

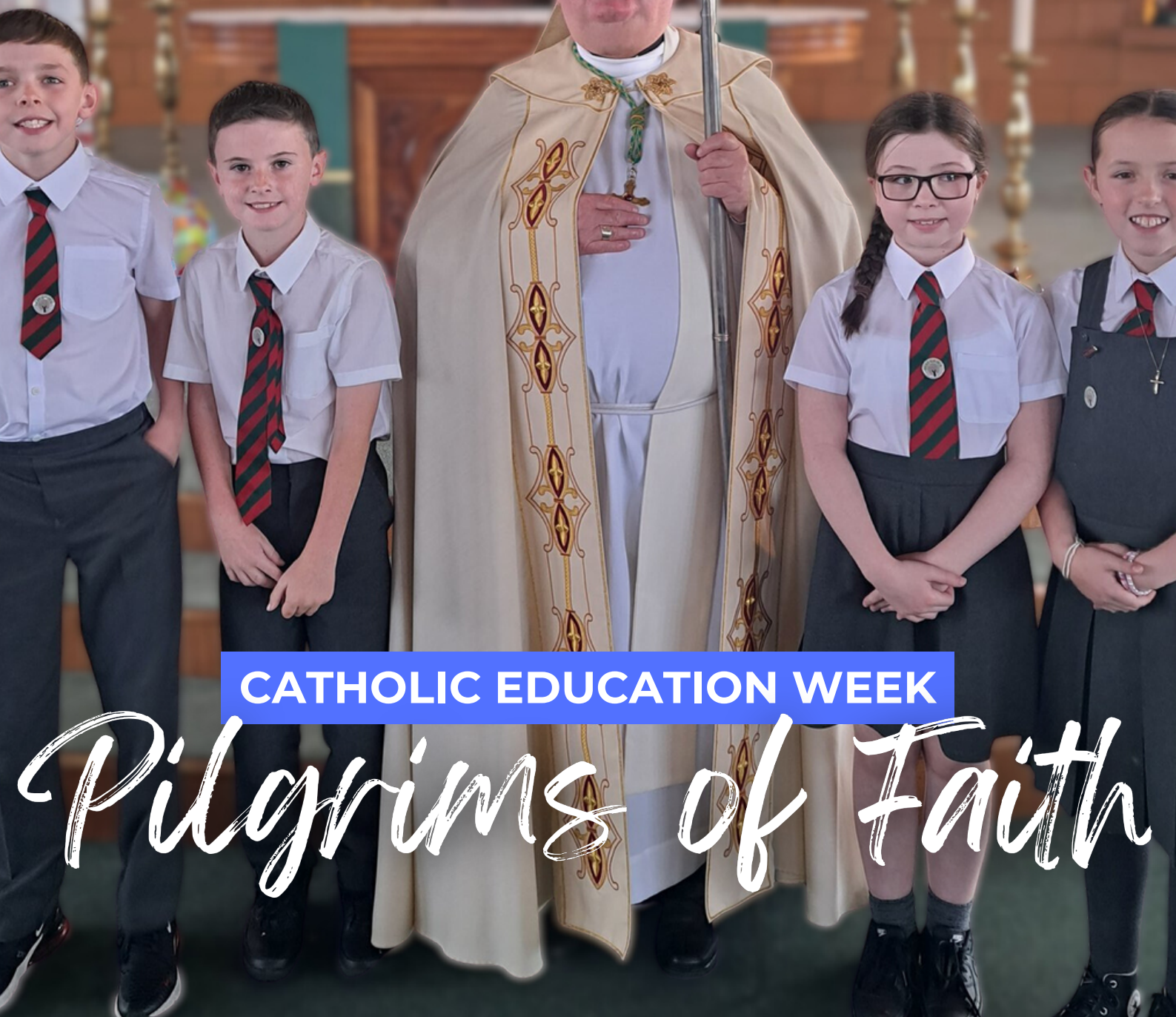
DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

FREE

FONTES

NOVEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 8 | FREE

MAGAZINE



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Pilgrims of Faith

- + Catholic Education in the Diocese of Motherwell + School & Parish News
- + Deacon Stuart Dick ordained to the Diaconate + Pope's Message for World Day of the Poor
- + Golden Jubilee celebrations in Baillieston + St Paul's celebrate final Mass

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The next edition of **FONTES** will be available from **25/26 November**. If you have any news or photos to contribute email media@rcdom.org.uk



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Bishop's Diary

NOVEMBER

3rd - 7.00pm - Mass in St Mary's Whifflet to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Xaverian Missionaries working in the UK

4th - 11.00am - Mass for deceased members of the Knights of St Columba in St Joseph's Blantyre

5th - 11.30am - Mass at St Gerard's Bellshill, to open the 40 Hours Adoration

6th/8th - Bishops' Conference of Scotland at Conforti Institute, Coatbridge

9th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Gerard's Bellshill, for Sacred Heart Primary and St Gerard's Primary

10th - Knights of St Columba Provincial Grand Ball for its 75th anniversary

13th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Thomas' Wishaw

14th - 2.00pm - Meeting of Diocesan Trustees in Diocesan Offices. 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Bridget's Baillieston

15th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Rose of Lima Craighend

16th - 11.00am - Patronal Feast Mass in St Margaret's High in Airdrie. 7.00pm - Diocesan Education Mass in Motherwell Cathedral

18th - National Safeguarding Conference in Strathclyde University, Glasgow

20th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Francis of Assisi's Baillieston

21st - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Michael's Moodiesburn

22nd - Visit to House of Commons for meetings with MPs and Mass in St Mary's Undercroft

23rd - CHAPS Conference, Crown Plaza Glasgow

25th - Final Profession of Sr Angela (Sr Stacey) in Dublin

27th - 7.00pm - Confirmations in Motherwell Cathedral

28th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Bride's Cambuslang

29th - 7.00pm - Confirmations at St Monica's Coatbridge

30th - 11.45am - Festal Mass at St Andrew's and St Bride's High School, East Kilbride



A word from Bishop Toal

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a recent Pastoral Letter I reflected on the life of the "Mother Church" in Jerusalem and the reception of the great gift of the Holy Spirit on the first Christians in the Holy City. Coming to our own times, it seems so sad that the People of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Jews and Palestinians, have been caught up in another appalling cycle of horrific killing and warfare. We must hope and pray that the fighting will cease, and innocent lives be fully protected. It may be a vain hope as it has proved so difficult to resolve the problems that have blighted Our Lord's own homeland over many decades, but we have to pray for the leaders of those involved, and other statesmen and women of influence, that wisdom and compassion will prevail and peace and justice be restored.

