FATHER THOMAS  
MAGILL

## 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Acts of the Apostles 2.14, 22-23;**

**Psalm 16;**

**I Peter 1.17-21;**

**Luke 24.13-35**

So many of the Resurrection stories are about the disciples' coming to believe in this new experience of Jesus as Risen Lord. The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus is no different. They have fled Jerusalem and the other disciples, and now are on the run. They can't get away fast enough! The Risen Lord appears to them. They fail to recognise him and he gently leads them to a deeper understanding of himself and his mission. Only after he disappears do they understand what had just happened to them. The Risen Lord continues to approach us and often it's only after the experience, on reflection, in prayer, and in conversation, do we fully take in the encounter with the Risen Christ.

## 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Acts of the Apostles 2.14,36-41;**

**Psalm 23;**

**I Peter 2.20-25;**

**John 10.1-10**

In this passage, the Lord uses the images of shepherd, gatekeeper of the sheepfold, and the gate to describe himself. These multiple images invite us to reflect on who the Lord is to us by appealing to our imaginations. No one image is enough to explain fully the depths of the Risen Lord. As we allow our imaginations to roam,



we are drawn more deeply into the person of Christ and so into the life of the Trinity. The image of the gate evokes protection, care, and safety, but also evokes the Lord's other teaching about entering by the narrow gate. (Matthew 7.13-14) We can so "big" ourselves up by the cares of the world, the lure of riches and status, the size of our egos that we fail to make it through this narrow entrance. We must divest ourselves of so much baggage if we are to experience the safety of the sheepfold and the care of the shepherd. "He must increase, I must decrease." (John 3.30)

## 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Acts of the Apostles 6.1-7;**

**Psalm 33;**

**I Peter 2.4-9;**

**John 14.1-12**

The disciples Thomas and Philip still hesitate in their following of the Lord. Thomas seems lost when he says, "How can we know the way?" Philip expresses his dissatisfaction with the Lord and with himself when he

pleads to see the Father and so be satisfied. Gently the Lord shows them that to see him is to see the Father; to know him is to know the Father. The encounter with the Lord in faith is already to be drawn up into the life of God and to make our home with him.

## 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Acts of the Apostles 8.5-8, 14-17;**

**Psalm 66;**

**I Peter 3.15-18;**

**John 14.15-21**

The Lord promises not to leave the disciples orphans. Already he is preparing them for his departure when he will ascend to the Father. This departure, however, does not mean absence. Rather he will be present to them in a new and deeper way through the gift of the Spirit. It is this Spirit who unites all believers with Christ through whom we are drawn up into the life of the Holy Trinity. Already we live in God; and we know this through our love.



# Pope Appoints new Nuncio to Britain

On 13th April, it was announced that Pope Francis has nominated a new Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.

His Excellency Monsignor Miguel Maury Buendía, Titular Archbishop of Italica, who until now had been been Apostolic Nuncio to Romania and Moldova, will be the new Apostolic Nuncio, succeeding Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti who held the position until last year when he was appointed Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches.

Born in Madrid, Spain, in 1955, Archbishop Buendía was ordained to the Priesthood for the Archdiocese of Madrid in 1980.

Having obtained a doctorate in Canon Law, he entered the

diplomatic service of the Holy See on 13 July 1987 and served in the Apostolic Nunciatures of Rwanda, Uganda, Morocco, Nicaragua, Egypt, Slovenia, Ireland and in the Section for Relations with States of the Holy See Secretariat of State.

In 2008, Archbishop Buendía was nominated Titular Archbishop of Italica and Apostolic Nuncio to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.

He remained in that office until December 2015 when he was nominated Apostolic Nuncio to Romania and shortly after in January 2016 nominated to also serve as Apostolic Nuncio to Moldova.

An Apostolic Nuncio is the personal representative of the Pope in a particular part of the



*Pope Francis with Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía.*

Catholic Church, a particular country. Thus the Nuncio has two main functions: one relating within the Church, the other relating with States.

The ecclesial role of an Apostolic Nuncio is to make firm and effective the bonds of unity which exist between the Pope and the Church throughout the world.

The diplomatic role of an Apostolic Nuncio is to establish and maintain a relationship of mutual understanding between Church and State, for the peace and progress of each nation, and peace between different peoples.

## Bishops' Conference to move to new location

**The Bishops Conference of Scotland is to move all its agencies to a new single location in Glasgow.**

Following a consultation and review of its agencies, the Bishops' Conference decided to relocate its agencies, to one central location in Glasgow. The relocation will also include the Scottish Catholic Archives and the Scottish Catholic Museum.

For the first time ever, the Bishops' Conference and all its

employees will have a single base in Orr St, Glasgow. The property which has previously served many roles, including a social work office, a parish/dance hall and a school will bring all the branches of the Conference together and promote the identity of the Bishops' Conference and the presence of the Catholic Church in Scotland at a national level.

Commenting on the decision, Bishop Joseph Toal, who has responsibility for Catholic

Heritage and Culture said:

"It is good that the Bishops have taken the decision to bring together the Offices of the Bishops, the Catholic Archives and Museum. In the chosen location we wish to identify with plans to regenerate the area around St Mary's, Abercromby Street, which itself has such strong historical and cultural links with the development of the Catholic Church in Scotland through the last two centuries."

# Bishops' response to public petition to fully decriminalise abortion in Scotland'

**Anthony Horan, the Parliamentary Officer for the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, has written a response on behalf of the Bishops' to the Public Petition PE1969 which aims to amend the law to fully decriminalise abortion in Scotland.**



The petition calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward legislation to fully decriminalise abortion services in Scotland and make provisions to ensure abortion services are available up to the twenty-fourth week of pregnancy across all parts of Scotland.

