**MONDAY GROUP**

Meetings take place at 7.00pm in the parish hall. We begin by praying Vespers (Evening Prayer) together after which there is an input on an aspect of the Catholic Faith. Light refreshments give us time to continue discussion and to socialise. In the coming weeks we will be exploring the seven Sacraments. Next meeting is on Mon 14th January 2019.

**Q&A SESSION**

Do you have any questions about your faith? about the Church? about the parish? Fr Joe and Deacon Tommy will host an open evening to give us the chance to raise our concerns, queries, hopes, etc. Parish Hall, 7.00pn, Fri 8 February 2019.

**WEE BOXES**

Parishioners who have taken home a Wee Box for the St Nicholas Care Fund and/or St Margaret’s Adoption Society are kindly requested to return these to the parish by Sunday 20th January 2019. After this date donations should be sent directly to the charity.

**COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK**

Last week’s Offertory Collection came to £578

£412 was donated to the Justice and Peace Collection.

*Many thanks for your ongoing support of the parish.*

**ST MUNGO FESTIVAL**

A variety of events has been organised to mark the feast day of St Mungo (celebrated on 14th January this year due to the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on the 13th). For further information visit: <http://mediaevalglasgow.org/>

**OCTAVE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The theme for this year’s Octave, which takes place form 18-25th January 2019, is *Only Justice*. “Our prayers for Christian unity are offered within a context of a world where corruption, greed and injustice bring about inequality and division. We ourselves are often complicit in in justice, and yet called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ’s healing grace for a fractured world.” (resource pack)

**PRO-LIFE MASS**

This month's Pro-Life Mass is on Wednesday, 16th January in Bl. John Duns Scotus, 270 Ballater St, Gorbals, Glasgow G5 0YT. There will be Adoration at 6pm followed by Rosary at 7pm and Mass at 7.30pm. All welcome. The celebrant will be Fr Matthew Carlin.

**FAITH FORUM: EXPLORING CATHOLIC DOCTRINE**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).  Keen to learn more about the Church’s magisterial teachings? Come along to the Glasgow Faith Forum’s fortnightly series of talks in 2019: 24 January Creation (Fr Jamie McMorrin). Turnbull Hall, University of Glasgow Catholic Chaplaincy, 13-15 Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG.  All young people welcome.

**SPUC 2019 YOUTH CONFERENCE**

Joi young people from around the country to learn how to be a voice for the voiceless. 15-17 March 2019, Kents Hill Park Training and Conference Centre, Milton Keynes. Cost £115 covers accommodation, food and conference costs. [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk) for further information and booking.

**POPE FRANCIS TWEETS**

The Church grows in silence, in prayer, and with the good works that give witness.

@Pontifex

**POPE FRANCIS WRITES:**

**REJOICE AND BE GLAD**

Pope Francis renewed the Lord’s call to holiness in his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*. The full document can be purchased in the Pauline Multimedia store in St Enoch’s square or downloaded from the Holy See’s website: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”*

87. This Beatitude makes us think of the many endless situations of war in our world. Yet we ourselves are often a cause of conflict or at least of misunderstanding. For example, I may hear something about someone and I go off and repeat it. I may even embellish it the second time around and keep spreading it… And the more harm it does, the more satisfaction I seem to derive from it. The world of gossip, inhabited by negative and destructive people, does not bring peace. Such people are really the enemies of peace; in no way are they “blessed”.

88. Peacemakers truly “make” peace; they build peace and friendship in society. To those who sow peace Jesus makes this magnificent promise: “They will be called children of God” (*Mt* 5:9). He told his disciples that, wherever they went, they were to say: “Peace to this house!” (*Lk* 10:5). The word of God exhorts every believer to work for peace, “along with all who call upon the Lord with a pure heart” (cf. *2 Tim* 2:22), for “the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (*Jas* 3:18). And if there are times in our community when we question what ought to be done, “let us pursue what makes for peace” (*Rom* 14:19), for unity is preferable to conflict.

89. It is not easy to “make” this evangelical peace, which excludes no one but embraces even those who are a bit odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, different, beaten down by life or simply uninterested. It is hard work; it calls for great openness of mind and heart, since it is not about creating “a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority”, or a project “by a few for the few”. Nor can it attempt to ignore or disregard conflict; instead, it must “face conflict head on, resolve it and make it a link in the chain of a new process”. We need to be artisans of peace, for building peace is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill.

Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness.

**PARISH PRAYER**

*Father, almighty and eternal God, whose praise is sung throughout all creation and whose glory is proclaimed by all peoples. You create us in love and call us to our eternal destiny of loving communion with You. May the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel be a place where Your Name is hallowed and Your chosen ones are united in Holy Mass with Your Son in praise and thanksgiving.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, Word of God, Incarnate of the Virgin Mary, You manifest the Father’s love and reveal His will for us. May we always be aware of our Baptismal dignity as the Children of God by our sharing through the Holy Spirit in Your Sonship, and so respond to Your call in service of each other, our parish, Holy Mother Church and the world.*

*Holy Spirit, Advocate and Spirit of Truth, You breathed your life into the Apostles at Pentecost, inspiring them to be preachers of the Word. May we always be open to Your promptings that our parish may be renewed in praise of God and in living the truth in charity.*

*Our Lady, Mother of the Church*

*Pray for us.*

*Our Lady of Good Counsel*

*Pray for us*



**VOCATION DISCERMENT**

A series of evening of catechesis, prayer and support has been organised for next year. Anyone considering their future and what God is calling them to do is welcome. The first event is at 7.00pm pm on Fri 11 January 2019 in Turnbull Hall, Southpark Terrace, G12 8LG.

For further information contact Fr Ross Campbell: 0141 339 4315. Email:

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