

## REFLECTION

### The Rainbow after the storm

It's fascinating how Creation itself proclaims the glory of God and teaches us about matters of faith. Take a rainbow. It is bright and beautiful, colourful and awe-inspiring. Everyone rejoices on seeing a rainbow. But there would be no such thing as a rainbow without rain, or storms. Such is life. We will have good days followed by bad and bad days followed by good. We should not be surprised by one or the other. On a good day filled with joy we should thank God and be aware that the "rainbow" is a gift. We should savour it so that we will remember it on the bad days. When a bad day comes we should thank God. We should thank Him for the knowledge that this too shall pass if we wait patiently upon Him. Life is full of ups and downs but the Mercy of God is eternal and it will bring us through all things, enabling us to rejoice after the storm has passed.

Reflect, today, upon the difference between a rainbow and a storm. Imagine a rainbow full of radiant colour stretching across the sky from one end to the other. It is beautiful and inspiring, the cause for a smile and delight. Now compare that to the storm that preceded it. In the midst of the storm, the coming rainbow would not have been thought about. Instead, the primary focus is to seek shelter. Reflect upon how this may be similar to your personal life. When you feel pain or are bombarded with challenges do you run and hide? You should also remind yourself that every struggle is the precursor to a rainbow. Keep the blessings of God's Mercy alive in your mind so that they will daily carry you through the challenges of life.

*Lord, keep my eyes on You at all times. May I retain hope and joy in the midst of every storm of life. Please remind me when I feel oppressed and bombarded that this too shall pass and that You will bring my struggles and my life to a full and joyous conclusion. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Daily Reflections on Divine Mercy, <https://divinemeracy.life/>.

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## OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION Parish Newsletter

Trinity Sunday, Year A  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### SUNDAY MASSES

**BROADFORD:**  
*6pm Vigil*

**MONDAY,**  
No Mass

**PORTREE**  
*Sunday 10 am*

**TUESDAY,**  
1pm Portree

**DORNIE**  
*Sunday 12:45pm*

**WEDNESDAY,**  
10:30am Portree

**THURSDAY,**  
12:10pm, Broadford

**CONFESSION**  
before and after Mass  
And on request

**FRIDAY,**  
10:30am, Portree

## NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Giacomo and Lucia Fraser, who are making their First Holy Communion at Mass in Portree. Let us support them and their family with our love and prayers.

Today's second collection is for Day for Life, which we always take up at or near the Feast of the Visitation. It reminds us of our responsibilities to "Life Issues", such as our stance against abortion, our care for the elderly, and those suffering from any kind of disability, and those people who are disadvantaged in any other way, and how we respond to Jesus' command to "in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40)

Mgr. Tom Wynne will be celebrating his Diamond Jubilee of priesthood on Thursday, and he will retire from active ministry on that day. He is having a special Mass in Roy Bridge on Thursday evening. Thanks very much for the collection last week, which I have rounded up to £150 from all the parish.

Once again, I would like to thank the people who have brought in clothes for the refugees. This will be our sixth car-load, which is a great testament to the ongoing generosity of the people of the parish. I hope to be able to take them over to Conon Bridge during the week. I will know better when they post their opening times. Also, thanks to those who brought in items for the food bank recently.

I will be away after Mass next Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> June) for a few days. I have to go to the finance board meeting in Oban on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, and I will be out of the parish most of that week.

To our visitors: you are very welcome to stay for tea/coffee after Mass. If you are a UK taxpayer, please take one of the white Gift Aid envelopes from the porch and fill it in. There are also cards and gifts for sale. Thank you very much.

### MUSIC FOR MASS

|                     |     |                      |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|
| <b>Entrance:</b>    | 111 | Faith of our Fathers |
| <b>Offertory:</b>   | 468 | Take our bread       |
| <b>Communion:</b>   | 285 | Longing for light    |
| <b>Recessional:</b> | 221 | Immaculate Mary      |

## Pastoral Letter from Bishop Robson for the Day for Life

Each year, around the Feast of the Visitation of our Lady, on the 31st May or the nearest Sunday, we celebrate the Day for Life, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage, and in every condition. Human life is a sacred and precious gift from God and must be treated with the utmost respect. This is true at every moment of life, from its first beginnings to its natural death. In the womb, we grow and develop as full human beings, not as potential human beings. We read in the Old Testament: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I sanctified you' (Jeremiah 1:5).

The Day for Life 2017 has a particular poignancy and significance. This year marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act in the United Kingdom. Since the Act was passed in the UK more than nine million unborn children have been killed and countless mothers and fathers have been hurt by abortion. Indeed, the World Health Organisation, an agency of the UN, has stated that abortion is the leading cause of death worldwide, ending the lives of more than 40 million children each year.

The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights. Without that right all other rights are lost. At present, human life in the womb is not well protected, leaving unborn babies at risk of losing their lives to abortion, and mothers to the damage of abortion. Vulnerable people such as the disabled, elderly and frail are increasingly in danger from pressures to introduce assisted suicide or euthanasia. Campaigners have been relentless in pursuing their aim of introducing such laws. Worryingly there is a broad coalition and considerable political support for extending the threats to life including extending abortion to birth for any reason. Even more worryingly as the culture of death has grown the right to conscience is also becoming increasingly eroded.

Thus, this year's Day for Life is not just an occasion to reflect on the sacredness of human life but an opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to living out our baptismal promises, by putting our faith in the sacredness of life into action.

As we reflect on the fiftieth anniversary of the Abortion Act we express gratitude to those who have worked tirelessly to try with God's grace to build a Culture of Life and to counteract the Culture of Death. We especially remember the works of organisations such as the Cardinal Winning Initiative, SPUC Scotland and 40 Days for Life. As with the Church herself, these organisations have lobbied, counselled and prayed to bring about change. Perhaps what is most striking on this anniversary is the fact that so many young people have taken up the cause for life. In this respect, Project Truth, a wonderful team of young people who travel across Scotland every summer to educate the public about the humanity and beauty of every unborn child is especially worthy of note.

We as a Catholic People, supported by the Bishops of Scotland, will always speak out on behalf of the sanctity of every human life wherever it is threatened, from conception to natural death, and we urge all people of good will to do likewise. Pope St John Paul II once said that every human life is 'unique and unrepeatable.' On this Day for Life, in this significant anniversary year, each of us can ask of him or herself a simple question: What unique and significant action can I do to help promote and protect the rights of the unborn child?

With every blessing and thanks for your prayerful and material support and work for the protection of life,  
Yours devotedly  
+ Stephen Robson