

DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

FONTES

FREE

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MAGAZINE

Getting ready to welcome new Catholics

Elect gather at Cathedral as they prepare to join the Church at Easter p6-7

- + Pupils gather at the Cathedral for annual Education Mass
- + Valerie Fleming on her Canon Law doctorate
- + ACN's support for persecuted christians + Get ready for Holy Week & Easter

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The next edition of
FONTES
will be available from
29/30 April

If you have any news
or photos to contribute
email media@rcdom.org.uk



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the Diocese



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Bishop's Diary

25th March - 11.00am - Legion of Mary Acies Mass St Ninian's Church, Hamilton

27th March - 7.00pm - Confirmations St Leonard's, East Kilbride

28th March - 7.00pm - Confirmations St Ignatius', Wishaw

30th March - 10.00am - SCIAF Board Meeting in Glasgow

6th April - 11.00am - Mass of Chrism, Cathedral 7.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper, Cathedral

7th April - 3.00pm - Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord, Cathedral

8th April - 9.00pm - Easter Vigil, Cathedral

9th/16th April - Pilgrimage to Lourdes with HCPT Group 121

17th April - 7.00pm - Meeting of recently-ordained priests and deacons, St Columba's, Viewpark

19th April - 7.00pm - Confirmations, St Augustine's, Coatbridge

20th April - 7.00pm - Confirmations, St Vincent de Paul's, East Kilbride

21st April - 7.00pm - Mass to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese, Cathedral

25th April - 7.00pm - Confirmations, St Athanasius' Carluke

26th April - 7.00pm - Confirmations, St Mary's, Lanark

27th April - 7.00pm - Confirmations, Holy Family, Mossend

30th April - 3.00pm - Union Catholic Mothers Triennial Rally, Cathedral



A word from Bishop Toal

It was not long after Pope Francis was elected Pope on 13th March 2013 that I was asked to become Apostolic Administrator of Motherwell Diocese, and a year later I was installed as Bishop of Motherwell. My time in Motherwell therefore coincides with the Pontificate of Pope Francis and I think it worthwhile to reflect on these ten years and ponder over his influence on myself, the Diocese, and the Church worldwide.

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, on being elected Pope by his fellow cardinals, chose the name Francis, the first Pope to do so, and in so doing indicated his desire that he and the Church be inspired by St Francis of Assisi, The Poor Man of God. His strong desire is that we all grow in our awareness of the poor and their needs and reach out to them wherever and whenever possible. Pope Francis has given a constant testimony of preferential love for the poor and the disadvantaged, at home in Rome and on his trips to other countries, which are often themselves among the poorest and most troubled areas of the world, most recently to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. There are many fine examples of our care for the poor at home and abroad in Motherwell Diocese and we will continue to be inspired by the choices made and the example offered by

Pope Francis. Let us listen also to his strong words for a more just and balanced world, notably in his Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, in whose first words we note the presence of St Francis.

This Franciscan inspiration we see also in the Encyclical *Laudato Si*, through which Pope Francis calls us to hear the *Cry of the Earth* along with the *Cry of the Poor*. We are urged to recognise the damage caused to the earth by recent human development and the resulting climate change, and to work with all people in changing our life-style and seeking better ways of respecting the whole of God's creation, so protecting the earth for future generations. Here again in Motherwell many parishes, and schools in particular, have responded to Pope Francis' words and are working for change and ways of acting which respect the wonder and beauty of God's creation and our responsibility to care for it.

Pope Francis is a great enthusiast for calling all members of the Church to be living and joyful witnesses to the Lord. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, his early Apostolic Exhortation on the Joy of the Gospel, he called us to be Missionary Disciples, desiring that we all play our part in the Church's Mission to spread the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This call that we all be active in the life and mission of the Church is at the heart of the

initiative taken over the last year inviting the People of God to participate in the Synodal Process, with sessions of sharing, reflecting, and listening on the theme of A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission. The gatherings held in our parishes, schools and communities have fed into our Diocesan and National Response, and most recently to the European Continental Response. We look forward now to receiving the final working document in preparation for the Synodal sessions in Rome in October this year and next. It has been an ambitious enterprise but it has been much welcomed and has set a way of broadening participation in the Church in continuity with the Church from Apostolic times.

One memorable event of Pope Francis' Pontificate was the The Year of Mercy in 2016. During that year the Holy Father put the Mercy of God at the centre of the Church's preaching and teaching, encouraging us to reach out anew to God as our merciful and loving Father, revealed by his Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has saved us by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.



“Pope Francis is a great enthusiast for calling all members of the Church to be living and joyful witnesses to the Lord.”

The proclamation of the Mercy of God has been central to Pope Francis' Pontificate and he has asked us to put it at the centre of our preaching and pastoral service in the Church. He likes to describe the Church as a Field Hospital, to which the wounded, the weak and distressed turn in their time of need. It can be a challenge to effect this outreach as we seek to minister to those who belong to the Church as well as those from outside. Pope Francis often calls us to stretch the boundaries of our pastoral concern as we strive to make known the Lord's compassion and love to all who seek Him. This can be difficult at times as we may wish to close in and

protect ourselves in our complex world. Pope Francis encourages us to listen attentively and be ready to meet people in the places and situations they live in.

I ask your continued prayers for our Holy Father, for his good health and robust spirit in the demanding ministry of leading the Church. May the work already undertaken and the seeds sown produce good fruit.

As Lent progresses we look forward to the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. May the Lord bless you and bestow on you the peace and joy of the Resurrection.

+ Joseph Toal

Archbishop to celebrate Mass for 75 years of Motherwell Diocese



Pic: Archdiocese of Glasgow

The Diocese of Motherwell will welcome His Grace Archbishop William Nolan to celebrate Holy Mass for the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Motherwell.

The Mass will take place in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral at 7.00pm on Friday 21st April, the date of the Consecration of

Bishop Edward Douglas, the first Bishop of Motherwell.

As well as celebrating the anniversary of the Diocese of Motherwell, it will be our official welcome to Archbishop Nolan, who was a priest of Motherwell Diocese, as Archbishop of Glasgow and our Metropolitan Archbishop. All welcome!



Pic: Kevin Campbell

Catenian Association Bursary Fund awarded to HCPT Scottish Youth Group

by KEVIN CAMPBELL

Every year the Catenian Association supports young Catholics who volunteer to help those less fortunate than themselves through its Bursary Fund, a UK-registered charity. Two types of award are available: for individual projects, often in a gap year, or for travel to Lourdes to act as a helper for assisted pilgrims. The fund is open to young people between the ages of 16 and 25. Applicants do not need to have any knowledge of, or acquaintance with, the Catenian Association.

On Sunday 19 February 2023, Brendan Berry, President of the Glasgow Catenian Circle, presented Bursary Fund cheques to members of the Scottish Youth Group of the Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) to support them in travelling with disabled and disadvantaged children and adults to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The presentation took place after a Mass to mark the end of a national training day for HCPT groups at St Columbkille's Church, Rutherglen, at which John Russell, Director of Province 22 (Scotland) also delivered a presentation about the Catenian Association, explaining its mission to promote friendship and strengthen faith and Catholic family life.

Mark Armstrong, Leader of the HCPT Scottish Youth Group, expressed his thanks for the generous support of the Catenian Association through the Bursary Fund, saying: "We are delighted to return to Lourdes this year after covid. The costs have gone up, but we are always determined not to allow this to stop young people having the chance to take part in the Pilgrimage. Many may not be able to travel without the generous support of the Catenians, so I would like to thank each and every member of the organisation".

