

‘Young People are the Pride and the Promise of The Church’

Bishop Keenan.

On Thursday the 4th of December, Bishop John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley came to celebrate Mass in St. Ninian’s Oratory. I was lucky enough to attend the mass and I found it a very peaceful occasion.



After the mass I was given the privilege of meeting the Bishop along with a few pupils from across the school. He had breakfast with us as we listened to a couple of people talk about their faith in St. Ninian’s. They said that there are various opportunities in the school in which they could talk about or celebrate their faith for example they mentioned that they could attend morning mass on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday as well as having Eucharistic Adoration on a Friday at

lunchtime when they could go in and sit or pray for as little or as long as they liked. They also said that there are a few faith based clubs that take place in the school where they can go and talk about their faith such as The Life Group and The Worship Group. Furthermore they told us that they were enjoying having The Net Team in and outside the school. They told us that they enjoyed the youth club that The Net Team organised for pupils in Third to Sixth year at St. Joseph’s Parish Church as well as the after school “Twilight Club” that they run for younger pupils in First and Second Year.

After this a pupil from each year group had a chance on behalf of their year to ask Bishop John a question. His answers to these questions were very informative and very beneficial to the young people of the church. One question that was asked was “How can we prepare during the time of advent on the run up to Christmas?” His answer to this question was simple but very effective. He said “The best thing that you can do is to talk



to Mary as on the lead up to Christmas she was 8 months pregnant and was very worried so when we are feeling this way during advent she will know how hard it is for us.”

Bishop Keenan's homily was one of many great messages which he shared with us on Thursday. I found it very beneficial to me as a young person living in a family. He said "Supposing your mother was going out to work and you were left in the house by yourself. Just before she left she said to you can you do me a big favour and clean the bathroom. You say Ok and then she leaves but you think to yourself "why don't I do something a little bigger" - for example clean the kitchen? So off you go and you clean the kitchen until it is spotless. You are just finishing as she walks in the door. You are really pleased with yourself and you hope she will be to but she says to you weren't you supposed to be cleaning the bathroom? You say "well yes but I cleaned the kitchen instead" and she says to you " I wanted you to clean the bathroom because the priest is coming for dinner and he might want to use it." The message he was trying to get across by telling us this story was that if we are called by God to do something we must listen to him and do what he wants us to do instead of us doing what we think is the right thing to do.



Although there was many interesting and meaningful messages that were shared with us by Bishop Keenen there was one in particular that I found most striking. This is when told he told us that "Young people are not the problem but the solution. Young people are the pride and promise of The Church." What he meant by saying this was that people think that young people are providing the church with difficulties and problems but in actual fact they are suggesting ways in which they think that the church can be made a better place so are bringing hope and happiness.

Rhona Mowat. Second Year.