

**Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Year A)**

Dear Parishioner

Having been with you as your Parish Priest since September 2015 and observing both Parishes I feel it is now time to implement changes to what has been in place for many, many years, mainly regarding the Sacred Liturgy and the provision of Masses. Change is hard; indeed we may even resent changes which are made for the longer term future of both Parishes. However, it's clear that we have to move forward, using the gifts and talents of both Parishes and not being afraid to plan for the years ahead.

I think it is true to say that most Parishioners would be aware that we need to come together in stronger and more viable liturgies and expressions of our faith. That was rightly expressed at the recent Easter Triduum where, for those who attended, there was a greater unity and boost of Faith. Other factors such as people going elsewhere for Mass and those who are lapsed in faith also contribute to the changes which are to be made.

In looking ahead it is good to keep the following in mind:

1. We have only one Priest for two parishes. Indeed, most Priests may be asked to take on more Parishes
2. Fr Dunn who has been a great help these last eight months may be asked to go elsewhere and no longer be of assistance.
3. The Franciscan Sisters who have been in our Parishes for many years continue to commit to the Parishes in the future.
4. Expressions of Practice of faith varies in terms of Commitment to the Parish and secular living.

Taking all these points into consideration, I feel that a rationalisation of the Masses in both Parishes from 5 Masses which is current to 3 Masses offered on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings is necessary.

This would be as follows:

- An amalgamation of the current Saturday Vigils: One vigil to be celebrated at St Thomas's at 5.30 pm. The St Bernadette's Vigil to cease.

- An amalgamation of the St Thomas's 9 am & 10.30 am Masses to one Mass at 10.00 am, the 9 am Mass to cease.

- The 12 noon Mass at St Bernadette's to remain.

Thus the new Mass times would be

5.30 pm – Vigil, St Thomas

10 am – St Thomas

12 noon – St Bernadette's

These times will begin on Pentecost Sunday 4 June and the Mass times will be bedded in during the summer months of July & August which is a quieter time within parishes due to holidays etc.

Currently there are 418 attending the three St Thomas Masses and 170 in St Bernadette's attending two Masses. The rescheduling of Mass times will provide expressions of ministry on a stronger level encouraging Pass-keepers, choir readers and others to participate in building each other up in the faith and ensuring stronger liturgies.

The rescheduling of Mass times also provided opportunities to create other activities around the Sunday which you may not be aware of when you come and go from Mass. i.e Catechesis, Holy Baptisms, Parishioners speaking with clergy & Sister, choir

practice, SSVP Meetings and much else.

Both morning Masses will be continued in the meantime offering two opportunities to attend daily Mass which is an important part of your day and you are to be encouraged to try and grow in Holiness.

These changes in Mass times do not indicate the closure of Parishes but are intended to unite us more closely and better enable our joint efforts to be of service to each other and to help us grow in faith; clustering together to ensure we identify our weaknesses and build on our strengths.

As the Irish writer Flann O'Brien said 'It is a great thing to do what is necessary before it becomes unavoidable.' For the comfort of the Word of God however I commend you to read Matthew 13, the Parable of the Sower.

This is the first announcement but the bulletin will keep you informed of other aspects of these changes.

Fr McGinley

Good Shepherd Sunday

Today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood. Archbishop Tartaglia has

ST BERNADETTE'S NOTICES



First Communions

Due for rehearsal on Wednesday 10 May at 6pm in St Bernadette's church. All parents please assure that their child attend.

Family Barbecue

On Sunday 14th May after 12 noon Mass. Please stay and enjoy a family day (indoors or outdoors) depending on the weather. First Communion children especially welcome.

Guess the name

We have been donated a lovely hand-knotted clown. Can you guess his name? £1 a try.

wrote a Pastoral Letter on the Priesthood which we've made copies of. Please pick one up from the porch or the Gathering Area and have a read.

Deanery Catechesis

The next meeting will be at St Thomas's on Thursday 11 May at 7-9pm. Entitled 'I have come that they may have life to the full' (John 10: 1-10),

the theme is Marriage and Orders. Refreshments available. All welcome.

Special Collection

There will be second collection next week for the Ecclesiastical Students of the Archdiocese of Glasgow.

Weekend Retreat to Dalmally

This Corpus Christi weekend (Friday 16 to Sunday 18 June) there will be a weekend retreat to Craig Lodge in Dalmally. The weekend of Adoration, will include a Eucharistic procession and a healing service. The cost is £100. Please don't let a lack of money stop you coming though. Talk to Fr McGinley if it's a problem. There are lists at the back of the Church to gauge interest and to help us plan transport.



Appointment Times

10.30 am-12.30 pm each morning and from 5-7.00 pm in the evening, Monday to Thursday. Should a formal appointment be required please phone the Parish.

Baptisms

Anyone requiring Baptism please contact Fr McGinley, or Sr Francesca.

The Sacrament of Anointing

If you or a member of your family are going into hospital please arrange to receive this sacrament beforehand.

Marriage

See Fr McGinley if you intend to marry in the Church. The Archdiocese requires 6 months notice.



MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass St Thomas's 5 pm
 St Bernadette's 6.15 pm

Sunday Mass
 St Thomas's 9 & 10.30 am
 St Bernadette's 12 noon

Monday–Friday St Bernadette's 9 am
 St Thomas's 10 am

Saturday Marian Devotions
 St Bernadette's 9.30 am
 St Thomas's 10.30 am

Confessions
 St Thomas's 4.30–4.50 pm Saturday

PARISH DONATIONS 29 & 30 April 2017

St Thomas's	St Bernadette's
Other £426	Other £213
GAD £315	GAD £199

Have you considered signing up for Gift Aid? It's possible to increase the value of the donation by an extra 25%. Contact Fr McGinley if you're interested.

RCAG Youth's 'The Summit'

Jam packed with talks, workshops, activities, Holy Mass and some decent scrán, RCAG Youth's The Summit, is happening at Blessed John Duns Scotus on 14 May and the 11 June from 2–5pm. Take a look at the facebook page for more info: [facebook.com/RCAGYouth](https://www.facebook.com/RCAGYouth)

St Margaret of Scotland Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to Dunfermline in honour of St Margaret is on 11 June. We are thinking of running a bus but need to gauge interest. There are lists at the back of both churches.

INTENTIONS

Those sick at home or hospital

Eileen Adaya, Pat Bestow, Mary Stewart, Jimmy Doran, Stephen Marshall & all the sick & housebound of both parishes

Those who have died recently

Maureen Pollard, William Chambers, May Boyle, George Cavanagh, James O'Donnell

Anniversaries

Pearl Hughes, Ann McAteer, James & Patrick MacRory, Thomas Toner

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Mass Bouquet

Golden Jubilee of Sr Bernadette OFM
