

DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 26 March 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE - A Lenten Reflection - Dundee's Catholic Past - New Appointments - Fr Colin's Obituary

Positive response to Diocesan Synod questionnaire Our journey has begun

Every baptised member of the Catholic Church throughout the world has been asked to take part in a unique opportunity, and to have a stake in the future of the Church we love. An opportunity also to dream about the kind of Church we want to have in the future. As the Church embarks on the Synod on Synodality, Bishop Stephen invited everyone in the diocese to complete a questionnaire, online or on paper, recording their experience in the Church:

1. I feel welcome and am known by name in my parish...
2. I believe there are voices missing from our parish...
3. I am listened to in my parish...
4. In my parish, I am confident to speak about life issues that concern me...
5. Our Church Services are relevant, uplifting and engaging...
6. The quality of the homilies preached in my parish is...
7. I think our parish reaches out to those who feel marginalized or socially excluded...
8. I am fully aware that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through all its members...

...and then two extended responses:

9. Joys I get from being a member of the Church.....
10. Hurts I have experienced as a member of the Church.....

Bishop Stephen encouraged everyone to participate, but first he called them to pray and reflect and then respond as best we can to a simple, anonymous questionnaire about their parish experiences.

Bishop Stephen added, "In addition to reaching out to those whose voices are missing in our parishes, we should be rediscovering those who rarely or never practise their faith, who feel left out, judged, or are on the margins of society; those of different religions or no religions at all; and offer them an opportunity to speak out."

"As Lent begins there are opportunities for Parish groups to discuss the issues that concern them, to listen to each other, learn from each other, to build bridges and open minds to discern what the Spirit is asking the Church to be - reporting back through the parish coordinators."

is currently collating over 600 responses to the online Questionnaire and they will present them to the Bishop who will compile a report, share it with us and submit it to Rome in August 2022.

"Pope Francis asks us not to adopt the attitude of 'we have always done things this way'. If we do we will make the mistake of not taking seriously the times in which we are living. We are all here in this holy place today, because we love our Church and we want to see it thrive in the third millennium but it takes all of us to step up, to honour the responsibilities bestowed on us at our baptism, and not to leave it to the few."

The Diocesan Core Group for the Synod

...let's continue on our journey

Papal Medal for work with Society of St Vincent de Paul



Alex Leonard received the Papal Award, Bene Merenti, from Bishop Stephen at Ss Leonard's & Fergus', Dundee, in recognition of 65 years of service to the Church through his work in the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Alex was joined by his family, many friends and parishioners at the Mass on Wednesday 19th January.

MORE - SCHOOL and PARISH NEWS - CONFIRMATIONS and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PHOTOS



Fr Colin Golden, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Perth, died on Saturday 27th November 2021. At the time of his ordination, 23 years ago, it might have been said that he was a late vocation to the priesthood, having worked in the field of banking for over twenty years. But at that time he was leading a move to vocations from mature candidates.

Bishop Stephen paid tribute to life and service of Fr Colin during the Requiem Mass in Our Lady's on 10th December.

"Colin Golden was born to Thomas and Esther on 7th April 1954 in Broughty Ferry. Thomas and Esther had been married in 1935 and they lived in Paisley before moving to Bradbury street in Dundee in 1937."

"Before the arrival of Colin, who was the baby of the family, Brian was born in 1937 and Derrick in 1945. Tragically their father died in 1958, when Colin was just 4 years old."

"Colin went to school in Ss Peter and Paul's, Dundee, until P4 when, with his brothers now grown up, Colin moved with his widowed mother moved to Wall Street in Carnoustie and he transferred to St Thomas', Arbroath before returning to Dundee where Colin attended St John's High School until leaving after S4, in 1967."

"While working a trainee representative in 1970 at Northwest Securities, a subsidiary of the Bank of Scotland, he gained Diplomas in finance and business credit and became well known to many as an office manager in Dundee."

"At the age of 40 he went to study for the priesthood, firstly at Chester's College

"A wonderful and devoted Catholic Christian man who was a thoroughly good and Holy Priest"

Fr Colin Golden (1954-2021)

in 1992 and then, after the amalgamation of Scotland's seminaries, Scotus College in Glasgow, where he completed his formation as a seminarian until 1998."

"Study can't have been easy for Colin after being away from his books for so many years. His very perseverance was a clear sign to staff there of the proof of his vocation as we shall see. It's always wonderful that the Lord can call people at many different ages and from many different walks of life to be his priest."

During the final stages of preparation for his ordination, Fr Colin helped out in St Francis' parish, Dundee, alongside parish priest, Fr Eugene O'Sullivan; with Fr Mark Cassidy he visited hospitals, the housebound and the sick, helping him to develop the pastoral and caring skills for which he was so much loved; and then at Our Lady of Sorrows, Fintry and St Matthew's in Whitfield he worked with Fr Pat McNally helping to prepare candidates for Confirmation, working with the RCIA programme and learning how to plan the liturgy."

"Shortly before his ordination Fr Colin served as a Deacon in St Columba's, Kirkton, Dundee, where he worked with Fr John Harty, at that time the Diocesan Vocations Director, a role he was later to take on himself. With the Sisters of Namur, he visited Strathmartine Hospital and carried out house visits to the sick and housebound and well as visiting the staff and pupils at St John's High School, Dundee."

"Ordained by Bishop Vincent in Ss Leonard and Fergus', Dundee, on 24th June 1998, his first appointment as assistant priest was at St John the Baptist and St Mary Magdalene's, Perth, with Mgr Hendry. Next he took up his first appointment, as a Parish Priest, at St Bride's, Pitlochry – serving the Highland Perthshire parishes of Holy Cross, Aberfeldy and Kinloch Rannoch. He also served as parish priest at St James', Kinross combined at that time with Our Lady's, Perth. Finally he served the Perth parish working closely with the children as their school chaplain at Our Lady's Primary and St Columba's High School and then St John's Academy."

Bishop Stephen added, "the bare bones of a curriculum vitae of course can never really even begin to adequately describe a person or their achievements or their chal-

lenges or their blessings. We're humans, we're not machines. Every priest has times of success and times of failure. Every priest knows both joys and sorrows; you all know that. Sometimes Fr Colin's face bore the weight of the world, but you who knew Fr Colin, know was smiling all the time even when he looked like the 'Rev I Am Jolly'."

"He was always smiling underneath. He was was a very private man but had the most fabulous dry sense of humor and his real parishioners and friends, who saw past outward appearances, knew all about the laughing man within."

Inspired by the work of Sr Aloysius, a Sister of Mercy at Lawside Convent, Fr Colin was deeply committed in his support for the Romanian Project which saw him make repeated appeals, supporting the work undertaken at the Budimex Hospital in Budapest. Over a period of 15 years he led many parish and school groups on mercy trips with clothing, medicines and food and to volunteer with the project.

Bishop Stephen read a tribute from Trajan Despa in Bucharest: "to poorest families and the orphans, he was a role model, a good priest, a true Christian and a close friend. In recent years Fr Colin became attached to the elderly and people in need and he became their closest friend. In their greatest need, he helped them with food packages, clothes, beds, and with their heating bills too."

Trajan added, "he was very proud of his parishioners in Perth and their friends. Many, many times he said that they were the best and most generous and that he could do nothing without their help."

Bishop Stephen concluded, "Fr Colin was a wonderful and devoted Catholic Christian man who was a thoroughly good and Holy Priest. He simply loved people and he lived for the children in his parishes."

"He was a genuine no-nonsense loving human being who so often raved about the nature of this parish as being based on family, and about it being a living family, and about the childlike genuineness and innocence of the boys and girls in Our Lady of Lourdes Primary. Often he would remark that if the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes was to be his last parish it was heaven on earth for him."

May God rest his soul.