Pictured with members of the Scottish Youth Group for HCPT, on the front row from left to right are: John Russell, Director of Province 22, Gerry Devine, Secretary of Glasgow Circle, Brendan Berry, Province 22 Treasurer and President of Glasgow Circle, and Past GB National President Edward O'Donnell of Stirling Circle. Mark Armstrong is in the top right of the picture.

- For full details, including how to apply for the bursary, visit catenianbursary.com
- More information, for those interesting in joining the Catenians, can be found at thecatenians.com/about-us

Kevin Campbell is President of Province 22 (Scotland) of The Catenian Association



Pic: Holy Family, Mossend

Matthew serves his way to the top

Congratulations to Matthew Waring, an Altar Server in Holy Family, Mossend, who is the Glasgow Open Badminton Champion 2023 making him officially Scotland's No.2 Badminton Player. Matthew is pictured above holding his trophy with parish priest, Fr Michael Brown.



Pic: Daniel Horisk

Diocese gets ready to welcome new members this Easter

by DANIEL HORISK

On the first Sunday of Lent, over 50 catechumens and candidates gathered in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral with their sponsors and families for the Rite of Election as they prepare to be received into the Church this Easter.

The members of the elect, from parishes across the Diocese, have been taking part in the RCIA programme in their parishes over the last few months as they prepare to be welcomed into the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Election gave the new members an opportunity to gather together with the wider diocesan community and formally meet Bishop Toal. Each member, accompanied by their sponsor, entered their name into the book of the elect, as they commit themselves to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil Mass in their home parishes, when they will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

1&2. From St Barbara's Parish, Muirhead, Shannon and Alex in the Cathedral after the Rite of Election.

3&4. Catechumens from St Anthony's & St Mark's Rutherglen sign the book of elect.

5. Adam, Ross and Andy from Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, with Bishop Toal and parish Deacon, Rev Bill McMillan

6. Bree and Frances of St Thomas' Parish with with parish priest, Fr Krzysztof Garwolinski

7. Catechumens Louise and Lynn, and Candidates Alistair and Duncan from St James' Parish Coatbridge with Bishop Toal and parish priest, Fr Paul Denney.



YOURstory

A trip to Lourdes and the support of family and parish helps Scott find his way to the Church

Among those preparing to be received into the Church this Easter is **Scott Kain** from **St Patrick's Parish in Coatbridge**.

We caught up with Scott after the Rite of Election to find out what brought him here and how he feels ahead of reception into the Church.

Scott said "I realised that faith was a big part of my life during my younger years, and having been attending Mass with my fiancée and her family for a number of years now, I realised that it was something I became

more interested in and intrigued by but also a key part that had been missing from my life. The Church has helped guide me as I prepare to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage later this

For Scott, it was a trip to Lourdes a number of years ago that inspired him to become a Catholic as well as the influence and support from both his family and the community of his parish of St Patrick's Coatbridge.

Speaking about the RCIA programme at the Rite of Election, Scott said "The RCIA

has been really enjoyable and informative. It has helped build a confidence and knowledge as I prepare for the Easter vigil.

I really enjoyed the service at Motherwell Cathedral and felt it was very welcoming and inclusive. It was great to see everyone on the RCIA journey together and encouraging to see such an age range."

Ahead of his reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil in St Patrick's, Scott admitted to feeling motivated but slightly nervous, "It's a big commitment and I hope everything goes well for everyone within RCIA"

Parishes get in the spirit of giving this Lent



Pic: Project Gambia

Kind hearted parishioners of St Bartholomew's, Coatbridge and St Kevin's, Bargeddie gave a very generous response to the recent appeal in their parishes from local charity Project Gambia. Members of the charity, pictured above left with



Pic: St John the Baptist, Uddingston

Fr James O'Kane, visited the parishes recently to raise awareness of the work the charity that was founded in Motherwell Diocese, carries out in supporting schools in Gambia. Meanwhile in Uddingston, a recent coffee

morning held after Sunday Mass in St John the Baptist Parish (above right), raised over £400, thanks to the generosity of parishioners who supported the monthly feature of the parish diary which was held in aid of Mary's Meals.

Second PhD for Valerie

Valerie Fleming, a parishioner of St Joseph's in Blantyre, recently defended her doctorate in Canon Law - her second doctorate in 30 years! Valerie writes for this edition of FONTES on her academic achievements.



Valerie with Bishop Toal.
Pic: Valerie Fleming

On 21 February, I successfully defended my doctorate in canon law. When I gained a PhD in 1993, I never imagined that almost 30 years later, I would be completing a second one. Indeed 30 years ago I had never heard of canon law.

I was received into the Catholic Church in St Joseph's Blantyre in 2009 but felt that I needed to know more than what I'd learned during my RCIA experience. Being of an academic nature, I decided to undertake a Bachelor's degree in theology on a part time basis, majoring in adult catechesis, while continuing to work full time as a professor of midwifery.

In the fourth year, I was introduced to canon law. It's fair to say, that I was hooked almost immediately and as soon as I had completed my BDiv, I registered for my licentiate

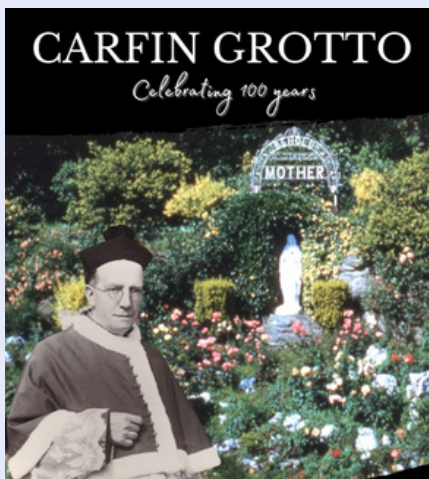
(Advanced Master's degree) in canon law at the Catholic University of Leuven.

As well as the hard slog and the terrifying experience of oral exams, there was lots of fun.

My classmates and I met up two-three times annually for our intensive lesson weeks and thoroughly enjoyed trying out many restaurants in Leuven. On one occasion, when I was late for a class, I slipped quietly in at the back. After 10 minutes, the lecturer, who had stared at me the whole time I was there eventually asked me if I was in the right room. I assured him I was but then he wanted to know why a woman was in there with a lot of priests. Following my explanation and to compound his misery, he asked if I was ordained! I occasionally see him now but he always crosses the road.

During and since completing my licentiate, I have been active in the Scottish Catholic Interdiocesan Tribunal, undertaking a number of different roles, each one posing its own challenges. Applying the law, rather than purely ethical reasoning, does not come readily, but during my doctorate, which focused on the highly relevant and controversial area of abortion (canon 1397§2), I was forced to confront this time and time again.

Canon law, in particular the issue of balancing conscience and the law, is not readily understood by most practising Catholics, so looking ahead to the future, I'd like to be able to apply my knowledge of the law and in adult catechesis in our diocese and beyond.



Grotto launches 100 year DVD

Carfin Grotto have launched a new DVD to mark 100 years of the National Shrine.

The 90 minute video, produced by Sancta Familia Media, documents the history of the Grotto from its earliest days with interviews from local parishioners and people who

have been involved in the Grotto over the years, sharing their stories and memories.

Copies of the DVD can be purchased from the shop in St Francis Xavier's Church for £10 or online at sancta.tv where it is also available to stream and download for £6.99.

An interview with...

Get to know Deacon Bill McMillan, Permanent Deacon at Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride

How long have you been a Deacon?

10 years. I was ordained on 14th September 2012, Feast of St John Chrysostom, in St Benedict's, Easterhouse, now the parish of St John Bosco.

