

FLOURISH

Official Journal of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

February 2025



Pope opens the Holy Doors for 2025 Jubilee Year [page 3](#)



Archbishop's Holy Land peace pilgrimage [pages 12-13](#)



Book now for Glasgow pilgrimage to Lourdes [page 6](#)



SCIAF's 60th year starts with a letter from the Pope [page 7](#)



JUBILEE YEAR 2025
Calendar, updates and latest news – scan here →



Major new Catholic conference planned for central Glasgow

AID to the Church in Need (ACN) is taking over Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall for a day in Scotland's biggest Catholic Conference of the year.

Tickets are now on sale for the Courage to be Catholic Conference – which will feature speakers including a bishop from the Holy Land, a bishop from Nigeria and the head of Aid to the Church in Need.

ACN's focus, for the first conference of its kind in Scotland, is to foster a spirit of collaboration among different Church organisations, agencies and charities, as well as encouraging ordinary Catholics to live out their faith boldly in today's world and support one another in their faith jour-

BY RONNIE CONVERY

ney as the Church marks the Jubilee Year of Hope.

A spokesman said: "We plan a day of inspiring talks, with the chance to meet representatives from Catholic organisations around Scotland, and build Catholic community. Whether you're a long-time parishioner or just curious about the Catholic faith, this event is for you. Don't miss this opportunity to grow spiritually and celebrate your faith with others. We can't wait to see you there!"

Tickets can be purchased via <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EHSR> and ACN has launched an early bird offer until Monday 10 February offering tickets priced at £25

Concession and £30 Adult. Thereafter, £30 Concession and £35 Adult and tea, coffee and lunch will be included for all attendees.

The event will run from 9.30am to 4pm on Saturday March 29 and Mass will be celebrated at 5pm in St Aloysius' Church, Glasgow. There will be exhibitor stalls from all over Scotland, trading stalls, and time for socialising and sharing. Tea/coffee and lunch included in the ticket price.

Additionally, ACN is offering a special group rate for parishes wishing to attend together. This will help make the conference more accessible for larger groups (10 and over) of parishioners from parishes who are keen to attend the event.

Castlemilk hosts relics of saints

Picture by Paul McSherry



It's not often that an apostle, a queen and a monk visit a Glasgow housing estate... but that's exactly what happened last month when the Castlemilk parishes of St Bartholomew's and St Margaret Mary's hosted the relics of St Andrew, St Columba and St Margaret of Scotland as part of a national tour.

Parish Priest, Father Joe Sullivan, described the visit of the relics as a great coup for the parishes, which was made possible thanks to a pledge made by The Knights of Saint Columba who are the traditional guardians during such tours.

John O'Donnell, former Provincial Grand Knight of Province 1 Glasgow, who is closely involved in the tours said: "I have always had a close personal affinity with the parishes and the Xavierians who

used to run them, and I promised them before they left last year that the Knights would do their best to arrange for relics to be brought to Castlemilk.

"So when this national tour was planned I was delighted to keep that promise because parishes like those in Castlemilk deserve to get the opportunity and privilege to have relics available for the people to venerate."

The relics are normally kept in the All Saints Reliquary Chapel at the National Marian Shrine in Carfin which has the largest collections of relics outside Rome.

Before coming to the Castlemilk parishes the relics spent a week in St Andrew's Cathedral where they were displayed for veneration in front of the high altar.

New chalices for Sacred Heart



THANKS to the generosity of parishioners, these gilded chalices have been presented to mark the 60th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church, Cumbernauld.

Parish Priest, Father John Campbell said: "When we were discussing plans for the anniversary celebrations some of the parishioners spoke to me and asked if there was anything they could buy for the church at that time.

"I suggested a matching pair of chalices would be appropriate and although they took a while to arrive, we are delighted with them.

"The new chalices have a Celtic design, and they really are quite beautiful and it goes without saying that we are grate-

ful to the pensioners for their thoughtful gesture."

Delivering his homily at the thanksgiving Mass for the anniversary Father Campbell said: "Our church is here because of the investment of former and present parishioners who gave generously and worked hard to raise up this building so that our minds and hearts may be raised to the glory of God."

"We are the guardians of this parish now and it is up to us in our own time to raise up not a building but a church – a lively parish that will have as its focus the evangelisation of ourselves and the growing of our parish by attracting others to our faith through our welcome and Christian way of living."



ACN

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

'Courage to Be Catholic'

Gratefully Supported by
The Ellen and Ian Graham
Charitable Foundation



Ismael Martinez Sanchez



Bishop William Shomali
Patriarchal Vicar for
Jerusalem and Palestine



Dr Hannah Vaughan-Spruce
Exec. Director of Global Mission
Divine Renovation UK



Bishop Wilfred Anagbe
Diocese of Makurdi
Nigeria



Saturday 29 March, 2025
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall



Registration 9.30am - 4.00pm
Mass 5.00pm at St Aloysius

Early bird registration (lunch included)

£25 concession

£30 general admission

After 10th February

£30 concession

£35 general admission

Registered charity in Scotland (SC040748)

Hear from inspiring speakers, meet representatives from Catholic organisations around Scotland, and build Catholic community!

Register on
[trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com)
or scan the QR
code now!



Contact Us
scotland@acnuk.org
01698 337 470



Be pilgrims of hope in the year to come

Archbishop launches Holy Year in St Andrew's Cathedral

‘BE pilgrims of hope throughout the year ahead...’ With these words Archbishop Nolan blessed the Cathedral Jubilee cross (which will be displayed for the next 12 months) and thus inaugurated Holy Year 2025 in the Archdiocese.

The cross – which combines the symbols of St Mungo and the Vatican logo for the Holy Year – will fill the previously empty space on the sanctuary wall until the end of the Jubilee Year.

The Archbishop used the occasion to encourage a packed, multinational congregation to foster hope during the Holy Year and

BY RONNIE CONVERVY transmit it to others.

He said: “It is easy to become discouraged... we look around us and see wars between nations, in our own lives we are faced with illness or money worries, and even the earth is subjected to the threat of global warming.

“Yet we can never lose hope. Jesus Christ, who was born for us, died for us and rose for us from the dead is our great hope, and we have to find a way to share that hope with those around us who feel discouraged and depressed.”

The Archbishop urged

people to pray the Holy Year prayer throughout 2025 and to make use of the opportunities offered by the Jubilee to go on pilgrimage to Rome or to the Cathedral.

The Vatican’s decree for the Jubilee grants a plenary indulgence to those who go on pilgrimage to designated churches and shrines and pray there for the Pope’s intentions, after having completed the other conditions of confession and sacramental communion.

The National Shrine of Our Lady at Carfin has also been designated as a place which can be visited to obtain the Jubilee indulgence.



Picture by Paul McSherry



Picture by Ronnie Convery

All roads lead to Rome! Many Holy Year pilgrimages planned

WITH the Holy Year just a few weeks old a growing number of groups throughout the Archdiocese have already answered the Holy Father’s call to be Pilgrims of Hope and join him in Rome for the 2025 Jubilee Celebrations.

By the end of January a million pilgrims had already crossed through the Holy Door of St Peter’s, which was opened by the Pope on Christmas Eve.

Archbishop Nolan will lead the Archdiocese’s Jubilee pilgrimage from September 19th–26th.

The Archdiocesan Youth Office is organising a pilgrimage from Glasgow to coincide with World Youth Day. Pope Francis has invited young people from across the world to join him in Rome from July 28–August 3, 2025.

Youth

RCAG Youth will take a group of 18 to 30 year olds on this pilgrimage. Just a few places are left so please enquire now if you want to go by emailing youth@rcag.org.uk

The Bishops’ Conference of Scotland has also given details of its national pilgrimage plans.

Scheduled to take place from 5th to 12th September, pilgrims will spend four nights in Rome and three in Assisi at a cost of approximately £1,400 per person,



BY BRIAN SWANSON

with a single-room supplement of £168.

More information is available from Jim McKelvie, the Scottish Delegate for the Holy Year 2025, by email at j.mckelvie@holyyear2025.org.uk or by phone 07957 847290.

The Scottish Catholic Education Service is putting the finishing touches to its pilgrimage plans and expects to give details soon.

Individual parishes are also organising Holy Year pilgrimages.

The pilgrimage from Immaculate Conception, Maryhill, will take place from 26th September until

October 3 with more details available from Alba Tours by emailing annemariacairns@yahoo.co.uk

At Holy Cross, Croy, Parish Priest Canon Tom White is hoping to announce details soon of a pilgrimage planned for October.

Website

Pilgrims planning to visit the Eternal City privately should consult the website www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html to book a passage through the Holy Doors of the Roman basilicas.

You can also download the phone app ‘Iubilaeum25’ to obtain a QR code to be shown when arriving at the various holy doors.



THE STORY OF MY LIFE. A JOURNEY OF HOPE.

Franciscus

Pope releases his autobiography in time for the Jubilee Year of Hope

To coincide with the Jubilee Year's theme of 'Hope', Pope Francis has published a new autobiography full of previously unknown details of his life... and the title of the book is none other than 'Hope'.

The Holy Father originally intended the book to appear only after his death, but the needs of our times and the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope brought forward publication.

'Hope' is the first autobiography in history ever to be published by a Pope.

Written over six years, it starts in the early years of the 20th century, with Pope Francis's Italian roots and his relatives' migration to Latin America, continuing through his childhood to his vocation, adult life, and his papacy up to the present day.

The extremes of life he experienced in Buenos Aires' slums, and the "arrow to the heart" experienced in Iraq in 2021, when he came face to face with the destruction of war are among the themes covered in the autobiography.

Published by Viking, the

BY **RONNIE CONVERY**

book was released on January 14 in the UK and by other publishers in over 100 countries worldwide.

"When someone tells me I am a *villero* [slum dwelling] Pope, I pray to be worthy of it," writes the Holy Father, as he recalls the "complex, multiethnic, multireligious, and multicultural microcosm" of the Flores district in Buenos Aires, where he grew up.

"Differences were normal, and we respected each other," he says, pointing to his relationships with Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim friends.

Pope Francis writes about seeing prostitutes on the streets of Buenos Aires, calling it an image of the "most difficult side of existence." As a bishop, he celebrated Mass for some of these women.

He recalls one woman, named Porota, telling him, "I've worked as a prostitute everywhere – even in the United States. I earned money, then fell in love with an older man who was my lover. When he died, I changed my life. I have a pension now, and I go to as-

sist elderly people in nursing homes who have no one to care for them.

"I don't go to Mass much, and I did everything with my body, but now I want to care for the bodies of people no one else is interested in."

Pope Francis calls her a "contemporary Magdalene." He recalls how Porota called him one last time, from hospital, just before she died, asking to receive the Anointing of the Sick and Communion.

"She died well — like 'the tax collectors and prostitutes' who 'precede us in the kingdom of God'.

Death

"I loved her dearly. Even now, I never forget to pray for her on the day of her death," he writes.

The Pope also recalls the prisoners who made a lasting impression on him and the people who lived in the slums of Buenos Aires where "the State was absent for 40 years" and drug addiction is "a scourge that multiplies despair."

The Pope affirms that "in these peripheries, which the Church must increasingly

make its centre."

Religion "is not the opium of the people, a comforting story to alienate individuals," the Pope insists.

On the contrary, he says, "it is thanks to faith and that pastoral and civil commitment" that people "have progressed in unimaginable ways, despite enormous difficulties."

Reflecting on his historic

Apostolic Journey to Iraq, in 2021, Pope Francis says: "I was advised against going by almost everyone... but I felt I had to."

Warning

He mentions a warning from British intelligence about two assassination attempts that had been planned during his visit to Mosul: one by a woman

strapped with explosives, another involving a truck.

Both attackers were intercepted and killed by Iraqi police. "This struck me deeply," Pope Francis emphasizes. "It was also a poisoned fruit of war."

■ **Hope is published by Viking, available online and in bookshops.**



New scheme reaps a rich harvest of altar servers for St Peter's



BY BRIAN SWANSON
PICTURE BY PAUL MCSHERRY

A RECRUITMENT drive to encourage more young people to become altar servers at Saint Peter's Parish in Partick has been hailed a great success.

It came about after a joint effort between parish priest, Monsignor Paul Murray, assistant priest Father Isaac Umaru, and parishioner Geraldine Hickey.

Geraldine said: "We first reached out just before the summer holidays and throughout autumn via letters to the Notre Dame Primary school families, Notre Dame High and in our par-

ish bulletin.

"I'm delighted to say that we have now trained 14 new altar servers – making 18 in total.

"It's lovely to see how thrilled the parishioners are to see all the new servers and the faith and enthusiasm they bring to the Masses.

"Our goal was to create a training programme to give our servers a greater understanding of the Eucharist, and what happens during Mass."