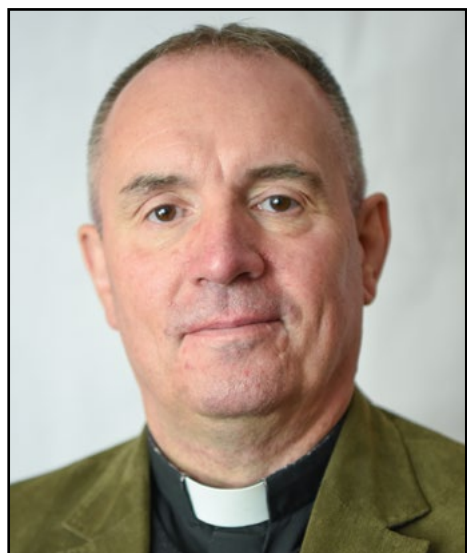
New appointment for Perth parish

Bishop Stephen Robson has made the following appointment: Fr Martin Pletts, parish priest of St James' Kinross, is also to be parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Letham, Perth, in succession to Fr Colin Golden who died in November 2021.

Bishop Stephen said, "We wish Fr Martin every blessing in his new ministry in Perth. The appointment takes effect from 22nd/23rd January, 2022. This will also ensure that both Kinross and Letham will become part of the Perth family of parishes."



New Honorary Canon for Dunkeld



Fr Andrew Clark has been appointed an honorary Canon of the Diocese of Dunkeld.

Fr Andrew has served as a Chaplain to the prison service since 1994, including 3 years as Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain to HM Prison Service in England and Wales, and for the last 18 years as Chaplain in Glenochil Prison, from which he has recently retired.

He has also supplied in many parishes throughout the diocese during this time. Please keep Andrew in your prayers as he prepares to be installed as a Canon.

Glasgow's new Archbishop

Pope Francis has today (Friday 4 February 2022) appointed Bishop William Nolan, as Archbishop of Glasgow. The new Archbishop will succeed Archbishop Philip Tartaglia who died in January 2021. Bishop Nolan is currently the Bishop of Galloway.

Reacting to the announcement, Bishop Nolan said; "I feel overwhelmed by the trust Pope Francis is putting in me by appointing me as Archbishop of Glasgow. It will be a wrench for me to leave Galloway Diocese where for seven years I have experienced the kindness and friendship of so many people, particularly the clergy. God truly blessed me by sending me to Galloway and I hope that my successor there will be similarly blessed. As I overcome my initial shock at being appointed Archbishop my thoughts now turn to the challenges that lie ahead. I look forward to working with everyone in the Archdiocese, laity

and clergy, to carry out the mission that we share of proclaiming God's good news and of bringing the joy of the Gospel into the lives of the people of today."

Bishop Nolan added: "I am well aware of my own inadequacies and of the difficulties the Church faces today. Thank God therefore that we can be sure of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the Church. As I leave the Diocese of Galloway behind, from now on I belong to Glasgow. And I assure the people of Glasgow of my commitment and dedication to them. Please remember me in your prayers."

Bishop Stephen Robson said, "We congratulate Bishop Nolan and assure him and the priests and people of the Archdiocese of Glasgow of our prayers. May our good God bless him with health and strength to lead his people in faith."



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Dundee parish discovers a renewed community spirit



Ready, steady, cook - Bernadette and Christine preparing the vegetables for soup at the cafe



Regular customers Pauline and Lizzie just love the cafe



Not the Beechgrove Jim, but St Ninian's very own green-fingered Jim

Plans to mark the Golden Jubilee of their parish turned out to have a definite silver lining for parishioners of St Ninian's. The church, in the Menzieshill area of Dundee, opened in 1969, and parishioners marked the 50th anniversary with a variety of initiatives and celebrations.

Having seen how the planning and celebrations had brought the parish together, the aim was to build on what the milestone had offered.

Thus a group of seven parishioners, from different ministries in the parish, got together in early 2020. At the heart of their discussions was the Holy Father's encyclical *Laudato Si*, with its emphasis on our need to care for our common home, Planet Earth.

A particular focus of their discussions was how they, as a parish, were responding to the Holy Father's call to do their bit to respect God's creation.

Research told them there was an organisation called Eco Congregation Scotland, a Christian environmental charity which addresses issues involving climate change and conservation.



The Life of Brians means regular work transforming the garden

It is an ecumenical programme which helps parishes make the connection between environmental issues and Christian faith, and helps them to respond in practical action.

Margret MacPhail, who chaired parish the group, said, "When we looked at Eco Congregation Scotland's Environmental Check-Up for Churches, we found we had more weaknesses than strengths!"

"But we did have some things in our favour, such as solar panels, environmentally-friendly cleaning products, recycling paper and support of the local Foodbank, run by our neighbours in Menzieshill Parish Church. We had, however, a long way to go and realised much work had to be done."

They shared their plan with the whole congregation. It was very warmly received, and much enthusiasm was harnessed, only to be doused by Covid and the closing of the church.

Undeterred, the group harnessed technology and, with the constant support of parish priest Fr Johny Raphael, they continued their Eco Journey via Zoom, thus maintaining community spirit at a very difficult time.

The spiritual and physical health of the parish, were very much a concern. Prior to Covid a faith group had gathered. During Covid that transferred to an online group, who met to study the Pope's encyclical, *Frattelli Tutti* which links closely with *Laudato Si*.



Our Lady's Grotto, a haven for private prayer



A blooming good show from Liz



Jim is parish Jack of all trades



Angela (left) and Louise are the cream of the crop

This led to joint parish sponsored events including Walk for Water, A Tent for Lent for the homeless and 'Sunday hymn-alongs' where St Ninian's joined St Clement's through technology to sing their favourite hymns.

An Eco Prayer Card was produced based on the Prayer for the Earth by Pope Francis and Care for Creation continues to be reflected in bidding prayers, prayer services and homilies.

In practical terms, the parishioners have transformed the gardens, front and back, at St Ninian's. A 'Mary Garden' and Grotto have been created to encourage individual and group prayer and contemplation.

Margaret Taylor, a parishioner of St Clement's said, "The grotto to Our Lady is absolutely beautiful. I'm looking forward to be able to sit with our Blessed Mother and enjoy the peace among the flowers."

Among other initiatives instigated by the parish is a weekly community cafe, CC's run by volunteers from both parishes. This is proving a hit with the local community, and is stocked by produce from the St Nin-

ian's garden, which has been transformed by volunteers.

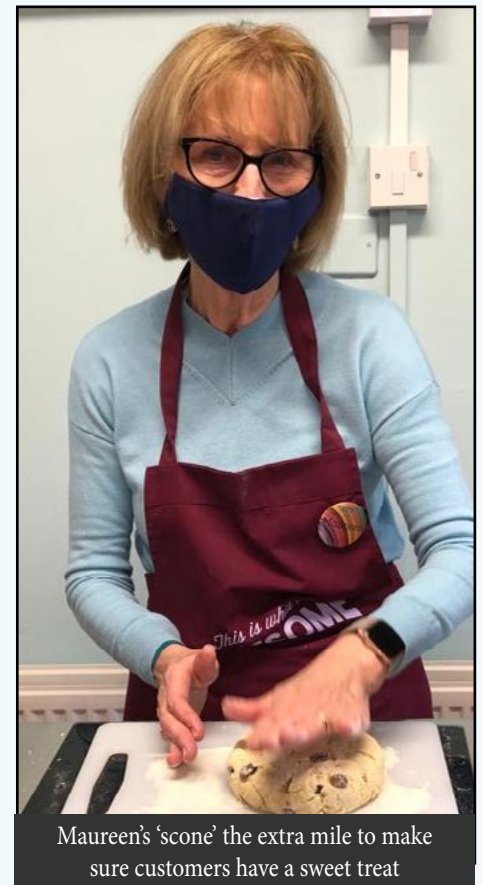
Vegetables are growing in both the new allotment and the greenhouse to ensure there is fresh produce, in season, for the cafe. The produce will be grown throughout the year to assist with the environment and the feeding of local families.

There are also monthly community cooking demonstrations on offer, to help families prepare affordable, nutritious meals, and these are already well attended.

All of these ideas along with monthly Eco Challenges have been shared with parishioners to encourage them to adopt, or adapt, some of the ideas in their own homes.

Margret says, "At the heart of our endeavour, we are aiming to protect our planet and hand on to our young people a sustainable environment and vibrant faith. Following our online group assessment by Eco Congregation in September, we were delighted to receive a Silver Award, and now we are going for gold!"

