



**FREE!**  
PLEASE TAKE ONE



# Meet some of Scotland's new priests



Newly ordained priest Jonathan Whitworth at his ordination at St Andrew's Church, Greenock, in the Diocese of Paisley.

**'WHAT made you want to become a priest?' That's a question we are regularly asked, both while in seminary and throughout our life as a priest.**

People want to hear about the ways Our Lord calls men to be priests after His own heart.

For me, the answer is simple. I was blessed to have encountered a succession of great priests in my home parish growing up; **men who were single-minded in the love of their vocation with a clear sense of the responsibility to which they were called.** In other words, they were deeply aware of *what* and *who* their lives were for: God and His Kingdom. So they were truly joyful individuals. It was their witness which first prompted me to ask *What and who is my life for?* In my journey to the priesthood, it was that daily witness of those good



priests, working away quietly but faithfully, that caused me to ask myself and God, *Am I being called to this life too?*

After my first few months of priesthood, I find myself turning towards their example as a constant source of inspiration.

In a time such as ours, when many people struggle to answer the question *What is my life for?* the priesthood will shine out all the more, prompting the deeper question *Who is my life for?*

**Father Jonathan Whitworth**  
**Diocese of Paisley**  
**Ordained: June 2017**

## WELCOME!

THIS year has been a bumper year for priestly ordinations and religious professions in Scotland.

Your prayers for vocations are bearing fruit!

We want to celebrate that by introducing you to some of our new diocesan priests from around the country.

Pray too for those beginning their lives of service in our parishes. And should their stories inspire you or someone you know, our vocations directors are there to walk with you as you think and pray about it.

See the contact details on the back page. Alternatively, visit us online at [priestsforScotland.org.uk](http://priestsforScotland.org.uk).

**FR TOM KILBRIDE**

National Director,  
Priests for Scotland



Fr John-Paul McShane is congratulated by Bishop Joseph Toal at his ordination in St Francis Xavier's, Carfin.

# My path to the sacred priesthood

**On the day of my ordination I was reminded of how quick the last six years have passed.**

I started St Mary's College, Oscott, in 2011, after many years of discerning my vocation. My vocation story spans back a long time, and it began as one of secrecy and fear.

I always felt God was calling me to the priesthood. However, I never had the courage or confidence to take the next step. I prayed about priesthood, seeking the intercession of many of my

favourite saints, but never felt confident enough to chat to anyone about how I felt.

As I discerned my vocation I convinced myself I wasn't good or holy enough to be a priest. I was looking for every excuse to say no. I felt afraid as I didn't know what would happen next; I had never encountered anyone else who had expressed an interest in the priesthood. However, after a diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2010 I had the courage and confidence to take the next step and I was able to speak to a priest about

the feelings I had towards priesthood, and it was the greatest relief I ever felt.

**Once I was able to accept that God was calling me to priesthood and was able to speak to others about it, my vocation became real and I never looked back.**

The hardest step for me was admitting to myself that I felt called to the priesthood and then being confident enough to express it to others.

**Father John-Paul McShane  
Diocese of Motherwell  
Ordained, July 2017**





# Father Jamie McMorrin

Diocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh. Ordained June 2016



## I write this while I mark a year since becoming a priest.

The following weekend my parents will celebrate 32 years as husband and wife, and my best friend's first child will turn three.

Vocation, I've learnt, is not a *once and for all* decision.

Every morning, Jesus asks me to be his priest and, every morning, I have to say 'yes' to everything that the day has in store.

Likewise, every day, a husband is called to say 'I do' to his bride, promising once more to love her generously and faithfully. Every day, a mother and father must open their hearts in renewed welcome to the child whom God has entrusted to their care.

A wise old priest, himself 58 years ordained, once told me that the best way to celebrate anniversaries of this sort is with a good examination of conscience; gratefully rejoicing for the good things God has done in you and through you and sincerely asking forgiveness for the little (and not

“ Every morning, Jesus asks me to be his priest and every morning I have to say 'yes' to everything that day has in store.

so little) failures and infidelities of human weakness.

Finally, and most importantly, anniversaries are opportunities to look to the future with a renewed commitment and a confident hope rooted in the God who will never fail to guide us with his wisdom, strengthen us with his grace and accompany us with his presence, until all things are brought to their perfection in Christ Jesus.