Canonised

The boys and girls chose Blessed Carlo Acutis as their patron and his influence and example was at the core of each stage of the

training programme.

Blessed Carlo will be canonised in Rome on April 27 at the final Mass of the weekend of the Jubilee for Teenagers.

Geraldine, who has been a parishioner at St Peter's for 12 years since relocating from London and whose two daughters are altar servers, added:

"We wanted to give the children a chance to be involved in a fun, welcoming and participative way at Mass and we tell them that they are right there, in the middle of it all, for the greatest miracle of them all – the one that happens at each and every Mass ... and we think that's pretty amazing."

Father Isaac said: "When an opportunity came to have new servers, we saw that as a good window for evangelising.

"Geraldine was a great inspiration as a mother, who participated as an active team member during the period of training of the new servers. In the course of the training, I also had the privilege of sharing my childhood memories with the trainees.

Calling

"The interactive session reminded me of how my calling to the priesthood began.

"Our desire and future goal is not only to train

Adeje - Tenerife

Playa Fañabé

Superb one bed apartment with sunny balcony with remote control awning, overlooking pool. Everything supplied. 100 yards from beach. Restaurant, bars, pools, gym and entertainment in complex. Sleeps 4. Email office@domsweeney.com for pictures. **£70 per night - Contact 07778 160193**

INSTALLATIONS, REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE OF ALL GARAGE DOORS

DALY GARAGE DOORS
Family Business With Over 30 Years Experience

Extensive range of doors including: Henderson, Hormann, Garador, Gliderol, Caradale, Novoferm etc.

- Electric operators installed to new & existing doors
- Roller doors & spares
- Free estimates & advice

24 Hour Call-Out

TELEPHONE: 01355 261601
MOBILE: 07821 679606
www.dalygaragedoors.co.uk
Email: markpdaly@blueyonder.co.uk
1 Kendal Road, East Kilbride G75 8QT

servers, but to journey with young people with the aim of rendering services to God and humanity, loving and caring for all. So far, since the beginning of the training, the energy has been

great and positive. "This is a plus for St. Peter's community and opportunity for the younger folks to make their contributions, everyone has a place in the house of God – the Church."

Universities keep flame of faith burning



Picture by Paul McSherry

Two universities in Glasgow have shown that faith is alive and well in the corridors of learning.

Glasgow University – founded by Pope Nicholas V back in 1451 – welcomed Archbishop Nolan to the Memorial Chapel for

The University's choir were on hand to provide magnificent music to accompany the Mass which was celebrated by the University Chaplain, Canon Gerry Conroy, Cathedral Administrator Canon David Wallace, neighbouring Parish Priest, Mgr Paul Murray and Coordinator of Spiritual and Pastoral Formation in the

St Andrew's Foundation, Fr Charles Coyle.

Meanwhile a significant milestone took place at Strathclyde University with the dedication of the Catholic Chapel to St Thomas Aquinas – the patron of theology and learning.

Fr Brendan Slevin, the University chaplain (and himself a Dominican) celebrated the dedication Mass and placed relics of Aquinas in a place of honour behind the altar.



WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

Pope: 'Learn from those who are ill'

THE Holy Father has published a special message for all those who are sick, asking them to take a full part in this year's Jubilee.

In his Message for the 33rd World Day of the Sick, to be marked on February 11, Pope Francis grapples with the profound questions facing those who are suffering and those who care for them. "How can we be strong when our bodies have severe, debilitating illnesses that require costly treatment that we may not be able to afford?"

Quoting the theme of the 'Jubilee of Hope' The Pope writes that true hope "does not disappoint," and in fact "strengthens us in times of trial," but he acknowledges that this confidence can often prove perplexing in real situations of suffering.

"In these situations," the Pope says, we sense our need for a strength greater than our own. We realize that we need God's help, His grace, His Providence, and the strength that is the gift of His Spirit."

The Holy Father goes on to invite the faithful to reflect on ways God remains close to those who are suffering.

The Pope recalls that when Jesus sent the 72 disciples on mission, He told them to tell the sick, "The Kingdom of God has come near to you," that is, "to help the sick see their infirmity... as an opportunity to encounter the Lord."

This encounter, he explains, can be transformative, helping us to discover "a solid rock to which we can cling amid the tempests of life, an experience that... makes us all the stronger



Antonio Ciseri, *Apparizione della Madonna a Bernadette di Lourdes*, 1879

because it teaches us that we are not alone."

"How often, at the bedside of the sick, do we learn to hope!" he writes. "How often, by our closeness to those who suffer, do we learn to have faith! How often, when we care for those in need, do we discover love!"

The Pope emphasizes the need "to learn how to appreciate the beauty and significance of these grace-filled encounters" between patients, doctors, caregivers, family and friends.

"All these are rays of light to be treasured; even among the dark night of adversity, they give us strength, while at the same time teaching us the deeper meaning of life, in love and closeness."

Pope Francis concludes his Message with a special word for those who are sick and suffering, reminding them that they have an "especially important" part to play in the Jubilee. "Your journey together is a sign of hope for everyone, 'a hymn of dignity, a song of hope'."

And he thanks them for their witness, in the name of the whole Church and in his own name, assuring them that they are always in his prayers, and extending to them his blessing.

The World Day of the Sick is observed each year on February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Healthcare will feature strongly in the current Holy Year with the upcoming Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, set for April 5-6; and the Jubilee of People with Disabilities on April 28-29.

Book now for Glasgow Lourdes pilgrimage

DETAILS of this summer's Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage have now been finalised, with direct flights from Glasgow leaving on Wednesday 16 July and returning on Wednesday July 23.

Instead of leaving on Fair Friday in July – as has been tradition since the first pilgrimage in 1948 – the new midweek option is designed to make travelling simpler and cheaper for pilgrims to visit the famous French shrine.

Led by Archbishop Nolan, the theme of the pilgrimage this Holy Year will be 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope.'

The arrangements have once again been put in place by Joe Walsh

Tours, and costs start at £949 which includes transfers, seven nights accommodation based on sharing twin/treble rooms at Hotel Eliseo (£1,045pps) or Hotel Agena (£949pps), breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, full religious programme and a guided visit to the Sanctuaries, Grotto, Baths and Basilicas.

For more details email info@joewalstours.co.uk or Freefone 08081890468.

■ **To express an interest in joining the pilgrimage contact the pilgrimage office, before March 31st, on 0141 226 5898 or email pilgrimage@rcag.org.uk**



The Priests take their final bow

THE popular Irish singing trio, The Priests, are hanging up their microphones (but not their Roman collars!) after singing together for almost half a century.

The three diocesan priests have regularly toured in Scotland and packed out the Royal Concert Hall on a recent visit.

Fr Eugene O'Hagan, Fr David Delargy, and Fr Martin O'Hagan gave their final concert last month in Belfast.

The Priests continue to serve as full time priests in the Diocese of Down and Connor. Fr Eugene is Chancellor and Vicar General of the Diocese. Fr Martin, his brother, is parish priest of Newtownards and Comber, while Fr David is parish priest of the Loughshore Parishes of Greencastle, Whitehouse and St James.

They are incredibly grateful to the unfailing support and encouragement they have received from the bishops and priests in Down and Connor Diocese and of the parishioners in those parishes where they have served over the years.

Fr Eugene said: "This decision was taken in the context of marking 50 years of singing together since boyhood. We've been singing together since 1974 at school.

"The Priests have been on

the go for almost two decades and we thought, can we, or should we, continue at the same level? Is it possible to maintain this kind of commitment in the midst of all of the things that are happening in life? Not least in our own responsibilities in parishes in the diocese."

The constant goal for Fr O'Hagan and The Priests was always about "affirming that God has a place in the world today".

Privilege

He said: "For many people that we've spoken to, they've said that the music has really helped them rekindle their sense of God in their lives. Our music is unashamedly Christian and Catholic and we're happy to share it and we've had the privilege of being able to do it with more numbers than we've ever, ever imagined.

"I would like to think that the music has given people joy and encouraged people to continue their search for God in life and to affirm that God has a place in the world today and in one's individual life.

"The music and CDs are still there and will always be available even if we're not singing in that formation in the future. The music is still accessible to people which is



a great solace to us."

The Priests came to prominence when in April 2008 they signed a recording contract in front of Westminster Cathedral. The event featured in the national news and even made the front cover of *Time* magazine.

Their debut album, *The Priests*, partly recorded in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, and released in over 40 countries, earned them a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest selling debut album for a classical act in the UK.

Pope's letter to mark SCIAF's 60th

SCIAF – the official aid Agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland – has been congratulated on 60 years of service to the world's poor by none other than the Pope himself.

Pope Francis sent a Papal blessing from Rome to the humanitarian charity, which was founded in Rutherglen back in 1965.

Since then, SCIAF has transformed the lives of millions of people in some of the world's poorest places.

Pope Francis sent his "prayerful greetings and good wishes" that the "members and supporters will become even more courageous in serving the world's poor with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness ... as the Good Samaritan."

SCIAF's Chief Executive Lorraine Currie said: "To receive this Papal Blessing from his Holiness means so much to me, our staff and I'm sure everyone associated with our amazing



BY BRIAN SWANSON

charity.

"This is a recognition of the amazing dedication of our staff, our local partners and especially our supporters, not just current but everyone who has worked in our name for the last six decades."

SCIAF is marking its

60th anniversary in 2025 with a number of events and campaigns across the year. Alongside calling on supporters to do a "60 for 60" challenge to raise vital cash for the charity, SCIAF has recently launched a new campaign calling on world leaders to cancel unjust global debts which trap countries in cycles of

poverty.

Lorraine said: "Our motto for the 60th anniversary is 'A Better World is Possible.' Thanks to the work of SCIAF, the world is now a better place than it was 60 years ago. There's a lot more work still to do, but we believe that we can build a world free from poverty and injustice."

GLASGOW'S OLDEST TRADITIONAL MANUFACTURING SILVERSMITH

VISIONS IN SILVER
MORRISON-IGNATIEFF SILVERSMITHS

Specialist in quality repairs and restoration of all silverware

Call into our workshop at **34 Argyll Arcade, 3rd Floor, Glasgow G2 8BD**
Telephone **0141 204 1083** or **07957 834265**
www.visionsinsilver.co.uk

T. McGowan & Sons Monumental Sculptors



FAMILY FIRM ESTABLISHED 1947

St. Kentigern's Cemetery
109 Tresta Road, Glasgow G23 5AA
Telephone: 0141 946 2429

Linn Cemetery
602 Lainshaw Drive, Glasgow G45 9SP
Telephone: 0141 634 8515

Dalbeth Cemetery
1920 London Road, Glasgow G32
Telephone: 0141 778 4916

Philipshill Cemetery
Westerfield Road, East Kilbride G76
Telephone: 0141 644 4535

NEW MEMORIALS • ADDITIONAL LETTERING • CLEANING
All work completed in any cemetery. Brochure available on request

www.tmcgowan.co.uk

Ricky's film shows 'Dignity' in action

A POWERFUL new film highlighting the humanitarian work of SCIAF and its long-time supporter Deacon Blue legend Ricky Ross is set to be shown in schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese after its big screen premiere last month.

It was so well received that SCIAF have now decided to make it available to share with schools, parishes groups and other interested parties.

The film, called 'Dignity', named after the band's biggest hit, was shown at the Glasgow Film Theatre and included two short films and a Q&A session.

Ricky and his wife Lorraine

BY **BRIAN SWANSON** have been dedicated supporters of SCIAF for a number of years and have travelled to Zambia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo on aid missions.

Ricky, 66, said: "I've been delighted to support the life-changing work of SCIAF for a number of years. I've seen first-hand the impact that donations from Scotland have on some of the poorest people in the world."

"I'm so pleased the amazing SCIAF is now being celebrated through this documentary, and proud to be a part of it."

The documentary is the brainchild of James Cave, a

filmmaker who works for the aid charity based in its Glasgow headquarters

He said: "From working with rural farmers in Zambia to uplifting women and girls in their communities – it's all about dignity."