"The overgrown front garden has been transformed by a merry band of volunteers into our beautiful, tranquil 'Mary Garden' where people can sit and pray quietly."



Maureen's 'scone' the extra mile to make sure customers have a sweet treat



Visiting CC's is a family affair for Niamh and her mum Fionnuala




Louise digs for victory to help ensure Silver Eco Award



May our hearts be open to all the peoples and nations of the earth. May we recognise the goodness and beauty that you have sown in each of us, and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects, and shared dreams.

Pope Francis



“God never tires
of forgiving us;
we are the ones
who tire of seeking
his mercy.”

Pope Francis

LENT IS A TIME OF Prayer, Fasting

As this latest edition of the Dunkeld News is distributed, we have moved out of the Christmas season and are heading towards Lent.

Lent as we all know commemorates the time that Jesus went into lockdown!

He withdrew into the desert and experienced all that comes with a loss of interaction with other people. He experienced fear and anxiety and even temptation. He did this not because the world is a bad place, or lockdown is a good thing; but because he wanted to prepare himself for his mission of combating evil and bringing Good News to the people of this time and the people of every culture and age.

We have all been through lockdown, and for every individual it will have been a unique and particular experience. For many of us it was probably a time of anxiety and insecurity. It may have been about major things such as sick relatives or loved ones in difficult situations. It may have been as simple as, “How am I going to get food and other household necessities?” But I think it is true to say that no one was left untouched by this experience.

And now we are entering another Lent, another 40 days when we try to enter into solidarity with Jesus in his initial lockdown. We do this in order not to punish ourselves, but to prepare our hearts for Easter - and also in order to help us be better Christians and more faithful followers of Jesus.

I suppose the question is, “What are the practical ways in which we do this?” Most of us have grown up in a culture of “giving something up” for Lent; and that is not a bad thing, provided it is done in a way that is meaningful and helpful.

In the tradition of the Catholic Church, many people, in trying to observe Lent, have followed the threefold Christian principles of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let's look briefly at these three principles to see how we can develop them in our own lives and in our world of today.

OF GRACE - WE NEED TO RESPOND

Fasting and Almsgiving

with Ronald McAinsh, C.Ss.R.

First of all, prayer. We are all called to prayer, because prayer is our lifeline with God and if that lifeline, that oxygen line is cut off or blocked, then the channels of grace and life-giving relationships will also be blocked or cut off.

Prayer is not an optional extra. Prayer is our way of living in grace. However, it is not a question of saying more prayers during Lent - although some people may choose to add something to their prayer life. I know one old lady who in Lent makes the Way of the Cross from her armchair with an old tattered prayer book in her hand as she follows the footsteps of Jesus in his final hours. I know someone else who says the rosary every day during Lent. However, the important thing is to enter into a deeper relationship with Our Lord.

So, I have found that the best way to do this is to set apart some time each day during Lent to reflect on the life of death of Jesus. Depending on your work or domestic schedules, this could vary from five minutes to twenty minutes.

But the important thing is to set the time aside, to find a quiet corner or a spot outside; and just to be there for these five, ten or fifteen minutes, opening yourself to God's love and recalling the passion and death of Jesus, and all that he did for us in order that we might have our sins forgiven and enjoy a fullness of life. The prayer dimension is very important.

The second tradition is that of fasting. As you probably know fasting was a very big feature of Lent in times past. People fasted not only from meat, but from fish and from eggs and dairy products. In more recent times, Catholics have fasted from many of the foods and drinks they normally enjoyed. How many of us give up sugar in our tea or coffee for Lent many years ago and have never returned to it? The whole concept of fasting has of course changed.

Some people will still physically fast from food. Others will give up something that they greatly enjoy, for example alcohol or chocolate, during Lent. However, people

are also finding new ways of fasting. I remember a few years ago challenging some of our students before Lent and suggesting a good way of fasting would be to abstain from social media for one day a week, possibly Friday.

You would have thought I was asking them to cut off their right arms!! "Impossible" they declared; "unreal. It's all too much". I indicated that it was only a suggestion, and we could try to negotiate, and eventually they agreed that they would give up social media every Friday from morning until 6pm. And I can tell you this was a huge challenge for these young people, and a very great sacrifice. It was probably the hardest fast that they had experienced.

Finally, there is almsgiving. "So long as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me". And again, almsgiving can take many forms. It can be giving money to charity.

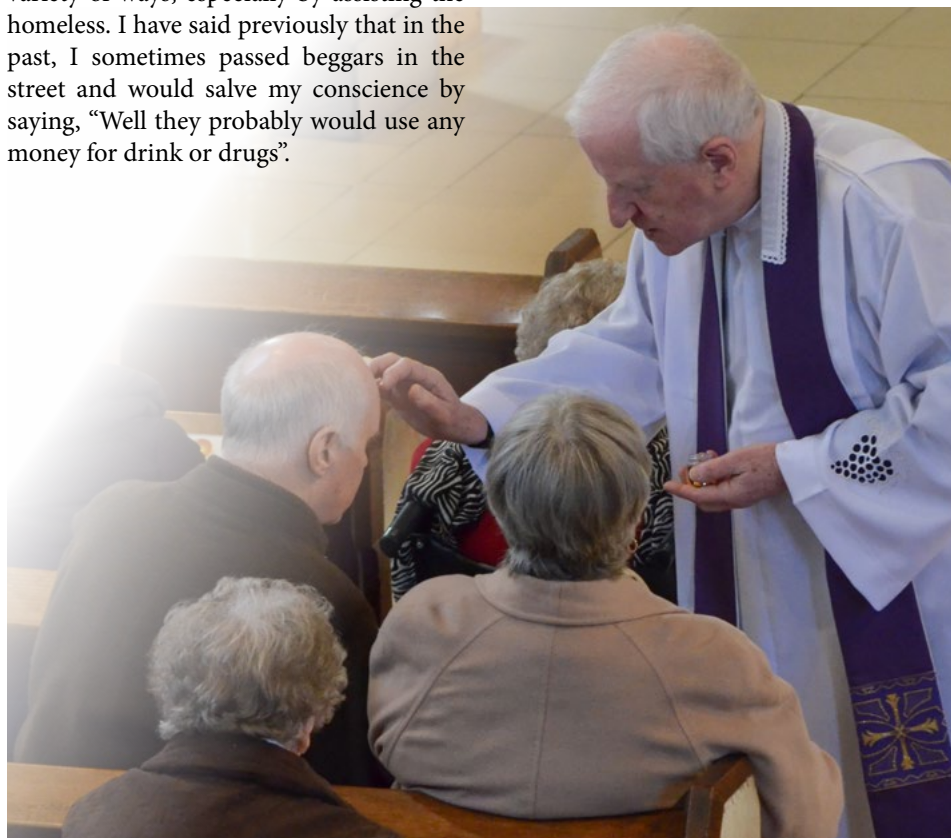
Over the Christmas period several readers of the Dunkeld News sent a donation for the poor in Zimbabwe. And I am sure that others frequently help the poor in a variety of ways, especially by assisting the homeless. I have said previously that in the past, I sometimes passed beggars in the street and would salve my conscience by saying, "Well they probably would use any money for drink or drugs".

My attitude changed when I heard Pope Francis saying that we, really don't know that. He added, that they may be very genuine; but also, they may be in great physical or emotional pain and are using these substances to dull the pain. So, my attitude has changed there.

However, there are other ways of almsgiving especially when we are not in a position to give money. We can give our time as our alms. We can visit someone in need, or simply listen to someone who is lonely and needs to speak. Often that can be a tough challenge, and the last thing we want to do. And if we can't get out to visit or to spend times listening, then our alms can be a kind thought or an extra prayer for them.

Almsgiving means that we give something of our time or our possessions or our very selves, and therefore in a sense we empty a little bit of ourselves - and into that empty place, God comes. Almsgiving can be about making more space for God in our lives.