The petition states that the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 made abortion a criminal offence and that the Abortion Act 1967 sets out criteria where abortion may be permissible in law.

It is important to point out that the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 does not apply to Scotland. In Scotland, abortion is illegal at common law and not by statutory provision. The petitioner correctly points out that the Abortion Act 1967 sets out criteria where abortion is permissible in law. We are not aware of any recent prosecutions by Police Scotland under the common law offence of abortion.

Every abortion involves the taking of innocent human life. We appeal to the Scottish Parliament and Scottish

Government in the strongest possible terms to acknowledge the reality of abortion, which is always fatal for the prenatal child.

If abortion is decriminalised in Scotland, it would:

- result in Scotland having one of the most extreme abortion regimes in the world, far removed from the 12-week abortion time limit of most EU countries;
- allow for abortion up to birth for any reason, including abortion on the basis of sex and for any disability, no matter how severe; and
- result in the removal of the requirement for two doctors to sign off an abortion which could endanger pregnant women by removing criminal sanctions for abortions performed in unsafe settings or under coercion.

Statistics continue to bear out that women from the most deprived areas of Scotland are twice as likely to have an abortion than women from the least deprived areas. This suggests that poverty plays a significant role in a woman's decision to have an abortion. There is an obligation on the state to support women and families that find themselves in such difficult circumstances and who feel that they have no other option.

As First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon announced the launch of a new memorial book for those who have experienced a baby loss prior to 24 weeks.

The new book will be accompanied by the launch of a new service which will allow parents to apply for a commemorative certificate to give recognition to the child they have lost. These commendable efforts to recognise the intrinsic dignity of the unborn child must not be contradicted by moves which fail to acknowledge that dignity and decree that those same lives are dispensable.

Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Scottish Parliament in 2021 voted to directly incorporate into Scots law, declares that States Parties must "recognise that every child has the inherent right to life." Moreover, the Preamble to the Convention specifically quotes the Declaration on the Rights of the Child which states that "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

The Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government ought to respect the terms of the Convention and reject the petitioner's proposal to decriminalise abortion.

*Continued on page 13*



# Learning the beauty of Gregorian Chant

Have you ever thought of learning Gregorian chant? Gayle Campbell, of St James' in Coatbridge describes her experience as an absolute beginner to this Sacred art form with the Schola of Cantores Matris Dei.

**Sacred Gregorian chant has been around for centuries, but its beauty and complexity continue to capture the hearts of people to this day. Whether you are a music enthusiast or simply looking for a new form of spiritual expression, there are many reasons why sacred Gregorian chant is enjoyable.**

What drew me to joining the Schola of Cantores Matris Dei, as a complete beginner, was the rich history and tradition behind Gregorian chant - it made it a fascinating and compelling form of music to learn more about. The roots of Gregorian chant can be traced back to the early Christian church, where it was used in religious ceremonies and worship. Over time, the practice of chanting evolved, and became an important part of monastic life, with monks dedicating themselves to perfecting the art of chanting.

Today, the living tradition of Gregorian chant in religious settings continues to be a powerful and moving experience for me, even just as a listener. I enjoy the simple melodies and repetitive nature of the chants, which create a

sense of peacefulness and tranquillity. It allows me to focus on the spiritual aspect of the music, and as a newcomer to actually singing chants, I've found it can be a transformative experience, providing a unique opportunity for reflection, meditation, and introspection. In the schola, as we approach a new piece of chant, we discover that the music itself is a prayerful meditation on the liturgical texts, the contours of the chant providing a sonic commentary on the words themselves. The beauty of the chant as an expression of the prayer of the Church makes it easy to see why the magisterium has continually reaffirmed its primacy in Catholic worship.

Although to an untrained ear, it can sound repetitive, each piece offers something new and captivating. For those with a love of music and a little experience, exploring the intricacies of chant can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience, allowing you to appreciate the depth and complexity of this ancient art form which the Second Vatican Council called 'a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.' (Sacrosanctum Concilium 112)

The sense of community that surrounds learning chant is also appealing. Cantores Matris Dei offers opportunities for clergy and laypeople to participate in



Gregorian chant by joining their Chant class or 'schola'. There is a sense of belonging and connection, allowing you to meet with others who share your love of music and spirituality. I've got to know a great bunch of people I might otherwise never have had the chance to speak to.

Fraser, our Schola director is a wonderful teacher, and incredibly knowledgeable about Gregorian chant, and also singing generally - breathe control, projection, enunciation - all skills he has been generous in imparting his experience of. I've learned so much in just a few weeks!

There are many reasons why sacred Gregorian chant might be something you'd like to try... whether you are drawn to its rich history and tradition, its spiritual significance, its musical complexity and beauty, or the sense of community that surrounds it, there is something for everyone to appreciate in this ancient and timeless form of music. So why not give it a go and discover the joys for yourself?

*Cantores Matris Dei Schola Cantorum (Chant Class)*  
Thursdays, 7.30-8.30pm  
St James Church, Coatbridge  
[cantoresmatrisdei@gmail.com](mailto:cantoresmatrisdei@gmail.com)

# Review: Padre Pio - Stories and Memories of My Mentor and Friend by Father Gabriele Amorth

Ignatius Press, 2021

by FATHER LIAM O'CONNOR

*"I am setting aside for you an even more beautiful crown, if you are able to fight against that giant. He will keep attacking you, but be fearless and fight him. I will always be near you so that you may always succeed in knocking him down..."* These words form part of a mystical message received by Padre Pio from our Blessed Mother shortly before he entered religious life as a Capuchin Friar.