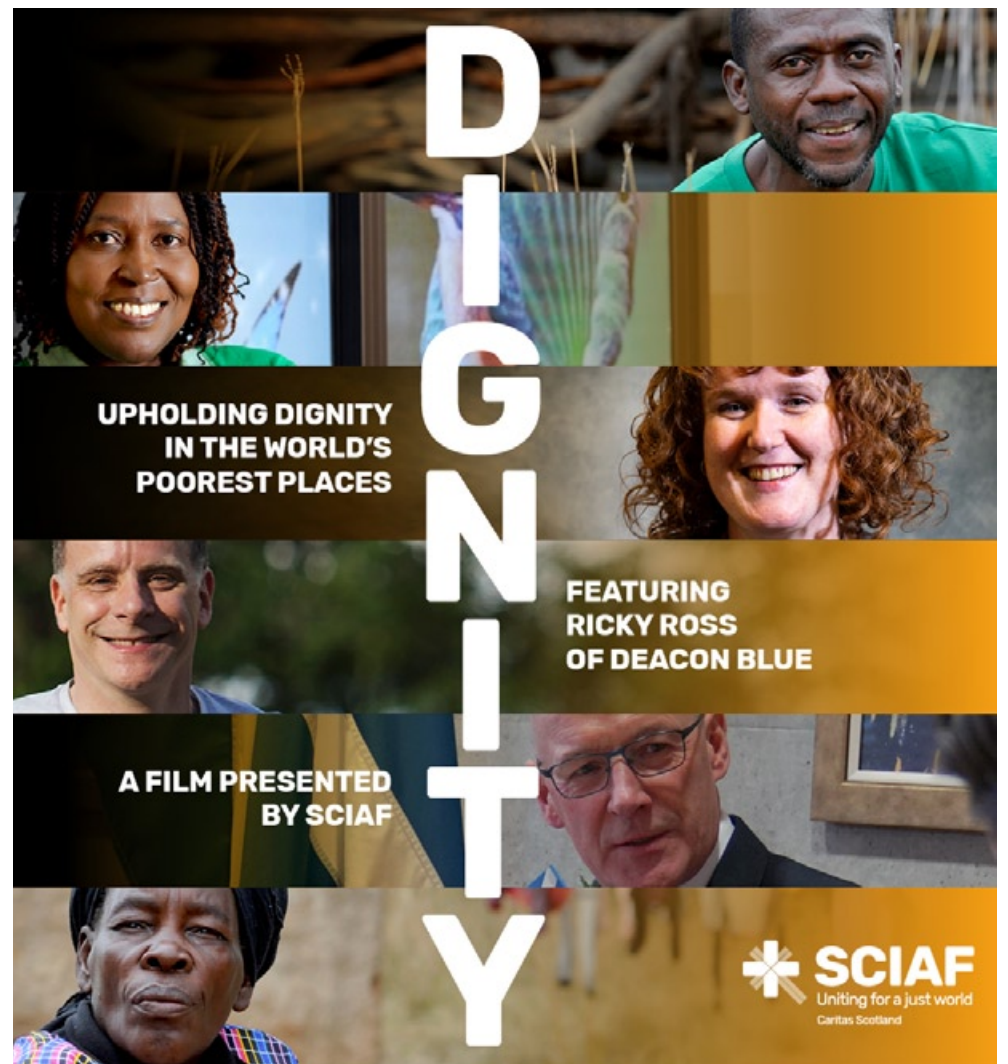
"In Zambia, SCIAF works in one of the most polluted towns in the world: Kabwe. So, visiting the people we work with there was at times pretty challenging, but also uplifting, hearing how we support people to grow more food."

"The film also has great scene with Ricky on his piano at home – playing a song he wrote and dedicated to SCIAF after he returned from Zambia."

The films also include an interview with First Minister John Swinney. The Scottish Government has long been a generous provider of aid to African nations, with the First Minister last month confirming £12.5million of new funding for education in Malawi, Zambia and Rwanda.

You can watch the film at: www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/739-dignity-film.

To request a screening of the documentary email get-involved@sciaf.org.uk



Picture by Simon Murphy



STOCK CLEARANCE SALE
Every stone must go!

**up to half price
 fitted and finished**

Charles Lipton Monumental

5 Crosshill Road · Bishopbriggs · Glasgow G64 2PZ
 0141 762 3733 · margaret@charleslipton.co.uk

St Kentigern's · Lambhill
 Dalbeth · Riddrie
 St Peter's · St Conval's
 and all other cemeteries in the area

Anniversary appeal to help tell the story of wartime tragedy

A PLEA has gone out to find the relatives of a group of men whose names are remembered in the Italian Cloister Garden at St Andrew's Cathedral... in time for the anniversary of their death.

The *Arandora Star* – a luxury liner pressed into war service – was torpedoed on July 2, 1940 carrying mostly Italian civilians to Canada following Churchill's order to 'collar the lot'. Almost 100 Scots-Italians died.

The Cathedral Cloister Garden was conceived by the late Archbishop Conti as a place for 'the healing of memories' of all involved in conflicts and has a plaque on the eastern wall with the names of the 94 Scots-Italians who perished in the wartime disaster.

Now a plea has gone out to contact the relatives of the victims.

A project launched several years ago to find out about the lives of those who died has successfully gathered biographies of all 94 men whose names are on the plaque.

The researchers have also managed to find photos and

BY **RONNIE CONVERY** make contact with the families of 71 of the victims, leaving 23 still to complete.

The project team of Roberto Lucherini, Michael Donnelly and Ralph Gonnella are putting out a plea to *Flourish* readers to complete the project.

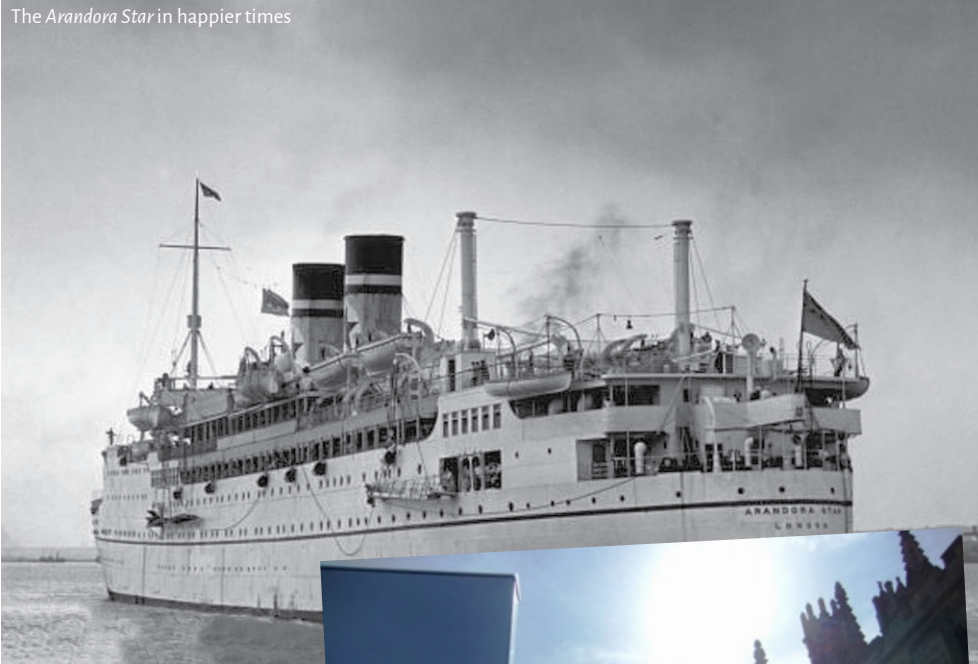
Ralph said: "This summer marks the 85th anniversary of the sinking of the *Arandora Star*. I have a particular link to that event because my *nonno* (grandfather) was one of those who died.

"We have made contact with relatives from as far away as Latin America and the USA, as well as families in the UK and Italy who have supplied us with pictures of their relatives and told us their stories.

"Most were ordinary men – the youngest was 16 and the oldest 69 – whose lives were all about their families and their business, often chip shops or cafes. People have been so grateful to be able to tell us about their relatives and in some cases find out about them.

"We have 23 names left. We know their story but we still

The *Arandora Star* in happier times



don't have a photo or a living family link. Our dream is to complete the project by producing a book and a website with all 94 victims' stories and photos during this anniversary year."

If you recognize one of the names of those the researchers are still trying to trace, please contact Ralph at AIGON@aol.com



Stories untold

OF the 94 men whose names are listed in the Cathedral Cloister Garden, researchers are still on the lookout for photos and links to living relatives of the following:

From Glasgow:
Alessandro Beltrami
Pasquale De Marco
Pietro Di Luca
Pietro Papa
Angelo Pinchera

From Ayrshire:
Umberto Battistini

From Edinburgh:
Vittorio Ciarli
Giovanni Cimorelli
Philip Coppola
Donato Crolla
Gaetano Pacitti
Luigi Perella
Carlo Pettiglio
Raffaele Tedesco
Adolf Valente

From Lanarkshire:
Giovanni Cosimini
Giuseppe Del Grosso
Michele Ruocchio

From Renfrewshire:
Francesco Ferrari
Agostino Pardini
Flavio Rossi

From Fife:
Orazio Iannetta

From the Borders:
Rocco Antonio
Domfrancesco




Bernard Corrigan Ltd
WHOLESALE FISHMONGER • POULTERER & GAME DEALER

1 KEPPOCHHILL PLACE
PORT DUNDAS BUSINESS PARK
GLASGOW G21 1HS

Telephone: 0141 552 4368 • Fax: 0141-552 4731

HANDY MAN SERVICES



**ROOF SLATER/
TILER REQUIRED**

Must have all knowledge of roofing work.
For temporary contract.
Could lead to other work.

Call Pat: 07582 789143
Email: handybandservices@gmail.com

Did you know Gorbals boy Pietro?

P IETRO Papa's name is carved into the granite on a Glasgow wall, but the hunt is on to contact his relatives and find a photo of him as the 85th anniversary of his death approaches.

Researchers have been able to pinpoint some key facts about his life which was cut short in its 30th year by one of the great tragedies of World War II.

In 1911 he is registered as living in Glasgow as a one year old with his dad Lorenzo and mum Emilia in Westmuir Street in Parkhead.

Ten years later the family are living in the Gorbals and three other children have been born. One is Andrew who was born in 1912. By 1935 the Papa family have both a house and shop in the Gorbals.

Disaster struck when Italy entered the war in 1940. Churchill's order to arrest all Italian citizens saw Pietro (a Glasgow boy who may never have set foot on Italian soil) arrested and sent to his death on the *Arandora Star*.

His brother Andrew married in 1952, but like some other Italians had changed his name to try to integrate better and escape prejudice. The surname he chose was Pope – the English translation of Papa. Andrew died in 1972 but researchers have not been able to find any living relatives of the family.

Case study

St Gregory's volunteers provide a lifeline of love for those in need



Brian Swanson joins the volunteers at St Gregory's foodbank – the busiest in Glasgow – and meets the people who rely on the project for food, essential supplies and human company *Pictures by Paul McSherry*

It's a bone-chilling morning in Maryhill and with a while to go before opening time of 10 o'clock, a sizeable queue has already formed outside St Gregory's foodbank.

In the jargon of the charity the people in the queue are 'service users' but come closer and they look just like you and me.

Most are unwilling to give their names.

They are ordinary people caught up in circumstances not of their making or choosing.

To put it quietly, this part of Maryhill – universally known as 'The Wyndford' – is by no means a gentrified garden suburb.

Built in the 60s on the site of the old Maryhill barracks, this proud working-class area houses long-term ten-



ants, but also welcomes asylum seekers, refugees and those suffering from addiction.

Wyndford is – and there is no way to sugar coat it – listed by the authorities as being in the five per cent of most deprived areas in Scotland.

It could be of any one of us tomorrow seeking help from the food bags offered by St Gregory's which prides itself on being an independent grass roots organisation, and most importantly, seeks no referral or paperwork of any kind.

It is open from 10–12 five mornings a week and there is no red tape here – anyone joining the queue is entitled to a bag of basic foodstuffs once a week.

Joe – not his real name – is a regular. Now in his sixties, he lives on his own and suffers from several health issues and attends hospital regularly.

He receives universal credit, but things are still tight so the basic food bag makes a huge difference. He said: "I've got tea, eggs, cheese, and good bread to-

day and a few treats as well – it's all good stuff.

"It gets you through – you know what I mean? And it's the social thing too. I've made friends here and that's a good thing.

"And it gets you out of the house even on days like this. Stops you staring at walls. Honestly, I'd be lost without this place."

A pensioner couple whom we'll call Alex and Sandra stop to chat as they leave with their bags. "It's a great add-on that we get here," Alex says. "Now that we don't get our Winter Fuel Allowance the wee extras make all the difference."

Sandra said: "We tried to apply for pension credit like they say we should but he's got a wee work pension and that puts us over the limit by a fiver – a fiver! – so that's us

snookered."

Anna is a 21-year-old student from Ukraine who came here in October. Her father has remained behind while her mum and sister found the chance to move to Glasgow where she shares a flat with a friend and will shortly study English at college.

It will be a long time before I forget her smile of gratitude as she pointed to the bag she had just been given and, in halting English, said: "I am so grateful to everyone for all these things."

Then reaching into the bag, smiling with delight, she said "and look what they have given me as well – this beautiful bunch of flowers. Glasgow people are so kind."

No further words needed. Anna. You speak for us all.