Often in the most difficult situations we turn in prayer to Our Lady, Mother of Sorrows and Comforter of the Afflicted, and we seek her intercession for those who are terrified and distressed. In the Holy Land the local Christians honour Mary as Our Lady Queen of Palestine, with the Feast Day on 25th October. Here in Scotland, as elsewhere in the world, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre celebrates the Feast

at that time. The Feast Day Mass this year will be in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, on Saturday 28th October at 11.30am. You are most welcome to attend this Mass and join in seeking Our Lady's intercession for those suffering in this terrible conflict. Mary Our Mother is always a Sign of Hope and she encourages us to trust most of all in her Son, Risen and Glorified, and our only hope of salvation in our troubled and often cruel world.

Our Lady Queen of Palestine, pray for us.

With my prayers and best wishes

+ Joseph Toal



Statue of Our Lady of Palestine at Carfin Grotto

Ordination Joy

Celebrations in East Kilbride as Stuart Dick is ordained to the Permanent Diaconate



The Feast of St Pio of Pietrelcina was an extra special day for the parish of St Vincent de Paul's in East Kilbride, as the first ever ordination took place in their Church when Rev. Stuart Dick was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate.

The first of two Diaconate ordinations in Motherwell Diocese this year, the now Deacon Stuart was joined by his wife Carol, son Jonathon, and a large number of family, friends and parishioners to celebrate the special occasion he had spent the last seven years preparing for.

"My ordination day seemed so far away when I started this journey seven years ago." Deacon Stuart said. "

"I can still remember the parish deacon, Joe Gallagher's talk at Mass on his diaconal ministry. This was my awakening and realisation this is what I was being called to do. I went along

to an information evening which confirmed to me that this was a path that I wanted to follow. I was accepted onto the propaedeutic year of discernment and later four years of academic studies and pastoral work."

Deacon Stuart's pastoral placement in the last few years was spent in the parish of Our Lady & St Anne's in Hamilton.

Speaking of the challenges of preparing for the Diaconate, Deacon Stuart said: "Working and studying was not without its challenges. I was fortunate that my family, friends, Deacon Joe, my mentor Deacon John McGarry, parish priests Fr Romanus Ennyinia and Fr Charles O'Farrell, the Diaconal formation team and fellow students provided me with tremendous support. Without their support I would not be where I am today.

Deacon Stuart described his ordination day as "an incredibly

special day not only for myself and family but for the parish of St Vincent De Paul. It was the first ordination in the parish since it was founded almost 50 years ago. Thanks to my parish priest, Fr Romanus, and the parish planning team. It was a day of celebration and certainly one I will never forget."

Following his ordination, Deacon Stuart was appointed to serve the parishes of St Ignatius' Wishaw and St Brigid's Newmains, where he hopes to continue the work started in his parish placement which included visiting the sick and housebound and helping to prepare children for the sacraments.



Pics: Rebecca Horisk and Elaine Furgeage



Celebrating 50 years

A Golden Celebration

Pics: Will Ross

BY WILL ROSS

The Parish of St Ambrose in Baillieston had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Joseph Toal recently for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the two Churches which make up our Parish.

As part of the celebration, we also welcomed two of the former parish priests, Monsignor John McIntyre and Fr Vivian Hayes, together with our current parish priest, Fr Tom Devlin. They were accompanied by our parish deacon, Michael Meechan, and visiting fellow deacon, Joe Gallagher.

In his homily, Bishop Toal spoke about the time of the building of St Francis of Assisi Church,

coming not so long after the Second Vatican Council. It was, he noted, a time of great change – and of great hope – for the Church in the modern world. There were elements of that “rebuild My Church” theme from the life of St Francis himself, transposed now into the modern era.

The time after the Council was indeed a time of rebuilding and of change – the very language of the Church moved from Latin to the vernacular, and this was one of a number of substantial changes in the way the Church was trying to engage with the faithful and with the world itself. Now, in this present moment, the Church is experiencing a similar feeling of great hope of renewal by means of the Synod which will begin in Rome in a

couple of days' time, even if this is accompanied by a sense of trepidation in some quarters about what the Synod might actually do. This was also a theme the Bishop had touched on in his recent Pastoral Letter about the Synod, published a few days beforehand.

Bishop Toal also commented on the teaching role of Bishops in the Church and the task to lead their respective dioceses – not always an easy task, and one which requires two things more than anything; prayer, and the willingness and ability to listen. And these, he said, were two core features of the Synod itself. Both are absolutely crucial not only for the participants gathered together in Rome, but for all of who are the People of God, the Church in every corner



of the world. We all need to pray – and we all need to be willing to listen attentively to one another.

As part of the Golden Anniversary celebrations, a new Crucifix Icon was commissioned and written by Slovakian artist Blazena Dzurjanikova, and this was installed above the Altar in the Church a few days ago, before being revealed to the community yesterday. At the conclusion of the Mass, this Crucifix Icon was solemnly blessed by Bishop Toal.

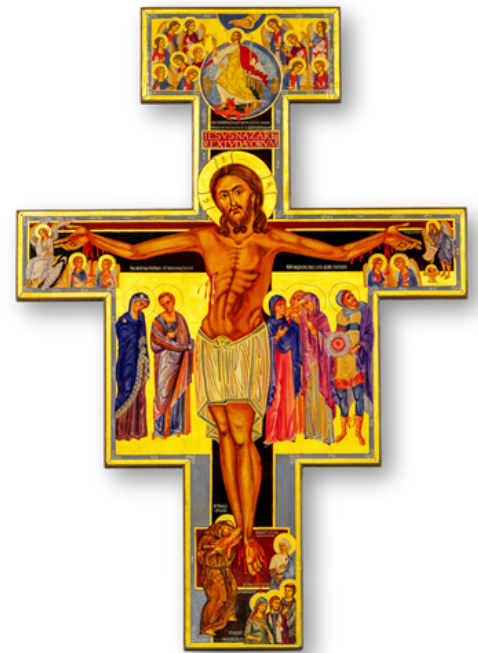
The artist, Blazena Dzurjanikova, was in attendance at the Mass. I spoke with her yesterday and she pointed out the number of times she had adapted the design so that it was just perfect for the Church. We also spoke about the inclusions of some of the Scottish Saints, including Saint Margaret and Blessed John Duns Scotus – a very early champion of the eventual dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Francis himself is included too, depicted

at the base of the Crucifix, kissing the feet of Christ, whose own Wounds the Saint bore in his body.

Four new Icon panels are presently being written and these will be installed within the Church over the next couple of months – they each depict a particular scene from the life of Saint Francis and are being written by the same artist who created the beautiful Crucifix Icon.