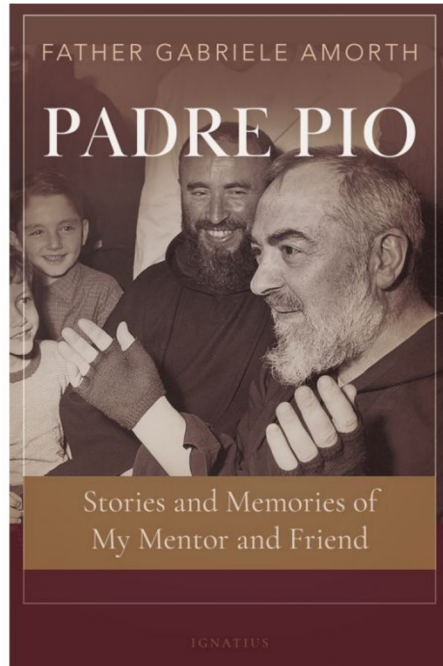
Spiritual battle against the devil seemed to characterise the life of St Pius of Pietrelcina, fondly known in life as Padre Pio.

This biography by the renowned exorcist of the Diocese of Rome, Fr Gabriele Amorth, who died in 2016, is a fascinating read for anyone who would like to know more about the life of a saint who experienced such extraordinary events.

The book is filled with personal and engaging anecdotes by the author who witnessed so much of Padre Pio's life up close.

Any biography of a saint could easily become a work of flattery or legend, yet this first-hand account by a friend of Padre Pio is approached in a rigorous and compelling way that avoids these pitfalls.

Living in a rationalistic age, as Padre Pio did, his life stood out as one that involved incredible things; yet at the heart of it we find a humble man who desired the life of holiness of a priest; he allowed himself to be the channel



of many graces and accomplished so much in the years God gave him.

We can think of the success of the building of his children's hospital in Southern Italy where there were few resources and much need.

The book is quite revealing in its treatment of one of the most peculiar graces experienced by the saint; receiving the crucifixion wounds of our Lord; known as the stigmata.

Padre Pio received these wounds as a young priest and they remained throughout the whole of his life; in his hands, feet, and side.

He was the object of much scepticism and scorn; rightly his superiors desired to establish the authenticity of such claims, something that added much suffering to the life of this exceptional religious.

*"I am a mystery to myself,"* was a comment he made at the end of his life. The celebration of his Mass would take some hours as he entered ecstasy; he found in this moment a real union with God; in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass he was able to appreciate Calvary in a deep and personal way.

Fr Amorth comments, *"Some have called Padre Pio's Mass 'an authentic supernatural spectacle.' There was certainly nothing theatrical about it... There is no doubt that Padre Pio was reliving the Passion of Jesus."*

Padre Pio wrote on the prayer card for his first Mass: *"Jesus, my breath and my life, how I tremble today as I lift you up in a mystery of love; together with you, may I be for the world: way, truth, life, and through you, holy priest, perfect victim."*

## Bishops' Response Continued from p11

We appeal to parliamentarians and political leaders to work to increase efforts to promote alternatives to abortion, to ensure support is available to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy, and to acknowledge and enforce equality of rights for the child in the womb, the first of which is the right to life.

The mark of a humane and compassionate society is to work through the difficulties and challenges women face in the case of a crisis pregnancy in a life affirming, not life destroying, manner.





Some of the new Diocesan Servers who served at the Diocesan Chrism Mass, pictured with Fr Stuart Parkes, Diocesan MC

# Christ is Alleluia



Catholics across the Diocese have been celebrating the joy of the Resurrection this Easter.



Bishop Toal after Easter Sunday Mass in St Gerard's, Bellshill, with Zain and Lucy who served Mass for the very first time.



Fr Michael Brown and Altar Servers after Easter Mass in Holy Family, Mossend



Fr Jim Grant with the parish choir in St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Celebrations of the Sacred Triduum Liturgies have been taking place in our Churches with many lay people giving of their time and talents to ensure the liturgies were fitting and worthy celebrations of the faith.

This Easter saw around fifty new Catholics received into full communion with the Church as they celebrated the Sacrament of Initiation at the easter Vigil.

Meanwhile on Holy Saturday,



Louise, Lynn, Duncan, and Alistair celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation at St James' Coatbridge with Fr Paul Denney



Fr Krzysztof Garwolinski with Bree and Francis who were received into the Church at St Thomas' Wishaw



Scott, Nicola and Anne who were received into the Church in St Patrick's Coatbridge



Children enjoy an Easter Egg hunt after Easter Sunday Mass in St Anthony's Rutherglen



Alec received the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil in St Barbara's Muirhead with Fr Kenny Campbell



Kerry from St Athanasius' Carluke was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil



In St Bride's Cambuslang, Jennifer and Heather were received into the Church with Fr Paul Morton



# s Risen! luia!



Some Churches had the Swieconka Blessing, a Polish tradition where baskets of Easter food are brought to the Church and blessed for Easter Sunday.

There has been lots of fun for the children of the Diocese also with Easter Eggs Hunts and Easter Bonnet competitions taking place in some Churches after the Easter Masses.

Have a look at the photos from some of our parishes to see how we have been celebrating the Risen Lord this Easter in Motherwell Diocese.

Fr Michael Kane helps the young parishioners of St Augustine's Coatbridge find Easter Eggs after Mass on Easter Sunday



Young people of Corpus Christi, Calderbank, who took part in the Palm Sunday Passion Play with Parish Priest, Fr Vincent Lockhart



At St Patrick's Shieldmuir, children show off their Easter Bonnet's to Deacon Harry



Swieconka Polish Easter Blessing on Holy Saturday in St Edward's, Airdrie



Parishioners of St Isidore's Biggar gather outside for the Easter Fire led by Fr John Paul McShane



Fr Gerry Chromy blesses baskets of food on Holy Saturday in St Joseph's Blantyre



Deacon Bill McMillan baptises Andy during the Easter Vigil in Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride





by LORRAINE CUNNINGHAM

**Do you know what SPRED stands for? Do you know what we do? Lots of people have never even heard of us, let alone know what we do and what we can offer.**

SPRED stands for SPecial RELigious Development and we essentially offer friendship through faith for the learning disabled members of our parish communities.