Pope puts care for those in need at heart of Jubilee Year



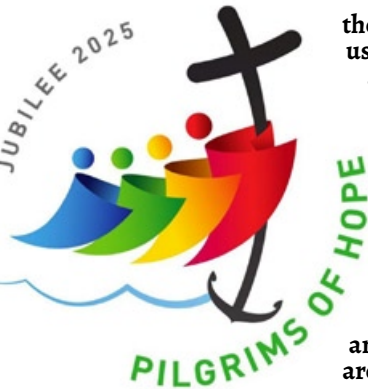
POPE Francis has put care of those in need at the heart of the Holy Year of 2025.

Just a month before opening the Holy Door of St Peter's, the Pope urged special efforts to be made to reach out to those affected by poverty. He said: "Let us not forget to keep 'the little details of love'... stopping, drawing near, giving a little attention, a smile, a caress, a word of comfort.

"These gestures are not automatic; they require a daily commitment and are often hidden and silent, but strengthened by prayer... We are called in every circumstance to be friends of the poor, following in the footsteps of Jesus who always began by showing solidarity when dealing with the least among us."

In the Papal Bull proclaiming the Jubilee he wrote: "I ask with all my heart that hope be granted to the billions of the poor, who often lack the essentials of life.

"Before the constant tide of new forms of impoverishment, we can easily grow inured and resigned. Yet we must not close our eyes to the dramatic situations that we now encounter all around us, not only in certain



parts of the world. Let us not forget: the poor are almost always the victims, not the ones to blame."

He even made care for the poor one of the ways people can gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence. "The faithful, following the example and mandate of Christ, are encouraged to carry out works of charity or mercy more frequently, especially in the service of those brothers and sisters who are burdened by various needs. More especially, they should rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked..."

"In this way, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, their brothers and sisters who are in need or in difficulty (the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people...), in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them according to the usual spiritual, sacramental and prayer conditions.

"The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time."

the bottom of the pile. Let us not forget: the poor are almost always the victims, not the ones to blame."

He even made care for the poor one of the ways people can gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence. "The faithful, following the example and mandate of Christ, are encouraged to carry out works of charity or mercy more frequently, especially in the service of those brothers and sisters who are burdened by various needs. More especially, they should rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked..."

"In this way, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, their brothers and sisters who are in need or in difficulty (the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people...), in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them according to the usual spiritual, sacramental and prayer conditions.

"The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time."



Fr Allan is on the front line

As the cost of living crisis deepens, and the plight of those living on the margins worsens, St Gregory's in Maryhill has become Glasgow's busiest independent foodbank.

Newly released statistics – described by Parish Priest Father Allan Cameron as 'frightening' – reveal that the initiative is handing out more of what it calls 'bags of help' than at any time since it was founded in 2017.

A total of 15,000 bags were given out during all of 2024 – a figure which has almost doubled since 2022, when 8,700 were distributed while in 2023 the number rose to 11,600.

In the first week of December alone, the charity distributed basic foodstuffs with a value of £10.75, to 900 adults and children.

Father Cameron, whose parish house has been transferred into the foodbank's headquarters and storage space, said: "There is a strong probability that being open five mornings per week, that we are among the busiest foodbanks in Glasgow. The increasing numbers of people coming for help is frightening."

"Without our volunteers and supporters, where would all these people get the help they so desperately need?"

He added: "There is a large picture of Pope Francis at the entrance to our church which has the words 'everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven' and that message on the outside is exactly the message that is being lived inside the church."

"I firmly believe that what we are doing here is the work of the Holy Spirit."

"I have never had a group of people working together from so many different backgrounds with absolute joy and care."

"We have been able to go from 20 bags at best when we started in 2017 to these extraordinary numbers because as more and more folk need our services, more and more people of goodwill have stepped up – people who do not necessarily have a Catholic background but who have all stepped up."

"The fact that that none of us caught Covid during the pandemic, meaning we could continue with our work here... well

there is just no way to explain that except that it's the work of the Holy Spirit!"

Working with an army of dedicated volunteers, funded entirely by donations including substantial food donations from supermarkets including Marks and Spencer in Milngavie, branches of Asda and Lidl and many small independent companies throughout Glasgow, St Gregory's has become, literally, a lifeline for those who exist on the very edge of desperation.

From the beginning its volunteers have worked closely with its partner churches include Immaculate Conception, Maryhill, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Broomhill, Maryhill Ruchill Parish, St Joseph's Milngavie, New Kilpatrick parish church and St John's Renfield church.

Help

Unlike other food banks, St Gregory's doesn't require a referral or any paperwork of any kind and anyone who asks for help will receive it – no questions are asked.

That help comes in the form of one bag per family containing basic foodstuffs, household cleaning items and where possible meat, cheese, eggs, fresh fruit, vegetables, and goodie bags for children.

Sanitary products, nappies and pet food are also in high demand.

The largest single group who use the food bank help is families with children who still find it a struggle to make ends meet but a growing number are pensioners who no longer receive their Winter Fuel allowance.

But no matter their background – asylum seeker, single parents, or those battling addiction – no one will be turned away.

As Father Allan put it: "If we are a Eucharistic people then we must multiply the loaves and provide for those who are hungry in a world of excess."

"There are no simple answers, and we cannot predict what the future holds, but as long as there is a need we will be here."

■ To find out more, to donate, volunteer other ways to help search in your browser for St Gregory's Foodbank.

Pilgrims of hope and peace



‘The Pope calls us every evening’



POPE FRANCIS' CARE FOR GAZA PARISH
FATHER GABRIEL ROMANELLI

Pope Francis reaches out every evening, via WhatsApp, at 7pm sharp, to Father Gabriele Romanelli, the parish priest of the Holy Family Parish in Gaza (who visited Glasgow last year) to assure him and his people of his closeness and prayers.

He has done so every evening since October 9 2023. This nightly routine, which he often mentions, is a way for the Pope to stay connected with the parish community where over 600 people are sheltered, both Christians and Muslims, in the church and school.

Although they last only a few minutes, the calls provide a moment of warmth and connection.

The joy of the ceasefire has turned the Pope's call into a moment of celebration for the parish. While peace remains elusive, smiles and a sense of normalcy are slowly returning.

Using his secretary's phone, the Pope is greeted with an enthusiastic, "Good evening, Holy Father!"

The tone is filled with the excitement of someone speaking to the Pope for the first time, despite having spoken with

him just the day before.

At the end of a recent General Audience, Pope Francis reflected on his calls to the Holy Family Parish, now cautiously resuming a normal rhythm of life: "They're happy. They ate lentils... and we must pray for peace."

During the video call released last month, children, women, and men bundled in scarves and hats approach the screen in the courtyard. The first to greet the Pope was a doctor, who said, "Salāmu 'alaykum," to which Pope Francis replied in Arabic.

In the background, voices of women and children could be heard. Smiling, the Pope waved and playfully greeted the children: "Bye-bye! Ciao!"

He concluded by making the sign of the cross, saying, "Muchas gracias, grazie tante."

"Pray for me, not against me!" quipped the Pope, prompting laughter and cheers.

For a community that has endured over a year of fear, cold, and hunger, the Pope's nightly calls are a vital reminder that they are not forgotten.

Archbishop walks 'tightrope of peace' in the Holy Land

DO not be afraid to walk in the land of Jesus ... that's the message of Archbishop Nolan following his visit with an international group of bishops to the Holy Land.

The Bishops from Europe and America were able to experience first-hand the sense of hope which fills the air following the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

"The atmosphere was calm," said the Archbishop on his return, "and there is a lot of hope... but not much optimism. The fear of Palestinian Christians is that until there is new leadership on both sides of the divide, no long term planning can take place."

The group were able to catch up via video call with Fr Gabriel Romanelli – the Parish Priest of Gaza who visited Glasgow last year and charmed all he encountered with his gentle pleas for peace.

Archbishop Nolan said: "He seemed well and said that he was finally able to sleep a bit better since the violence has stopped. Many Christians have been sheltering in the church complex in Northern Gaza and from there Fr Gabriel has been directing an operation to support 60,000 Gazans a month."

"Despite the devastation around them, he told us his people's first priority is education for their children. Before the war there were three Cath-

WORDS BY RONNIE CONVERY

PICTURES BY MAZUR

olic schools ... one has been destroyed by bombing, one is badly damaged and the third is used as a shelter for homeless victims of the violence. The totally destroyed school belongs to the Rosary sisters. They left Gaza during the conflict. No one knows if they will return.

"Now the parish wants to find a way to allow schooling to resume in Gaza and restore some form of educational provision for the children. That kind of commitment is so impressive."

The bishops also met with the most senior Catholic in the

Holy Land, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa. Cardinal Pizzaballa, who is from Bergamo in northern Italy, reminded the bishops of the importance of providing aid to the small Christian community of the Holy Land. He had been able to channel funds to Gaza during the war to support humanitarian efforts.

Families

Archbishop Nolan shared with the Patriarch the concerns of people in Glasgow for the people of their twin city of Bethlehem and the wider territory. He was told that 140 Christian families have left Bethlehem

in the last year alone, further diminishing the Christian presence in the city.

He said: "The Patriarch's plea was for Christians to return on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There is a very real fear that people will stay away because of concerns about safety, but the strong message was that it is now safe to go."

"The Christian communities rely on pilgrimages to support their families and it was clear that many shops which once catered to the pilgrim market are now closed and boarded up."

"The Patriarch also reminded us of the importance of avoiding inflammatory language when discussing the Gaza situation... explaining that polemics are unhelpful in making practical progress towards peace."

Later the Bishops visited other Christian sites to encourage people in the troubled region to keep going and to ensure that they had not been forgotten. They visited the seminary, a medical facility run by the Church in Ramallah, a German pilgrim hostel and various parishes.

They held Sunday Mass in the little village of Aboud in the West Bank and the people were overjoyed to wel-



come their visitors – so much so that they managed to source a St Andrew's Saltire to welcome their Scottish visitor!

Visitors

Archbishop Nolan said: "Aboud does not get many visits. It's in Palestinian territory and has a Christian majority, but the Israeli authorities have recently put a gate on the village and the day after we visited the gate was shut."

"In this way villages are isolated from each other and everyday life becomes hugely difficult. A 40-minute journey can take four hours because of security checkpoints... that is if they can leave at all."

Despite the difficulties the

Archbishop returned home with a spirit of hope – appropriately for the start of the Jubilee Year of Hope.

He told *Flourish*: "I have been going to the Holy Land for many years and I have to say that the life for Palestinian Christians and the wider community gets worse. People on both sides of the conflict see their own tragedies and injustices and remember their own losses and that's very understandable."

"It will probably take a new generation of leaders on both sides to build any kind of lasting peace, but for now the ceasefire is holding and the Holy Land is open to visitors. That has got to be a real sign of hope."



Holy Land Declaration

As they concluded their visit, Archbishop Nolan and the international delegation of bishops released this statement.

'A lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.' 2 Peter 1:19

We came to the Holy Land, this Jubilee Year, as pilgrims of hope. We came in hope that a fragile ceasefire agreement, announced as we travelled here, would hold.

We came looking forward to those in Israel and Palestine, who have suffered the atrocities of violence and war, being able to rebuild their shattered lives, to mourn the loss of their loved ones, to come together again as families and to start on the long, uncertain road to recovery.

Joy at the return of Israeli hostages and the release of Palestinian prisoners is marred by the knowledge that so many will not return: hostages, prisoners, countless dead.

We note widespread concern at the fragility of the ceasefire; that it may bring respite but not the sustained and lasting peace for which the Holy Land cries out. An online meeting with the parish priest of Holy Family Parish in Gaza impressed upon us the devastation being experienced by the whole population.

The impact of war on the whole West Bank is rarely reported at home. We have been privileged to listen first-hand to several communities of Christians in the West Bank. To them we wish to say:

"Thank you for the most generous welcome you extended towards us; for helping us understand the extraordinary efforts being made in the fields of healthcare and education to preserve the dignity of all those living in the West Bank. Your communities are a light in the darkness of a suffering Land. We were moved to hear how often Christians expressed their commitment to stay and rebuild the lives of their people."

"Thank you for sharing all the struggles you experience: the severe restriction on movement; the sudden road closures which add hours to short journeys and so inhibit normal daily life but most especially urgent medical assistance; the lack of water and electricity; the impossibility of constructing new buildings; the high level of unemployment after so many work permits were cancelled with the start of war. We recognised the need for the respective governments to work together to resolve these vital issues."

"We saw how settlements, illegal under international law, which were once enclaves have grown to surround you to make enclaves now of your communities."

We hear your cry for peace with justice and your anxiety at what will happen when the focus turns away from Gaza; what will happen to your land. There is a clear need for the international community to act together to facilitate realistic and radical development assistance, as part of a process towards achieving a lasting peace.