What parishes and ministries do you currently serve?

Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride.

What parishes and ministries have you previously served?

St Columbkille's Rutherglen and chaplain to Rutherglen High School.

What or who inspired you to become a Deacon?

Fr Michael O'Meara SDB my parish priest. You heard him before you saw him. A holy man full of life, who guided me for many years.

Do you have a family?

My wife MaryAnn and I will be celebrating our Golden Wedding anniversary on 8th June 2023. We have 2 daughters, Audrey and Amanda and 3 granddaughters, Zoe, Faith and Nuala and 1 grandson, Rudy.

What is an average day like as a Deacon?

The day begins with Mass, then off to visit patients in Hairmyers Hospital and the housebound.

What is an interesting story or fact about you?

In my younger days I was in the

parachute regiment and have parachuted from all types of planes and helicopters. Wouldn't do it now I'm much wiser.

What did you do before being a Deacon?

I was a Health and Safety training officer.

Who is your favourite Saint?

St Francis of Assisi

What do you like to do on your day off from the parish/spare time?

I love spending time in my garden and greenhouse.

What is your favourite meal?

Fish & Chips

Where is your favourite holiday destination?

Visiting my daughter Audrey in Australia.

What is your favourite book?

To Kill a Mocking Bird

What is your favourite film or TV show?

12 Angry Men

What is your favourite place for pilgrimage/retreat?

Lourdes

What has been your best experience from your Diaconate?

Being Chaplain to HCPT Group 118 with the volunteers and wonderful children that we take to Lourdes each year.



What is the best part about being a Deacon?

I am constantly humbled at how people welcome me into their lives, at times of both sadness and joy. It is a privilege and a joy to serve the parish community and to assist my parish priest and the lay ministers, in visiting the sick and bereaved in hospital and in their own homes.

What message do you have for Catholics today?

In the words of John Paul II "Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure" Don't be afraid to live your life with Christ, you won't regret it.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about priesthood or Diaconate?

Pray and If you feel God is calling you, if you feel you have a calling to say "Here I am" perhaps these words from Pope Francis might help. "If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realise that every person is worthy of our giving [...] if I can help at least one person to have a better life, that already justifies the offering of my life."

St Anselm of Canterbury

by FATHER FRANCIS MCGACHEY

The Lenten Season begins in Rome each year on the Aventine Hill, with a penitential procession, presided over by the Pope, at the Benedictine Monastery of Sant'Anselmo (Saint Anselm) – a place where God is worshipped in prayer. Attached to the Monastery, is the Benedictine University where Church's Liturgy is explained – a place where God is discovered through study. Prayer and study were the hallmarks of Anselm's life: he was a contemplative monk and one of the greatest minds of the eleventh century. His feast falls on the 21st April.

Anselm was born in 1033 at Aosta in the Italian Alps. After receiving a solid education, his parents wanted him to pursue a career in politics. But having heard of the growing fame of his compatriot, Lanfranc, who was Prior of the Benedictine Abbey of Bec (near Lisieux) in Normandy, Anselm embraced the monastic life there aged twenty-seven.

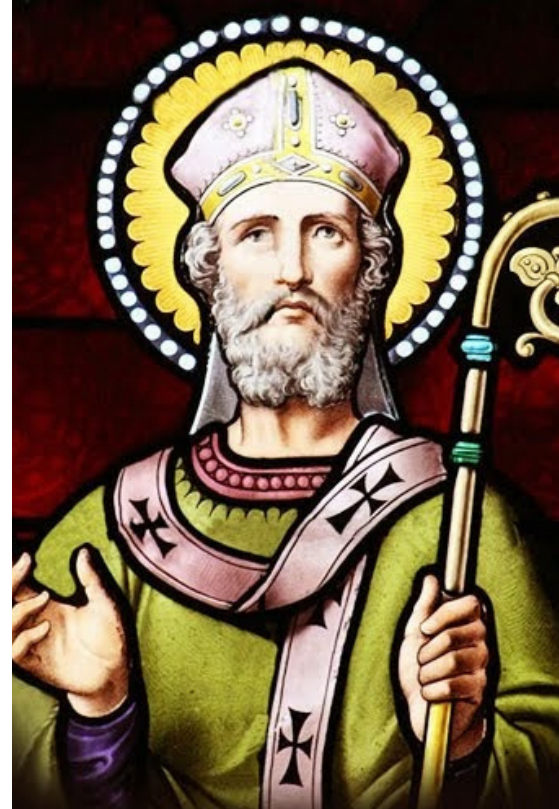
When Lanfranc was named Abbot of Caen, Anselm was elected Prior of Bec, not only because of his intellectual abilities but because of his deep prayerfulness. In 1070, his mentor was made Archbishop

of Canterbury, and when he died in 1090, the King seized the lands of Canterbury, and left the office of Archbishop vacant (at that time, kings appointed bishops).

In 1093, the faithful pressured the King to appoint Anselm as Archbishop. His tenure was not an easy one: he was forced into exile twice because of his position in the so-called *Investiture Controversy*, which tried to stop monarchs 'investing' bishops with their insignias - ring, mitre and crozier - on the day of their consecration.

Anselm is a doctor of the Church and is called the father of Scholasticism, a school of thought that dominated the Middle Ages. Describing theology as *fides quaerens intellectum* (faith seeking reason), he is remembered for two writings: his *Proslogion* (Discourse), an argument for the existence of God based on reason - God is a being than which none greater can be imagined. In his treatise *Cur Deus homo* (Why God became man) he underlines the reasoning behind the Incarnation – to make satisfaction for disobedience.

Anselm reminds us that not all



Feasts in April

APRIL 2

• Palm Sunday

APRIL 6

• Holy Thursday

APRIL 7

• Good Friday

APRIL 8

• Holy Saturday

APRIL 9

• EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 21

• St Anselm

APRIL 25

• St Mark

APRIL 29

• St Catherine of Sienna

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

saints are famed for their preaching or wonders; he was a scholar. The path to heaven is different for each one of us. May he inspire us to worship God through our prayer and to know him through our study.

Look to the scriptures during these holiest days

by FATHER THOMAS MAGILL



5th SUNDAY OF LENT

Ezekiel 37.12-14;

Psalms 129;

Letter to the Romans 8.8-11;

John 11.1-45

Like so many other passages in John's Gospel, the Lord meets individuals where they are at – in blindness, sinfulness, illness. Here he encounters Martha and Mary in mourning and loss. The passage makes great contrasts between light and darkness, blindness and sight, life and death. Martha expresses a theoretical belief in the Resurrection but the great stone covering the tomb of Lazarus is too much of an obstacle for her to come to real faith in the Lord. Gently, the Lord leads her to true faith and, as Lazarus comes forth, she passes from darkness to light, from death to life.

PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50.4-7;

Psalms 21;

Letter to the Philippians 2.6-11;

Matthew 26.14-27.66

Each of the Passion Narratives in the four Gospels has its own

dynamic and motifs. Here in Matthew, note the calmness, serenity, and trust in his Father with which the Lord faces his destiny. Judas, by contrast, is confused, scheming, and trusts in his own judgment. Both are faced with a decision (a Kairos, a God-given moment of choice) which in both cases leads to death, but in the Lord's case this is a death which erupts into life. Note all the wrong choices made by people in the story, in contrast to the Lord's life-giving choice.