We are told by the Church that Lent is a time of grace. However, we need to respond to grace. So perhaps considering prayer, fasting and almsgiving will be our way to celebrate this Lent and be ready to share in a peaceful and joyful Easter.



Post war expansion of Catholic Dundee



St Vincent's, Dundee - opened 1950; closed 2012

The people had a strong desire to establish a good parish in that part of Dundee after years of spiritual deprivation and social struggle.

Dundee's William Coupar continues his historic series about the city's Catholic past

In 1945 the city of Dundee had eight Catholic parishes. Twenty years later that number had doubled. This meant the building of many new churches and many extra priests were needed. Dunkeld diocese faced a huge challenge during these post war years.

After the World War II, large numbers of people moved out into the Council estates that were being built around our cities, old communities were being broken up and thousands of slum homes pulled down. The process had started in the 1930s but by the late 1940s new house building in particular had really speeded up.

The Catholic Church in Dundee (and elsewhere) was very much caught up in this process. In some estates, like Beechwood and Mid Craigie, building had started in the 1930s but little was done to plant new

parishes, especially in the War years. By the late 1940s the need to build new churches, was critical. One of the first of these was St Vincent de Paul which served both Linlathen and Mid Craigie.

By 1950 this new parish was up and running but not under the leadership of local Diocesan priests. It was founded by a group of Servite Friars from London. This was not a new departure for the Dunkeld diocese. Franciscans had come to the city in the 1930s and in the late 1940s Augustinians took over the running of Ss Peter and Paul's Parish. The Servites were however new to Scotland.

One of the first priests to arrive was Fr Patrick O'Connell. He has left us a fascinating account of what happened when, as he called it, 'The Servites came to Dundee.'

They arrived in May 1949, two of them, O'Connell and the soon to be Prior, Fr Alexis Mullins. At first they lodged in St Patrick's Presbytery in Maitland Street. Soon however they got their own base, a house on Forfar Road by the old Maryfield tram depot and it was there that they lived through the winter of 1949/50.

Soon they were joined by another Servite, Fr John Knowles. He was to stay at St Vincent's into the 1960s. He remembered how often they walked from Forfar Road to their new church at the junction of Kingsway and Pitkerro Road, especially the times when the weather was cold and the ground underfoot was icy.

Their Servite colleagues in the south regarded Dundee as being "Beyond Siberia" according to Father Pat. Dundee was cold and strange. He admitted finding it hard to understand what his parishioners were

saying to him at times. In his account he makes no bones of being shocked to see just how many people found it hard simply to make ends meet.

How then did the Servites come to Dundee in the first place?

Not surprisingly the hand of Bishop Scanlan can be seen at work. Fr O'Connell's account tells what happened.

"The Servites head quarters were on Fulham Road in London, not far from Westminster Cathedral where the then Monsignor Scanlan worked. One of the friars there, Fr Austin Moore, was Bishop Scanlan's confessor."

After he came to Dunkeld in 1946, in charge effectively of running the diocese, Bishop Scanlan could see he needed many more priests to serve these growing communities and he needed them quickly.

He turned to his old friends in Fulham and asked them to help. The Bishop's most pressing need was to set up a parish for Linlathen and Mid Craigie. Here many Catholics had been living without a church for over a decade. Nor was there even a primary school.

The Servites were looking to move into Scotland - apparently they looked at Carfin parish in Lanarkshire (home of the famous grotto) and elsewhere. The invitation to come to Dundee was "seen as providential. The Friars accepted the challenge willingly and the local clergy were happy to have extra forces to service the estates beyond the Kingsway ring road," says Fr O'Connell.

He also describes his first winter vividly - "So we started our labours that very snowy

Over the next decade two further churches were opened.

In Fintry, Our Lady of Sorrows opened in 1956...

..St Pius X, was set up to serve the Douglas and Angus estate.

winter visiting, very intensively, across our parish, a much lapsed Catholic population. They seemed pleased to see us and their response was good.”

Many came to their temporary home on Forfar Road and not just to arrange weddings and funerals. His conclusion is clear and unambiguous, “They had a strong desire to establish a good parish in that part of Dundee after years of spiritual deprivation and social struggle.”

Fr O’Connell also gives a candid account of what his parishioners had available to them when they moved out from the older parts of town.

“They only had a few shops, no halls to meet, no pubs, a very limited police presence and minimal bus service.”

Under the leadership of Fr Mullins they set about getting St Vincent’s off the

ground.. “We really wanted to open our new church in time for Christmas 1950,” he added. They were indeed able to open the building, in an unfinished state, on the 16 December. A school followed in April 1951 with Miss Norah Ward as head.

The new building, which still stands on the Kingsway, was not however called a ‘Church’, it was called a ‘Hall’! Fr Pat explains why. “Church building was not allowed in the years after the War due to an acute shortage of building materials and especially timber. You could however build a “Hall” and that is what happened over the next months. As a Hall it had to be available for multiple uses.”

This multi functional arrangement had its challenges he explained, “I remember Smokers in the Hall - these were men only affairs with a few beers - and the proceeds went to parish funds. We made a few mistakes. We held them on Friday nights, some of the men had already been drinking and it became a bit rowdy! Another issue was the whiff of Saturday night celebrations odours lingering over Sunday morning Mass!”

These hybrid arrangements didn’t last long, rules were relaxed, and St Vincent’s became openly a church. A separate Hall came into use and fund raising (Sunday night Bingo was always popular I recall) ensured that by the early 60s the Priory buildings that we see today were completed.

From his account it becomes clear that Bishop Scanlan took an active role in several aspects of the new parish.

“...the Bishop wanted the parish named after St Vincent de Paul, the patron of the poor and the needy. Servite tradition would have called the newly founded church Our Lady of Sorrows but Bishop Scanlan insisted.”

The Bishop also commissioned the statue above the doorway at the front of the church. Again Fr Patrick is quite open, “Bishop Scanlan disliked what he called ‘Repository Art’ and asked for a young sculptor at Duncan of Jordanstone Art School to produce it.”

Over the next decade two further churches were opened. In Fintry, Our Lady of Sorrows opened in 1956. Served for the first decade from St Vincent’s it eventually became independent in the 1970s.

Another parish, St Pius X, was set up to serve the Douglas and Angus estate. Father Pat’s account of what happened makes interesting reading.

“We approached the Bishop because nothing seemed to be happening. We took the Bishop to look at the area and helped to set up St Pius X and directed it for a year.”

At its peak St Vincent’s was the most populous parish in the diocese recording over 6000 parishioners in the early 1960s. Up to six priests served the parish at that time. A number of priests and Servite Nuns from the area joined the Order, most notably perhaps Andrew Walls, uncle of Fr Jim. Walls, who served for many years as Prior in St Vincent’s in its latter years.

Gradually however numbers declined. Congregations became smaller and there were fewer priests around to serve them. In 2012 the Servites left after 60 years service in the city and St Vincent’s closed its door for the last time.

Provincial Chapter of the English Province May 1964

Back Row L-R Ignatius McCafferty, Bernard O’Hanlon, Francis Donaghey, Paul Knowles, Patrick O’Connell, Ambrose Castleton, John Knowles, Basil Prior, Camillus (Andrew) Walls, Charles Cunningham-ham, Anselm Richardson, Peregrine Balwin.

Front Row L-R Francis Mildner, Alexis Mullens (Prior Provincial), Alphonse Montá (Prior General), Francis McEnery, Vincent Naughton.

At least four of the Friars in the photograph, Alexis Mullens, John Knowles, Patrick O’Connell, and Andrew Walls served as Prior at St Vincent’s.



A Lenten Journey is planned for St Pius X and St Patrick's

For a number of years, the men at St Pius X and St Patrick's, Dundee, have come together to complete a spiritual journey for Easter called 'Exodus 90'.

This involves basically an extension of Lent to ninety days with prayer, fasting, abstinence, Lectio Divina, fraternity, and a weekly meeting. Then a group of women started doing the same last year called "Fiat 90" using the same principles but a different book.

This year Fr Ninian Doohan reduced the preparation to 70 days to fall into line with the old calendar which has a 'pre-Lenten' season (this is called Septuagesima, from the Latin for seventy days before Easter) before we begin the proper 40 days of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The beginning date is 13th of February.