"We came to tell you that you are not alone; you are not forgotten. Your faith and resilience strengthen our own faith. We hope that our coming among you encourages you and will inspire Christians from our different countries to return to the Holy Land on pilgrimage."

We hope that pilgrims will journey not only to the Holy Sites of Jerusalem, Galilee and Bethlehem, but that they will also come to visit communities like Aboud, Ephraim-Taybeh, and Ramallah so they too can draw inspiration from your faithfulness to the Land in which Jesus was born."

We join with Patriarch Pizzaballa and the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land in their hope that the ceasefire amounts to more than a pause in hostilities and marks the start of a genuine and lasting peace.

We share their conviction that this can only be achieved "through a just solution that addresses the origin of this long-standing struggle; (that it will require) a long process, a willingness to acknowledge each other's suffering and a focused education in trust that leads to overcoming fear of the other and the justification of violence as a political tool. (Declaration of the Catholic Ordinaries on the Ceasefire in Gaza)"

Right Revd Nicholas Hudson
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
England and Wales
Moderator of the Holy Land Coordination

Most Revd Udo Bentz
Archbishop of Paderborn, Germany

Right Revd Pierre Burcher
Bishop Emeritus of Reykjavik
Nordic Bishops' Conference

Right Revd Christopher Chessun
Anglican Bishop of Southwark
Church of England

Right Revd James Curry
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster
England and Wales

Most Revd William Nolan
Archbishop of Glasgow, Scotland

Most Revd Joan Enric Vives Sicilia*
Bishop of Urgell, Spain
Principality of Andorra

Right Revd Elias Zaidan
Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy
United States of America

Adiós to Fr John as joy and sorrow mark St Mary's big anniversary year

It was a time to share memories and give thanks when parishioners of St Mary Immaculate Pollokshaws celebrated its 175th anniversary while paying a fond farewell to their

parish priest, Father John Carrol, who has now taken up a new post as Rector of the Royal Scots College in Salamanca, Spain.

The Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Archbishop

William Nolan who reminded parishioners, past and present, that they should be inspired by the faith of those who founded the parish while

looking to the future, living the Gospel and keeping the faith alive.

He said: "We must continue to honour those who

BY BRIAN SWANSON

PICTURES BY PAUL MCSHERRY

given me such great support over the years.

"My new post will be a challenge for me, and I ask you all to keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine."

The evening was also a memorable one for parishioner and former teacher Ellen Britton who was presented with an Archdiocesan Medal by Archbishop Nolan for her long service and dedication to parish life and Catholic education in the Archdiocese.

came before us in our devotion to the parish and be faithful to the Gospel in our own day."

Later warm tributes were paid to Father Carrol, who told parishioners, "I don't know if I will miss the Scottish weather when I am in Spain but I will certainly miss all the good people in this community who have

Is God calling you?

to a life of silence and solitude within a community of fellow seekers?

The Cistercian monks at Nunraw Abbey offer such an opportunity.

With them you can praise God through the psalms and liturgy at set times during the day. You will have time to study the ways of God and to meet God in your *lectio divina*. And, you will find work that will keep body and soul together.

If you have good reason to believe God may be calling you to be a monk, write to:

Vocation Director, Nunraw Abbey
HADDINGTON, EH41 4LW, Scotland
Or email: nunraw.abbot@yahoo.co.uk
Scottish Charity No SC022611



Saint Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral, Glasgow

Saint Patrick's Day Mass



Saturday 15th March 2025 · 11am

Celebrant: Archbishop William Nolan

Please come early. You will be greeted by an Irish piper, followed by traditional music from St. James the Great Céilí Band. Cantor for the Mass is Clare O'Neill.

Your funeral wishes
At the lowest price locally.
Guaranteed.

Funerals from
£750

Our Price Promise

We promise to match the prices of any funeral director within 5 miles of our locations.

Terms and conditions apply.



TALK TO US ANYTIME

Whatever your funeral wishes or budget, we can provide a funeral to suit you. Prepaid funeral plans also available.

JOHN KANE | Dumbarton | G82 1BA | 01389 888 071
JONATHAN HARVEY | Kilbowie Road | G81 6QS | 01389 887 146
JOSEPH POTTS | Belshill | ML4 1QU | 01698 442 991
JOSEPH POTTS | Blantyre | G72 0YS | 01698 442 955
T & R O'BRIEN & SON | Glasgow | G20 7QS | 01415 306 649

www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

We are very proud to be a Dignity Funeral Director, providing a 5 star service to families across the U.K.



FOCUS ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Pope's advice for teachers and parents

PUT away your mobile phones over the dinner table and be on the lookout for bullying.

These were just two of the pieces of advice the Pope recently had for teachers and educators gathered in Rome for the Jubilee Year.

Pope Francis asked those gathered: "What is God's 'educational method?' ... It is one of closeness, compassion, and tenderness," noting these three qualities are essential.

"Like a teacher who enters the world of their students," the Pope said, "God chose to live among people, teaching through the language of life and love."

The Pope shared an anecdote

BY **RONNIE CONVERY** someone told him after the individual had gone out to lunch one Sunday. At the table next to the man at the restaurant, Pope Francis recalled, was a family, "father, mother, son, and daughter—all glued to their cell phones, not talking to each other."

This man, the Pope noted, felt something was wrong and approached them, saying: "You are a family, why don't you talk to each other instead of staring at your phones?" The Pope said they just brushed him off and continued.

"Please, in families, let's talk!" Pope Francis insisted, stressing, "A family is about dialogue, and dialogue helps us grow. Please, in families, let's talk!"

Sacred Heart Primary



*Natus Ad Patrarem
Born to Achieve*

31 Reid Street
Glasgow G40 4AR
Tel: 0141 554 5949

Love, Teach, Care



Lourdes Secondary School

*is a community where
the love of Christ directs*



*to reflect and promote
School and Gospel Values*



St. Lucy's Primary

Oak Road,
Abronhill
Cumbernauld
G67 3LQ

Tel: 01236 794852

Colleen Straub
(Acting Head Teacher)

"Let us thank all those who teach in Catholic schools. Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life."
Pope Francis



Notre Dame Primary

30 Havelock Street
Glasgow G11 5JE
Tel 0141 357 0609

Head Teacher: Christina MacDonald
Notre Dame Primary is co-educational



HOLY CROSS Primary School and Nursery Class

*Learning with love,
justice and hope*

Head Teacher:
Marie R Murphy
enquiries-at-holycross@northlan.org.uk
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/holycrossblog/>

Holy Family



Boghead Road
Kirkintilloch
Glasgow G66 4AT
0141 955 2212

Head Teacher:
Andrew Gallagher



St Blane's Primary

*Living our
values together*

Head Teacher: Lara McVey
23 Arrochar Drive · Glasgow G23 5QB
Phone 0141 945 1276
Headteacher@st-blanes-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/stblanes/>



St Peter the Apostle High School

Proudly promoting Gospel
Values and supporting the aims of
Catholic Education

Kirkoswald Drive
Clydebank
G81 2DB

Telephone (0141) 533 3100
Headteacher: Mhairi McCarte

Notre Dame High School



*"Work with courage so that hope may be
translated into peace for the world"*
Pope Francis

Journeying together as Pilgrims of Hope this Jubilee
Year.

Kindness
Respect
Ambition
160 Observatory Road
Glasgow
G12 9LN



John Paul Academy

Goodness and Knowledge

At John Paul Academy, through service to the common good and recognition of the dignity and voice of each person, we commit to the pursuit of excellence through the development of each person's God-given talents.



Serving North-West Glasgow
2 Arrochar Street, Summerston G23 5LY
Phone: 0141 582 0140

Twitter: @johnpaulacademy
Website: www.johnpaulacademy.glasgow.sch.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/johnpaulacademy



Love Inclusion Faith Excellence
Head Teacher: Mr David Owen

Turnbull High School EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

www.turnbull.e-dumbarton.sch.uk

"Catholic educational institutions offer to all an approach to education that has as its aim the full development of the person, which responds to the right of every person to access to knowledge. However, they are also called upon to present Jesus Christ as the meaning of life ... with a courageous and innovative fidelity that enables Catholic identity to encounter the various 'souls' of multicultural society."

Pope Francis speaking to the Congregation for Catholic Education, February 2014

A community of faith engaged in learning

ST MARGARET MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL



*A school in the heart
of the community*

Head Teacher: Mr David O'Neill
9 Birgidale Rd, Castlemilk, Glasgow G45 9NJ
Tel No: 0141 582 0250 Fax No: 0141 582 0251
E-mail: Headteacher@st-margaretmarys-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
Website: www.st-margaretmarys-sec.glasgow.sch.uk



ST ROCH'S SECONDARY

St Roch's Secondary
ALIOS ADIUVA



ABOUT US
We are a Catholic school built on ambition for our young people and their families, and aim to provide the highest quality learning, teaching, compassionate and attentive support. Our school has strong values which we have agreed on as a school community: Faith, Inclusion, Endeavour, Compassion, Respect. We revisit these values with our young people everyday as we aspire to produce a generation of young people, with a strong sense of social justice, capable of serving and improving our community.

St Roch's Secondary
Rhymer Street
Glasgow G21 2NR

Kevin Herron
headteacher@st-rochs-sec.glasgow.sch.uk


INSTAGRAM @ST_ROCHS
TWITTER @ST_ROCHS

St Ninian's High School


150TH
ANNIVERSARY
1874 - 2024

Bellfield Road, Kirkintilloch G66 1DU
Phone 0141 955 2386
www.st-ninians.e-dunbarton.sch.uk
Head Teacher: David Killin




Supporting Catholic education for over 150 years

WWW.STALOYSIUS.ORG



ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE

A Beacon of Catholic Education in the Heart of Glasgow



At St Aloysius' College, faith and learning go hand in hand. Rooted in our Jesuit tradition, we are committed to nurturing the whole child - intellectually, spiritually, and personally. Our pupils are known, valued, and supported as they grow in faith, knowledge, and confidence.

From Kindergarten to Senior School, we inspire young people to serve with purpose, lead with integrity, and strive for excellence in all they do.

in @ f

DISCOVER A CATHOLIC EDUCATION THAT SHAPES MINDS AND HEARTS FOR LIFE.



All Saints R.C. Secondary

a community of faith and learning

Celebrating Catholic Education

Thanks to everyone who supports us in our mission



All Saints RC Secondary
 299 Ryehill Road · Glasgow G21 3EN
 E-mail: headteacher@allsaints-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
 Tel: 0141 582 0010
 Website: www.allsaints-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
 Twitter: @allsaintsrcsec



“At our school everyone will be helped towards their fullest spiritual, educational, social, vocational and physical development.”

Our Lady and St Patrick's High School
 Howatshaws Rd
 Dumbarton G82 3DR
 Tel: 01389 773920
 SchoolOffice.OLSPSecondarySchool@west-dunbarton.gov.uk
www.olsp.org.uk



Outstanding education for boys and girls aged 3 to 18
 Promoting Gospel values in everything we do
 Fernbrae Avenue, Glasgow G73 4SG
 Tel: 0141 634 2674
 Email: admissions@fernhillsschool.co.uk

Founded on faith. Thriving on values
 @fernhillsschool

Our Lady of Loretto Primary School & ELC



Castle Square, Dalmuir G81 4HN
 Head Teacher: Michelle Diamond
 Telephone: 0141 533 3032
 Twitter: @LOLPrimaryWDC

St. Brigid's Primary

4 Glenmore Avenue
 Glasgow G42 0EH
 0141 647 3952

Acting Head Teacher:
 Mhairi Clare Smith

IN TRUTH AND LOVE
 @StBrigidsPS
www.st-brigids-pri.glasgow.sch.uk



St Francis Primary & Nursery Class



Head Teacher: Joanne Martin
 430 Old Rutherglen Road
 Gorbals
 Glasgow
 G5 0PA
 0141 429 3687

Website: www.st-francis-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
 Twitter: @StFrancis_PS

St. Fillan's Primary School

20 Crompton Avenue
 Glasgow G44 5AF
 Tel: 0141 637 8750

Head Teacher:
 Mr. Brian Bourke

Love for Life and
 Love for Learning

Holy Cross Primary School

Curamus –
 We care

Head Teacher:
 Claire Gray



316 Calder Street
 Govanhill G42 7NH
 0141 423 2538

Headteacher@holycross-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

ST. MARY'S

United in
 nurturing our
 St Mary's family
 towards growth
 and success



2 Kilmun Street
 Glasgow G20 OEL
 Tel: 0141 946 6766

Head Teacher: Madeline McGeachie

St John Paul II Primary



29 Dunagoil Road
 Glasgow
 G45 9UR

Tel: 0141 634 5219
 Fax: 0141 634 9750

Head Teacher:
 Mr C. Devlin

St Bernard's Primary RC School



Head Teacher:
 Mrs Elaine MacEachen
 14-16 Dove Street
 Glasgow G53 7BP

St Paul's (Shettleston) Primary School and Nursery Class



85 Anwoth Street, Glasgow G32 7RR
 Tel: 0141 778 6227

Head Teacher: Lynsey McLeod

All are welcomed and loved; none are judged

St Thomas Aquinas Secondary

“Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God”



112 Mitre Road · Glasgow G14 9PP
 Tel: 0141 582 0280
<http://twitter.com/StThomasAqSec>
headteacher@st-thomasaquinas-sec.glasgow.sch.uk
 Head teacher: Claire McNally



St Bartholomew's 'Let Our Values Excel'

Head Teacher: Angela Fitzpatrick
 30 Castlemilk Drive · Glasgow G45 9TR
 Phone 0141 634 7114
headteacher@st-bartholomews-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/stbartholomews/

St Stephen's Primary School

Second Avenue
 Dalmuir G81 3LE
 Tel: 0141 533 3034



Working together to live well
 in a world worth living in

Head Teacher: Jane Crombie
schooloffice.ststephens@west-dunbarton.gov.uk



ST LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL

In St Luke's Cluster we nurture every child's unique God-given talents to enable them to flourish in a climate of high expectations, innovation and creativity.