A large number of the people of the parish – from both Churches – were present for the Anniversary Mass, after which there was a celebratory buffet in St Francis of Assisi Primary school, next door to the Church. A choir of children from the school had sung exceptionally beautifully throughout the Mass and were a credit to our diocesan Choral Director, James Greechan, and to the teachers of the school.

Some of the children had read the Readings and Prayers of Intercession at Mass and they



did this superbly and with great confidence.

The Golden Anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi Church was a lovely day in the life of the parish community and one whose effects and graces will, hopefully, be felt and experienced for a long time to come.

Clockwise: Members of the school choir with Bishop Toal and clergy; The new icon crucifix; Fr Tom Devlin with artist, Blazena Dzurjanikova.

The Scriptures

by FATHER THOMAS MAGILL



5th NOVEMBER
31st SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Malachi 1:14-2.2, 8-10;
Psalm 130;
1st Letter to the Thessalonians 2:7-9, 10;
Matthew 23:1-12

The Lord is in continuity with the great prophets of Israel when he criticises the religious leadership of the day. They set themselves above and apart, they lay burdens on people's shoulders and do not help them. They consider themselves to be a separate caste (Gospel). Yet "have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us?" (1st Reading) At the heart of Christ's Gospel is our fundamental equality in the sight of God which makes us all brothers and sisters. It is this Gospel which is the "living power" which makes us so. (2nd Reading)



12th NOVEMBER
32nd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 6:12-16;
Psalm 62;
1st Letter to the Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 25:1-13

Light or darkness, alertness or anxiety, fullness or emptiness. These are the contrasts which confront us in this week's Scriptures. They're asking me: Am I in a dark place right now? Is my life feeling a bit empty? Is there a gnawing anxiety that I'm not all I should be? All and any of this can make us miss the encounter with the bridegroom, the Lord, who comes to us in so many ways each day. (Gospel) We can be so caught up in ourselves that we miss him "sitting at our gates." (1st Reading) Or the events of life, especially grief, can blind us to the presence of the crucified and risen Lord at our side (2nd Reading) Perhaps it is in those moments of darkness, anxiety, and emptiness that God teaches us to thirst and pine for him alone who fills us as with a banquet. (Psalm)

19th NOVEMBER
33rd SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31
Psalm 127;
1st Letter to the Thessalonians 5:1-6;
Matthew 25:14-30

A woman's lot in ancient Israel was no easy thing. Most often treated as a second-class citizen with little to offer, a woman had limited life choices. Yet Proverbs celebrates womanhood by showing it was possible to break out of life-limiting situations and achieve a fullness of life which is described as "wisdom". (1st Reading) That was the failure of the servant with the one talent. He chose to live within the limits and constrictions he felt his life was under and as a result lived a life of fear and apprehension. (Gospel) He failed to see the gift he had received and to respond to it. All our lives are gifts from God which allow us to be children of light and children of the day. (2nd Reading)

26th NOVEMBER
SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Ezekiel 34:11-17;
Psalm 22;
1st Letter to the Corinthians
15:20-28;
Matthew 25:31-46

Acting like a goat is not something we like to be accused of. I suspect most of us have acted in that way at some time and continue to do so. The accusation can lay bare the hurt, the damage, the wounds which lie beneath the surface of our lives and which are in need of healing and transformation. This is the separation the Lord is talking about in today's parable. (Gospel) It is a separation which creates something new, just as God separated light from darkness to bring about creation and who comes in search of the separated sheep lost in the mist and gloom. (1st Reading) Purified and cleansed by the fire of the divine love, our wounds are healed when we can bring God's compassion to those in need. We are all being brought to life in Christ every moment of each day, and some of those moments can seem like an eternity. (2nd Reading) Our servant King births us into becoming servants of each other.



35 years of faith sharing in Motherwell Diocese

BY MICHAEL WEBSTER

This year 2023 marks 35 years of faith sharing groups in Motherwell Diocese.

The purpose of faith sharing is to grow together into a deeper intimacy with Christ and with each other by connecting our faith with our daily lives.

It all began as an offshoot from the Renew Programme 1988-1991, with 4,000 adults and young people throughout the diocese actively participating. Over the years faith sharing groups in Advent and Lent have helped parishioners to embrace and apply God's word, the Sacraments, Church teaching and prayer in their everyday Christian life. Sharing the Scriptures, opening our hearts to pray and to sing praise to God, deeply impacts how we can live, act and interact with the world in which we live. Inspired and affirmed in faith by these small groups, through the power of the Holy Spirit, countless parishioners have become actively involved in their church community and continue even into ripe old age!

If you would like to be part of a faith sharing group or set up a group in your parish please get in touch with Mission and Evangelisation Faith Sharing:

Michael Webster -

Phone: 07710354763 or Email: mikeandestie@gmail.com

End of an era as St Paul's closes with Mass of Thanksgiving



Pics: Will Ross

St Paul's was packed as the community gathered for a final Mass of Thanksgiving as the Hamilton church closed for the final time after 58 years.

Opened in 1955, the Church has served the Whitehill area of Hamilton for almost six decades. For the last number of years the community has been amalgamated as one parish with the neighbouring St Mary's which will now serve as the sole parish church for the community.

The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Joseph Toal, parish priest, Fr Harry O'Brien, former parishioner and Altar Server, Fr Michael Kane, Fr Paddy Gaffney, a long-time

friend of the parish, and Deacon Joe Dowds.

Since its opening, the community has been served by Father Denis Lucey, Father John Moss, Father Gerard Maher, Father Patrick O'Hare, Father Bernard Mahoney, Father Damian Murphy and since 2012, Father Harry O'Brien.

As the community bid farewell to their much loved Church, Fr O'Brien paid tribute to all the priests and people who served the parish over the last 58 years.

"The next stage of our journey together as St. Mary's and St. Paul's Parish will see us continue as the one parish, but with only one church building, and that will be the venerable



old house of prayer that we know and love as St. Mary's Hamilton, the mother church of the whole of South Lanarkshire." Fr O'Brien said.

Despite the sadness of losing their Church, Fr O'Brien offered words of encouragement to the parishioners saying: "It is clear that the 21st century has its own particular challenges for us as Christians, especially the movement away from regular practice of the Christian faith. It is important that we face these challenges as a community. The truth is we need one another very much. We often sing the popular hymn, "Bind us together Lord" and my deepest hope as your parish priest is that the Lord Jesus will bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Together let us make our parish a place that is welcoming and life-giving."





Marion recognised for services to parishes across the Diocese

It was a special night for Bellshill parishioner, Marion Steppie, as she was awarded the Diocesan Bene Merenti medal by Bishop Toal.

During the Sunday Vigil Mass in

Sacred Heart Church, Bishop Toal presented Marion with the award which recognised her many years of service to over 20 parishes in the Diocese, helping with the parish accounts and annual financial returns.