Prior to the start, two separate question and answer meetings were held to help people discern whether this is something for them.

The groups were named 'Men of Galilee' and 'Women of Jerusalem'. The practice of prayer, fasting, abstinence and forms of penance will be continued from previous years but now using the two books:

'The Thirty Day Retreat in the Carmelite Tradition' by Fr Marsh, O.Carm., and '40 Days at the Foot of the Cross' by Fr John Paul Thomas, as the daily schedule before and during Lent, respectively.

Blairgowrie's SVdP helps parishioners in fuel cost crisis

St Stephen's SSVP Conference met recently to consider ways in which help can be offered to parishioners and others in difficulties either in a financial or social sense. Parish priest, Fr Gregory Ummuna said, "Parishioners in serious difficulties, whether due to increased gas/ electricity costs or spiralling food costs, should also bring this to the attention of any SSVP member."

Annual Diocesan Mass for the Sick



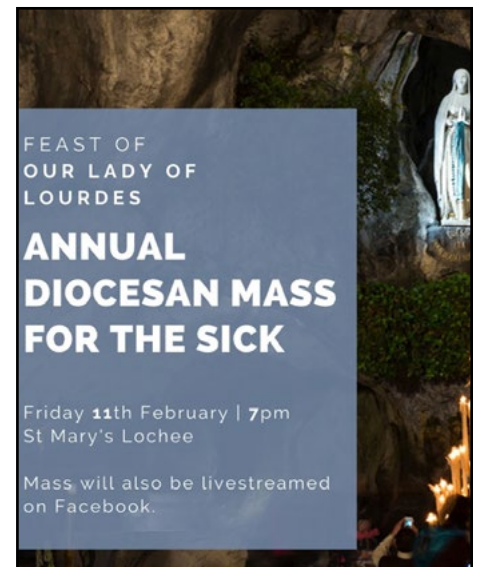
Photo courtesy of Eddie Mahoney

The Annual Diocesan Mass for the Sick took place in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Lochee, Dundee on Friday 11th February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In 1992, Pope St John Paul II introduced the World Day of the Sick to encourage believers to pray for those who suffer from illness, their caregivers and all those who work to alleviate the sufferings of the sick. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a year before and it is considered that his own illness was an impetus for his designation of the day.

The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes, thus connecting with the prominent place given to sick people in Lourdes. The Pope had written extensively on the topic of suffering and believed that it is a salvific and redeeming process through Christ, as taught in his apostolic letter Salvifici Doloris.

In Dundee, Bishop Stephen was the principal celebrant with priests from parishes



across the diocese. Mgr Aldo Angelosanto preached and Anointing of the Sick was celebrated during the Mass which was livestreamed via the parish's Facebook page.

The occasion also marked a joyful reunion for many past and present pilgrims who have visited Lourdes on Diocesan Pilgrimages.

Newport parish's Farewell to Fr Louis



The parishioners at St Fillan's, Newport-on-Tay, said a fond farewell to Fr Louis Uwaezuoke who has now been appointed as Administrator of the Holy Family parish in Dunblane.

Lydian Singers raise the roof at St Mary's, Lochee



On 15th December, the Lydian Singers, conducted by Susan Cassidy and accompanied by Mike Ellacott brought some festive cheer to St Mary's, Lochee, Dundee, with a Carol Concert.

Amid all the uncertainty that COVID brought to the pre-Christmas period, the concert lifted the spirits of the many people who attended as well as those who joined online. Fr Mark was presented with

a cheque for £700 by Kirsty Devaney and Mary Margaret Wilson on behalf of the Lydian Singers.

Following the concert there were refreshments in the hall where there was the sale of some Harry McGregor paintings (donated by his daughter, Anne Ireland). With further donations, the evening raised over £1,000 for the St Mary's Restoration Project.

St Fillan's parishioner is new diaconate candidate



Photo courtesy of Eddie Mahoney

Mr Chris McCrossan, St Fillan's, Crieff, was accepted by Bishop Stephen as a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate at a Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, on 18th December 2021.

"I am delighted to be celebrating today this Mass of Candidacy with my family, marking an important part of my formational journey towards becoming a Permanent Deacon, said Chris. "It is particularly poignant today as it also marks the fifth anniversary of my father's death, with my vocational calling to the Diaconate having crystallised just a short time afterwards. Some five years in the making now, and still in the midst of my studies, my ordination

date is set for 28th May 2022, and it suddenly seems very close."

"A Deacon's vocation is wholly one of service – Service to God, to His Church and importantly, to the People of God, as a bridge between the people and the priest, between the Church and the world. Being ordained into Holy Orders, a Deacon is the sacramental sign and presence of Christ the Servant."

"As such, his service to the Church incorporates a three-fold ministry as a servant of the Word, of the Altar and of Charity."

"For the Ministry of the Word, a Deacon

is called upon to proclaim the Gospel, to preach at times, lead the people in prayer, preside over Services other than Mass, and officiate at Funerals and Burial Services."

"The Ministry of the Altar calls for him to assist the Bishop or priest at Mass, distribute Communion at Mass as well as to the sick and the housebound, to Baptise and officiate at Marriages, as well as preparing people for these Sacraments."

"The Ministry of Charity calls upon him to serve the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable, to coordinate the local Church's response to such needs with a special attention towards Social Justice, and fostering and supporting parish groups and organisations."

"Having given up my own Business as an Independent Financial Advisor and Mortgage Broker some fifteen years, to become a stay-at-home dad to my four young children who were aged six years old and under, I have been actively involved in many aspects of these areas of service over those years as a layperson. It feels in many ways a natural extension of that service to continue my journey towards the Sacrament of Holy Orders, in response to God's calling upon my life and to become ordained as a Permanent Deacon, for the ongoing service to God and His Church."

Catenian Family Weekend in Crieff



As restrictions on the hospitality industry were relaxed in Scotland, members of the Catenian Association from across the country gathered for its Annual Family Weekend at Crieff Hydro. The occasion was attended by the UK National President, David Arundale and his wife Maureen, who were undertaking a tour of Scotland to visit the Association's Circles in Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee and Perth, Stirling, Fife, Edinburgh and West Lothian, Glasgow and Giffnock with visitors from further afield.

The Catenians are a network of Catholic men who meet regularly to enjoy each other's company and to help and support each other throughout the world. Founded in Manchester, Catenians can now be found in many countries and today are active throughout the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Malta, India, Bangladesh Zimbabwe, South Africa and in Nazareth.

The local groups are called Circles and meet monthly and arrange activities both for their members and their families; meals together, barbecues, picnics, visits to the theatre and sporting events are all popular.

Speaking at the annual Family Weekend, National President, David Arundale, reported on the Association's, despite the COVID Pandemic. "Although never our primary aim, Circles in the UK raised over £250,000 in the past year for local charities as well as supporting the Association's two in-house charities; the Benevolent Fund which supports members and their families and the Bursary Fund which sponsors young persons in projects contributing to wider society at home and abroad."

"The Bursary Fund is a financial grant made to assist young Catholics, who wishes to undertake individual project by volunteering to do something wonderful for someone else. This could be on their own, or with others, organised by you or through another organisation, but the essential thing that the Trustees are looking for is that you will be doing something of benefit to others."

Applications can be made via the Association's website - <https://catenianbursary.com> - and successful applications have an opportunity to report back - sharing news of their good work.

Scottish Provincial President, Archie Maclellan also welcomed past GB President Eddie O'Donnell and his wife Kathleen

(L-R) Eddie & Kathleen O'Donnell; John & Maureen Russell; Bishop Stephen; Archie & Maureen Maclellan; Paula (altar server) and Linda & David Arundale.

from Stirling Circle; past GB President Phil Brown and his wife Linda from; and among the guest was a familiar face, ex-Lawside pupil, Gerry McCormack, who has never forgotten his Dundee roots - now living in Wokingham and Director of Province 8.

Dundee and Perth Circle were awarded the Provincial Membership Trophy - having become the Circle with the largest number of new members in the past year.