We have a beautiful SPRED Centre in the grounds of St Mary's, Cleland.

Picture the scene. The SPRED Centre is softly lit with quiet music in the background. There is a small group of 6 learning disabled friends and 8 volunteer catechists working quietly together. Some are working with a puzzle, some are working with sensorial activities, some are doing art work, one wee lady is knitting. The unique thing is that there is no conversation. Everyone is relaxed, calm and happy to concentrate on their work. Our world is a busy world full of noise, SPRED is a wee

oasis away from the hustle and bustle of life.

After 40 minutes, we will be invited through to our Celebration room. It is beautifully furnished with a bible, fresh flowers and a lit candle. There is a chair for everyone around the Holy Book.

The lighting is soft. Conversation is initiated by the group leader and we discuss an everyday life experience i.e. The joy of spending time with friends or the awe we feel in the beauty of springtime. Through this conversation, the leader helps us realise that no matter how we are feeling, or what we are doing, Jesus is by our side always! We listen to a couple of lines of scripture and we sing one of our SPRED songs. This is



a sacred experience and we truly feel the presence of Jesus among us.

Afterwards, we all set the table and have what we call, Agape. We have a drink and usually cake; we love cake in SPRED!

SPRED also helps our Friends to take their rightful place in their parish communities. SPRED Family Masses arranged in our Friends' parishes make the liturgy more accessible by presenting a very distinct welcome, simplified Readings and prayers, more music and involvement in processions. SPRED Masses are joyful and prayerful for everyone present. I joined SPRED over 30 years ago and I love it as much now as I did then. The rewards of joining a SPRED group as a volunteer are endless. Accompanying and helping your friend on their journey of faith is a humbling experience which enhances your own faith journey beyond measure.

No experience is needed to volunteer in SPRED. If you love God, you will love SPRED! We also have spaces for learning





Group photo with Bishop Toal after the SPRED 25th Anniversary Mass



The Tuesday Group at the SPRED Christmas Party

disabled friends across our groups.

If you would like more information for yourself as a potential volunteer, or for a learning disabled friend who you think may enjoy the SPRED experience, give me a call on 07891 297716, or drop me an email, or check out our Facebook page, SPRED Motherwell. Expressing an interest doesn't mean you are committing to anything, so what are you waiting for?

Lorraine Cunningham,  
Director, SPRED Motherwell.  
spredmotherwell@rcdom.org.uk

## Pilgrims get their hiking boots on for 'Scottish Camino'

by JAMES MCKELVIE



The group at Abercorn, Pics: James McKelvie

Walking pilgrimages have become very popular in recent years, with the Camino de Santiago attracting more and more pilgrims every year. During lockdown, Spain and the Camino were off limits, so a number of parishioners from across the diocese decided to embark on our own Scottish Camino, from the Cathedral in Motherwell to St Andrews in Fife. We walked every other Saturday, managing around 10 to 12 miles each day, covering about 110 miles in total.

Pilgrimage was very popular until the middle ages, until being frowned upon by the Reformation. St Andrews was a popular pilgrim destination, and evidence of its popularity can still be seen in the landscape. Many of the roads, bridges and river crossings, such as the Queen's Ferry, named after St Margaret, were originally for the pilgrim traffic to St Andrews and Dunfermline. Remains of the inns, chapels and almshouses used by pilgrims can still be seen along the way.

We walked along the Ladywell Way pilgrim path from Motherwell to South Queensferry. It took us through Newhouse, over the moors to Caldercruix, along quiet tracks and roads to Avonbridge, and followed the beautiful River Avon through Muiravonside Country Park to Linlithgow. We then walked along the Union Canal to the historic hamlet of Abercorn, and through the grounds of the magnificent Hopetoun House to South Queensferry.



## PILGRIMAGE

Crossing the Forth Road Bridge, we picked up the Fife Pilgrim Way at North Queensferry and walked through Inverkeithing to Dunfermline. Walking through the wonderful and varied Fife landscape, we visited the picturesque and historic towns of Markinch and Ceres, before completing our pilgrimage in St Andrews.

We began our journey with a pilgrim blessing from Fr Mark O'Donnell in Motherwell Cathedral, and tried to start each day in a similar way. Fr Bobby Kane in Caldercruix, Canon Paul Kelly in Linlithgow and Fr Scott Deeley in South Queensferry all sent us on our way with a prayer.

There have been a number of highlights along the way. The walk from Avonbridge along the river is picturesque, if a bit demanding. Linlithgow, birthplace of Mary Queens of Scots is worth a visit, as is the lovely hamlet of Abercorn, to the north east of Linlithgow. St

Bede, in the 8th century, mentions Abercorn as the site of a monastery and the seat of a bishop, and the most important ecclesiastical site in Scotland at the time.

Jim McMahon, from St Aidan's parish in Wishaw, said, "We are a disparate bunch of various ages, sizes, backgrounds and physical abilities, but we soon bonded into a cohesive group, united by faith, humour and love of walking."

We were inspired by one of our number, Michael Murphy from Whifflet, who undertook the pilgrimage shortly after undergoing major brain surgery. Michael was a serene presence on our journey, and tackled each stage with a quiet determination. Unfortunately, Michael's health deteriorated shortly afterwards, and his earthly pilgrimage ended on the feast of the Annunciation this year. The number of people who filled St James', Coatbridge, for his Requiem Mass was a witness



Michael Murphy RIP, with fellow pilgrims

to the good man that Michael was. May he rest in peace.

