

# NEW ENTRANCE ENSURES WARM WELCOME FOR ALL AT ST ALOYSIUS'

**Parishioners of St Aloysius in Chapelhall came together recently to celebrate the official blessing and opening of the new disabled access to their Church.**

After years of hard work planning and fundraising, the new entry was blessed by parish priest, Fr Mark O'Donnell, with two young pupils of St Aloysius' Primary helping to open the new doors.

Following the opening, a message on the parish's facebook page said:

"Today is a joyful and meaningful moment in the life of St Aloysius. After many years of prayer, planning, generosity and fundraising, we gathered to give thanks to God and to bless this new disabled access ramp and door.

This entrance is a sign of the determination, faith and care of this parish community – to welcome all people without barrier or exclusion, so that everyone may come freely to worship, to belong and to share fully in the life of this community. As Christ



welcomed all who came to him, especially those who were vulnerable or overlooked, so may this place always reflect his love, dignity and compassion for everyone.

A huge thank you to all who, through their charity (monetary/time/prayer), have enabled this to be realised."

# 'HOME FROM HOME'

**St Anthony & St Mark's Parish in Rutherglen has experienced a significant increase in parishioners born overseas who actively engage in parish life and worship.**

To better reflect the diverse backgrounds of these members, known as "The New Scots," the parish has implemented several changes to its worship practices. These include child dedication at Baptisms where the family is of Nigerian origin, and offertory processions in which parishioners present their gifts at the altar rails through dance rather than passing collection plates. Additionally, our annual Pentecost celebrations now feature a multicultural meal, music, and dancing, and where this feast coincides with First Holy Communion weekend, this event follows a procession of the Monstrance around the church's boundaries.

The latest event in Parish life was "Home from Home," held on January 3rd, which brought together people from all nations represented in the parish for a unique New Year celebration.

Parishioners with roots in Nigeria, Rwanda, Portugal, Mauritius, Tanzania, Angola, El Salvador, and Scotland gathered to enjoy an afternoon filled with shared food, music, dancing, lively conversation, and an impressive display of traditional costumes. Those who may have been far from home and family felt that our parish was truly their home for the day.

Parish Priest Fr Stephen Reilly remarked, "The communal meals, songs, costumes, and dances from around the world filled everyone with happiness and warmth. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful little parish!"