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts of the Apostles 10.34-43;

Psalms 117;

Letter to the Colossians 3.1-4;

John 20.1-9

Mary of Magdala goes to the Lord's tomb and finds it empty. This mirrors the emptiness she feels deep in her soul. She tells Peter and the Beloved Disciple who run to the empty tomb. The Beloved Disciple sees and believes, the story tells us. But then he and Peter simply return home as though nothing had happened. As the story

continues, we learn that Mary carries, weeping and then meets someone she takes to be the gardener. When the Lord utters her name, "Mary" her eyes are opened and she encounters the Risen Christ. This personal encounter with Christ is what changes everything and Mary, the woman, becomes the first witness to the Resurrection. That emptiness which Mary experienced becomes the possibility, indeed necessity, for that embrace with the risen Lord.

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts of the Apostles 2.42-47;

Psalms 117;

First Letter of Peter 1.3-9;

John 20.19-31

The disciples are crowded into a room with doors locked because they were afraid of what might happen to them. They had heard about the empty tomb, Mary had told them of her encounter with the Risen Lord – but nothing had changed in their lives! The great stone locking the Lord in death had been rolled away, but the disciples had firmly closed their own doors to lock them in. The Lord steps into the midst of their fear – locked doors cannot keep him out – and simply says "Peace be with you." He empowers them to unlock not only the physical doors, but the doors of their minds and hearts and then experience their own Resurrection. They learn there is a future, a new life, beyond their locked doors.



Pic: Elaine Furmage

Seminarians admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders

by KIERAN BURT

Last month, two Motherwell seminarians in Rome were admitted as candidates for Holy Orders during Holy Mass celebrated in the Scots College by Archbishop Leo Cushley. Kieran Burt was one of the seven Scottish seminarians admitted that day and writes for *Fontes* about what it means.

On Sunday 19th February 2023 I was one of seven seminarians at the Pontifical Scots College in Rome who became a candidate for Holy Orders.

This was a memorable day for all of us since it marks the moment when we formally declare our willingness to continue our priestly formation and the Church's support of us in doing so. When considering what candidacy is, two key issues immediately come to mind. The outward and visible sign is that we are asked to wear a clerical collar as a sign to the people we meet that we are

representing Jesus and that we are available to serve them.

The inward, and more important sign is that we must demonstrate the proper inner disposition to become priests in accordance with the example of Jesus, who is full of love and compassion. The Rite of Admission as a candidate itself is very simple, and the Mass we celebrated on that Sunday reflected that same simplicity.

This was the aspect of the day that affected me the most, making it clear to me how important it is to develop humility and grow more united to Jesus the Good Shepherd. Being a candidate for Holy Orders can easily be reduced to wearing a clerical collar, but it is worth considering its deeper significance, which is that it is another

tool for helping the seminarian reflect and emulate the person of Jesus Christ.

Above: Kieran (right) and fellow Motherwell seminarian, Christopher Furmage, with Archbishop Leo Cushley.



Chris & Kieran



Pic: Fr. Stuart Parkes

Kevin & Stuart take step closer to Permanent Diaconate

Earlier this month, Bishop Toal admitted two men as candidates for ministry as Permanent Deacons in the Diocese.

Stuart Dick and Kevin Kirby, both parishioners of St Vincent de Paul's in East Kilbride, were formally admitted as

Candidates for the Diaconate during Holy Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Motherwell and clergy of the Diocese.

Stuart, who has been on placement in Our Lady and St Anne's Parish in Hamilton, and Kevin, who has been on placement in Our Lady of

Lourdes Parish in East Kilbride, were joined by their wives, family, friends and parishioners for the Mass.

Above: Kevin and his wife Hilary (left) and Stuart and his wife Carol (right) with Bishop Toal after the Mass in St Vincent de Paul's.

Couples get ready to say 'I Do'

Four couples preparing to get married in the parish of St Anthony & St Mark's, Rutherglen, gathered together recently for Holy Mass as they get ready to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Matrimony later in the year.

During the Mass celebrated by parish priest, Fr Charles Coyle, the engaged couples received a special blessing and afterwards enjoyed supper together which gave them the opportunity to get to know each other and compare notes and stories about their wedding plans.



Pic: St Anthony & St Mark's Parish, Rutherglen

The Chrism Mass

The Manifestation of the local Church

As we look forward to Holy Week, **FR STUART PARKES**, parish priest of Sacred Heart & St Gerard's, Bellshill, and Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, provides an insight into the significance of the Chrism Mass.

**Priestly people, Kingly people, holy people.
God's chosen people, sing praise to the Lord.**

Over many years these words written by French Spiritan priest and composer, Lucien Deiss CSSp, have accompanied the entrance procession to the Chrism Mass in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell. For me the tune and words will always evoke memories of the Chrism Mass.

Many times, I have heard people describe the Chrism Mass as 'the Mass for the Priests' and at first glance the hymn above seems to agree. But the hymn isn't talking about the ordained priests of the diocese, it reflects the first letter of Peter where Christians are described as 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God.' At Baptism we are anointed with Chrism, 'that we may remain as a member of

Christ, who is Priest, Prophet & King'. So, the priests we sing of are the Christian people.

The Chrism Mass is the manifestation of the local Church, when the Bishop celebrates Mass in the Cathedral, surrounded by his priests and deacons with the full participation of all God's holy people. The celebration of the Chrism mass shows the unity of the Church and the diverse ministries and people gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. It is a gathering of a priestly people to worship the Lord.

The Chrism Mass also has a particular importance for the ordained priests of the diocese gathered to celebrate their communion with the Bishop. After the Homily the priests are asked to renew the promises made at their ordination. The priests are first asked to be united with the Lord and fulfil their sacred duties to the Church. Secondly, they are

asked to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God which they celebrate and to be faithful teachers of the faith, always following Christ, the Head and Shepherd.

Following the renewal of these promises, the congregation are asked to pray for the priests that they may faithfully fulfil the office entrusted to them. The Bishop then asks prayers for himself that he may be made a more perfect image of Christ, the Priest, the Good Shepherd, the Teacher and the Servant of all.'



In the Old Testament kings, priests and prophets are anointed with holy oil, because they share in the ministry of God. As Christians we share in the ministry of Christ as priest, prophet and king and we are anointed in the sacraments Baptism, Confirmation, Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Orders to share in this ministry. At the Chrism Mass, the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens are blessed by the bishop and the Oil of Chrism is consecrated by the bishop with the priests.

The Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick are simply olive oil. For the Oil of Chrism and recognising its importance in the life of the Church fragrances are added to the olive oil that it is easily recognised.

The Oil of the Sick, which St James describes, will be used in the Anointing of the Sick for the healing of body and soul, praying for strength to endure and for the forgiveness of sins.

The Oil of Catechumens will be used in preparation for Baptism that those to be baptised will be strengthened and protected by the Lord to renounce the way of sin and through the waters of

Baptism be born to a new life in God.

The Oil of Chrism will be used in Baptism to show that Christians share in the ministry of priest, prophet and king. In the Sacrament of Confirmation they will receive the spiritual anointing of the Holy Spirit who is given to them. In the ordination of priests, the new priest is anointed that they may sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God.

These Holy Oils are distributed after Mass to the priests of the diocese for use in the celebration of the Sacraments throughout the year. Preparing the Chrism Mass each year requires the preparation of the Holy Oils and finding people from across the diocese to fulfil the different ministries at Mass and carry the Holy Oils in the procession.

Finally, with the Diocesan Choir we choose music for the Mass.

The hardest question is always do we sing old favourites or find something new. We have decided to try a new entrance hymn this year, hopefully you will recognise the tune. It invites us as a priestly people who

know the purpose of our calling in God to show God's mighty deeds in our lives.

