

# ...the world's persecuted Christians



...y of this age," Fr said. "Not in some study, but as a living and hence with the empathy and deepest

session to present the report to MSPs. This was attended by several MSPs, including Dr Alisdair Allan, who listened as John Pontifex presented a summary of the report and Fr Halemba raised his concerns and gave an eyewitness account of the tragic situation in Syria and Iraq.

"The Scottish Government

believes in equality for all people—whoever they are, wherever they are from and whatever they believe," Dr Allan said. "Our aim is that Scotland should be a place where people from all backgrounds can live and raise their families in peace and where people of all faiths and none can follow their religion or belief and achieve their potential."

**Pictured from left: Bishop Joseph Toal with John Pontifex, Fr Andrzej Halemba and Lorraine McMahon at the special Mass in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell; Fr Andrzej Halemba; Dr Alisdair Allan, Minister for International Development and Europe, with pupils Emily McPate and Briony McDavitt, who presented him with the report**



## Jubilee Mass marks 40 great years at St Nicholas

ST NICHOLAS Primary School, Broxburn, held its 40th Jubilee Mass in the school's new extension, celebrated by Fr Jeremy Bath and Canon John Agnew.

The Mass also celebrated the feast of the school's patron, St Nicholas.

Pupils, parents, friends, staff and ex-staff were invited to the Mass, followed by a reception and a chance to see photographs and memorabilia of the school.

During the Mass, Fr Bath blessed a chalice that the parish community had given to the school to mark the occasion.

He said he was delighted that school had reached its 40th year.

"It has played such an important role in the Catholic and wider community of Broxburn

over that time and it's been very interesting to see how the school has changed and grown over those years," he said.

"The community of Broxburn is very proud of St Nicholas and its children."

Headteacher Karen Brown added: "This has been a wonderful occasion to mark our 40th birthday that has been enjoyed by everyone today. St Nicholas is right at the heart of its community and we are delighted that so many parents and friends are here to celebrate Mass with us. Here's to the next 40 years."

Pictured above, from left, are: John Evitt, former headteacher; Fr Jeremy Bath, parish priest of SS John Cantius and Nicholas Catholic Church; Karen Brown and Canon John Agnew.

er Michelle inspires St Andrew's

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