We have all contributed to the pilgrimage, through our unique talents and personalities, and it was a pleasure meeting new people and hearing their stories. A lot of walking, talking and, I hope, listening was done, new friendships were forged and we all learned a lot about ourselves and others. We would all recommend this Scottish Camino to any would-be pilgrims - you may be surprised by the rich and varied landscape to be found on our doorstep.

## EVENTS

SAINT BRIDE'S PARISH  
WHITEMOSS AVENUE EAST KILBRIDE G74 1NN

### NOVENA TO OUR LADY UNTIER OF KNOTS



Begins Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7pm  
and continues each Wednesday  
until the 28<sup>th</sup> June

The Service will include the Rosary,  
Novena Prayers and  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

"In this unending Novena, Our Lady comes to  
untie the knots of our lives." Pope Francis

**PIONEER**  
ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

<b>LENTEN RETREAT</b> 24 MARCH 2023   7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE	<b>ANNUAL RALLY</b> 23 OCTOBER 2023   7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE
<b>PIONEER PILGRIMAGE</b> 26 - 29 MAY 2023 SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK	<b>NOVEMBER MASS</b> 17 NOVEMBER 2023   7.30PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE
<b>SACRED HEART NOVENA</b> 8 - 16 JUNE 2023	<b>ADVENT RETREAT</b> 8 DECEMBER 2023   7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE
<b>KNOCK REUNION DINNER</b> 15 SEPTEMBER 2023   7.30PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE	

[WWW.PIONEERS.SCOT](http://WWW.PIONEERS.SCOT)  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:  
INFO@PIONEERS.SCOT



Diocese of Motherwell  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Diocesan Pilgrimage



Carfin Grotto

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Rosary Procession at 12.00pm

Mass at 1.00pm

Celebrant: Fr. Gerard Bogan

Music: Motherwell Diocesan Music Group

The Xavier Centre will be open for the  
purchase of light refreshments



## Pope: May we be joyful proclaimers of the Gospel

**Pope Francis greeted pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square on Easter Monday for the midday recitation of the Regina Coeli prayer, which is said in place of the Angelus during Eastertide from Easter Sunday to the end of Pentecost. The Regina Coeli, Queen of Heaven, recalls Christ's victory over death.**

In reflecting on the day's Gospel that recounts the women disciples who find the empty tomb and encounter the Risen Jesus on Easter morning, Pope Francis recalled that they were the first to go to the tomb and became the first bearers of the good news of the resurrection.

The Pope described how they too, like all the disciples, were still in mourning after Jesus' suffering and death, but they did not let sadness or fear hold them back from going to the tomb with aromatic ointments to anoint the body of Jesus in a gesture of love and remembrance. And overcoming their fears and sadness with this courage and love is what leads them to encounter the Risen One.

The discovery of the empty tomb leads the women to hurry and run off to tell the other disciples about this wonderful news, the Pope observed, and then Jesus goes to encounter them as they are on their way. "This is beautiful: when we proclaim the Lord, the Lord comes to us."

Sometimes we might think that keeping God to ourselves is a



way to be close to Him, but this can also be out of our own fear that if we speak openly, people might judge, criticize or challenge us and we don't know how to respond, so best to keep it inside. Instead, the Pope explained that our going out to tell others about the Lord, brings the Lord among us. "This is what the women teach us: we encounter Jesus by witnessing him."

The Pope then gave an example of how sharing good news brings the news alive in us. The birth of a child is a happy announcement people share with family and friends, and by telling people about it, the good news comes alive in us, he noted. And this happens "infinitely more for Jesus," he explained, who is not only good news, but "life itself, 'the resurrection and the life!'"

"Every time we announce it, not by propaganda or proselytizing, but with respect and love, as the most beautiful gift to share, as the secret of joy, then Jesus

dwells in us even more."

Nothing can stop us from proclaiming the Lord after an encounter with Him, the Pope added, and if we do not share this experience, maybe we have yet to really meet Him. The Pope suggested we ask ourselves when and how we bear witness to Jesus, and if others perceive we have met the Lord and are therefore interested and inspired to know more. "Let us ask Our Lady to help us be joyful proclaimers of the Gospel."

*Article from vaticannews.va*

### The Pope's Prayer Intentions

#### MAY - FOR CHURCH MOVEMENTS AND GROUPS

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



## Schola make their debut in Baillieston

by CLAIRE O'NEILL

**The Schola of St Bridget's Primary Primary made their debut at the Laetare Mass in St Bridget's Church on Sunday 19th March.**

Diocesan choral director, James Greechan, conducted and John Pitcathley, Diocesan Director of Music was the organist. Fr Tom Devlin, parish priest of the Parish of St Ambrose was delighted to welcome so many of the Schola's family and friends who had come to celebrate Mass and to support



the children as they sang for the first time in their parish. The National School Singing Programme, supported by the Hamish Ogstan Foundation currently provides class-based singing lessons and supports choirs in four diocesan schools and it is hoped, with further funding, this provision can be extended to more schools. To find out how to donate to this project and to support evangelisation through singing in the Diocese of Motherwell, please email: [primaryre@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:primaryre@rcdom.org.uk)



## St Brendan's celebrates glowing report

**St Brendan's Primary School in Motherwell is celebrating a highly positive report from HM Inspectors of Education (HMIe).**

HMIe report praised the school for its "strong leadership and management", "calm, relaxed and nurturing environment" and "high levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy".

The inspection took place at St Brendan's over a period of several days, during which inspectors observed lessons, met with staff, parents and students, and reviewed the school's performance data and documentation.

Head Teacher, Mrs Maura Oates, expressed her delight at the positive report, saying: "We are absolutely thrilled with the outcome of the inspection. It is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our staff and students, and we are extremely proud of everyone involved."