***'Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race;
called as God's own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace:
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds;
tell of love which knows no limits,
grace which meets all human needs.'***

Join us for the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday morning at 11am in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell. All are welcome.

Altar Servers for Diocesan Events

The Diocese would like to create a group of Altar Servers aged 16 or over to serve and assist at the diocesan celebrations throughout the year. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the group please get in touch with Fr Stuart Parkes on 01698 842709 or email frparkes@rcdom.org.uk.

DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

The Chrism Mass

Holy Thursday 6th April 2023 | 11.00am

OUR LADY OF GOOD AID CATHEDRAL, MOTHERWELL

ALL WELCOME



Pope: The Church is not a home for some, it's a home for all

Pic: Vatican Media



Excerpts of an interview with Pope Francis conducted by Paolo Rodari for Italian Swiss Radio and Television, and broadcast on the eve of the tenth anniversary of the pontificate. The need to nurture a culture of welcome, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts, relations with his predecessor, the afterlife, are among the topics addressed.

Holy Father, in these ten years, how much have you changed?
I am old. I have less physical endurance, the knee injury was a physical humiliation, although it is healing well now.

Many describe you as the Pope of the least. Is that how you feel?
It is true that I have a preference for those who are discarded, but that does not mean that I discard others. The poor are Jesus' favourites. But Jesus does not send the rich away.

Jesus asks that everyone be brought to his table. What does this mean?
It means that no one is excluded. When the guests did not come to the feast, He said go into the main roads and invite to the banquet whomever you find, the sick, the good and the bad, the small and the

great, the rich and the poor, everyone. We must not forget this: the Church is not a home for some, it is not selective. The holy faithful people of God are: everyone.

Why do some people feel excluded from the Church because of their condition in life?
Sin is always there. And there is a bit of the vanity of the world, feeling more righteous than others, but it is not right. We are all sinners. At the hour of truth put your truth on the table and you will see that you are a sinner.

Before the conflict in Ukraine, you met Putin several times. If you met him today, what would you say to him?
I would speak to him as clearly as I speak in public. He is an educated man. On the second day of the war I went to the Russian embassy at the Holy See to say that I was willing to go to Moscow if Putin would give me a window to negotiate. Lavrov wrote to me saying thank you but now is not the time. Putin knows I am available. But there are imperial interests there, not only of the Russian empire, but of empires elsewhere. It is typical of the empire to put nations in second place.

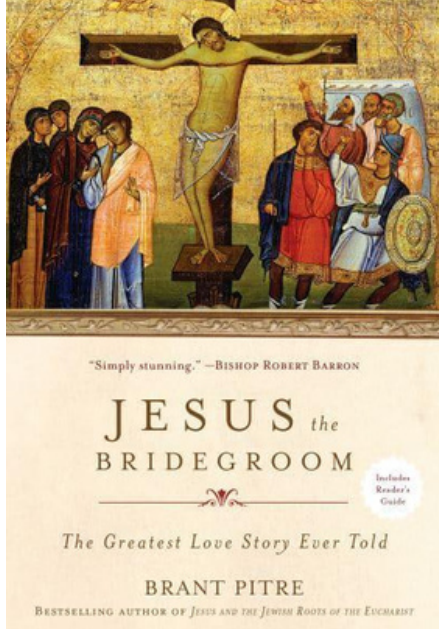
You often talk about gossip. Why?
Gossip destroys coexistence, the family. It is a hidden disease. It is the plague.

Pope Benedict opened the door for papal resignation. You have said it is a possibility but that you do not contemplate it at the moment. What could lead you to resign in the future?
A tiredness that does not make you see things clearly. A lack of clarity, of knowing how to evaluate situations. A physical problem, too, perhaps. I always ask about this and listen to advice. How are things going? Do you think I should... I ask those who know me and even some intelligent cardinals. And they tell me the truth: carry on, it is fine. But please: give me a shout in time.

From vaticannews.va by Paolo Rodari

The Pope's Prayer Intentions

APRIL - FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE
We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



Review: Jesus the Bridegroom – The Greatest Love Story Ever Told by Brant Pitre

by FATHER LIAM O'CONNOR

Lent is a good time to delve deeper into the Mysteries we celebrate at Easter. As we approach Holy Week, 'Jesus the Bridegroom – The Greatest Story Ever Told,' by Dr Brant Pitre, a lecturer in Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans, provides us with a deeper understanding of the Person of Jesus; his mission and work of redemption.

We are probably familiar with the idea that the Church founded by Jesus is like a bride to him, but what does this really mean, what does it involve?

Dr Pitre sets out to focus on different aspects of this allegory to reveal how Christ truly is the bridegroom and this Covenant communicates to us a deep bond that gives life to our faith; to strengthen us and give us the new life of heaven; realising that as members of the Church we too share in this mystical marriage.

The Wedding Feast at Cana points forward towards the Crucifixion, in the moment where Jesus speaks of His 'Hour,' which has not yet arrived, it will begin for him at the Last Supper.

In ancient Jewish culture the marriage feast would be prolonged for a full week of celebrations, not just a few hours

as we might be used to in our time.

The miracle where Jesus turns the water into wine, casts him in a new light as the Jewish bridegroom, he being the one who provides this nourishment for the guests directed by the wishes of his mother.

"Jesus the Bridegroom celebrates a banquet of love – that is, a wedding banquet – as he goes to his passion and death... John tells us what kind of love Jesus is enacting now that his hour has come: it is "love to the end" – that is total, self-sacrificial love – that Jesus is manifesting in his wedding hour." p.48.

To see the Last Supper through the lens of a wedding banquet gives us a new perspective. Jesus will truly fulfil this banquet when he drinks of the wine of the cross and declares, "It is consummated."

To live the Mass and achieve actual participation involves this understanding of the Mass as Sacrifice; with the interconnectedness of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, with Jesus as that central player, with his command to renew his Sacrifice on our altars in our time, we share in this everlasting Covenant.

Throughout the book Dr Pitre continues to make further connections to illuminate and cast Jesus as the Bridegroom; the mercy he transmits to the Woman at the Well gives us a concrete example where we can see ourselves as the other person

who can become part of this marriage covenant; the spring of living water and new life is full of meaning.

All of this reminds us that the work of salvation is not yet complete; we too have our part to play, to correspond to the workings of Jesus, to be a part of this great work of salvation.

Dr Pitre draws the book to a close by inviting us to consider our baptismal responsibilities and to live our lives in light of this realisation; that we are part of the Nuptial Mystery of the Lamb.

This concept, "sheds light on every aspect of the Christian life, from its beginnings in baptism, to its sustenance in the Eucharist, to the various states of life, such as marriage and virginity... If this is true – the entire Christian life is marked by the spousal love of Jesus for the Church." P.137.

Marriage and religious life both have this sacrificial dimension and can be deeply enriched when they are lived in light of the suffering of the cross, a suffering that looks forward to the Resurrection with the new life of heaven.

To pause and reflect on these deeper truths at Easter help us to journey on throughout the year, ever more deeply immersed in our living faith with the reminder that we are invited to be part of this banquet both in our life here on earth, and as part of that eternal marriage that will be fulfilled at the end of time.

Bishop reminds young people that God is always with us and we have the capacity to serve Christ

by
DANIEL HORISK

Last month, the annual Education Mass took place in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral in Motherwell, having previously been postponed due to industrial action last November.

The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Toal, one of his first public engagements after returning to active ministry following his period of recuperation, was attended by pupils from diocesan schools as well as teachers, representatives from education, parents and parishioners from across the Diocese.