Marion, a parishioner of Sacred Heart & St Gerard's, was joined for the Mass by family, friends and fellow parishioners as well as parish priest, Fr Stuart Parkes, Fr Thomas Doyle and Deacon Jim Aitken.

Bellshill Parish looks to the future



At the beginning of 2022 it became clear that the parish of Sacred Heart and St Gerard's in Bellshill could not afford the necessary repairs to both Sacred Heart Church and St Gerard's Church and the continued maintenance of the 6 buildings. The parish Finance Council began an examination of the work required to both churches and presented the findings to the parish.

Following a period of consultation and reflection, the parish held a meeting on 31st August 2022 with the Bishop invited to hear the response of parishioners and the arguments

in favour of keeping either Church. The Bishop took some time in prayer and discernment and announced to the parish on 17th October that the parish should plan the necessary work to Sacred Heart Church (above left) and that St Gerard's (above right) would close following the completion of the work.

After a tender process the parish appointed ZM Architecture in January this year to plan and manage the work to Sacred Heart Church. We are now awaiting the return of the tender costs, which will see some work on the roof of the church to stop water ingress, as

well as new gutters and metal detailing. On the inside, the church will get a new oak and plasterboard ceiling, new wiring and lighting and new heating and redecoration. The sacristies will be relocated to allow a new meeting space to be created for parish groups.

Sacred Heart Church will close after Mass on Sunday 29th October to allow preparations for the work beginning in the new year and all services will be celebrated in St Gerard's Church until the completion of the work next summer.



Stephen Instituted as Lector

Stephen Nevans, who wrote for the October edition of *Fontes*, recently marked another milestone in his journey to the Permanent Diaconate when he was instituted as a Lector by Bishop Toal.

Stephen, who is on placement in St John Bosco's Parish Easterhouse, is pictured (centre) with Bishop Toal, Fr Jim Thomson and Deacon Jim Aitken after the Mass in St Benedict's Church.

Hamilton Parish celebrates Eco-Congregation Award

BY EILEEN MCQUADE

On the 24th September, St Ninian's and St Cuthbert's Parish, Hamilton welcomed Bishop Toal to celebrate Sunday Mass with them. At the end of mass, the Bishop accepted a Silver Eco-Congregation Award on behalf of the parish from John Seenan. The parish is the first in Motherwell Diocese to receive an eco-award and the second Catholic parish in Scotland to meet the criteria for the award.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an inter-denominational registered charity, established in 2001 with the aim of encouraging and supporting churches to weave environmental issues into their lives, through worship and mission in a way that promotes



our stewardship of God's precious creation.

The Care of Creation Group in the parish has been inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si* which sees our global problems as symptoms of our broken relationships with one another, with creation and with God Himself. The aim of the group was to begin to renew relationships with the youth, other denominations and the wider community.



Pic: Frank Nuttall

Legion of Mary lead public Rosary in Coatbridge

BY FRANK NUTTALL

A public Rosary took place on Coatbridge Main Street, outside of St Patrick's Church, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The Rosary was organised by the Mother of the Word Incarnate Praesidium of the Legion of Mary from St Bernard's Church in Coatbridge.

Despite the very wet weather, the first event proved to be a success with visitors from various praesidia attending and many members of the passing public joining in.

At the end of the Rosary Service a blessing was given to all who were gathered by Father Thomas Toal.



Bishop's visit to Oscott

Bishop Toal recently made a visit to Oscott College, Birmingham, where he joined students and staff for the Feast of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom.

Pictured above is Bishop Toal with Fr Charles O'Farrell, Diocesan Vocations Director, and seminarian, Christopher Igwe.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK 2023

Pilgrims of Faith

Catholic Education Week takes place between 16-30 November. **Claire O'Neill**, Primary RE Adviser for the Diocese of Motherwell

Every year, between the feasts of St Margaret and St Andrew, the Scottish Catholic Education community celebrate Catholic Education week. The theme for 2023 is Pilgrims of Faith which is in preparation for the 2025 jubilee year. The week begins with the Annual Education Mass on Thursday 16th November in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, where staff and pupils from across the diocese gather together to celebrate Mass together as one community of faith.

Over the course of Catholic Education Week, the 74 primary schools and 12 secondary schools of Motherwell diocese choose how they will mark this important time. Many have their own school or parish Masses, prayer services and

assemblies, whilst class RE lessons focus on the theme for the week, using resources produced by the Scottish Catholic Education Service and diocesan RE advisers.

If you have recently visited a Catholic school, you may have noticed a large copy of the icon Jesus Our Teacher proudly displayed in a very prominent place. This icon was commissioned by the Scottish Catholic Education Service in 2018 to celebrate the Education (Scotland) Act, 1918. This important act brought Catholic schools under public control and allowed them to enjoy the benefit of rate aid, whilst ensuring the Church continued to have suitable safeguards both in the matter of the choice of teachers and the RE curriculum. It is very fitting that



this icon is often the very first thing you see when entering a school as it proclaims the fact that Christ is at the centre of all Catholic Schools; in their aim and values, in their pedagogy and in their role as a vital part of the mission of the Church. Every day, but none more so than during Catholic Education Week, our Catholic schools are places where our young people encounter Christ in their learning and are encouraged to use their God-given talents to assimilate what they have learned and experienced in their Catholic schools, homes and parishes as they seek to demonstrate their faith in the wider community.

Catholic Education B

Caritas Commissioning Service



Bishop Toal with pupils of Holy Cross HS Hamilton, just some of the 500 pupils from the Diocese commissioned for the Caritas Award

On 5th October, over 500 sixth Year students from schools across Motherwell Diocese were commissioned by Bishop Toal as they as they began their Caritas Award, a year of loving service in the form of charity work and prayer for their schools, parishes and communities.



Missio Champions Commissioning Service



Bishop Toal leading the Commissioning Service in Carfin Grotto in early October

As October is the Month of Mission, each year, primary 6 pupils from schools across the diocese are commissioned by Bishop Toal in St Francis Xavier Parish, as MISSIO Champions for their school.

These young people then spearhead the promotion of the Pontifical charity for primary schools in Scotland, MISSIO Scotland, often embarking on charity fund raising and in organising prayer events in their own school.



The pupils from St Patrick's Primary New Stevenston who recently enrolled in the Pope Francis Faith Award, with Fr Gerry Haddock

Pope Francis Faith Award



Primary 6 & 7 children in primary schools across the Diocese enrol in the Pope Francis Faith Award. During these two years, the pupils find out about the Gifts of the Holy spirit and then seek to use these gifts in service to their own schools, homes and parishes.

beyond the classroom



Pupils from St Ambrose' HS Coatbridge recently led the nightly October Rosary at Carfin Grotto with Fr Jim Grant.