Donna Matthewman, Chair of St. Brendan's Parent Council, said: "It's a real testament to the strong leadership, teaching and support staff in the school, its strong Catholic ethos and its deep sense of community."

## TWEETS

Follow us @rcmotherwell  
@motherwellre



**Holy Cross High, Hamilton**  
@holycrossham - Fr Brian visited Holy Cross today with the relics of Padre Pio. Thank you to Fr Hughes for bringing Fr Brian to our school.



**Cardinal Newman High, Bellshill**  
@cardinal\_re - Caritas pupils have been leading S1-S3 pupils in the Stations of the Cross during Lent. An important opportunity for prayer & reflection during our Lenten journey.



**All Saints Primary, Airdrie**  
@AllsaintsML6 - Congratulations to all the children who have made a huge effort to attend the Rosary and Mass throughout Lent. This morning they enjoyed a special, well done, breakfast.



**St Margaret's High, Airdrie**  
@StMargaretsSVDP - St Margaret's HS Youth SSVP has been officially commissioned for its second year with a lovely commissioning service conducted by Fr Mark O'Donnell.

# An interview with....

This month we catch up with **Angela Harley**, the new Head Teacher of Holy Family Primary in Mossend.

## How long have you been teaching?

I started teaching in August 2002 so over 20 years.

## What other schools have you worked in?

For the most part of career I worked in Sacred Heart Primary, Bellshill with a period of a year and a half in St. Andrew's, Airdrie.

## How have you settled into Holy Family?

Very well. The children, staff, families and community have been very warm and welcoming.

## What are your first impressions of the school?

Previously working within the Cardinal Newman High School cluster I had many occasions to work alongside the staff of Holy Family and have been in the building several times. Looking at the school through a leadership lens my first impression was a school with a strong Catholic ethos and a great team working very hard to support the children in their care. I also felt a strong sense of community and partnership with families.

## What are your hopes for the future for the school?

Only being in post for 3 weeks my vision for the school continues to develop but I hope that all children feel they are safe and supported to achieve

all they can in a place of happiness, faith, mutual respect and kindness.

## What are your favourite things about being a teacher and now a Head Teacher?

My favourite things about being a teacher are: getting to know each child as an individual and this allows me to watch them grow and flourish into their own person. I also enjoying watching children and staff achieve goals they have set which give them a sense of achievement. I love to hear the funny stories staff share about the innocence of children and how they see the world through their eyes.

## What challenges do you face as a Head Teacher?

I expect to face many challenges as a Head Teacher but with a strong team around me and the guidance of the Holy Spirit I am confident I will navigate the school through any challenges.

## When you aren't working, what do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to spend time with my family and friends

## What's an interesting story or fact about you?

From a young age I was a keen Irish dancer travelling all over the UK and Ireland to compete in competitions.



## How has your catholic faith inspired you in your teaching?

My faith has always been central to my teaching, allowing for me to demonstrate Gospel values in my interactions and decision-making. Having a deep understanding of my own Catholic faith has supported me in developing the understanding of children on their sacramental journey, allowing for them to grow closer to God.

## Why do you believe catholic education is important?

I believe Catholic education is important to provide children with the opportunity to grow surrounded by an ethos which promotes Gospel values, in a faith sharing community which lives out celebration and worship and provides a religious education programme allowing children to apply their values to everyday life.

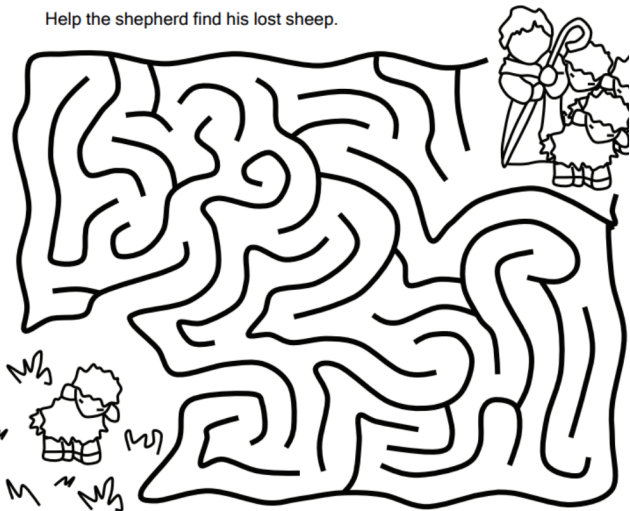




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## The Good Shepherd

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



G	E	S	C	U	S	E	R	S	F	C	T	G	L
A	O	W	E	D	H	S	E	N	L	A	S	L	F
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SHEEP  
LIFE  
COMMAND  
KNOWS  
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PEN  
SCATTERS  
LISTEN  
AUTHORITY  
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FLOCKS  
GOOD  
VOICE  
WOLF  
LOVES  
FATHER  
DOWN  
ABANDONS  
ATTACKS  
SHEPHERD