During the Mass, Bishop Toal spoke to the young people gathered about our "capacity to serve Christ and extend the church's mission in all that we do" and that we should "give of ourselves as fully as we can with school life giving a great opportunity to use the gifts we have been given to give of ourselves to others and to serve God."

The Bishop concluded his homily by praying that everyone gathered realise their "capacity in life and extend ourselves to the full and the best of our ability" with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

School pupils from across the diocese took part in the liturgy, with the music provided by St



Top: pupils from Holy Cross High, Hamilton with Bishop Toal, Bottom left: the new Head Teachers are commissioned by Bishop Toal, Bottom right: Pupils from Drumpark Primary lead the offertory procession.

Ambrose' High School in Coatbridge. Primary school pupils led the prayers of the faithful while two pupils from Drumpark Primary School in Coatbridge brought forward the offertory gifts.

Four new head teachers were also commissioned during the Mass by Bishop Toal as they take up roles in schools across the Diocese. For primary

schools, Ciara Henderson, Head Teacher of St Francis of Assisi' Primary in Baillieston and Kelly-Anne Dunn, Head Teacher of St Bernard's Primary in Coatbridge were commissioned while Kevin O'Connor, Head Teacher of St Margaret's High Airdrie and Louisa McGraw, Head Teacher of Our Lady's High Motherwell were both commissioned for High Schools.



St Ambrose' High Coatbridge who lead the music during the Mass

Fiona receives Diocesan Medal

At the end of the Education Mass, Bishop Toal presented the Diocesan Education Medal to Fiona Cannon for her outstanding service to musical liturgy in Taylor High School, in Motherwell Diocese and in our country at national level during a long and illustrious career of dedicated service to music education.

Fiona Cannon served as Principal Teacher of Music in Taylor High School, New Stevenston, for more than 30 years. Fiona inspired generations of young people to study Music, many of whom pursued it either professionally or for pleasure. Many young people in her care went on to contribute to the musical liturgy in their parishes and in Motherwell Diocese – names too numerous to mention.

Of equal importance to Fiona was the involvement in the musical life of the school of those who were at the margins – young people who, until they met and worked with Fiona, believed that the school system was not for them. Her record in achieving great success with young people who were otherwise often overlooked, was an outstanding legacy of her time in education and one she can take great pride in.

It was also of central importance to Fiona to embed musical liturgy into the curriculum in such a way that it gave her students ownership through involvement in composition and musical



Fiona Cannon (right) receives the Diocesan Education Medal from Bishop Toal (above)

arrangement related to religious and sacred music. Undoubtedly, this helped to improve pupil attendance at school and also gave considerable enjoyment to all of the young people involved in the creative process with her.

The culmination of this approach was the writing, recording and singing of the gathering hymn at the Papal Mass at Bellahouston in September 2010 by a group of 14 pupils and one teacher under her direction.



Fiona and pupils singing at the Papal Mass in 2010

Over many years Fiona added lustre to the musical liturgy of Taylor High School, Motherwell Diocese and at a national level through the Scottish Catholic Education Service and Bishops' Conference. Fiona created and arranged many original musical

liturgies for both school, Diocese and beyond during her service. A particular feature of her work was the excellence of choral music produced and her choirs produced many memorable and uplifting moments which graced occasions too numerous to recount in detail, including a wide range of services in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, her work with Aid to the Church in Need and, of course, at the historic Papal Mass at Bellahouston in 2010.

Fiona embodied all that is best in Catholic Education and her work in musical liturgy and the traditions she created over many years both in Taylor High School and beyond, will last long into the future via the many young people who knew that she cared deeply about them regardless of their musical gifts and who were strongly influenced by her personal witness and her involvement of them in so many outstanding performances of music in the liturgy throughout her long career.



National Singing Programme Conference

by **CLAIRE O'NEILL**

Choral directors from dioceses across Scotland, England and Wales attended the Annual Conference for the National Singing Programme hosted by Leeds Diocese on 27th and 28th of March.

This conference was generously funded by the Hamish Ogston Foundation. Three Scottish Dioceses, Motherwell, Aberdeen and Paisley joined colleagues to share experiences and good practice of the work being done to evangelise through singing.

As well as keynote speakers from the NSSP, delegates had the opportunity to visit St Partick's Primary in Leeds to observe singing lessons and attended Mass in Leeds cathedral where the junior boys choir participated in the liturgy. The choral director for schools in Motherwell, James Greechan, currently gives singing lessons in four schools in the diocese and also works with choirs and schola who are preparing to sing at their local parishes and plans are also in the early stages to host a national choirs event for the three diocese who are part of the project.



Pupils take on 'porridge pledge' for Mary's Meals

Pupils at St Andrew's and St Bride's High School in East Kilbride have raised an incredible £12,256 with a five day 'porridge pledge', helping to feed 313 children at Damu Primary School in Malawi with Mary's Meals.

Every year for the last six years, pupils have taken on the pledge where they eat only plain foods, like porridge, rice and toast – sacrificing their favourite foods so children at Damu can enjoy school meals for a whole year.

TWEETS

Follow us @rcmotherwell
@motherwellre



St Ignatius' Primary, Wishaw
@StIgnatiusPS1 - Stations of the Cross led by P6/7. .



Rutherglen High, Rutherglen
@RutherglenHigh - Deacon Michael from St Columbkille's led our Ash Wednesday Service this morning.



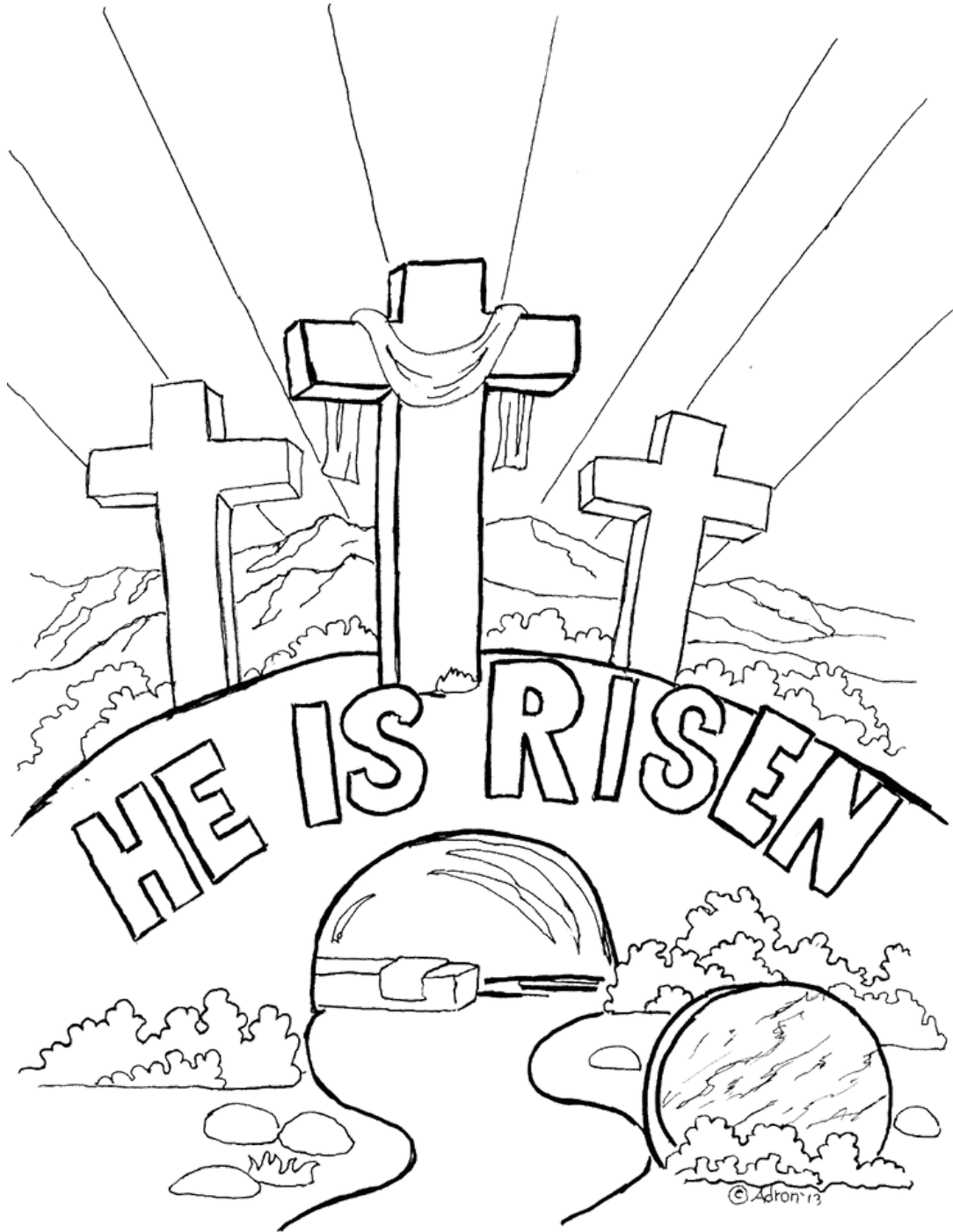
St Paul's Primary, Hamilton
@StPaulsHam - Thank you Father O'Brien for such an uplifting Mass today, and for blessing our children, who are preparing to make their Reconciliation. Please keep all our children in your prayers.