Head Teacher: Mrs Christine Downie
 0141 577 2400
schoolmail@St-Lukes.e-renfrew.sch.uk
 Springfield Rd · Barrhead G78 2SG



Mungo Festival lifts the curtain on Glasgow's big anniversary year

THIS year the activities of the St Mungo Festival were expanded to commemorate the 850 years since Glasgow gained burgh status in 1175.

Bishop Jocelin of Glasgow was instrumental in obtaining the royal charter that granted burgh status, and this status conferred trading rights and the King's protection on the city.

The expansion of the Festival was possible through the generosity of Glasgow City Council which provided financial assistance. Additional events this year included further lectures and a major Interfaith meeting in the mediaeval cathedral.

All the face-to-face events were very well attended, and this was especially the case for the two key lectures that are a prominent and popular feature of the festival.

University

These were both delivered in the Eyre Hall in the archdiocesan offices, and this has proved to be a highly suitable venue. Both key lectures were delivered by academics from the University of Glasgow – a fitting reminder of the importance of the university to mediaeval Glasgow and the close connection with the Cathedral.

The opening lecture was delivered by the multi-talented Professor Louise Welsh, a well-known author and professor of Creative Writing at Glasgow University. She provided a fascinating lecture entitled "Who Owns the Clyde?", which explored the historical importance of the river Clyde to the city and questioned why it does not seem to have retained its significance compared to rivers in other major cities.

The second key lecture was delivered by Dr Craig Lamont, a lecturer in Scottish Studies at the University of Glasgow. Craig offered an engrossing lecture on cultural memory and Glasgow and discussed some of the striking and popular images of Glasgow and compared these to neglected or forgotten images.

Additional lectures by Neil Baxter (11th January), Do-



BY **STEPHEN J MCKINNEY**
AND **CLARE FODEY**

minic D'Angelo (18th January) and Niall Murphy (25th January) were also very well attended and greatly appreciated.

There was an opportunity to view a copy of the Vita Kentigerni in the Mitchell library on the 11th of January – another very popular event.

On the eve of the feast of St Mungo, Vespers were held in St Andrew's Cathedral, and on the feast day Masses were celebrated across the Archdiocese. The annual walk followed the route St Mungo would have taken in 543.

On Wednesday 15 January at 7:00pm, Alan Tavener and the Strathclyde University Chamber Choir presented a programme of music for Mungo, Columba and Brigid at St Andrew's Cathedral.

The Annual Festival Ecu-

menical Service, organised by Glasgow Churches Together, is another very important feature of the Festival. This was held in Glasgow Cathedral and Archbishop Nolan delivered the reflection. Once again, all the major denominations were represented at the service. This was augmented by a major interfaith event on Monday the 13th of January, also held in the Cathedral. This service was hosted by the Lord Provost, Cllr Jacqueline McLaren.

The expanded Festival demonstrated the great interest people have in the history of the city throughout the ages.

Citizens

The Festival also continues to remind the citizens of Glasgow about the historical and contemporary importance of the role of the Church, the mediaeval Cathedral, and the university in the development of this great city.

The Festival will continue to celebrate 850 years of Burgh status with a series of events in June and these will be publicised in due course.

In the meantime, a few of the 2025 January events were recorded and can be viewed and enjoyed on the Festival website: <https://stmungofestival.co.uk>

■ **Stephen J McKinney is a professor in the University of Glasgow and a trustee of Mediaeval Glasgow Trust. Clare Fodey is a lecturer in Religious Education at the University of Glasgow.**



St Nicholas Care Fund

St Nicholas Care Fund would like to thank all our donors who gave so generously on Caring Sunday and all those who make regular monthly donations to us. The money you give us helps improve the lives of people living in poverty, in isolation or dealing with illness and addiction.

If you would like to donate, please contact us.

Quarterly deadlines for applications continue throughout 2025, get in touch for more information.

Email pct@rcag.org.uk · Telephone 0141 226 5898
Scottish Charity SC029832



AWARD WINNING DECORATORS

EXCEPTIONAL WORKMANSHIP
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
COMPETITIVE RATES
PROFESSIONAL QUALIFIED TRADESMEN & WOMAN

DUMBRECK
DECORATORS

DOMESTIC · DIRECT · MAIN CONTRACTING

Our business can trace our roots back to 1849 and has gained a reputation as one of Scotland's leading decorating companies which has been founded on quality workmanship at a reasonable and fair price.

Our philosophy today has changed little, whether its hanging paper or ornate gilding, our dedication to achieve the highest standard of finish is still of paramount importance.

Some of our trades people have been with us for in excess of 35 years and we also continue to employ and train our own apprentices to become fully trained trades people.

The skills of our highly experienced staff extends not only to quality paperhanging but also to traditional graining, marbling and creating individual paint finishes to a client's individual need or colour scheme.

INFO@DUMBRECKDECORATORS.CO.UK

GLASGOW OFFICE
UNIT 12, QUEENSLIE POINT
120 STEPPS ROAD
GLASGOW G33 3NQ

EDINBURGH OFFICE
UNIT 2, EAST HERMISTON BUSINESS PARK
30/2 CULTINS ROAD
EDINBURGH EH11 4DG

CALL US ON 0141 419 1940

Tommy's faith was his inspiration

SCOTLAND is not used to saints. Indeed maybe Scotland doesn't really understand what saints are.

Too often our understanding is linked to the story of a medieval martyr, or a plaster statue in the corner of a church or maybe even a holy picture found in granny's prayerbook.

The Church has a different understanding. A saint is not a perfect person who never committed a sin, or a superhero who never experienced doubt.

A saint is a human being who loved God and loved his or her neighbour to a heroic level and always knew how to get up after a fall from grace.

This is the context for the recently announced campaign to examine football hero Tommy Burns as a possible candidate for sainthood.

Tommy lived with his family and died in Paisley Diocese, and so it will be for Bishop John Keenan to examine two initial questions: was Tommy's holiness widely recognized, and is there a devotion to him which leads people to ask for his intercession in their prayers? If the answer to these ques-

BY RONNIE CONVERY

tions is yes, then the cause for beatification could be opened.

What is clear is that Tommy Burns was not only a celebrated footballer and manager but also a man deeply rooted in his Catholic faith, which played a central role in his life and career.

Born on December 16, 1956, in Glasgow, his Catholicism was more than a personal belief; it was a cornerstone of his identity. He often spoke openly about the importance of his faith, crediting it with providing him strength, humility, and a sense of purpose.

His commitment to his faith was evident in the way he conducted himself both on and off the pitch. Known for his kindness, integrity, and generosity, he was widely respected for living out the principles of his faith in his daily life.

Playing for Celtic was not just a professional achievement but also a spiritual fulfillment for the boy from the Calton. The club's identity, rooted in its Irish Catholic heritage, resonated deeply with him. His passion for



Celtic was intertwined with his religious convictions, and he often described his time at the club as a "calling" rather than just a job.

Burns' Catholicism also shaped his relationships with others. He was known for his humility and willingness to help those in need, whether through charity work or simply offering a kind word.

In his later years, he faced a battle with skin cancer, which he approached with the same faith and courage that had defined his life. His unwavering trust in God during this challenging time was an inspiration to many.

Tommy Burns passed away on May 15, 2008, at the age of 51. His funeral was held at St Mary's Church in Calton, Glasgow, and was attended by thousands of mourners.

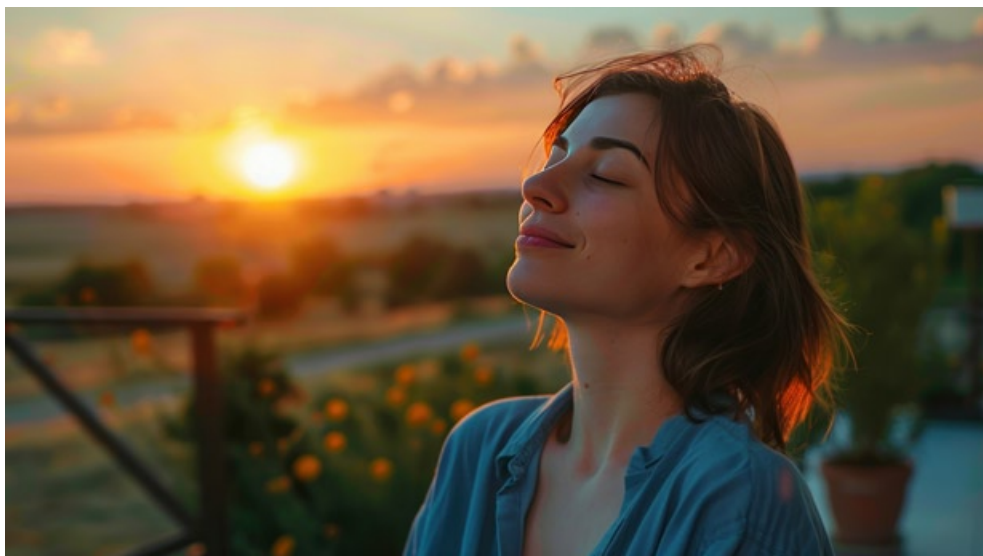
Tommy Burns' legacy is one of faith, humility, and love. His Catholicism was not just a private matter but a driving force that shaped his career, relationships, and enduring influence on Scottish football.

Whether he is one day recognized as a saint or not, he will remain a beloved figure, remembered as much for his spiritual strength as for his footballing achievements.

www.franciscanvocations.org.uk

FOR WOMEN
EXPLORING
FRANCISCAN
VOCATION

ADVERTISING FEATURE



We need to care for our mind not only our body

Do you constantly feel anxious and panicky? Does it keep you awake at night or distract you from your day? Do you often feel low or numb?

Does feeling better sound easier said than done?

Many people believe therapy is for serious mental health illnesses. Or for young people

or famous people who can't cope with real life. Maybe you rely on support from family or friends instead – this can work well.

But sometimes life gets hard: you experience loss or separation. Or your racing mind prevents you from sleeping, and you find it hard to cope.

Talking to someone outside

of your daily life gives you a safe, non-judgemental space to talk openly about your thoughts and feelings. It can help you understand difficult emotions, manage stress and develop coping skills.

If we wouldn't tolerate a chest infection, why do we ignore problems relating to our mental health?



Are you anxious?

Do you feel numb or low most days?

Overwhelmed?

Imagine if 2025 was the year you stopped "just putting up with it."

Imagine what your life could be like if you started to really feel better?

Free 15 minute consultation to say hello and explore how therapy could help you

cbthypnoclinic@gmail.com
07500845633

Sessions are online or in-person

Registered and accredited practitioner
www.cbthypnoclinic.com



OASIS

Nourish your soul with our monthly spirituality supplement

Recognition or anonymity... which do you constantly crave?

WE crave few things as deeply as recognition. We have an irrepressible need to express ourselves, be known, recognized, understood, and seen by others as unique, gifted, and significant.

A heart that is unknown, unappreciated in its depth, lacking in meaningful self-expression and recognition, is prone to restlessness, frustration, and bitterness...

In the end, for most of us, our lives are always smaller than our needs and our dreams, no matter where we live or what we accomplish.

In our daydreams each of us would like to be famous, the renowned writer, the graceful ballerina, the admired athlete, the movie star, the cover girl, the renowned scholar, the Nobel Prize winner, the household name; but in the end, most of us remain just another unknown, living among other unknowns, collecting an occasional autograph.