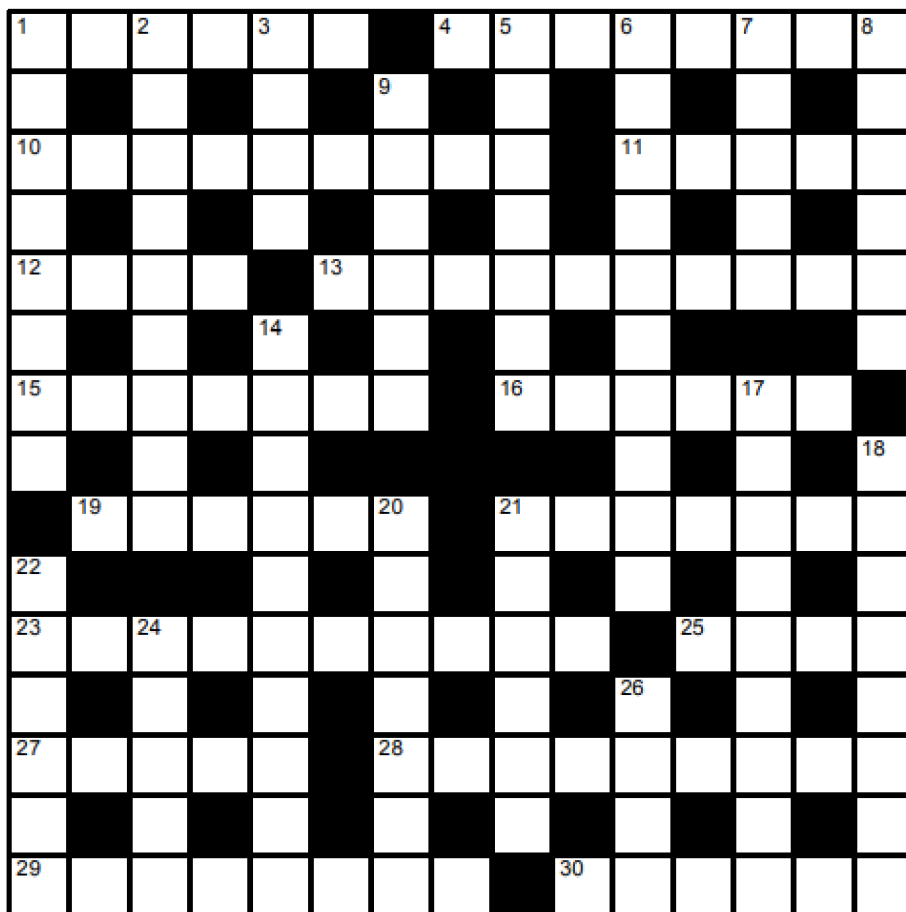
Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2272428/>

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a \_\_\_ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)
- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but \_\_\_ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Across: 1 Shekel, 4 Appeared, 10 Ephesians, 11 Cubit, 12 Rare, 13 Meditation, 15 Raisins, 16 Nathan, 19 Agreed, 21 Torches, 23 Atonements, 25 Baal, 27 Glean, 28 Millstone, 29 Teachers, 30 Rashly.  
 Down: 1 Shearers, 2 Exhorting, 3 East, 5 Passion, 6 Enchanters, 7 Rabbi, 8 Doting, 9 Bakers, 14 Nineteenth, 17 Ashtaroth, 18 Psalter, 20 Dreamer, 21 Tittle, 22 Taught, 24 Omega, 26 Asia.

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## Sadness across the Diocese after death of Fr Damien

Tributes have been pouring in following the sad death of Father Damien Gilhooley earlier this month.

Father Damien, who was ordained for the Diocese of Motherwell in 1968, had been preparing to take part in a sponsored cycle from Versailles to Lourdes during Holy Week for HCPT. Unfortunately, during a week's fair-weather training in Spain, he had an accident rendering his participation in this year's event impossible.

Having returned home from Spain, on Holy Thursday morning he had been planning to attend the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral however had a fall at home and suffered a massive

brain haemorrhage. He was taken to Monklands Hospital in Airdrie where he passed away on Easter Monday.

During his fifty years of active ministry in the Diocese, Father Gilhooley served in a number of parishes, mostly recently St James' Coatbridge where he was parish priest from 2009 until his retirement in 2019. Upon retiring he moved into residence in St Bernard's Coatbridge, where he previously served as parish priest and provided supply in Churches across the Diocese. He also served as Diocesan Chaplain to the UCM.

A full obituary will be included in next months edition.

# May Clergy Anniversaries

*May the Lord who chose them to serve Him as priests, number them among his chosen in heaven.  
Requiescant in Pace.*

23.05.2019	Rt. Rev. Bishop Joseph Devine		
01.05.1958	Rev. Patrick McHugh	17.05.1991	Very Rev. Thomas Canon McGurk
01.05.2022	Very Rev. William Canon Dunnachie	20.05.1967	Rev. Patrick Heaney
02.05.1973	Very Rev. Thomas Canon Brooks	20.05.2009	Rev. John Kelly
06.05.2000	Very Rev. Anthony Canon Kilcoyne	21.05.2013	Very Rev. Michael Canon MacNamee
11.05.1958	Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Ashe	25.05.1986	Rev. James K. Rogers
11.05.1990	Rev. Thomas Corless	25.05.2011	Rev. Hugh Sheridan
12.05.1977	Rev. Michael Sullivan	27.05.1995	Very Rev. Daniel Canon Hennessy
14.05.1995	Rev. James Ward	29.05.1966	Very Rev. Charles Canon Craigen
14.05.1983	Rev. Philip Boyce	29.05.2012	Very Rev. James Canon Ashe
15.05.1963	Rev. William Bradley	30.05.1974	Rev. James Hallinan



Online booking is now open for couples preparing for marriage within the Catholic Church. Courses take place on Saturday from 10.30am - 3.00pm.

All courses take place at: Saint Augustine's Parish Centre, Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ

The dates for 2023/24 are as follows:

<b>JUNE</b> <b>10</b> 2023	<b>SEPTEMBER</b> <b>16</b> 2023	<b>OCTOBER</b> <b>28</b> 2023	<b>JANUARY</b> <b>20</b> 2024
<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>17</b> 2024	<b>MARCH</b> <b>16</b> 2024	<b>APRIL</b> <b>20</b> 2024	<b>JUNE</b> <b>8</b> 2024

The course is £50 per couple and includes all course materials.  
Book your course today at: [www.marriagefamilylife.org](http://www.marriagefamilylife.org)

*Please book only ONE day course. For more information, contact Fr Michael Kane from the Marriage and Family Life Agency: [info@marriagefamilylife.org](mailto:info@marriagefamilylife.org)*



## Catholic Marriage Counselling Service

Faith-based, professional accompaniment for couples experiencing difficulty in their marriage.