St David's Primary, Plains
@StDavids4 - Thank you to our fantastic Mini Vinnies who led our Vigil Mass in our parish on Saturday evening

EASTER

COLOURING COMPETITION



How to enter: the competition is open to all children of primary school age in the Diocese of Motherwell. Colour in the Easter image above and then take a photo of your colouring and email it to media@rcdom.org.uk with your name, age, parish and school. Emails must be sent by a parent or guardian aged 18 or over or will not be eligible. Entries must be received by Wednesday 5th April 2023 and the winner will be announced in the April edition of Fontes. Good luck!





The Parishes that make a Diocese

by FATHER MICHAEL BRIODY

Below you will find the date of foundation of the parishes, or chapels of ease, in the Diocese of Motherwell. I have not included outlying places which did not have a church of their own. You will see that we inherited the first forty-two churches from the old Archdiocese of Glasgow in 1948. It might surprise us how early some of them were founded since quite a few are, to this day, rural villages, but they generally reflect the new arrivals from the Scottish Highlands and Ireland to find work in the new industries.

- 1836 St Margaret's, Airdrie
- 1843 St Mary's, Hamilton
- 1845 St Patrick's, Coatbridge
- 1849 St Athanasius', Carluke
- 1851 St Joseph's, Carstairs
- 1851 St Columbkille's, Rutherglen
- 1859 St Aloysius', Chapelhall
- 1859 St Mary's, Lanark
- 1859 St Patrick's, Strathaven
- 1859 St Ignatius', Wishaw
- 1862 St Francis Xavier's, Carfin
- 1868 Holy Family, Mossend
- 1868 St Patrick's, Shotts
- 1871 St Brigid's, Newmains
- 1872 St Mary's, Larkhall
- 1874 St Mary's, Cleland
- 1874 St Mary's, Whifflet
- 1875 Our Lady of Good Aid, Motherwell
- 1875 St Joseph's, Stepps
- 1877 St Joseph's, Blantyre
- 1878 St Mary's, Caldercruix
- 1878 St Bride's, Cambuslang
- 1880 St Bridget's, Baillieston
- 1880 Our Lady and St Joseph's, Glenboig
- 1883 Our Lady and St Anne's, Cadzow
- 1883 St John the Baptist's, Uddingston
- 1891 St Patrick's, Wishaw
- 1892 St Augustine's, Coatbridge
- 1893 St Cuthbert's, Burnbank
- 1893 St Dominic's, Greengairs
- 1894 St Charles', Newton
- 1896 St John's, Blackwood
- 1900 St David's, Plains

- 1902 All Saints, Coatdyke
- 1910 St Bride's, Bothwell
- 1924 St Catherine of Siena's, Harthill
- 1937 St Isidore, Biggar
- 1938 Sacred Heart, Salsburgh
- 1939 St Columba's, Viewpark
- 1946 St Bride's, East Kilbride
- 1946 St John Bosco's, New Stevenston
- 1947 St Kevin's, Bargeddie

In a foreword in the Golden Jubilee brochure for St Barbara's, Muirhead, Bishop Devine states that Muirhead and Calderbank were the first parishes to be established in the new Diocese of Motherwell. These, and all that followed on the list, were a response to the housing boom soon after the Second World War that, to be honest, has never abated since. However, establishing new parishes now is less likely and would call for a very keen judgement on the part of the bishop and his advisors. No new parish has been established since 1977. The following parishes were founded in the episcopate of Bishop Edward Douglas, first Bishop of Motherwell.

- 1947 St Barbara's, Muirhead
- 1948 Corpus Christi, Calderbank
- 1949 Sacred Heart, Bellshill
- 1949 St Cadoc's, Halfway
- 1950 St Bernadette's, Motherwell
- 1950 St Andrew's, Airdrie
- 1950 St Bartholomew's, Coatbridge
- 1950 St Monica's, Coatbridge
- 1953 St Peter's, Hamilton
- 1954 St Luke's Motherwell
- 1954 St Mungo's, Garthamlock
- 1954 St Paul's, Hamilton

Episcopate of Bishop James Donald Scanlan:

- 1955 St Ninian's, Hamilton
- 1956 St James', Coatbridge
- 1956 St Teresa's, Newarthill
- 1956 St Mark's, Rutherglen

- 1957 St Thomas', Wishaw
 1958 St Benedict's, Easterhouse
 1958 Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride
 1959 St Clare's, Easterhouse
 1960 St Edward's, Airdrie
 1960 St Michael's, Moodiesburn
 1960 St Aidan's, Wishaw
 1961 St Serf's, Airdrie

Episcopate of Bishop Francis Thomson:


- 1965 St Brendan's, Motherwell
 1965 St Anthony's, Rutherglen
 1966 St Leonard's, East Kilbride
 1967 St Gerard's, Bellshill
 1970 St Francis of Assisi, Bailieston
 1970 St Mary Magdalene's, Forth
 1971 St Bernard's, Coatbridge
 1972 St Dominic's, Craigend
 1973 St Stephen's, Coatbridge
 1974 St Vincent de Paul's, East Kilbride
 1975 Christ the King, Holytown
 1976 St Gabriel's, Viewpark
 1977 St John Ogilvie's, Blantyre

Some changes have occurred over the years. Some of the above have been amalgamated into newly-constituted parishes, so that while we had 74 parishes by 1977, we now have 59, with 74 churches. Doubtless, more changes will come. Hopefully what will not change is the love of the people of the Diocese of Motherwell for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

I have no doubt there are some discrepancies in the above dates and details. There are some small mysteries I have not been able to solve. Charting the shifting fortunes of parishes is not so simple a task, I have discovered.

