



**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:**

14<sup>th</sup> /15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY – DIOCESAN PASTORAL FUND. PLEASE USE PARISH GIFT AID ENVELOPES AND MARK THE CORRECT BOX.

28<sup>th</sup> /1<sup>st</sup> MARCH – PARISH MAINTENANCE. PLEASE USE PARISH GIFT AID ENVELOPES AND MARK THE CORRECT BOX.

7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH – SCIAF COLLECTION. DO NOT USE PARISH GIFT AID ENVELOPES.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Most of us have heard/read Bishop Brian's letter. During the last Clergy Assembly, we discussed what to do in such circumstances and it was suggested that if the Priest becomes unwell, is on a compassionate leave, and there is no possibility of cover, a Eucharistic Service might be offered instead. This will require special training for someone who would be able to lead the service. Each Church is to have such a designated Eucharistic Minister and if we are unable to find volunteers, it would mean no Eucharistic Service being offered in it. If this is something you would like to offer up for your Church Community, please speak to me as I would like volunteers coming willingly for this rather than approaching anyone individually. Training would involve around 2-3 sessions in the Chapel House. We will begin training after 15<sup>th</sup> February. Only 2 volunteers came forward.

**ANNE CAMERON RIP** and **ROBBIE de FRESNES RIP**; Thank you for your participation at the funeral. We offer our prayers for Anne and Robbie as well as their families. Thank you for your generosity to Funeral Collections. Once I am back from the surgery, I will make sure to send proper acknowledgments and distribute the funds collected. Of course my gratitude goes to Fr Steve, who looked after the Parish in my absence and lead us in Funeral Liturgies.

**WORKS:** During my absence, lots of things have been done. My thanks to John MacKay and Duncan for their help in the Chapel House. Chris has done some PAT testing before the inspections, wood and the grounds in Morar have been cleared. Unfortunately, the gate in Morar in broken, probably timber got rotten at the base over the years. I will ask Hughie to make repairs so many thanks to him in advance.

**FR STAN BACK:** I had a good break, and my mouth has not been causing too many problems, so no doctor's visits were necessary. Alistair will be taking me on Monday for the surgery to Glasgow. I hope to come back on the same day but we will have to see how it goes. Thank you so much for your prayers.

**LENT IS COMING SOON:** Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at the much earlier time of 12.30pm. It was agreed at the last Council of Priests to experiment with an afternoon Mass especially as so many people travelled to the Cathedral when Mass for the late Pope Francis was celebrated in the afternoon, allowing parishioners to travel to Oban and home again in daylight.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:** On Wednesday, Our Lady of Lourds Memorial, after morning Mass in Mallaig, I will be administering the Sacrament of the Sick to those who wish to.

**CONFIRMATIONS:** Bishop McGee confirmed that he will be coming on the 17<sup>th</sup> May for Confirmations, which will take place in Mallaig during Sunday Mass.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS:** Will be taking place on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that it will take place in Arisaig this year during Sunday Mass.

*The Bishops' Conference of Scotland is pleased to announce the appointment of Fr Matthew Carlin as Vice Rector of the Pontifical Scots College in Rome. Fr Matthew, a priest of the Diocese of Paisley, will take up this important role in the coming months, assisting the Rector in the formation of Scottish seminarians preparing for priestly ministry. He succeeds Fr Nick Welsh, whose dedicated service to the College is warmly acknowledged by the Bishops. Fr Matthew studied at the Pontifical Scots College in Rome from 2009 to 2017. He was ordained to the priesthood on 30 June 2016 at St John's Church, Barrhead. Following ordination, he served as curate at St Mirin's Cathedral, Paisley, from 2017 to 2019. He was appointed Parish Priest of St Francis, Port Glasgow, in 2019, serving there until 2024. Since then, he has been Parish Priest of St Aidan's, Johnstone, and since 2025 has also served Christ the King, Howwood. In addition to parish ministry, Fr Matthew currently serves as Vicar Episcopal for Education in the Diocese of Paisley and as Defender of the Bond at the Scottish Catholic Inter-diocesan Tribunal. The Bishops of Scotland commend Fr Matthew to the prayers of the faithful as he prepares to take up this important role in the life of the Church in Scotland.*

**Please check the Mass Rota on the Back Page**