## Recruits to priesthood in Scotland hit 20 year high

### THE number of priestly ordinations in Scotland has hit a 20-year high – with 12 this year.

The last year with that number of Scottish ordinations was 1997. Bishop John Keenan, President of Priests for Scotland (*inset*), said: “There seems to be a general rise in the number of men approaching our vocations directors to apply for seminary.

“What's increasingly clear is that our



country needs spiritual leaders to take over the reins from our political leaders in order to guide us out of a cultural decline that is now beyond the power of politics to solve. There is a huge amount to be done

to restore to Scotland the Christian strength whose absence lies at the heart of so many of our recent and most perplexing anxieties and there is a sense that God is raising up such leaders for this task of our times.”

New priest Father Jonathan Whitworth (*see front page*) said he wants to see more men follow in his footsteps: “It takes a real man to be a priest, I really have to state that. You are called to be a

father of all families yet not having one of your very own, so it takes heroism. Young men are calling out for something that is radical because they have been sold something of a false reality by the world at the moment,” he said.

“By radical I mean you give your all; you take your chance with God. If you want more priests, show our youngsters good, holy priests and they will want to be a part of it.”

“ Our country needs spiritual leaders to guide us out of a cultural decline that is now beyond the power of politics to solve.

- Bishop John Keenan



**I was 65 years old when I was ordained a priest in June.**

I had been a social worker for over 40 years and still retain my registration in that profession.

I worked all over Scotland and my final post was as head of community care and criminal social work with Perth & Kinross Council. In 2009 I was ordained to the first group of Permanent Deacons in Glasgow.

A year after my ordination I took early retirement and, apart from some consultancy work, spent most time in my ministry as a Deacon.

At that time I was asked to be chaplain to John Paul Secondary School. When it was announced that Pope John Paul II was to be canonised the school arranged a pilgrimage to Rome with several senior pupils and staff. During

the time in Rome, one of the lads asked me to hear his confession. I had to point out to him that Deacons couldn't hear confessions. Later that night I began to think about what he had asked and how I felt. This led me to think if God was calling me to the priesthood.

Originally, Archbishop Tartaglia asked me if I had ever thought of the priesthood, given that I had never married.

I told him I had, but didn't think that at 63 years of age I had the stamina for a lengthy period of training. Another year went by and following further discussion with him it was agreed that I would

go forward for training for the priesthood.

I was sent to Allen Hall, the seminary for the Archdiocese of Westminster in London.

Here I undertook a year of academic, practical and pastoral training. My time there was challenging but also very fulfilling.

I had thought that after 25 years living alone I would not cope with community living. However, I enjoyed the company and support of the staff and younger seminarians.

They also seem to have coped with the 'Old Scotsman'!

Many have said that I should have become a priest a long time ago. For me this is the time that God has called me. It may have been unexpected, but I feel this is the time and this is what He has called me to do.



**“Many say I should have become a priest years ago, but this is the time that God has called me.”**

**Fr Jim Dean**

**Diocese of Glasgow. Ordained June 2017**

**Is God calling YOU to be His priest?** Contact you nearest vocation director for a chat...

**ST ANDREWS & EDINBURGH**  
Fr Michael John Galbraith  
01334 472856  
stjames.standrews@gmail.com

**ARGYLL & THE ISLES**  
Fr Michael Hutson  
01700 502 047  
timeheldmegreenanddyding@gmail.com

**GALLOWAY**  
Fr William Boyd  
01294 279 130  
wh.boyd@btinternet.com

**MOTHERWELL**  
Fr Brian Lamb  
01698 823896  
info@sjblantyre.org

**ABERDEEN**  
Fr Keith Herrera  
01224 640 160  
administrator@cathedral-abdn.org

**DUNKELD**  
Fr Michael Carrie  
tel 01382 539476  
frmichaelcarrie@outlook.com

**GLASGOW**  
Fr Ross Campbell  
0141 339 4315  
rrcchaplaincy@gla.ac.uk

**PAISLEY**  
Fr John Morrison  
Tel: 01475 720223  
email: johnmorrison1976@gmail.com

**“O, how great is the priest! ... If he realized what he is, he would die.” - St John Vianney**