Father Michael Briody
 Diocesan Heritage Commission
 frbriody@rcdom.org.uk

St Patrick's Hall Coatbridge
 Fundraising Night featuring
The Plainsmen St. Andrew's
 Hospice
 in aid of
St Andrews Hospice
 Saturday 22nd April 2023 - 7.30pm
 Tickets £5 (inc. light supper)
 For tickets call : 01236 435989 - 07708882633



PIONEER

ASSOCIATION SCOTLAND

<p>LENTEN RETREAT 24 MARCH 2023 7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE</p> <p>PIONEER PILGRIMAGE 26 - 29 MAY 2023 SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF KNOCK</p> <p>SACRED HEART NOVENA 8 - 16 JUNE 2023</p> <p>KNOCK REUNION DINNER 15 SEPTEMBER 2023 7.30PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">ANNUAL RALLY 23 OCTOBER 2023 7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NOVEMBER MASS 17 NOVEMBER 2023 7.30PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ADVENT RETREAT 8 DECEMBER 2023 7.00PM SAINT AUGUSTINE'S, COATBRIDGE</p>
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 INFO@PIONEERS.SCOT



Motherwell Diocesan Choir

presents

The Crucifixion

by

John Stainer

(with supporting programme)

in

The Cathedral, Motherwell

Tuesday 4 April, at 7.30pm

ADMISSION FREE (a retiring collection will be taken)

Intimations

If you would like to announce a recent death, months mind or anniversary of a relative in the next edition of Fontes, contact us on media@rcdom.org.uk for more information.

Also get in touch if you have a recent family marriage or baptism in the Diocese of Motherwell that you would like to announce.



Mrs Claire Hamilton RIP

With regret, the Diocese learned of the death of Mrs Claire Hamilton, mother of Fr Kieran Hamilton, parish priest of St Brendan's Parish in Motherwell, on 25th February.

Mrs Hamilton was 56 years of age and a parishioner of St Barbara's Parish in Muirhead.

Her Requiem Mass was celebrated in St Barbara's Church on 7th March by Fr Kieran and attended by Bishop Toal and several clergy of the Diocese.

We pray for the repose of Mrs Hamilton's soul and for Fr Kieran and his family at this time of sorrow.

April Clergy Anniversaries

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

03.04.1998	Rev. Bernard Mahoney	16.04.1995	Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Gillen
05.04.1958	Rev. Edward Lafferty	18.04.2004	Rt. Rev. Mgr. Alex Devanney
08.04.1996	Very Rev. Christopher Canon Condon	18.04.2014	Very Rev. Patrick Canon Moss
10.04.2020	Rev. Richard J. Rodgers	20.04.1994	Rt. Rev. Mgr. John Conroy
11.04.1985	Rev. James Flynn	23.04.1982	Rev. Charles Doherty
11.04.1990	Very Rev. Hugh Canon Cahill	23.04.2007	Rev. Michael Gallagher
11.04.2017	Rt. Rev. Mgr. Jack Burns	28.04.1999	Rev. Denis Power
13.04.1992	Rev. Lawrence Kenny	28.04.2022	Very Rev. Michael Canon Walsh
15.04.1995	Rev. John O'Callaghan	29.04.1997	Very Rev. Anthony Canon McGurk



Marriage Preparation COURSES

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:

JUNE 2023 10 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023 16 2023	OCTOBER 2023 28 2023	JANUARY 2024 20 2024
FEBRUARY 2024 17 2024	MARCH 2024 16 2024	APRIL 2024 20 2024	JUNE 2024 8 2024

The course is £50 per couple and includes all course materials.
Book your course today at: 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



Catholic Marriage Counselling Service

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

For more information visit:
www.marriagefamilylife.org

Diocese of Motherwell Marriage & Family Life Agency 



Diocese of Motherwell Marriage and Family Life Office

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Do you have a news story or event to contribute?
Do you have a business that would like to advertise here?

Get in touch by emailing media@rcdom.org.uk for more info



Aid to the Church in Need

William More, from Aid to the Church in Need, discusses the work the charity carries out to support suffering Christians across the globe and how you can support.

'For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body (...) if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together'.

St. Paul reinforces our commitment towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. Millions of Christians around the world suffer because of their faith in Jesus. Many of them are persecuted, suffering imprisonment, torture and even death. Others are isolated and living in abject poverty.

Faith is their rock: even when life would be easier if they abandon it.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a lifeline for Christians suffering today. It's easy to think in terms of countries or statistics, but St. Paul reminds

us that if 'one member suffers', we all suffer.

ACN funds projects in 150 countries around the world where Christians feel they have been forgotten. Your support helps show the love of Christ when faith might be all they have left.

In Motherwell Diocese we work in parishes, schools, and the community, to give voice to our brothers and sisters and to ask for your prayers and support. We give appeals, talks, support fundraising events, and recruit volunteers. Please get in touch and help us reach your community.,

Our income comes from you, our benefactors, and in 2022 you enabled us to support over 5,500 projects worldwide. You

continue to show our brothers and sisters around the world that they are not forgotten.

Thanks to our benefactors we are responding quickly to help earthquake victims in Syria, those suffering in Ukraine, and defending persecuted Christians in Nigeria.

Without you, we can't provide Aid to the Church in Need.

Please help us to help them.

To find out more about supporting or volunteering with ACN, please contact ACN Scotland on 01698 337470 or email William More, William.more@acnuk.org



How can you support ACN?



PRAYER

- Pray for ACN and the people we support
- Hold a prayer event using ACN resources
- Get involved in our rosary initiatives



INFORMATION

- Sign up for our mailings or e-newsletter
- Invite us to give a talk or parish appeal
- Join us at our events
- Follow us on social media



ACTION

- Consider becoming a regular giver
- Host a fundraising event
- Become an ACN Volunteer
- Join our School Membership Programme

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CALL THE NUMBER BELOW AND QUOTE FONTES23 OR USE THE QR CODE

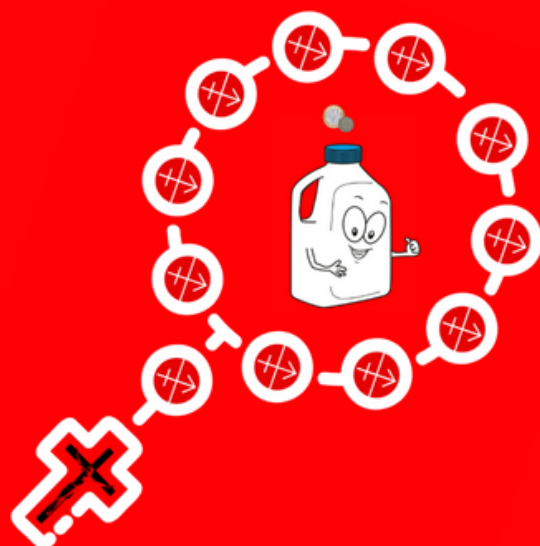


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William, left, with Deacon Joe Gallagher and Father Romanus Enyinnia during a recent appeal on behalf of Aid to the Church in Need in St Vincent de Paul's Parish in East Kilbride.

Maisy Milk's
Rosary for Peace



- Pray for Peace -

- Week beginning 8th May 2023 -

Find out more here:

<https://acnuk.org/resource/maisy-milk-rosary-for-peace/>

EASTER TRIDUUM

Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell

celebrated by Bishop Joseph Toal

Holy Thursday

11.00am | Mass of Chrism

7.00pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

3.00pm | Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday

9.00pm | Easter Vigil Mass

For times and details of
Holy Week & Easter
liturgies in your parish,
visit rcdom.org.uk/easter