Rosary at Carfin Grotto

Each year, schools from Motherwell Diocese volunteer to lead the 8pm Rosary at Carfin Grotto. Primary schools participate during the month of May and Secondary schools take the lead during October.



Mini-Vinnies

Across the diocese, many primary schools have their own branch of the SVDP society-the Mini-Vinnies. These groups of pupils give up their own free time to volunteer together to raise funds for people in need and to pray for others.



Some of the Mini-Vinnies from the very active group at All Saints' Primary in Airdrie

Motherwell Schools Singing Project



Some of the schools involved in the National Singing Programme at a Mass in Motherwell Cathedral in June

Last year, Motherwell Diocese launched the Motherwell Schools Singing Project under the direction of Diocesan Choral Director, Mr James Greechan. This project seeks to strengthen the links the young people of the diocese have with their own parish through weekly class singing lessons and choirs. Currently, Mr Greechan works with 7 schools and parishes and the choirs have enhanced many Masses and events at their own parishes and also at events on both a diocesan and national level.



Pupils commissioned at home and away

BY JACQUELINE NELSON

During their recent pilgrimage to Rome, S6 Caritas candidates from St Andrew's and St Bride's High in East Kilbride, who couldn't be in Motherwell with the rest of their year group to be commissioned by Bishop Toal, were instead commissioned in the chapel of the Angelicum, the Dominican University, by school chaplain, Fr Frank Dougan.

Their commissioning took place the day after being in St Peter's for Mass with the Holy Father.

Joint School captain and Caritas Candidate, Rachael Henderson, said that being in Rome, especially at the beginning of the Synod, has inspired her "to do her best to spread God's love in her school and parish community."

The young people also met Chris Furmage, a seminarian from the Diocese who is in Rome studying at the Scots College. Pilgrimage leader and Depute Head Teacher, Brian Nelson, said, "I am so grateful for Fr Frank's spiritual input and guidance and felt truly blessed to witness so many of our young people being true witnesses to their faith."

Kind-hearted Airdrie pupils head for Lourdes

BY LOUISE WHOMES

Ceri Whomes and Eve Devine, two S6 students at St Margaret's High in Airdrie will be travelling to Lourdes as volunteers with the Across charity during the October week. The girls are involved in the school's Senior Vinnies group and have been working alongside the SSVP to raise funds for various charities.

On 2nd September, Ceri and Eve hosted a family race night in St

Aloysius' church hall, Chapelhall, raising £3550 for the Across charity. This will help to fund three pilgrims make the trip to Lourdes. They also invited along other members of the Senior Vinnies and the Caritas class, who all helped to sell raffles and races at the event.

Everyone had a wonderful night and both girls were delighted to receive the Faith award at their recent senior awards ceremony in school.



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Pics: Maureen Burns

St Bernard's fly the flag for environment

Pupils from St Bernard's Primary School in Coatbridge have been celebrating their latest eco achievement as they were awarded their ninth successive eco flag.

The flag celebrates two years of hard work at the school as they try to care for the environment and protect our common home.

A special ceremony was held at the Coatbridge school where pupils raised their latest flag and celebrated their achievements as well as the opening of a hugely popular new sensory garden.

As they worked for their special award, St Bernard's have been focusing on three topics: litter, climate action and global citizenship.

During this time pupils have taken part in many initiatives including litter picking, recycling school uniforms, collecting used batteries, and



reduced their carbon footprints by turning off unused devices and taking shorter showers.

Kind-hearted pupils have also filled backpacks with essential items for Ukrainian refugees, helped establish a classroom for deaf children at a school in Gambia, set up a recycling project for school uniforms, Christmas jumpers and First Communion dresses and raised more than £1500 for their chosen Lenten Charities.

The pupils have been supported in their endeavours by head teacher, Mrs Kelly-Anne Dunn and class teacher, Mrs Maureen Burns, who is the Eco Schools Co-ordinator.

Above: pupils unveil the new sensory garden; Below: pupils celebrate their eco flag honour with head teacher, Kelly-Anne Dunn and Councillor Angela Campbell, NLC Education Convenor.



St Bartholomew's Primary, Coatbridge @bartholomew_st - Thank you to Father O'Kane for joining us today to celebrate a wonderful joint mass for our Primary 7 Mini Vinnies and our Primary 6 Pope Francis Faith Award candidates



Rutherglen High, Rutherglen @RutherglenHigh - Donna and Patrick were joined by their mums, Deacon Michael and Father Bernard for this year's Caritas launch



St Ignatius' Primary, Wishaw @StIgnatiusPS1 - Our first whole school rosary for the month of October



Fernhill, Rutherglen @HTfernhill1953 - Thank you to Fernhill pupils who represented the school at First Friday Mass at St Columbkille's this morning.



Pics: Daniel Horisk

ST GERARD'S CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Pupils and staff, past and present, of a Bellshill primary school gathered together recently to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of their school.

The Mass was celebrated in St Gerard's Church by parish priest, Father Stuart Parkes, on the last

day of term before the October holiday. The full school community gathered for the Mass along with parents, families and parishioners as well as former members of staff who were there at the very beginning.

St Gerard's Primary opened its doors in August 1973 and to celebrate the special jubilee, an

icon was commissioned by the parish as a gift to the school.

The icon was written by Sister Angela of the Redemptoristine Nuns in Dublin, better known as Sister Stacey Cameron from her time in Bellshill. As well as the Redemptorist Saint Gerard, the icon also shows two pupils in the school uniform of St Gerard's.

At the end of the Thanksgiving Mass, Father Parkes presented the icon to two primary seven pupils who received the gift on behalf of the school.

The icon will be displayed in a prominent place within the school and copies have also been made which will be hung up in each classroom.

Young people welcomed into the Church in Craigend

Parishioners of St Dominic's in Craigend recently extended a warm welcome to five young people who celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation.

Bishop Toal joined parish priest, Father Jim Thomson, former parish priest, Father Kenny O'Brien, and the community of St Dominic's for the celebration which saw Geancarlos, Adriana, Marisol, Ethan Johnathan and Ivana each celebrate the Sacraments after 12 weeks of catechesis.



