

ST JOHN OGILVIE PARISH COMMUNITY



11TH SEPTEMBER 2022
24TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME (C)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One day, a girl came upon a cocoon, and she could tell that a butterfly was trying to hatch. She waited and watched the butterfly struggle for hours to release itself from the tiny hole. All of a sudden, the butterfly stopped moving and seemed to be stuck.

The girl then decided to help get the butterfly out and used scissors to cut open the cocoon. The butterfly was then easily able to escape. However, its body was swollen and its wings were underdeveloped.

The girl still thought she had done the butterfly a favour as she sat there waiting for its wings to grow in order to support its body. But that did not happen. The butterfly was unable to fly, and for the rest of its life, it could only move by crawling around with little wings and a large body.

Despite the girl's good intentions, she didn't understand that the restriction of the butterfly's cocoon and the struggle the butterfly had to go through in order to escape served an important purpose.

As butterflies emerge from tight cocoons, it forces fluid from their body into their wings to prepare them to be able to fly.

This is like the struggles we face in life; they help us to grow and get stronger.

There is often a reason behind the requirement to work hard and be persistent. When enduring difficult times, we develop the necessary strength we will need in the future.

Without struggles, we won't grow.

THE FARM BASKET IN TOWERLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

For a small access fee, anyone in the KA11 postcode area who is on benefits or low income or struggling to make ends meet, can access a variety of produce including fresh

fruit, vegetables, meat and tinned goods. For information on opening times and arranging an appointment, call **07759 313444**. The Farm Basket team is also appealing for volunteers to support this project. For more details, contact them by phone or email at towerlandsass@yahoo.com.

SJO PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST CLUB

This is on in church hall on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8:15am and 9:30am. All welcome.

CHANA

We are appealing for the following: shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, soap, roll-on deodorants for both males and females. There is a box at the back of the church where you can deposit your donations. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Are you thinking about being a Priest in 2022?

The Diocese of Galloway is now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary.

For more information contact Fr. Martin Chambers at

martinchambers@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTO SUNDAY 25th SEPTEMBER

This year the procession will take place in the presence of the relics of St Bernadette. Mass will be celebrated at 3pm, with a torchlight procession at 6pm. There will also be a week of other events surrounding the relics, details of which are on the notice board.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II Please pray for the repose of the soul of Queen Elizabeth II. Her life of service was truly exemplary and her commitment to her faith was inspirational. Please pray for our new King Charles III too, that he also will lead with service and faith.

Parish Liturgy for the coming week:

Monday 12th September

St Mary's

10.00am Mass

Tuesday 13th September

St. John Ogilvie's

10.00am Mass

Wednesday 14th
September

No services

Thursday 15th September

St. Mary's

10.00am Mass

Friday 16th September

St. Mary's

10.00am Funeral Mass
for Helen Agnew

Saturday 17th September

St. Mary's

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 18th September

St. John Ogilvie's

9.30am Mass

St. Mary's

11.00am Mass

Confessions

By appointment.

INTENTIONS

Please keep the following in your prayers during the week:

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:

Other Intentions: Betty Morrison—80th Birthday

Collection

Envelopes: £131.00 **Loose coins:** £74.36 **Contactless:** £40.00 **Standing orders (per month)** £1658.75

Thank you for your continued support.

200 Club winners: 21st August—4th September

1st Cathie Dowell
Richard Locke
Cathy Kelly

2nd Mrs E Morrison
Wilma McDougal
Agnes Sneddon

3rd Rose McKay
Elise Drynan
Richard Locke

Draw made by

Congratulations to all our winners! We'll make arrangements to get your winnings to you!

MARRIAGE MATTERS

Driving together on the way to heaven

The readings contain a sense of hope. His forgiveness seems never ending and His mercy shows no limits. He never stops 'rescuing' us as the lost sheep of His flock, or 'finding' us, like the widow's mite, when we feel lost within our marriage. God's way of working is like a 'SATNAV', with the destination set as eternal life.

THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

A course of instruction is planned to begin in September. If you are interested, please contact Father Boyd.

WEEKLY WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on discernment, the process of making sound decisions about the meaning and direction of our lives, we now consider the witness of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. As a young soldier, Ignatius was gravely wounded in battle. During his long convalescence, he was unable to read his favourite novels of chivalry and heroic exploits. The only books at hand were the lives of the saints. Reading them, at first reluctantly, Ignatius came to realise that the stories of the saints brought him lasting joy and happiness, while the other stories left him ultimately arid and empty. This insight was the origin of the method of prayer and discernment that Ignatius left us in his celebrated *Spiritual Exercises*. There he speaks of the importance of distinguishing between worldly and spiritual thoughts, cultivating the latter, and allowing them, by God's grace, to mature within our hearts. In time, then, we come to discern in prayer the often unexpected signs by which God makes himself known to us, leads us to conversion and shows us his will for our lives.

NEWS FROM SCIAF

Emergency Appeal for Pakistan

An emergency appeal has been launched in response to the flooding in Pakistan. Please pray for those affected. To help, contact sciaf.org.uk or text SCIAF to 70460

Hunger Appeal for the Horn of Africa

Please pray for those affected and donate if you can at www.sciaf.org.uk/hunger

Relics of St. Bernadette at Carfin Grotto

SCIAF will be joining the procession to the Carfin Grotto in the presence of the relics of St. Bernadette on Sunday 25th September. If you would like to join us at this event, please contact Ann Adamson-Eadie or Catherine Hughes. We hope to arrange a bus from St. John Ogilvie's if sufficient numbers are interested in attending.