And so, our lives can seem too small for us. We feel ourselves as extraordinary, forever trapped inside the

mundane, even as there is something inside us that still seeks expression, that still seeks recognition, and that feels that something precious inside us is living and dying in futility.

There's a certain martyrdom in this. Iris Murdoch once said: "Art has its martyrs, not the least of which are those who have preserved their silence." Lack of self-expression, whether chosen or imposed by circumstances, is a real death; but like all deaths it can be understood and appropriated in very different ways.

If it is accepted unhappily as tragic, it leads to bitterness and a broken spirit. If, however, it is understood and appropriated in faith as an invitation to be a hidden cell inside the Body of Christ and the human family, to anonymously provide sustenance and health to the overall body, it can lead to restfulness, gratitude, and sense of significance that lays the axe to the roots of our frustration, disappointment, depression, and bitterness.

Scribblings of the spirit

Flourish's regular columnist, Fr Ronald Rolheiser offers practical insights each month into improving our spiritual lives



I say this because much of what gives us life and sustains us in our lives has not been provided by the rich

and famous, the high achievers, and those to whom history gives credit. As George Eliot points out, we don't

need to do great things that leave a big mark in human history ...

I think, for instance, of Thérèse of Lisieux who lived out her life in obscurity in a little convent tucked away in rural France, who when she died at age twenty-four, was probably known by fewer than 100 people.

In terms of how we assess things in this world she accomplished very little, nothing in terms of outstanding achievement or visible contribution. She entered the convent at age 15 and spent the years until her early death doing menial things in the laundry, kitchen, and garden inside her obscure convent.

The only tangible possession she left behind was a diary, a personal journal with bad spelling, which told the story of her family, her upbringing, and what she experienced during her last months in palliative care as she faced death.

But what she did leave behind is something that has made her a figure who is now renowned around the world, both inside and outside of faith circles.

Her little private journal, *The Story of a Soul*, has touched millions of lives, despite its bad spelling (which had to be corrected by her sisters after her death).

What gives her little journal its unique power to touch hearts is that it chronicles what was happening inside the privacy of her own soul during all those years when she was hidden away and unknown, as child and as a nun.

What she records in the story of her soul is that she, fully aware of her own uniqueness and preciousness, could unbegrudgingly give that all over in faith because she trusted that her gifts and talents were working silently (and powerfully) inside a mystical (though real, organic) body, the Body of Christ and of humanity.

She understood herself as a cell inside a living body, giving over what was precious and unique inside her for the good of the world.

Anonymity offers us this invitation. There is no greater work of art that one can give to the world.

Jesus said as much. He told us to do our good deeds in secret and not let our left hand (and our neighbors and the world) know what our right hand is doing.



Thérèse of Lisieux grew famous though she lived a life of obscurity

The scary future of a Starlink world

A FEW weeks ago, my internet connection went on the blink. Literally.

My router was flashing furiously, and I could only reach the outside world by connecting the laptop to my phone hotspot.

My service provider worked wonders so that I could once more communicate locally, nationally and internationally.

We are now a quarter of the way through this century, but what a long way we have come technologically. Some of us can remember the utter panic that rolled around the world ahead of the bells that brought in the year 2000 in case the technology couldn't handle it, and we'd go into melt down.

If I remember rightly, those of us working from home still had to connect to the internet through a noisy process involving our landlines.

Today, AI is directing drones through satellite connections, enabling them to take out enemy targets, including 'personnel'.

The translation of 'personnel' is, of course, 'peo-



Marian Pallister
The chair of Pax Christi Scotland focuses on the issues of the day

ple' – human beings. Old people. Babies. Teenagers. Mothers. Dads.

Elon Musk's Starlink – in basic terms an internet system that he is rolling out worldwide, linked through his satellites – became a weapon of war in Ukraine, enabling Ukraine's drones to operate. The Russians then began retaliating, illegally tapping into Starlink.

Starlink also did deals to operate in Israel and the devastation we have seen wrought by drones on Gaza was made possible thanks to this AI system.

Is warfare now going to be a case of who pays wins? As Mr Musk (above right, already the world's richest man) becomes richer through selling his technological wares, his geopolitical influence also grows. SpaceX, the satellite com-



pany that enables Starlink's connectivity, gives him superpowers unimaginable at the turn of the century.

Most people simply see Musk as the man who bought out Twitter and turned it into X. Many have left that social media platform. But it's what he intends through Starlink that I find most worrying, as he stirs it to the right in the UK, Italy, Germany, Hungary and of course, the US

through his friend Donald Trump, once more president of America.

Whatever evolves in the Middle East, we can be sure that at least one billionaire will be pulling the strings. Elon Musk's satellites will be playing a role. He will be playing a role, most visibly through the misinformation we see on his social media channel but more darkly through the power of Starlink.

And meanwhile, the human toll – physical, emotional – will continue to rise. Generational trauma will plague Gaza for decades to come.

As chair of a peace organisation that advocates non-violence, I can only suggest that in 2025 we all resist the billionaire's IT strategies by returning to very 20th century methods.

Let's send emails to our MPs, following up with old fashioned letters, every communication stressing that a Starlink world, enabling death and destruction as well as fundamental internet connection, is not a world that we want to live in for the next quarter of this century and beyond.

Valentine and Brigid: my saints of love

If we're talking saints of February, St Valentine might be the first one to jump out at us. He is much beloved of the young and in love, to say nothing of greeting card manufacturers and florists.

In canonical terms, the jury is out on the saint of love and romance. Like a fair few of them he was removed from the General Roman Calendar in 1969 on account of the paucity of information about him. He is, though, still recognised as a saint.

We Glaswegians can lay a special claim to him. Coming up for 30 years ago St Valentine made the headlines in local news when partial remains were found in a box atop a wardrobe in the chapel house of Blessed Duns Scotus.

In the late 1800s a French family who owned a collection of saintly relics donated those belonging to St Valentine to the Franciscans.

A forearm was brought to St Francis' in Cumberland St and in 1993 the reliquary was transferred to Blessed John Duns Scotus.

In 1999 they were found and the wooden reliquary was then adorned with gold plated script, reading 'Corpus Valentini Martyris' and placed in public view. In the days prior to the feast day a statue of St Valentine is placed beside it along with red roses. It's not unheard of proposals of marriage take place in front of the statue.

Truth be told we're far from the only ones to claim him. In Dublin, Rome and other places around Europe it is professed that his remains lie in repose.

In our early days, Himself and I swapped cards and, yes, there would be a bunch of flowers and a romantic dinner-a-deux.

Soon enough, the sleep-deprived young mother needed something more

Mary's musings

Flourish columnist
Mary McGinty's monthly musings on faith and family



substantial than a bunch of over-priced and sub-prime red roses. A couple of child-free hours on the first available Saturday was the show of love I was after.

My favourite February saint is St Brigid. I've got a soft spot for Mary of the Gael as she is also known. My mother was born on her feast day – February 1 – and, despite not being given the name since her eldest sister had Brigid as her middle name, she had a great devotion to her.

For another reason she has been a constant in my daily life, namely for her protection against fire. As an avid lighter of candles – scented, dinner, and,

because I'm a Catholic mammy, a fulsome variety of votive lights – I present something of a fire risk.

Himself has donned the mantle of health and safety officer. Before we turn in of an evening he does his due diligence by checking the tapers have been dampened, and I'm sure I've seen him nod in the direction of the rush St Brigid's Cross.

St Brigid, the daughter of a Christian mother and a druid father, was named after the ancient pagan goddess, Brigid. St Brigid lived between 453AD and 524AD and it is understood she became a Christian in her teens. Last year was the commemoration of her



500th anniversary.

In the same way St Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity, St Brigid made a cross out of rushes to explain Christianity. It is believed she sat with an old pagan chieftain – possibly her father – as he lay dying. As she weaved she explained the meaning of the cross and he was so consoled by her words and the peace and kindness she brought to him he asked for Baptism before he died.

In Ireland February 1 became a national holiday 2023, the first to be named in honour of a woman after a campaign to have the day recognised as a holiday.

The commemoration is

a sort of catch-all and it offers something for everyone, from the deeply religious to the vaguely spiritual to the ardent atheist. There is no doubt over time there has been a melding of the stories of saint and ancient goddess especially as they shared characteristics, traits and symbolism.

I'm all for feisty women. I come from a long line of them and I've reared my own. Those who want to celebrate the achievements of the pagan goddess can crack on.

I'm honouring the woman whose legacy is steadfast faith and enduring goodness – and mighty protection against fire!

ART OF THE MONTH

Art reminds us of the true meaning of pilgrimage

DURING this Holy Year many people from Scotland will travel to Rome as Pilgrims of Hope, wishing to pass through the Holy Doors of the Patriarchal Basilicas.

Our painting, "Pilgrims arriving at Rome during the Jubilee" by Claude Bonnefond, was painted for the Jubilee of 1825 declared by Pope Leo XII. It depicts the arrival of pilgrims in Rome adorned with simple garments and travel-worn expressions, before the silhouette of St Peter's Basilica.

Their figures, humble yet purposeful, draw our attention to the essence of their journey. It is a sacred endeavour imbued with a profound desire for grace, renewal, and communion with the divine.

BY MGR TOM MONAGHAN

The pilgrim roads leading to Rome were trodden by countless faithful seeking to encounter the heart of Christendom. In the pilgrims' expressions, we see faces marked by exhaustion yet illumined with hope. They are, indeed, Pilgrims of Hope, kneeling in silent prayer and extending hands in gestures of gratitude.

Their journey had been arduous, but it is precisely through toil that the pilgrim learns to depend entirely upon God's providence.

A Jubilee calls the faithful to repentance, reconciliation, and a deeper encounter with God's mercy. The indulgences granted during such periods are tangible expressions of God's will-

ingness to meet us in our need for God's boundless mercy.

Pilgrimage demands patience, sacrifice, and a deliberate abandonment of worldly securities. We become more attuned to God's will, more charitable toward our neighbour, more hopeful in the face of adversity. In our physical journey to Rome, as pilgrims, we also undertake a spiritual journey of self-emptying, surrender, and renewal.

As we gaze upon the weary yet joyful faces in Bonnefond's masterpiece, we find both inspiration and conviction to walk as those pilgrims walked, with steadfast faith, unwavering hope, and ardent love, toward the Eternal City and onwards to the Everlasting City.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Heavenly Father, you have called us to be Pilgrims of Hope. As we reflect on the image of weary travellers approaching the holy gates of Rome, grant us the same courage and perseverance to walk the path you have laid before us.

May every step we take be a step toward deeper faith, steadfast love, and enduring trust in your providence. Guide us through the trials of our pilgrimage with the light of your truth, and gather us as one family within your holy church.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Change can be frightening... but by trusting in God it helps us grow



Fr Tom
Kilbride

Rector of the Royal
Scots College,
Salamanca, Spain

As I write this month's reflections, I am aware that it will be the last time I do so from the College in Salamanca.

By the time you read this, I'll be back in the Archdiocese, about to take up a new role and a new mission.

Change can be hard, and it can be painful to leave what is familiar, but there is also excitement and a sense of anticipation at what lies ahead. Such ideas of change and challenge perhaps help us to frame the readings for the next few weeks.

Over the February Sundays before Lent, Jesus calls his disciples and then teaches them what it means to follow him. We will hear a "sermon" over three Sundays, Luke's version of Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount".

We heard Jesus preach his first, short sermon in a synagogue a few weeks ago. Now he preaches outdoors, to large crowds, but it is still "good news to the poor" as he said it would be, even as he teaches what the Kingdom of God demands something in response.

Fifth Sunday, Year C

Both Peter and Isaiah in

today's readings feel unworthy of the invitation they have been given and no doubt unprepared for the tasks that lie ahead. Isaiah is overwhelmed by the majesty of the vision he sees; Peter is brought to his knees at the staggering catch of fish he thought impossible. Both feel they lack the holiness that someone who experiences God's power should have.

However, both are also reassured that it is not what they lack but what God gives them that counts most. Isaiah will be given what he needs to speak God's word; Peter, sinful as he may be, is still called to spread the net of the Kingdom.

Both respond by offering themselves to a mission they feel inadequate for, trusting that the power of God they have experienced will be their strength. That trust is what makes the difference. Paul (Second Reading) recognises that his experience of the Risen Jesus changed him and made of him one who would bring the Gospel to the world.

When we face change, or feel unworthy, inadequate or hesitant, it is enough to have faith that Jesus will work though us. His grace



Domenico Ghirlandaio, *Calling of the Apostles*, 1481

and strength are always greater than we can imagine. Let faith in him overcome our self-doubt!

Sixth Sunday, Year C

Last Sunday, the Gospel reading ended with the words "they followed him". Over the next few Sundays, we will hear what "following him" means.

