



St. Bernadette's Tullibody Parish Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mike Freyne MHM

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The Most Holy Trinity

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| Sat | 14 June | 8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am 5.30pm | Confessions Mass Vigil Mass |
| Sun | 15 June | 8.30am 11.30am | Mass Mass Special Collection |
| Mon | 16 June | 9.30am 7pm | Mass Parish Pastoral Council |
| Tues | 17 June | ~ ~ ~ ~ | No services Anniversary ~ 48years priesthood ~ Father Mike |
| Wed | 18 June | 9.30am | Mass |
| Thurs | 19 June | 9am | Mass |
| Fri | 20 June | 5pm | Schools leaving event for Elizabeth Watson |
| Sat | 21 June | 8.45am - 9.15am 9.30am ~ 5.30pm | Confessions Mass Theology Forum - Glasgow Vigil Mass |
| Sun | 22 June | 8.30am 11.30am | Mass Mass First Communions |

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

For Day for Life. Collection for the apostolate of the defence of life from conception to natural death

This Sunday's Readings

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| First Reading | Proverbs 8: 22=31 |
| Psalm | 8: 4-9 |
| Second Reading | Romans 5: 1-5 |
| Gospel | John 16: 12-15 |

Last Sunday's Collection

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|--------------|----------------|
| Non Gift Aid | £285.23 |
| Gift Aid | £381.00 |
| Repository | £120.00 |
| Total | £786.23 |

Prayer Requests

Those who are sick ~

Joan Jones, Msgr. Basil O'Sullivan, Seamus Freyne, Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Nellie Gallon, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Heather Stewart, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Bishop Stephen, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, Peter Caproni, Laura Laing, Susan Duvall, Denise Smith, Brian Robertson, Melissa Brown, Margo Tobin, John Lawlor and Lisa Mcilwrath, Father Frank Smith MHM

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~

Jack Bray, Lawrence McArthur, William Conlan, Mel Latte, Alex Byrne, Fr Colin Golden, Mary Galloway, Greta Soave, Mary Connor, Anne McNiven, Elizabeth Di Giovanni, John Boyle, Tommy Lawlor, Willie Crews, Canon Michael Milton, Mgr. Charles Henry, Anne Currie, Margaret Brotherton

FINANCIAL REPORT

Every year a representative from the Parish Financial Council presents a simplified financial report at the end of mass. The official full statement will be made available at the back of the church and for anyone who asks for a copy.

We apologise as this is always presented at the beginning of the year. We have delayed until we knew what was happening about the storm insurance as it would have made a significant mark on the finances.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Next Sunday the 11.30 mass will celebrate first communions. Normally the church is full with candidates' family and friends. All are welcome but some may prefer to go to an earlier less full church.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Monday 16h 7pm

Principal topics on agenda. All are welcome to participate.

To serve the community better. Proposal our PPC will meet with St. Serf's C of S Parish Council to discuss possibilities on working together. They have a hall and an excellent kitchen.

Possibility of small pilgrimage to Pittenweem to St. Ninian's cave to celebrate mass. Viability of leaving the church open during the day.

SHORTAGE OF PRIESTS MAY BE A BLESSING ?

Malta's Cardinal Mario Grech called the shortage of vocation a possible "grace from God" that could lead to the laity helping administer the sacraments.

Speaking to *The Times of Malta*, Grech said: "Some are scandalised by these words, because it could prompt the church to recognise and utilise the diverse gifts present among all Christians rather than concentrating power solely within the clergy".

Grech, the secretary general of the Synod of Bishops, said the Church must understand that the Holy Spirit was not the exclusive domain of priests, even if some clergy resisted the idea. While priestly ministry remains vital, he said, there is plenty the laity can do in the Church, outside administrative tasks.

He cited an example from Switzerland where a lay couple effectively run a parish. As priestly visits are infrequent, the couple preside over christenings, funerals and weddings, instead of the priest.

Grech said the aim of the Synod of Synodality was to move the Church away from clergy-dominated leadership to give the laity more say in decisions made in parishes, dioceses and the Vatican.

F2 Mike

Day for Life 2025 ~ Sunday 15 June

Hope Does Not Disappoint - Finding Meaning in Suffering

For as long as history has been written, the world has never been without struggle and suffering. Through the lens of television and social media, however, the suffering of the whole world appears on our personal devices. Many of us find it hard to make sense of a world in which suffering seems to press down from every direction: pandemic; war; homelessness; violence in our streets, addiction. Then, often without warning, we find ourselves caught up in the struggle when serious illness comes into our own lives.

Suffering touches every person at some point in their lives. It is often associated with illness, grief, and loss. It is not only caused by physical pain but includes emotional suffering as well as 'soul pain', such as depression and despair. Christians are not immune to this mystery and we often struggle to know how best to respond to it, and where we can find hope.

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Rom 5:5-6). St. Paul invites us to see that Christian hope is not just naïve optimism but, rather, an unshakeable trust in the power and presence of God who is with us always. This hope can endure the darkness of human suffering and even see beyond it. That is because Christian hope is anchored in God who is Love and whose love reaches out to us and lifts us up day after day.

Continued overleaf

Care for the sick and suffering was central to the ministry of Jesus. Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan as a way of explaining what it means to be a "neighbour" to another person. The Good Samaritan is someone who *sees and is moved to compassion* (while others turn away), who *draws close*, who *"binds up wounds"*, who accompanies the person in need, and who *continues to care* for as long as it is needed. Often the healing Jesus offered was much more than just a physical cure; it included emotional and spiritual healing as well, because for Jesus, the human person is more than just a body needing to be fixed. Jesus invites us to *"Go and do likewise"* (Lk. 10:29-37).

The alleviation of suffering is good and must always be part of our focus. But there remains, for many people, a suffering that cannot be taken away and has to be endured. How do we make sense of that? The claim that it is better to die than to suffer leads some people to suggest that euthanasia or assisted suicide might be more compassionate. As Christians, however, we follow Jesus who lived his entire life, including his suffering, in the confident hope that His Father loved him and would raise him up, and He did! The cross, which Jesus did not ask for and did nothing to deserve, has become a sign of hope for countless millions of people in every generation.

The death and resurrection of Jesus leads us to believe that, far from being futile or absurd, a life marked by suffering, when it is lived with generosity and patience, is full of meaning. People like Simon of Cyrene (who helped carry the cross), or St. Veronica (who wiped the face of Jesus) literally accompanied Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Modern saints like Therese of Lisieux and the young Saint Carlo Acutis understood that when we unite our suffering with the suffering of Christ for the good of the world, it is transformed through his grace. Most of us have known people like them. Far from being the end of hope, their suffering, when accepted and embraced, has shown itself to be a path to growth and ultimately to Resurrection.

This year's Day for Life is an invitation to pray for those who suffer and to remain with them like the Good Samaritan, bearing witness to their unique and unrepeatable value. We see this closeness in the generous and fruitful service of healthcare professionals, whose mission continues even when there is no longer any prospect of physical healing. We see it in another way in families, carers and chaplains who support their brothers and sisters who are sick or frail or struggling with the many burdens of life. As Christians, we affirm them and hold out to them the hope of Jesus Christ who does not disappoint us.

Most Reverend John Sherrington Archbishop of Liverpool England and Wales
Right Reverend Kevin Doran Bishop of Elphin and Achonry Ireland
Right Reverend John Keenan Bishop of Paisley Scotland