Bucket Collection at Celtic Park

We are looking for volunteers for this on Saturday 12th November from 1pm until 3pm.

Contact www.sciaf.org.uk/events if you can help.

Walk the Kiltwalk for SCIAF

This event in Edinburgh on 18th September, is a great way to raise funds for SCIAF. See www.sciaf.org.uk/events for more details.

SCIAF Supper for Seasons of Creation Fundraiser

SCIAF is celebrating this year's Season of Creation (1st September—4th October) by asking us to hold a Parish Supper. Would anyone be interested in coming along, perhaps a Wednesday evening in September, to try a sample dish from a country SCIAF supports, learn more about the work of SCIAF and raise funds? Please speak to Ann or Catherine or phone Ann on 01294 650813.

Please deliver a copy of this newsletter to our sick and housebound parishioners

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners approach Jesus eager to hear what he has to say. In Luke's Gospel, *hearing* is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about him associating with sinners. So he tells them these three parables.

In the first story, the parable of The Lost Sheep, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone as in Matthew's version, but with friends and neighbours. In the same way, God rejoices more over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes.

The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point. Why are the Pharisees complaining? They should rejoice when the lost are found.

Finally we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the centre of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, "full of compassion," runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He has served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

HOSPITAL VISITING

The chaplains of Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals will be pleased to visit patients on request. Chaplains are not automatically notified when a Catholic patient is admitted so self-referral is required.

For general visiting contact:

At Crosshouse, Fr Stephen McGrattan at crosshousehospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 01563 521832.

At Ayr, Deacon Robert Mackie at ayrhospital@gallowaydiocese.org.uk or on 07703 751403.

For the urgent or emergency assistance of a chaplain please ask the hospital staff to page the priest on call.

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE

Entitled 'Walking Together In Safeguarding: A Journey of Personal and Communal Conversion', this event, on 1st October at The University of Strathclyde, will mark the launch of the new Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency. Details are available from <https://bit.ly/39dsFPq>.

FINALLY JUST FOR A LAUGH

In 2011, Pope Benedict made an emotional trip to his homeland of Germany. After his driver had put all the Pope's bags into the limo, he noticed that the Pope was still standing on the pavement.

"Pardon me, Your Holiness," he said, "would you please take your seat in the car so we can get to the Olympic Stadium in time?"

"Well," said the Pope, "they never let me drive at the Vatican so I'd really like to drive for old time's sake now I'm back in Germany."

"I'm sorry, Your Holiness, but I cannot let you do that. I'd lose my job!"

"But who's going to tell?" said the Pope with a smile.

Reluctantly, the driver got into the limo's rear seat as the Pope got behind the wheel. The driver quickly regretted his decision as the Pontiff floored it, accelerating to over 200 kms.

"Please slow down, Your Holiness!" pleaded the worried driver, but the Pope kept the pedal to the metal until they heard police sirens.

Duly the Pope pulled over and put the window down. The policeman approached the limo, took one look inside, and went back to his motorcycle radio.

"I need to talk to the chief," he told the dispatcher.

His chief came onto the radio and the cop told him that he had stopped a limo doing 200 kph.

"So bust him," said the chief.

"I don't think we really want to do that. He's really important," said the cop.

"All the more reason!" said his boss impatiently.

"No, I mean *really* important," answered the cop persistently.

The Chief then asked, "Why, who do you have there, the mayor?"

"Bigger," replied the cop.

"A politician?"

"Bigger."

"The Chancellor of Germany?"

"Bigger."

"*Bigger?* Who is it then?" said the chief.

The cop hesitated, "I think it's God..."

"What!" exclaims the chief. "What on earth makes you think it's God?"

"His chauffeur is the Pope!" the cop replied.



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SAFEGUARDING

All components of the Catholic Church in Scotland, especially those in positions of leadership and responsibility, value the lives, wholeness, safety and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to uphold the highest safeguarding standards in our relationships with people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. And therefore, as a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us - ordained, professed, employed and voluntary members - to work together to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm.



Every Sunday evening in the Church Hall
Eyes down 7.30
Give this worthwhile social event your support please!

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

The Regulation came into force on Friday **25th May 2018**, and gives individuals greater rights and control over the use of their personal information. Your privacy is important to the Parish Communities of St. John's and St. Mary's. We use the personal data, provided by you for Pastoral support and the administration of weekly collections. The information is held securely and confidentially in electronic or paper format. We will not share this information with third parties without your prior consent. A fuller Privacy Notice is now available on the Diocesan website. www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr

Baptism:

Please contact Father Boyd.

Weddings:

Congratulations on your engagement!
A minimum of six months' advanced planning and preparation is required.
Please contact Father Willie Boyd for more information.

Holy Communion to the Sick or Housebound:

Please inform us if someone is needing Holy Communion at home, or wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

Hall Bookings

Would you like to book the hall for a special function or book a room for a meeting?

Contact Susan McCullagh on 07534 626621

Crosshouse Deacon

Rev Bill Corbett
01292 521208

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