Bishop Stephen Robson was the guest of honour at the Association's meal on the Saturday evening and he celebrated Mass on Sunday morning.



Bishop Stephen with Claudine and John Soje from Stirling Circle and their family at the Crieff Hydro.



COP26 Mass in St Aloysius, Glasgow

National Role for Dunkeld Permanent Deacon

‘Care of Creation’ points to Church net zero target

Deacon Bert Miller writes

It was in response to Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si, that the Bishops Conference of Scotland set up the Care of Creation Office led by Bishop William Nolan. On becoming aware of this, and with my lifelong interest in nature and the environment as well as my past work experience as a Building Surveyor, I considered I would be able to make a positive contribution to the Office. On intimating my interest to Bishop Stephen, he gave his permission for me to join the group of individuals forming the new Office.

Office members studied the Papal Encyclical Laudato Si and thereafter sought to provide advice to parishes across Scotland about how the Encyclical applies to both individuals and collectively as a Parish, offering suggestions about what Catholics can do to look after the Earth as our common home and all people, especially those who are disadvantaged by current lifestyles.

I am pleased to say that, following the Bishops Conference of Scotland confirming its intention for all parish property to be divest of fossil fuel use by 2030, I was able to use my experience in assisting with the production of two documents that will be sent to all dioceses, for issue to parishes, providing advice on how this can be achieved.

With COP26 being in Glasgow, the Bishops Conference of Scotland organised a Delegates Mass on Sunday 7th November in St Aloysius Church, Glasgow. There were around 30 celebrants including Archbish-

ops, Bishops, Emeritus Bishops. the Papal Nuncio and numerous Priests with Bishop Hugh Gilbert the Principal Celebrant.

Bishop William Nolan as leader of the Care of Creation Office delivered a thoughtful homily on the need to take action in response to Laudato Si including the crisis that COP26 was considering.

Being aware that I was a Deacon and a member of the Care of Creation Office I was honoured and privileged to be asked to participate as Deacon of the Altar, an experience I will never forget.

Apart from COP26 delegates, numerous other dignitaries were in attendance including the Deputy First Minister of Scotland, John Swinney, The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Philip Braat and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Hon. Lord Jim Wallace.

Deacon Bert is a parishioner at St Anthony’s, Kirriemuir and was ordained in June ’21

A recording of the COP26 Mass can still be viewed online at <https://mediades.co.uk/cop26> - Photos Courtesy of Paul McSherry



Deacon Bert Miller with Bishop Hugh Gilbert (Aberdeen) and delegates at COP26



A packed church for Mass with the Papal Nuncio

Assisted suicide law attacks human dignity say Scotland's Bishops

In a submission to the consultation on assisted suicide proposed by Liam McArthur MSP, Scotland's Catholic Bishops opposed the proposed law as an attack on human dignity which will undermine efforts to prevent all suicides, damage public trust in doctors and leave frail, elderly and disabled people feeling they are a burden on society.

The church response was submitted to the consultation by Anthony Horan, Director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, who commented:

"Assisted suicide attacks human dignity and is based on the mistaken belief that individuals can lose their value and worth. The state should support the provision of care, not the deliberate killing, of those at the end of life."

Assisted suicide attacks human dignity and is based on the mistaken belief that individuals can lose their value and worth. The state should support the provision of care, not the deliberate killing, of those at the end of life.

Assisted suicide undermines efforts to prevent suicide and sends a message to society that suicide is an appropriate response to physical or mental suffering.

Suicide prevention efforts rightly affirm that everyone's life matters and every life has value, assisted suicide says that sometimes suicide is an appropriate response to an individual's circumstances, worries and anxieties, and that governments should support and facilitate it. It would be absurd for society to support suicide prevention strategies on one hand, and to permit state-assisted suicide on the other.

Assisted suicide sends a clear message to frail, elderly and disabled people about the value that society places on them and puts pressure on them to end their lives for fear of being a financial, emotional or care burden on others.

In Oregon, in 2020, over half of patients (53%) listed "being a burden" as a reason to end their lives (Oregon Death with Dignity Act 2020 Data Summary). This suggests that society is failing those most in need

Mr Horan added; "Apart from the fact that Assisted suicide undermines efforts to prevent suicide and sends a message that suicide is sometimes appropriate it sends a clear message to frail, elderly and disabled Scots about the value that society places on them and puts pressure on them to end their lives for fear of being a financial, emotional or care burden on others. This is intolerable and utterly wrong."

Mr Horan concluded; "No matter how well intentioned the safeguards are, it is impossible for any government to draft assisted suicide laws which include legal protection from future expansion of those laws. The slippery slope is real and dangerous. MSPs should be preventing suicide, not assisting it by introducing a dangerous law with deadly and irreparable consequences."

of help and support in our communities, resulting in elderly and vulnerable people feeling immense pressure to end their lives to lessen the impact on family, friends, carers, and even the state. In such situations the option of assisted suicide becomes less about having a 'right' to die and more about feeling the full weight and expectation of a 'duty' to die. When the elderly express concerns about being a burden, the appropriate response is not to suggest that they have a duty to die; rather, it is to commit to meeting their needs and providing the care and compassion to help them live.

If Scotland establishes death on demand as normal practice, it can easily become a cultural expectation for the elderly, the lonely, and the vulnerable.

Assisted suicide undermines public trust in doctors, damaging the doctor-patient relationship.

The 'option' of assisted suicide completely alters the doctor-patient dynamic and the wider provision of care in a deeply troubling way. In a society where assisted suicide is legal, care for life can no longer be considered an unqualified principle underpinning the provision of healthcare. Deliberately bringing about a patient's death would be akin to crossing the Rubicon for a profession entrusted to act in the best interests of the patient and to first do no harm.

Evidence is growing of the significant pain and indignity caused by assisted suicide. The Bishops cited a number of experts who have called into question the claim that assisted suicide is a compassionate, painless and dignified death.

Assisted suicide undermines efforts to improve palliative care.

The proposal to legalise assisted suicide, bluntly, provides a quick, cheap alternative to good palliative care. Mr McArthur's proposal chillingly concedes that it is cheaper to end life than to provide care (see footnote 124, page 28 of the consultation document).

Rather than increasing options at the end of life as proponents would wish us to believe, these proposals actually appear to limit people's options when they are at their most vulnerable. In Canada, less than half of patients who participate in assisted suicide or euthanasia see a specialist palliative care team, and only 15 per cent of Canadians have access to publicly funded palliative care at home (Munro C, Romanova A, Webber C, Kekewich M, Rayelle R, Tanusepurto P. Involvement of palliative care in patients requesting medical assistance in dying. *Canadian Family Physician*, 220; 66: 833-42 and *Access to Palliative Care in Canada*. Ottawa: Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2018, p6).

No matter how well intentioned the safeguards are, it is impossible for any government to draft assisted suicide laws which include legal protection from future expansion of those laws. The slippery slope is real and dangerous. Mr McArthur's proposals would have a profoundly negative effect on the elderly and disabled, rendering lives less valuable and less worthy, and deepening inequalities.

Finally, given that the consequences of the decision to request assisted suicide are deadly and irreparable it is clear that a law legalising assisted suicide is extremely high risk. MSPs, who will ultimately be responsible for introducing such a law, ought to think very carefully about the significance and consequences of their decision; a decision which will have far-reaching consequences, especially for the sick, the disabled, the elderly, the lonely and the most vulnerable.

Social Care Institute for Excellence visits Dunkeld

Safeguarding measures in Dunkeld audited for good practice and to support improvement



The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) visited the Diocese of Dunkeld in February to complete its latest audit of Safeguarding practice at diocesan level in Scotland.

SCIE has significant experience of conducting adult and child safeguarding audits in English diocesan and wider organisational contexts.

The Independent Review Group (IRG), chaired by Baroness Helen Liddel, initiated this practical review audit work at a local diocesan level to consider how leadership, culture and safeguarding practice has developed following the McLellan Report (2015).

The rolling programme of independent safeguarding audits began with audits of the Dioceses of Galloway and Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh (published January 2020) followed by the dioceses of Motherwell and Aberdeen (published January 2021).