Pics: Catherine Boyle

ALL SAINTS DAY WORD SEARCH

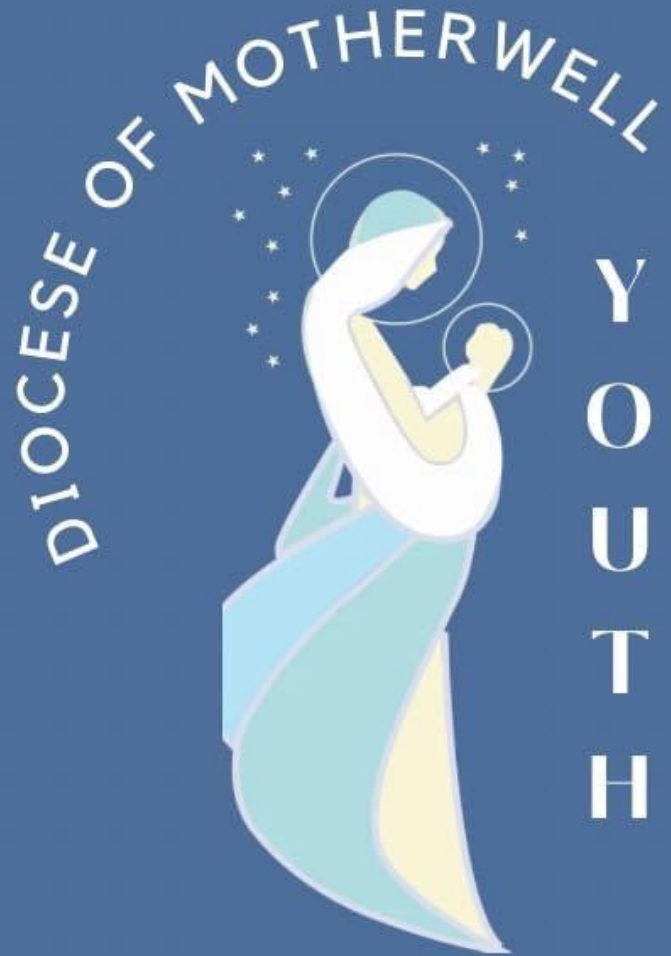
J O H N T H E B A P T I S T
 P G E R Y W W C D A N H U T
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 E Q M U T E R A G R A M R T

- MARY
- JOSEPH
- THERESE
- KATERI
- PATRICK
- ANTHONY
- BERNADETTE
- LUKE
- PAUL
- MARGARET
- JOHN THE BAPTIST



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 22/10 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 19/11 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 17/12 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 14/01 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 11/02 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 17/03 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 14/04 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP
- 12/05 Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral
7:30 PM Motherwell, ML1 1PP



Gather together with other young adults from across the diocese for our monthly youth events

Eucharistic Adoration | Reflection | Discussion | Social Time

17 - 35 | Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell

For more information please contact:
frodonnell@rcdom.org.uk



SCHOOL



RETREATS

Stephanie McCrossan from the Diocesan School Retreats team sheds a light on the great work the team do in helping young people across the Diocese grow closer to God in a fun and faith-filled environment



Through games, arts and crafts, songs and different types of prayer, we aim to provide a fun, faith-filled experience and endeavour to draw the children of our Diocese closer to God.

A retreat day is such a special opportunity for us to show our young people how important it is to set aside time in our lives for prayer and to focus on our personal relationship with God. We want the children to know and feel the love that God has for each one of them and in return how they can show their love and respect to Him, who has given them so much.

My name is Stephanie McCrossan and I have been leading our retreat programme for around 6 years now. I am part of a small team, overseen by Claire O'Neill our RE co-ordinator and joined by Barbara Ramage who helps to deliver our retreat days.

As a team we have had the pleasure of working with so many of our parishes and schools in Motherwell Diocese and of course the absolute joy of meeting and praying with thousands of boys and girls over the years. We feel incredibly blessed to be even a small part of the children's faith journey.

A typical retreat day starts with a walk from school to the local parish, getting a little chat as we go and enjoying the short journey together. We begin with a prayer or celebrate morning Mass with the parish community. Back in the hall, we introduce our theme and play a fun game to get the children moving and at ease for the day.

The class is then split into smaller groups and led in different activities which include: guided meditation in the church, where they can have a time of quiet prayer, reflecting on scripture. It's usually here when we're blown away by how much the children give of themselves during prayer; even the chattiest of classes settle down and are so respectful and engaged. Arts and crafts are another firm favourite on our retreat days. This allows the children to show what they have learned in a creative and fun way.

Gillian Lynch, a teacher from St Aidan's primary school, said: "The pupils and staff at St Aidan's Primary have thoroughly enjoyed the benefits of participating in the Diocesan retreat over the past few years. The retreat team provide a range of support including classroom materials to help prepare the children beforehand and activities to complete after. Our primary 5 children recently attended the Healing: Jesus and the Sacraments retreat. Their feedback included, 'I loved the fun activities in the retreat, especially the quiet meditation at the end. It made me feel really calm.' Noah, primary 5."

Our current focus is on delivering retreats to primary 5 classes, with a different theme in each of the school terms. Primary 7 school leavers retreats are offered in the last term of the school year.



FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about retreats contact **Stephanie** on retreats@rcdom.org.uk. You can also follow what we're doing on twitter [@rcdomretreats](https://twitter.com/rcdomretreats)



Our Synodal Journey: The next steps

The Synod meeting in Rome concluded on October 29th. In the next edition of Fontes we will hopefully be able to report on some of the outcomes. This, of course, is not the end of synodality but only the very first steps. The Holy See asks every diocese to reflect on the outcomes of the Rome Synod during the months to come. In October next year, 2024, the same delegates who met last month will gather again to discern how the Church worldwide responds to their discussion.

Here in Motherwell Diocese we set up the process for that response when parishioners and priests from all over the diocese met in Carfin with the bishop on October 19th. Most importantly, we gathered in prayer. We spent time celebrating the Prayer of the Church, a simplified version of which has been distributed to all parishes. In doing so, we united ourselves with the Synod delegates and with our fellow Catholics all over the world, asking God to send his Holy

Spirit to guide those delegates in discerning his will for the Church.

In that spirit of prayer, we looked at the three questions posed to those gathered in Rome:

- *How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of union with God and of the unity of all humanity?*
- *How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?*
- *What processes, structures and institutions are needed in a missionary synodal Church?*

These three questions aim to get to the heart of the three themes of Synodality – Communion, Participation and Mission. How do we build up a sense of communion, that deep experience of unity and belonging which radiates out to the world? How do we participate fully in the life of the Church, from the day-to-day

issues at parish level right through to the way in which the Church is governed and structured? How do we experience co-responsibility in the Mission of the Church, better sharing gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel.

In a certain sense, the answers to these questions are secondary. What is most important is that room is given for the voices of all the baptised to be heard. Together, we are in the process of creating a listening Church in which everyone from the Pope to the ordinary parishioner takes time to hear what is being said in our Church and to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in that process. In this new way of being Church we remember that this synodal approach is not an end in itself but is there to serve the core mission of the Church which is to bring the Gospel of Christ to our world.