Jesus stands among three "circles" of people: his closest followers (the Twelve), many more of his disciples and a crowd of people from all over. His teaching is directed at the disciples first of all, but it is intended for everyone. Here is the "good news for the poor" he said he was sent to preach. The poor, the hungry, the mourning, the persecuted: all have their lives transformed by the Gospel.

However, like Jeremiah in the First Reading, he recognises that the opposite can be true too: the rich, self-satisfied, and arrogant have much to lose. The Kingdom turns things upside down! Jesus preaches both hope for the suffering and a warning for those who would reject the Kingdom and the word of God ("laughing" in Scripture is often used of cynics, of those who scorn God's word).

If the message offers comfort for those who suffer, it also hints at the challenges his messenger-disciples might face too: reviled, excluded, spurned on his behalf (as he would be). The Kingdom is consolation but also challenge!

Seventh Sunday, Year C

The second slice of Jesus' teaching focusses on the greater justice and mercy expected of those who belong to the Kingdom.

Jesus speaks to "you who hear": that might mean the disciples, to whom he is mainly speaking, and to the crowds who gathered around him, but it also means us, as we hear these words this Sunday!

He is teaching us how we should live and act, and we should act in no lesser way than like God himself. God is generous, forgiving and merciful. So, the disciple of the Kingdom should go beyond a worldly "tit-for-tat" mindset and try to see the good in everyone and do what might seem illogical in the world's eyes: to love your enemies.

Again, we hear that following Jesus and walking the way of the Kingdom offers consolation, as we hear of God's lavish mercy towards us. But it also offers challenge, as it calls us to act towards others in a similar way. It's not always so easy, but the story of David (First Reading) gives us a practical example of one who went

beyond the human logic of revenge to show respect and mercy to another who was doing him wrong.

Eighth Sunday, Year C

The last extract from Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain" presents a number of vivid images. Jesus came to return "sight to the blind". Here, he presents an image of what happens when we close our eyes to him: we fall into a pit and bring others down with us!

Then, he suggests, it's perhaps not just because we've closed our eyes. Rather, there might be a plank covering them which we don't even notice (though we can pick out the speck in someone else's eye!). We have to allow him and his grace to get to work in us, changing our hearts to become the kind of good soil which will produce good fruit.

As Sirach also notes, it is

the fruit that shows what the tree is like, and the tree needs to be cultivated properly to produce its best fruit. So do we, by letting Jesus and his Spirit transform us.

If we begin these weeks with a sense that we are unworthy or inadequate to the invitation and the mission to which Jesus calls us, like Peter and Isaiah, it should become clear by the end of the month that this remains true only if we don't let his power and grace in.

He is the one who makes all things possible. His message is a consolation for us when we doubt ourselves or feel under pressure. But it is also a challenge to live up to his call, knowing that he makes it possible in us, if we let him open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to his love, his grace, his strength.

I know I'll need them in the changes that lie ahead!

Alex Black Funeral Care
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE
SERVICE ROOM AVAILABLE WITH PRIVATE REST ROOM
HEADSTONES AND MEMORIALS

Drumchapel: 0141 949 1234
Knightswood: 0141 959 1234
Maryhill: 0141 946 1234
Possilpark: 0141 336 4000

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

MURRAY
Vincent James

In loving memory of our dear brother and father who died 17/2/95. In our hearts and minds, Vince. Rest in eternal peace. Leo, Paul, Angela, Teresa, Marie Adele

B MAIN
SCULPTORS

OPEN 7 DAYS

We have 100 different styles of headstone to choose from at our showyard

2'6" POLISHED GRANITE HEADSTONES FROM
£450

0141 641 0088
WHY PAY MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO!

282 Main Street, Cambuslang, Glasgow (at Railway Station)
www.mainheadstones.co.uk

PHONE FOR A FREE BROCHURE

Secrets of a good Sunday sermon

RECENTLY, being driven back from a funeral in the hearse, the driver asked me if I was going home to write my sermon for Sunday.

It turned out that his father is a deacon who regularly sits down and writes out his sermons for the following Sunday.

I was reminded that this was something I used to do in my diaconate and in the early years of my priesthood. I would sit down and write out, longhand, every word of my homilies, sometimes taking great care to use just the right word if there were a variation of terms that could be used.

I would try to ensure I had a beginning, a middle, and an end, and then I would learn the whole thing off by heart before preaching it. The challenge was to try and make it come across very naturally, and not as something learned and repeated by rote.

Lectures

I even used to do this with retreat talks, mission sermons, and lectures, which were all much longer than homilies.

I came near to fitting the image of the priest in the Paul McCartney song, Eleanor Rigby – “Father McKenzie, writing the words of a sermon that no one will hear – no one comes near”.

In those days of course, lots of people did come near and did hear, with very healthy attendances in both Scotland and Ireland. I still have a folder of retreat talks I gave to Passionists in



Fr Frank's log

Fr Frank Keevins CP is Parish Priest of St Mungo's Townhead



St Mungo's, Townhead

Botswana on my first trip to Africa. It took ages to write them out in longhand, and I can see now how neat and legible my handwriting was then – but not now!

For a long time now, I approach homilies in a very different way, and I seldom write a single word down, except for funerals, when there may be details of a person's life that I don't want to get wrong.

Usually, I peruse the Sunday readings on the previous Monday, and then I mull them over in my mind

throughout the week, even in my bed.

One of my favourite scripture texts is from Psalm 69 – on my bed I remember you, on you I muse through the night – and so I do just that, I muse through the night, drifting in and out of sleep, while asking the grace of the Holy Spirit to help me form some thoughts that would be helpful, both to me, and to those who might listen.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit acts quickly. Most times the Holy Spirit keeps me waiting, and often it's quite late

in the week when I feel I have received a word.

You might think that this is not a very good formula for having a good night's sleep.

However, I think the opposite. If I wasn't remembering the Lord on my bed, musing through the night, or pondering on my pillow, I would no doubt be thinking of a host of other things to keep me awake.

Worries

There is no shortage of issues, whether as a parish priest, a bursar, a family member, or just as a human being, to preoccupy oneself, and to create, what is sometimes referred to as a monkey-mind, random thoughts and worries, swinging from one branch to another, and going nowhere.

Most times in my musing, I end up with a good night's sleep, depending on how many times, as a 73-year-old man, I have to get up through the night.

But usually, when I wake up in the morning, there is some holy and wholesome thought or idea in my mind, that wasn't there when I first lay down, thanks to the Holy Spirit.

Lady Brigid: in memoriam

THE members of Fertility Care Scotland remember with great fondness and love our recently deceased colleague and friend, Lady Brigid McEwen of Duns.

Brigid was instrumental in the formation of The Scottish Association for Natural Family Planning in 1982/83, now known as Fertility Care Scotland Ltd, and was the first chairperson of our new association, finally bringing together different groups and individuals from across Scotland, to form one national organisation.

This was a role Brigid returned to several times over the years. Her deep faith was evident in her leadership of this Lay Apostolate, in her measured and diplomatic manner. Brigid was one of the foundation stones of our community, always welcom-



ing, appreciative and calm.

Brigid's extensive knowledge and creative mind helped in the design and delivery of our national schools' programme of Fertility Awareness. She travelled the length and breadth of Scotland in her memorable car, usually accompanied by her dog, sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for the Billings Ovulation Method.

Her great sense of humour and love for young people and couples made her a popular speaker and teacher of the method.

Brigid's death has been deeply felt by the members of Fertility Care Scotland. She was our guiding light of faith, through the formation and ongoing development of our work as teachers of the Billings Method of NFP.

We will make sure new members know about her valued contribution and will continue to try to emulate her goodness and enthusiasm for the important work of this Lay Apostolate.

Requiescat in Pace - Lady Brigid McEwen (born 22 November 1935 – died 23 December 2024).

■ **Appreciation by Fertility Care Scotland**

Remembering Fr Dermot's life of priestly service

IT was with sorrow that the death was announced last month of Father Dermot Healy, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Glasgow, who died on January 8 2025 at the Holy Rosary Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Greenock. He was 73 years old.

Fr Dermot was born and raised in Glasgow and had his schooling at St George's Primary Glasgow (1956-1959) and St Aloysius' College Glasgow (1959-1968). He studied for the priesthood at St Peter's College Cardross (1968-1974).

He was ordained by then-new Archbishop Winning on July 3, 1974, at his home parish of Our Lady and St George's in Penilee. He was to spend almost half of his active ministry outside the Archdiocese.

His first years of priesthood saw him serve in St Roch's, Garngad followed by a spell as chaplain to the secure unit at St Mary's, Kenmure and the Boys' Hostel at Glengowan.



of St James the Apostle – an experience which left a deep impression on him, and which was to be repeated.

On his return he was sent back to his first parish, St Roch's in the Garngad for a year before returning to Latin America where he ministered from 1992-1997.

After a brief appointment as Administrator at St Bernadette's Parish in Carnynte he returned for a third and final period of ministry to Latin America from 1998-2006.

On his return he served in various roles, including as chaplain to the CORA Foundation and briefly as Parish Priest of St Albert's, before retiring in 2016.

One of Fr Dermot's priest friends said: "Fr. Dermot's ministry as a Priest for 50 years served both the local and universal Church. We give thanks for Fr. Dermot's life and ministry and we ask that the Archdiocesan community remember him in their prayers."

Requiescat in pace.



Providing the professional touch and a traditional Scottish flavour for weddings, funerals and all other occasions for over 25 years.

Contact us with any questions or scan the code and send and enquiry instantly from your camera.

Remember to tell us you saw us in Flourish!



Andy & Iain Melvin

0141 571 3877

info@piping-services.com

www.piping-services.com

Obscene interest charges are stealing food from the mouths of Africa's children

THE arrival of a new spring brings new hope – a time for resolutions and actions to create a better future.

In 2025, SCIAF will focus on turning this hope into reality for the 54 nations facing the most severe debt crisis in decades.

SCIAF is uniting with over 134 Caritas organisations globally to call for an end to this unjust and unsustainable debt cycle, for lower-income countries are spending more on debt repayments than ever before.

In 2023, Africa's debt payments reached \$85 billion, far exceeding any aid received. These repayments drain national budgets, leaving little for the basic such as healthcare and education.

When debt payments obstruct funding for hospitals or schools, it's more than a financial issue – it's a moral one. Debt affects lives, perpetuates poverty, and

undermines fundamental human rights.

This year, SCIAF is advocating for change so that vulnerable communities can have their needs prioritised. Breaking free from unjust debt would enable sustainable development, reduce inequality, and empower nations to invest in their people.

The injustice of debt

Many countries in the Global South are trapped in debt due to borrowing from foreign creditors at exorbitant interest rates. They end up with payments at unsustainable levels.

For instance, in 2019, Ethiopia's external debt payments consumed 18% of government revenue, while Zambia's reached 24%. In contrast, the UK's external debt payments amounted to just 3% of its revenue, thanks to favourable borrowing terms. This disparity highlights the inequities



in global lending systems.

Campaigning for change

This year, SCIAF is campaigning for systemic reforms, including fairer lending practices and transparent solutions to global debt. In the UK, we're working with other organisations to push for legislation addressing pri-

vate lenders' roles in debt restructuring.

By advocating for change, we aim to break the poverty cycle and help nations invest in their futures.

A jubilee year of renewal

2025 is a Jubilee Year – which calls for forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration. Rooted in Biblical

tradition, it emphasises liberation from all forms of enslavement, including economic.

Inspired by Pope Francis' call to tackle unjust debts, SCIAF stands with the global Caritas network to amplify the voices of those suffering under oppressive debt.

A call to action

As Catholics, we are called to love our neighbours and fight injustice. SCIAF's focus on debt is not just about economics – it's about dignity, futures, and hope.

Standing in solidarity with the oppressed is an act of faith, and together we can advocate for debt justice.

Here's how you can join SCIAF in bringing hope:

- Sign the petition: Support the global call for debt justice on the SCIAF website.
- Pray: Include those

affected by debt in your prayers.

- Raise awareness: SCIAF will advocate for debt justice through parish events, school visits, and community engagement – please attend if possible.
- Engage with government: In Scotland we will ask Scottish Government to publish a declaration on the need for debt justice. You can write to your local MSP and urge them to declare their support for debt justice.
- Join campaigns: Participate in SCIAF's activities throughout the year.

Together, we can transform debt from a burden into an opportunity for renewal. Advocating for justice honours the dignity of every person and embodies the spirit of the Jubilee.

With hope and solidarity, we can show that a better world is possible.

HELP US CAMPAIGN FOR DEBT JUSTICE

Act now

sciaf.org.uk/canceldebt

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
 SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family, 196 Clyde Street, Glasgow, G1 4JY. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327. Photo by Gary Moore/Trócaire.