John Smith, Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor for the Diocese of Dunkeld stated: 'The purpose of the audit was twofold:-

Firstly, to provide to the Diocese a constructive contribution to the improvement of our safeguarding practices and secondly to allow SCIE to draw together learning from all of the diocesan audits to identify common issues and underlying themes. This second stage of work is designed to inform the IRG's wider work.'

John continued, 'The over-arching aim of the audit was to support safeguarding improvements within our Diocese. The audit looked to assess progress in the diocese following the publication of 'In God's Image' and the introduction of the safeguarding standards.'

Later this year, the Audit Report and its conclusions will pose questions for diocesan leadership to consider when addressing any identified areas of improvement as well as promoting areas of good practice.'

The audit process was an opportunity to review our documentation as well as a chance to talk to key people within safeguarding in the Diocese. Importantly, the views and experiences of different contributors, including survivors of abuse, will be sought, and reflected in the final report.

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Confirmation Day at St Thomas', Arbroath



Bishop Steven with Fr Andrew Marshall and Deacon Arthur Grant and staff and pupils from St Thomas' Primary, Arbroath on the occasion of the children's Confirmation.
Photo courtesy of Eddie Mahoney

Ss Peter & Paul's First Holy Communion



Ss Peter and Paul's Primary, Dundee with Mgr Ken McCaffrey, class teacher Mrs Robertson and Deacon Charles Hendry on First Communion Day.

Confirmation Day at Our Lady of Sorrows, Dundee



Children from St Francis Primary, Dundee, pictured with Bishop Stephen in Our Lady of Sorrows, Fintry, on the occasion of their Sacrament of Confirmation
Photo courtesy of Eddie Mahoney

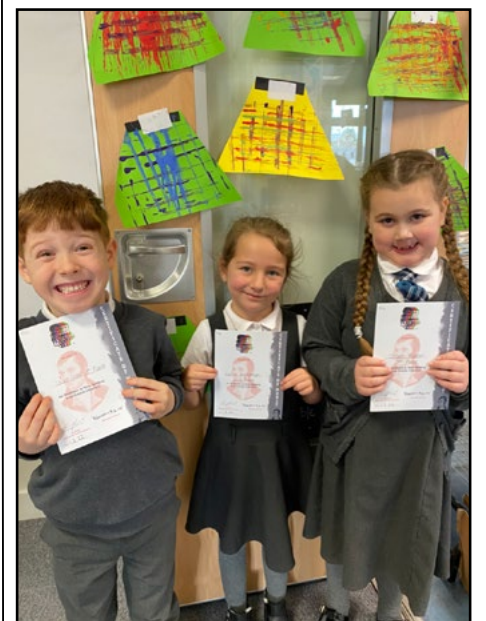
St Clement's Primary helps parish workers to reach those in need



Staff and pupils at St Clement's Primary, Dundee, wanted to send on some photos that they took off the donations St Clement's parishioners made to our families.

In the parish, Bernadette Daily, organised the parcels to be delivered to the school. Then the school's and Family Development Worker, Leigh McLeod, made all the deliveries to the families.

Top marks for Scots Verse speakers at St Andrew's Primary



Celebrating Burns' Day, Theo, Harriet and Orla from P2G at St Andrew's Primary School, Dundee, won their Merit Certificates for Excellence in Scottish Verse Speaking.

St Dominic's marks the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas

Pupils at St Dominic's Primary, Crieff, gathered for Mass with Canon Tom Shields on the Feast of St Thomas Aquinas. The school patron, St Dominic, founded the Order of Preachers to teach the truths of the Catholic faith at a time when many priests, and even some bishops, were insufficiently educated to preach.

St Thomas Aquinas was a true son of St Dominic. His study and teaching have been a priceless gift to the Church. Thomas, the son of Italian nobility, was born in the family castle of Rocca Secca north of Naples in about 1225. While a student at the University of Naples, Thomas met the friars and received the habit.

He studied at Cologne and Paris under the tutelage of St Albert the Great, Thomas began his life's work of teaching and writ-



ing. He taught at universities and Dominican houses in Paris, Rome and Naples. His written works include commentaries on the Sacred Scriptures and the works of Aristotle, the Summa Contra Gentiles (an apolo-

getic work aimed at the Muslims), and his best known work, the Summa Theologica - a work giving the theological foundation of the truths of the Catholic Faith."



St Columba's Primary, Cupar, visit Lochore Meadows

P4/5 pupils from St Columba's Primary enjoyed their visit to Lochore Meadows at Ballingry. Once the site of one of Fife's coal mines, the reclaimed landscape is home to a nature reserve and outdoor activities like wind surfing, canoeing, rock climbing.

One pupil said, "Despite the mud and the cold we had a fantastic day at Lochore Meadows today. Thank you to school staff and Outdoor Education Team for a great day!"

It's not all work and no play at St Ninian's



Headteacher, Mrs Lowden, gave P7 a budget to look at ways of improving their school playground! Armed with computers and catalogues of equipment, it didn't take the class long to come up with suggestions.

All smiles at St Serf's High Valleyfield

For these young pupils at St Serf's High Valleyfield preparing to make their First Confessions, Fr Michael celebrated Mass in the nearby St Serf's Church.

The youngsters said, "he helped put us at ease and then told us what we have to look forward to for our upcoming First Communion and Confirmation



School's Old Master restored to its glory



In 1961 St John's Catholic School, Perth, was gifted this original oil painting, the work of local Perth artist, James Hall Cranstoun (1821-1907).

Entitled 'Perth from Barnhill', the massive landscape artwork measures 60" x 90" and shows the approach to the Fair City that would have been familiar to Dundonians - and others travelling from the east - in the year 1879. When St John's RC Church was about to celebrate its 50th anniversary

by - and St John's Catholic School, started in 1861, was a mere eighteen years old.

Headteacher, Mr James Ward, hung the inspirational scene in the school's main corridor where it was admired by generations of pupils and their families until it was transferred to the new St John's Academy, in 2010, where it could be seen in the Community Campus Library. However, water damage from a leaking roof caused it to be removed from public view, for safe keeping.

Dr Robert Staines, depute headteacher at St John's Academy said, "It then underwent a restoration process, under the care and attention of Gordon Sime, the school's technician, an experienced antique and picture restorer. It had to be completely removed from the frame for the glass to be cleaned."

"While doing this, two plaques were discovered on the rear of the frame revealing its provenance, origin, and significance. These have been photographed and are now displayed beside the painting itself which is given pride of place at the entrance to the Senior Leadership Team corridor, where it can be admired by staff and visitors alike."

The picture of the Fair City of Perth is framed in an ornate gold frame under scoring its intrinsic value.

James Hall Cranstoun (1821-1907)

- James was born in Edinburgh (1821) and died in Perth, 8 June 1907
- James was the son of Thomas Cranstoun a naval surgeon and his wife Jean Dalrymple
- James moved to Perth about 1849
- James was appointed visiting Art Master at Glenalmond College near Perth in 1855
- James held the post at Glenalmond for seventeen and a half years making over 1,000 journeys from home in that time.

Glasgow's new archbishop's message on Day of Prayer for Peace

On Friday 4th February, 2022, Bishop William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway, was appointed as Archbishop of Glasgow.

Early this year, as President of the Scottish Catholic Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission, Bishop Nolan wrote:

Every year we begin the new year by praying for justice and for peace. And each year it seems that justice and peace are beyond our grasp, yet ever more necessary than the year before. As we look around us, we see a world where justice and peace are an elusive dream for so many but not a reality.

Looking at the problems we face today, it is clear that many of these problems have as their root cause human weakness, human failing, and human sinfulness. Much of the environmental crisis that confronts us just now is caused by our misuse of the world's

resources, our pollution of the air and the seas, and our exploitation of the earth without a concern for the consequences. And in so many countries we see the suffering caused by warfare and violence. Is it not strange that we human beings spend over 1.9 trillion dollars every year in global military spending? So much money spent defending ourselves from our fellow human beings! What does that say about the state of our humanity?