The Diocesan Synod Team: Anne Moore, Will Ross, Fr Tom Magill, Frances Spence, Gilleán McCluskey, Fr Bobby Kane



The Pope's Prayer Intentions

NOVEMBER - FOR THE POPE

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



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Cemetery Services

ST PATRICK'S CEMETERY NEW STEVENSON
Sunday 5th November at 2.00pm

AIRBLES CEMETERY, MOTHERWELL
Sunday 12th November at 2.00pm

BOTHWELLHAUGH CEMETERY, BELLSHILL
Sunday 19th November at 2.00pm

BOTHWELLPARK CEMETERY, BELLSHILL
Sunday 26th November at 2.00pm

Details of Services in other cemeteries in the Diocese will be announced locally.

November Clergy Anniversaries

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

02.11.1990	Rev. John Cosgrove	19.11.1995	Very Rev. Patrick Canon O'Donoghue
03.11.1988	Very Rev. Robert Canon Douglas	20.11.2013	Rev. James O'Hara
04.11.2022	Very Rev. William Canon O'Sullivan	23.11.1983	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Philip Flanagan
06.11.1971	Rev. Gerald O'Callaghan	24.11.1982	Rev. Patrick Brennan
07.11.1971	Rev. Denis Lucey	25.11.1978	Rt. Rev. Monsignor David McRoberts
09.11.1977	Very Rev. John Canon Bredin	25.11.2001	Rev. John Ward
09.11.2009	Very Rev. Gerald Canon Maher	26.11.1956	Rev. Michael Ahearne
13.11.1977	Rev. James Monaghan	28.11.1955	Rev. Michael O'Connor
14.11.2021	Very Rev. Herbert Canon Flack	28.11.1977	Rev. Daniel Harty
15.11.1966	Very Rev. Thomas Canon Kearney	29.11.1959	Very Rev. Denis Canon Flynn

Saints & Feasts

by FR FRANCIS MCGACHEY



Most Catholics think that Saint Peter's Basilica is the Pope's Cathedral in Rome, but this is not so. The Basilica of Saint John Lateran is Rome's Cathedral, and therefore the ecclesiastical seat of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. We keep the Feast of its dedication on November 9th.

Of the four major Basilicas in Rome: Saint Mary Major, Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls, Saint Peter's at the Vatican and Saint John Lateran, the Lateran Basilica is the oldest and highest ranking; for this reason it is more correctly called an 'Archbasilica'. Above the main door are written the words: "omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum Mater et Caput", that is, "the Mother and Head of all churches of Rome and the world".

The word 'basilica' is Greek in origin and means 'a public building for meetings'. In 313AD the emperor Constantine gifted this building to the Pope of the day, and granted Christians freedom to practise their religion. The Pope's residence, along with the famous Lateran Baptistery, were built alongside - in the early centuries this was the church where everyone was baptised in Rome.

The Basilica's dedication was celebrated by Pope Sylvester in 324AD, and it was named in

honour of the Most Holy Saviour. Only after the sixth century were the names of John the Baptist and John the Evangelist added, and now it is typically known by these names.

The original structure suffered the ravages of fire, earthquake and war, but the Lateran Basilica remained the church where popes were consecrated until Gregory XI returned from Avignon, France, in the fourteenth century, only to find the Basilica in ruins.

The present structure dates from the seventeenth century. One of Rome's most imposing churches, the Lateran has a towering façade crowned with fifteen statues of Christ, John the Baptist, John the Evangelist and twelve Doctors of the Church.

Initially the observance of this feast was confined to the city of Rome; then, beginning in 1565, it was extended throughout the world. The honouring of this building was a way of expressing esteem for the Roman Church, which, as Saint Ignatius of Antioch says, "presides in charity" as "primus inter pares" (first among equals) over the whole Church. In a sense, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran is the parish church of all Catholics because it is the Pope's Cathedral.

Feasts in November

NOVEMBER 1

• All Saints

NOVEMBER 2

• All Souls

NOVEMBER 3

• St Martin de Porres

NOVEMBER 4

• St Charles Borromeo

NOVEMBER 8

• Blessed John Duns Scotus

NOVEMBER 9

• Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

NOVEMBER 10

• St Leo the Great

NOVEMBER 11

• St Martin of Tours

NOVEMBER 15

• St Albert the Great

NOVEMBER 16

• St Margaret of Scotland

NOVEMBER 17

• St Elizabeth of Hungary

NOVEMBER 21

• Presentation of the B. Virgin Mary

NOVEMBER 22

• St Cecilia

NOVEMBER 24

• St Andrew Dung-Lac & companions

NOVEMBER 26

• Christ the King

NOVEMBER 30

• St Andrew

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



Fatima at the heart of the Church: God's vision of history and oblation spirituality.

2018 by Fr Serafino M. Lanzetta

by FATHER LIAM O'CONNOR

Father Serafino has written a compelling account of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima to the three shepherd children.

He is keen to point out that the events of 1917 are not merely historical, but continue to have an important place in the life of the Church of the present and future too.

From our baptismal vocation in Christ and call to live it in its fullness is the realisation that the Immaculate Heart of Mary and devotion to her is an inestimable gift from Jesus to the Church.

To deepen our knowledge and love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the purpose of this book.

Father Serafino begins by describing the events in Fatima between May and October, and proceeds to illustrate the lives of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco; the two children who along with their cousin Lucia received the apparitions from our Blessed Mother.

Saint Matthew's Gospel contains the words of Jesus: *"I praise you,*

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

These words aptly concord with the reason why our Blessed Mother chose the three shepherd children to receive her heavenly message.

Father Serafino paints a tender picture of young souls who had such great wisdom and love of God in their hearts, showing how they were transformed in the Christian life by the experience of the messages received from Our Lady.

"Now the little shepherd children lead us gently to the centre of the heavenly Message. We believe that the whole of the Message of Fatima can be well summarised in the gift of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The heart is the centre of the person, the Immaculate Heart is the centre of the Message of Fatima: this great gift which God gives us is a gift of salvation." (pp.142-143)

No doubt there is a warning for humanity and for the Church that is at the heart of the

message of Fatima; yet within this warning is the remedy.

"So, there is a need to enter this Ark of salvation. It was in the ark that Noah found salvation from the flood, so the children of Mary, who consecrate themselves and welcome Her Immaculate Heart, enter into this fortress, into the Ark of the new Covenant, which contains within itself the things most holy, the mysteries of Faith, the things and mysteries of God, contains the true Jesus – not the one "made" by men and women, nothing but a special man – the God who made Himself man.