For more information visit:  
[www.marriagefamilylife.org](http://www.marriagefamilylife.org)

Diocese of Motherwell Marriage & Family Life Agency



Diocese of Motherwell  
Marriage and Family Life Office

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STARTS MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2022



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Motherwell  
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**EVERY MONDAY EVENING**  
**6.30PM - 8.00PM**

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[www.woombinternational.org](http://www.woombinternational.org)



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# Pray in May for Mary's Meals

**Join in prayer for God's continued blessing of the school feeding charity's mission to bring hope to hungry children**

**International school feeding charity Mary's Meals is calling on people in Motherwell to pray for its work this May.**

Mary's Meals feeds more than 2.4 million desperately hungry children with a daily school meal in 18 of the world's poorest countries, including Haiti, Malawi and Syria. The promise of a good meal attracts these children into the classroom where they can gain an education that offers them a ladder out of poverty.

The charity's annual Pray In May campaign asks people to pray that the work of Mary's Meals continues to flourish and grow, and that more children throughout the world will see their lives transformed by receiving a daily school meal.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder of Mary's Meals, says: "During the month of May, as we honour Our Lady, we ask you to pray for this work that belongs to Her. Join us as we Pray in May, at a time when we need your prayers more than ever – as we strive to continue serving more than 2.4 million children and expanding to reach more vulnerable communities, all while facing complex global challenges and rising costs.

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***"Whether you simply add Mary's Meals to your own prayer intentions or mobilise your church or prayer group, we thank you for this powerful act of service and support."***

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People can get involved in Pray In May by:

- **Including a prayer for Mary's Meals in church services.**
- **Organising a Holy Hour for Mary's Meals.**
- **Encouraging children to pray for the charity's work.**

Mary's Meals has produced a series of downloadable resources to support these activities, which are available on its website.

It also offers a special 'gift of hope' card, which will feed a hungry child for a year.

With the prayers and support of people in Motherwell, Mary's Meals can keep feeding children like 13-year-old Ketty, from Zambia.

Ketty's world fell silent when she was two years old. Her deafness is a complication of malaria. For six years Ketty lived a silent life, alone and isolated from friendships and other joys of childhood. Even her own family struggled to communicate with her effectively.

Specialist residential schools for children with disabilities cost up to 20 times more than the average school fees in Zambia – a cost that was well beyond Ketty's family.

But now, thanks to Mary's Meals, Ketty attends Magwero's Boarding School for the Deaf, where she eats a nutritious meal every day that gives her the energy to learn and play with her friends.

Ketty says: "The best thing that ever happened to me was making friends at school. I am glad to have an education and the chance to learn. That was all I ever wanted.

"I am glad to have the skill of sign language to communicate. Finding a school like this one made me very happy."

To find out more about Pray in May, and to download prayers and information on how to hold a Holy Hour to support Mary's Meals, please visit: [marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may](http://marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/churches-and-prayers/pray-in-may)

# mary's meals

- Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. The charity provides one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.
- Mary's Meals feeds more than 2.4 million children every school day in 18 countries: Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Myanmar, Niger, South Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Yemen. The average global cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year is just £19.15.
- Independently verified research from Malawi, Liberia and Zambia shows that in schools where children receive Mary's Meals, hunger is reduced, enrolment increases, attendance improves, drop-out rates and absences fall, concentration in lessons is heightened, attainment levels increase, parents are less anxious, and children are happier.
- The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."
- Mary's Meals is committed to spending at least 93% of donations directly on its charitable activities. This is only possible because much of the charity's work is done by an army of dedicated volunteers.
- Please visit [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk) to find out more about the work of Mary's Meals.





## Schools 'unite in faith' for Caritas Cup

**Adam Costello, one of the founders of the Caritas Cup, discusses the sporting initiative which is bringing schools and communities together in faith.**

The Caritas Cup was an initiative set up around 18 months ago by myself and a few friends, Bailey Gallagher, Aiden Paterson and Daniel Timoney. We came up with the idea in order to enhance the experience of the SCES Caritas Award for ourselves and our year group.

Initially it was a football tournament between ourselves at Saint Margarets HS and Saint Ambrose HS, the occasion on that day was beyond what we thought we could achieve in the timescale so to see where it is at now is greater to see.

This year, after a meeting at the Diocese, Bishop Toal and Father Hughes agreed to allow us to take it Diocesan wide, with both football and netball tournaments. The Bishop and advisors having that Faith in us was a brilliant thing and something that we were very thankful for.

This years tournament has been running since September 2022, with every senior school signing up to get involved in some capacity. After many games, the football was narrowed down to the final between St John Ogilvie HS and St Ambrose. The final was played at Broadwood stadium with the help from North Lanarkshire council and was an fantastic showing of schools and communities following the motto of the Caritas Cup and being "United in Faith". John Ogilvie won 2-1

The netball final took place between St Margarets HS and St Ambrose at Cardinal Newman HS. A great showing of the skill the young people of the diocese have to offer with St Ambrose coming away victorious with a

score of 55-51.

The Bishop attended and helped with the presentation at both games and Leader of the Council Jim Logue and Councillor Angela Campbell (Convener of Education) also assisted with the presentations.

Overall, The Caritas Cup was set up to bring people closer to their Faith in a way that young people know best. I truly believe it has succeeded in that mission. The Caritas Award is an initiative that brings schools closer to our parish community and through these tournaments we are able to bring the parish community closer to our schools. With money raised from all games going towards SCIAF Syria-Türkiye appeal.

