

Music and a message as young people from all

By Amanda Connelly

ST ANDREW'S Cathedral, Glasgow, welcomed young people from across the UK as part of this year's Mercy Tour.

Young volunteers spent the afternoon on the streets of the city as part of a street mission, inviting passers-by to come and join the evening service in the cathedral.

The service, described as 'a powerful experience of meeting and being transformed by Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament' ran from 6-9pm, and saw testimonies given by young people about their faith, with music led by Youth 2000's Music Ministry.

The Glasgow stopover, the only Scottish stop on the tour, marks one of the many dates on the Mercy Tour, which ran from August 5-25.

Co-ordinated by John Withers the group of 15 young people began their day in Glasgow by doing street evangelisation before beginning in the cathedral at 7pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

They continued to create a prayerful atmosphere for those in the church through music, prayer, reading of scripture and testimonies of young people, before ending with Benediction.

Involving a group of young people travelling more than 1,500 miles across the UK and



Scenes from the Mercy Tour including (far right) Fr John Sweeney with Chanel Bryant and Lauren McGettrick

appearing at 13 different venues, the Mercy Tour invites people across the cities to evenings of worship and reconciliation through their street ministry.

Run by the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, the Mercy Tour works in partnership with Youth 2000, an organisation active in Catholic youth ministry for the past 25 years.

It aims to allow young people to step up to the role of mission work and also to help others to encounter God's mercy, especially through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as part of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.



Starring role for visitor as MP honoured

A MALAWIAN teacher will be centre stage as former MP Tom Clarke receives a Papal Knighthood next week.

The former Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill MP will receive the honour of Knight of St Gregory the Great at a Mass in St Augustine's Church, Coatbridge on September 1 from Bishop Joseph Toal of Motherwell.

To mark his efforts in international development, in particular establishing links between Lanarkshire and Malawi, he has asked Malawian teacher Deborah Nglende (right) to give a reading.

Deborah has been visiting Scotland this summer, traveling around schools to raise funds for a disability project giving educational access to disabled children, and thanking pupils, teachers and individuals who supported the project.

"Pupils in Malawi who have disabilities, they don't have



access to education," Deborah said. "So we are planning to open a nursery school, where we are going to enroll children with disabilities and any other children who are under six years of age."

"In Malawi they are eager to learn, but don't have enough resources for education," she added, noting how children with disabilities in Scotland have access to education,

unlike many of those back home in Malawi.

A teacher for six years and currently working in Mendulo Primary School, Malawi, Deborah will visit six Lanarkshire primary schools during her stay, including St Augustine's Primary, St Mary's Primary, St Monica's Primary and Redburn School, a school for children with a range of learning and physical difficulties.

Despite the downfalls of the Scottish weather, Deborah has enjoyed her stay in Scotland. "I'm really enjoying my visit in Scotland because all the people I am meeting, they are warm, they are interested in why I'm here," she said.

"I really like the Scottish people, they are kind-hearted people and they are eager to help poor people."

Deborah will remain in Scotland until September 4, before she returns to Malawi.

SPOTLIGHT ON



The annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage at Carfin Lourdes Grotto saw about 200 people gather in St Francis Xavier's Church, where Holy Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti of Glasgow, with the Sacrament of the Sick also being administered to those who wished to receive it. Pilgrims took part in Rosary procession beginning at the statue of St Joachim and Anne and finishing back in the church, for Benediction

PIC: TOM EADIE

Medjugorje 2016

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School prayer initiative seeks the support of Catholics across Scotland

CATHOLICS across Scotland are being urged by a Christian charity to pray for their local school.

Scripture Union Scotland, which aims to give students opportunities and explore values and beliefs from a Christian perspective, is encouraging people to sign up to the 'Pray for

Schools Scotland' initiative and ensure that every school across Scotland is prayed for.

The charity wants to raise the number of Catholic primary and secondary schools across the country joining the campaign. About 1,500 schools are already taking part out of more than 2,500 in Scotland. St Paul's RC

Academy in Dundee, St Teresa's Primary in Glasgow, St Bartholomew's Primary in North Lanarkshire and St Augustine's RC High in Edinburgh are some of the Catholic schools currently being prayed for.

Signing up online lets the charity track the number of schools involved, links Cath-

olics praying for the same school and is a way of sharing news.

"We believe it's important to support young people, and the staff involved in their lives, in prayer," Elizabeth McDowall, the scheme's Scotland Coordinator, said.

Find out more at www.prayforschoolscotland.org.uk.