This Ark is the womb which contains Jesus and, therefore, contains all the mysteries of the true Faith which He taught us and the Church jealously guards." (p155.)

Father Serafino concludes the book with a chapter: 'Preparing the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary', underlining the meaning of the message for the future of the world and the need for each one of us to reject sin and co-operate with God's grace.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE POOR 2023

“It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian is to become personally involved.”



With the seventh annual World Day of the Poor approaching, Pope Francis has reminded Catholics in his letter for the day that it is a fruitful sign of the Father’s mercy and a support for the lives of our communities.

Opening his letter, the Holy Father says “As its celebration becomes more and more rooted in the pastoral life of the Church, it enables us to discover ever anew the heart of the Gospel. Our daily efforts to welcome the poor are still not enough. A great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support and solidarity. For this reason, on the Sunday before the Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, we gather around his Table to receive from him once more the gift and strength to live lives of poverty and to serve the poor.”

The Pope goes on to reflect on the Book of Tobit, the story of the elderly Tobit who as a God-fearing man and a good father,

wants to leave his son, Tobias, not simply material riches, but the witness of the right path to follow in life.

“What Tobit asks of his son is not simply to think of God and to call upon him in prayer. He speaks of making concrete gestures, carrying out good works and practising justice. “To all those who practise righteousness give alms from your possessions, and do not let your eye begrudge the gift when you make it” (4:7).”

“How meaningful it would be if, on the Day of the Poor, this concern of Tobit were also our own! If we were to invite someone to share our Sunday dinner, after sharing in the Eucharistic table.”

“Tobit, in his time of trial, discovers his own poverty, which enables him to recognize others who are poor. He can show practical concern for the poor because he has personally known what it is to be poor. His advice to Tobias thus becomes his true testament: “Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (4:7). In a word, whenever we encounter a poor

person, we cannot look away, for that would prevent us from encountering the face of the Lord Jesus. Everyone is our neighbour. Regardless of the colour of their skin, their social standing, the place from which they came, if I myself am poor, I can recognize my brothers or sisters in need of my help. We are called to acknowledge every poor person and every form of poverty, abandoning the indifference and the banal excuses we make to protect our illusory well-being.”

The Holy Father goes on to reflect on our current society, which he states is not particularly sensitive to the needs of the poor with “the pressure to adopt an affluent lifestyle while the voices of those dwelling in poverty tend to go unheard.” Francis says, “The poor become a film clip that can affect us for a moment, yet when we encounter them in flesh and blood on our streets, we are annoyed and look the other way. The parable of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37) is not simply a story from the past; it continues to challenge each of us in the here and now of our daily lives.”

Pope Francis continues, “Let us thank the Lord that so many men and women are devoted to caring for the poor and the excluded; they are persons of every age and social status who show understanding and readiness to assist the marginalized and those who suffer. They are not superheroes but “next door neighbours”, ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. The Kingdom of God becomes present and visible in their generous and selfless service.”

“With the sixtieth anniversary of the encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, the Holy Father points to the words of Pope Saint John XXIII: “Every human being enjoys the right to life, to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and, finally, the necessary social services. In consequence, every individual has the right to be looked after in the event of ill health; disability stemming from work; widowhood and forced unemployment; as well as in other cases when, through no fault of his own, he or she is deprived of the means of livelihood” (ed. Carlen, No. 11).”

“How much still needs to be done for this to become a reality, not least through a serious and effective commitment on the part of political leaders and legislators! For all the limitations and at times the failures of politics in discerning and serving the common good, may the spirit of solidarity and subsidiarity continue to grow among

citizens who believe in the value of voluntary commitment to serving the poor. “

“In addition, we must once more acknowledge new forms of poverty. I think in particular of peoples caught up in situations of war, and especially children deprived of the serene present and a dignified future. We should never grow accustomed to such situations. “

“Nor can we ignore those forms of speculation in various sectors, which have led to dramatic price increases that further impoverish many families. Earnings are quickly spent, forcing sacrifices that compromise the dignity of every person. If a family has to choose between food for nourishment and medical care, then we need to pay attention to the voices of those who uphold the right to both goods in the name of the dignity of the human person. Then too how can we fail to note the ethical confusion present in the world of labour? The inhumane treatment meted out to many male and female labourers; inadequate pay for work done; the scourge of job insecurity; the excessive number of accident-related deaths, often the result of a mentality that chooses quick profit over a secure workplace.”

“This list, deeply troubling in itself, only partially accounts for the situations of poverty that are now part of our daily lives. I cannot fail to mention in particular an increasingly evident form of poverty that affects young people. How much frustration and how many suicides are being caused by

the illusions created by a culture that leads young people to think that they are “losers”, “good for nothing”. Let us help them react to these malign influences and find ways to help them grow into self-assured and generous men and women.”

The Holy Father concluded his letter by saying, “May our concern for the poor always be marked by Gospel realism. Our sharing should meet the concrete needs of the other, rather than being just a means of ridding ourselves of superfluous goods. Here too, Spirit-led discernment is demanded, in order to recognize the genuine needs of our brothers and sisters and not our own personal hopes and aspirations. Faith teaches us that every poor person is a son or daughter of God and that Christ is present in them. “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40).”



Fr Jim Thomson, Parish Priest of St John Bosco in Easterhouse, presents a cheque to the Wayside Club in Glasgow for £1000 raised by parishioners who have also been donating winter jackets. The Wayside Club is run by the Legion of Mary to support the homeless and those in need .

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24TH - 26TH NOVEMBER 2023

SCHEDULE

Friday, 24th November

7.30pm: Holy Rosary (Church)
8.00pm: Talk (Church)
9.00pm: Night Prayer (Church)

Saturday, 25th November

10.00am: Holy Mass
11.00am: Talk (Church)
12 noon: Lunch (Packed Lunch)
12.45pm: Divine Will Chaplet (Church)
1.00pm: Talk (Church)
2.00pm: Break (Tea/Coffee in Hall)
2.30pm: Talk (Church)
3.30pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)

Sunday, 26th November

12 noon: Holy Mass
1.00pm: Break (Breakfast Rolls in Hall)
1.45pm: Talk (Church)
3.00pm: Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
3.15pm: Talk (Church)
4.15pm: Question & Answer (Church)
4.30pm: Closing Prayer (Church)

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Led by Tony Hickey



Tony Hickey has been directing retreats in full time ministry since 1992. Tony is a Roman Catholic lay person from Manchester in the U.K.

In 1992, he began giving retreats Scripture/Spirituality Retreats. Today, in full-time ministry, he continues this work in Europe, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

He first became acquainted with the life and writing of Luisa Piccarreta in 1994. He has spoken at International Divine Will Conferences and has been giving retreats worldwide on the Divine Will since 1997.

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