



# St. Bernadette's Tullibody Parish Newsletter

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*24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**17th September 2023**

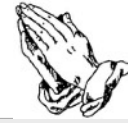
<b>Parish Diary</b>			
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16th Sept</b>	8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Morning Office and Holy Communion Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17th Sept</b>	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass (Also on YouTube)
<b>Mon</b>	<b>18th Sept</b>	9.30am 12noon	Mass Deanery meeting, Alva
<b>Tues</b>	<b>19th Sept</b>	~~~	No services
<b>Wed</b>	<b>20th Sept</b>	9.30am 6.30pm	Mass School Parent Council Meeting
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>21st Sept</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Fri</b>	<b>22nd Sept</b>	7pm	Mass
<b>Sat</b>	<b>23rd Sept</b>	8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24th Sept</b>	8.30am 11.30am 12.45pm	Mass Mass (Also on YouTube) Reception body of Leticia McGregor
<b>Mon</b>	<b>25th Sept</b>	9.30am	Requiem mass for Leticia McGregor
<b>Wed</b>	<b>18th Oct</b>	6.30pm	Enrolment meeting for parents of children for First Communion, Church Hall

## Parish Offerings ~ 15th September 2023

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£276.50	<b>Non Gift Aid</b>	£388.37	<b>Total</b>	£664.87
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**Please pray for**



### **Those who are sick ~**

Msgr. Basil O'Sullivan, Seamus Freyne (Father Mike's younger brother), Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Sid Davies, Nellie Gallon, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Maureen McKay, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Heather Stewart, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Fr John Callaghan, Bishop Stephen, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, & all those in Hospital & Nursing Homes.

### **Those who have recently died ~**

Patrick Boyle, father of Jim Boyle, Letica McGregor

### **And those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~**

Marion Heggie, Ian Cunningham Devine, Agnes Roberts, Jim Hislop, Michael McKinnon, Fr. Jim Wallace, William Forsyth, Bridie Lamb, Archie McNiven, Grace & Archie Dickson, Sandy Soave, Kathy McLaughlin, John Mullan and Bert Skinnider.

## **Readings for 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.**

### **First reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9**

"Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you; and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven"

### **Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 102(103): 1-4, 9-12**

### **Second reading: Romans 14: 7-9**

"Alive or Dead, we belong to the Lord"

### **Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35**

"To be forgiven, you must forgive"



**Pope Francis**  
@Pontifex

"Our Lady of Sorrows teaches us that if we maintain our relationship with God, life does not spare us suffering. Rather, it opens up to a great horizon of goodness and moves towards its fulfilment" *15th September 2023*

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

### **Church Christmas**

A long discussion was held regarding how to try and make the church appear more joyful, colourful, welcoming as this Christmas will probably be the first Christmas we will not feel the cloud of Covid hanging over us. New banners will be bought and the decorations around the church and on the walls will be different.

There was plenty of discussion how the entrance to the church did not appear welcoming and was cluttered with lots of notices many old or not relevant any more. A committee was formed to analyse what could be done.

### **First Communion**

The children's preparation for First Communion was discussed . There is an enormous concern that children make their first communion with no presence in the church at all - before and after - their first communion. All past attempts at involving the parents do not see to have worked. The PPC had a serious concern that the school - where the preparation is made - is not managing to give the necessary and proper formation. One of the principle reasons being the lack of Catholic teachers. We realise this is a national problem but the PPC will look at ways of making the authorities more aware of this.

One major change is that parents will no longer be "invited" to a first communion meeting. On Wednesday 27 September in the hall there will be an "ENROLMENT Meeting" with parents which will include what we expect of them and what the Church expects of their children during the preparation. If parents are not at the enrolment meeting then we cannot celebrate their child's first communion.

### **Church Steps**

As was announced last week we had expected the reform of the steps at the entrance to the church to be happening.

However, due to a legal problem regarding the firm's cover for public access they had to decline to do the work. We are presently trying to contract another firm.

## SCHOOL BREAK SUPPORT

It has been brought to our Parish Financial Council's notice that there is a new emerging challenge at both St.Modan's and St.Bernadette's schools. The cut backs have affected those who receive school meals and early morning breakfast. The amounts given to the kids are being reduced and recalculated and some taken off the receiving list. However, during the day some kids are feeling hungry. There are school breaks to cater for this but more and more some children do not bring anything to school to eat. Slowly you begin to notice the haves and have nots in the school. This is a challenge because of social justice but also to avoid the children going hungry. St. Modan's parents have already rallied and are finding a solution for this. At St.Bernadette's there is a basket with food breaks so that kids can discreetly go and pick a break and no one will know they are receiving. This is becoming quite a big problem.

The Parish Financial Council recognised the great support our parish gives to the Gate and wants to continue doing so. However, this is a needy problem closer to home and we feel we should be helping. A new "bin" will be placed next to the Gate basket. It will be clearly marked for the school children. Obviously they have to be healthy snacks, so the school has provided a list of what is best to buy and leave for them.

The kids themselves sent Fr. Mike the information we need:

*"Hello there, students of St Bernadette's are starting an appeal for healthy snacks for our snack box. We are asking you to donate some healthy snacks for children who have forgotten their snack. We are looking for things without nuts because many children are allergic. We would like to ask for the following snacks: fruit bars, crisps, cookies, etc. Anything nutritious is fine. Unfortunately, we can't accept fresh fruit because it will eventually mould and rot. Dried fruit and fruit bars are fine. Thank you." ~~ From the P7 Equity Group*

*"We would like to make an appeal about healthy snacks for our snack box. The snack box is a box full of healthy, nutritious, nut-free snacks for children that for whatever reason do not have a snack. Unfortunately some children have nut allergies so if you happen to bring in anything containing nuts we are unable to give it to the children.*

We would be looking for the following:

- ✦ Fruit bars e.g. strawberry, blueberry, apple etc
- ✦ Crisps (Please do not bring in spicy crisps due to the fact that some children may choke because of the spiciness.)
- ✦ Oatmeal cookies
- ✦ Raisin cookies
- ✦ Crackers
- ✦ Dried fruit e.g. dried mango, dried apricots, dried dates, dried prunes, dried figs
- ✦ Flapjacks (We encourage you to buy the ones with fruit)

**Please do not bring in fresh fruit as it can rot.**

**Any nutritious snacks are fine just remember no nuts.**

Thank you for taking your time to read our message, and if you choose to donate, you will be contributing to bring in healthy snacks for our pupils! ~~ From the P7 Equity Group.