We need to recognise that the core of the problem lies within ourselves, within the human heart. Among the consequences is that we live in a world where the number of forcibly displaced persons is more than it has ever been. 82.4 million people worldwide have had to leave their homes and move elsewhere, often to other countries, as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or climate change.

Hardly surprising that some of these people try to reach our shores. Hardly surprising that those fleeing oppression or poverty take the risk of travelling in flimsy boats across the Channel longing to get here, to what they hope is the Promised Land.

We pray every year for peace and for justice. We need to pray fervently not just today but every day, so that the message of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, will touch human hearts; so that we will recognise the dignity of our fellow human beings, particularly those who are strangers to us, particularly those who are poor, particularly those who call out to us for help.

May our prayer go hand in hand with our actions so that justice and peace may no longer be just a dream but become a reality in our world, in our lives and in the lives of our fellow human beings.

'Passionate about providing opportunities for young people'

Kilgraston's new headteacher brings energy and enthusiasm

Kilgraston School's Board of Trustees and Board of Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Tanya Davie as the School's new Head teacher. Mrs Davie will be taking over from Mrs Dorothy MacGinty, who will be retiring at Easter 2022 after seven years in the role.

Mrs Davie is currently the Academic Deputy Head at St Bede's College in Manchester an independent co-educational day school for 750 pupils aged between 3 and 18. David Beal, Chairman of the Board of Governors, said: "Mrs Davie will be joining Kilgraston School at an exciting time where we have continuing high intake from both day and boarding pupils and a significant number of enquires for both our co-educational junior school and our all-girls senior school."

Mr Beal continued: "Mrs Davie was the stand-out candidate from an extremely rigorous selection process. Kilgraston's Senior Leadership Team, Board of Governors and Trustees are all absolutely thrilled about the appointment and very much looking forward to her stepping into the role and carrying forward Mrs MacGinty's excellent legacy."

As part of the Senior Leadership Team at St Bede's, Mrs Davie works closely with the School's Head teacher and wider staff body to safeguard high-quality teaching and learning throughout the School. Formerly Head of Mathematics and Physical Education at St Bede's, Mrs Davie has also previously held posts at all-girls schools, including St Margaret's School, Edinburgh, and North Manchester High School for Girls.

She is also a former Head of Department at The Royal High School, Edinburgh.

Commenting on her appointment, Mrs Davie said: "What I hope to bring to Kilgraston is an energy and enthusiasm to carry on and develop the spirit and success of this incredible school. I am very excited at the prospect of leading the school into its next phase."

Originally from County Clare, Ireland, Mrs Davie has a close affinity with Scotland, having previously spent eight years teaching in Edinburgh. Commenting on her return north of the border, she said: "I am very much looking forward to moving back to Scotland: it feels like we are moving home."

During her career, Mrs Davie has had extensive experience of teaching in both the independent and state sectors: "While at The Royal High School in Edinburgh, I was seconded by Strathclyde University to form a team, tasked with the development and implementation of the first PGCE Physical Education course in Scotland." In addition to this sabbatical, Mrs Davie worked closely with Manchester City Football Academy, heading-up the club's education provision for their elite performers in the 11 to 16 years age range.



Mrs Davie will be moving to Perthshire together with her husband, Deno. The couple has a daughter in her second year at university in Scotland and a son in his final year of secondary education.

Passionate about providing opportunities for young people to become the best version of themselves, Mrs Davie intends to develop a programme of competence in 21st century skills (collaboration, digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving) within Kilgraston, "empowering the women of the future workplace to develop an appetite for becoming solution-based innovators, thereby making a positive contribution to society."

Mrs Davie will begin her new appointment from April 2022.

Dundee Uni students honour the Bard

Clergy and students met in St Joseph's Church Hall, Dundee for their Annual Burns Supper after an Evening Mass. The haggis was addressed by Elijah Smith, CATSOC President. Fr Gregory Murphy CATSOC Chaplain led the group in the traditional prayer of thanksgiving.

Photograph courtesy of Eddie Mahoney



SUPPORT OUR WORK

Remembering your Parish/Diocese in your Will

- The Church encourages us to be mindful of God's many blessings and of His provision for us. In so doing, our natural response is to want to give back, recognising that all good things come from God. One way we can all do this is to remember the work of our parish / diocese in our will. This is a simple way to thank God for all His goodness to us during our lives and ensure that our faith will live on in future generations.
- Leaving a gift in our will is the culmination of a life-time of faith, a sign of gratitude for all we have enjoyed.
- Once we have provided for the needs of our family, this is a simple step we can all take. By remembering our parish and/or diocese in our will, we can support the vital work of priests and people in the building up of God's Church, in looking after our churches and in reaching out to these in need in our local communities.
- All this is made possible as we give back to God in response to his care of us.

Benefits to Others

- The Government supports gifts to charities by people in their wills and any such gift is free of Inheritance Tax. This means that when your executors are calculating whether any Inheritance Tax is payable on your estate at the time of your death, they do not have to take into account any amount which you give to the Church.

Getting Advice

- For advice on writing your will we recommend you speak to your solicitor. We are happy to liaise with them regarding wording, and can be reached at the Diocesan Offices 01382 225453.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/family/death-and-wills>

MAKE YOUR DONATION GO FURTHER !

Sign up today so our parishes/diocese can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you!

You just need to:

- Pay UK or Capital Gains Tax
- Donate via identifiable methods

Gift Aid helps our parishes and diocese to thrive!

Donation			Total with Gift Aid
Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	
£5	£20	£240	£300
£10	£40	£480	£600
£20	£80	£960	£1200
£25	£100	£1200	£1500

giftaid it



Ask your Parish Priest or Gift Aid organiser for more details or to sign up and gift aid your donation.

Top 5 Gift Aid Myths

Don't let the following misconceptions get in the way of signing up to Gift Aid.



I'M A PENSIONER, GIFT AID DOESN'T APPLY TO ME

If you pay tax on a pension or capital gains taxes on investments then YES you CAN Gift Aid - up to the amount of tax you've paid.

HMRC WILL AUDIT OR REVIEW MY PAST YEARS' RETURNS

Gift Aid filings do not trigger anything in HMRC's database, but are simply to check you're a taxpayer on record. No connection to your past returns, or triggering of an audit will result.



DUNKELD NEWS

Coming editions

8th May 2022
3rd July 2022
25th September 2022

Email your stories and photos

Photos need to be high resolution .jpg
dunkeldnews@dunkelldioecese.co.uk
on Twitter @DunkeldNews

Editor - Andrew Mitchell

CALL or TEXT
07806 789791



I'M A HIGHER RATE TAXPAYER, I'M NOT ELIGIBLE

Yes you are! If you Gift Aid your donations, the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 that you give, and you can reclaim the difference between the basic and higher rate of tax for yourself, when you complete your tax return.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL CHECK MY IMMIGRATION STATUS

No. Gift Aid has nothing to do with immigration and legal status. No information is shared with policing agencies.



MY TAXES WILL GO UP IF I CLAIM GIFT AID

No. Gift Aid is retrospective. It has nothing to do with future taxes; it's about tax you've already paid.

Ask your Parish Priest or Gift Aid organiser for more details or to sign up.

SYNOD TIMETABLE IN DUNKELD DIOCESE

Friday, 4th February 2022

Website launched and Questionnaire online

Parish Facilitators (2 per parish) and scribes' names and details submitted.

Sunday, 6th February 2022

Introduction read at Sunday Masses and Questionnaire launched and distributed

Resources for Listening Groups on website

Sunday, 18th February 2022

Questionnaires completed

Saturday, 19th February 2022

Training for Facilitators in St Mary's Forebank, Dundee 10.30am - 1pm

Sunday, 27th February 2022

Paper questionnaire returns due this week from parishes to diocese

Friday, 4th March, 2022

Postal responses deadline at Diocesan Office

March 4th - April 3rd 2022

Parish Group Listening Sessions

Wednesday, 6th April 2022

Listening Sessions facilitators' responses to Diocese

April/May 2022

Core Group synthesis from Questionnaires

June/July 2022

Bishop prepares Diocesan synthesis and shares it with the Faithful

August 2022

Diocesan synthesis submitted to Rome