

DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 10 December 2017

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE POOR



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

In his message for the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis said that the suffering and broken bodies of the poor are where we encounter the body of Christ – and to know Christ we must know the poor.

“If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist,” he said in his message.

“The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.

We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity

that appease our conscience,” he continued.

And these acts may be good for putting other's needs more clearly before us, but what they should ultimately do is “lead to a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life.”

On our paths to becoming true disciples of Christ, we find confirmation of our evangelical authenticity in the charity and sharing stemming from a real encounter, he said. “This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the flesh of Christ.”

In his apostolic letter, “Misericordia et misera,” at the end of the Church's Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis proposed that the World Day of the Poor should take place on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time. The

idea stemmed from the Jubilee for Socially Excluded People, highlighting in particular the homeless, which took place at the Vatican near the end of the Jubilee Year.

“At the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, I wanted to offer the Church a World Day of the Poor, so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need,” the Pope explained in the message.

Bishop Stephen invited priests and parishes across the diocese to join him in this Day of Prayer for the Poor.

“This the First World Day of Prayer for the Poor. Pope Francis has sent us a beautiful message, published on the Vatican Website: www.vatican.va

Bishop Stephen also commended parishes supporting their local foodbanks with non-perishable foodstuffs as well as seeking resources from the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, CAFOD and the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

“In the pages of Dunkeld News, and on our website, we can see many great examples of good works being carried out in the diocese, from the mini-Vinnies, primary aged St Vincent de Paul groups, as well as the Knights of St Columba and Union of Catholic Mothers in our parishes. Our schools and parishes continue to show generous support for the Missions and the work of SCIAF and Justice and Peace.”

The theme for the World Day of the Poor is “Let us love, not with words but with deeds” - echoing the words of St James in his epistle.

St James wrote, “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body; what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead.”

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE: News, views and coming events from around the diocese

Dedication of Dunkeld to Our Lady as Church celebrates Fatima Centenary



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

Bishop Stephen celebrated Holy Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, marking the 100th anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima.

During the Mass he consecrated the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, celebrated the rite for consecrated virgins and formally welcomed the Missionaries of Charity, better known as the Mother Teresa's Sisters, to the diocese.

Earlier that week, five thousand faithful, including many from Dunkeld, joined the Scottish Bishops for an historic Mass and consecration, which took place at the National Marian shrine at Carfin.

Fr Gregory celebrates joyful 20 years of priestly service



On Sunday 20th August Fr Gregory Umunna, celebrated the 20th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a thanksgiving concelebrated Mass. Mgr Aldo Angelosanto, (front centre left), Vicar General, represented Bishop Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld. Mgr Charles Hendry (front centre right) and brother priests from the Diocese of Dunkeld and across the United Kingdom were joined by many parishioners and friends who came to mark the occasion with him.

The preacher was Fr Tobias Okoro (St Fergus, Forfar) and the gospel was read by Mgr Chris Heenan, (St Margaret's, Dunfermline).

Fr Gregory Umunna, born in Nigeria, has been with the diocese of Dunkeld for over ten years and serves as the parish priest of St Stephen's Blairgowrie, also serving St Mary's, Coupar Angus and St Luan's, Alyth, for the past four years.

A graduate of Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, Fr Gregory's doctoral thesis

was on the subject of 'HIV/ AIDS: Political Will and Hope'. Fr Gregory told the congregation that he was deeply moved by the kindnesses and support he had received since coming to Scotland.

"My life," he said, "is like a fabric weaved into and around the lives of each and everyone here today. I'm grateful to everyone here for being a part of my life and for the great love you have shown me."

Priests in attendance included (L-R) Fr Beneth Onyebuchukwu, Fr Joseph Nna-



Some of the guests at the parish reception

bugwu, Fr Samuel Alabi, Fr Tobias Okoro, Mgr Aldo Angelosanto, Mgr Chris Heenan, Fr Gregory Umunna, Fr Johnny Raphael, Mgr Charles Hendry, Fr John Nwadike, Fr Roji Thomas and Fr Joseph Uwa.

It was a great occasion, well organised – and an excellent buffet and entertainment followed!

Kiltegan Fathers say thank you to Dunkeld Diocese for generous support



This summer, Fr Kyran Murphy conducted the Mission Awareness programme for St Patrick's Missionary Society (Kiltegan Fathers) in some parts of Dunkeld Diocese. Says Fr Kyran, "I wish to say a very sincere thank you to Bishop Robson for facilitating this missionary outreach and to the priests and people of the parishes I visited - in particular at Dunblane, Auchterarder, Tullibody, Alloa, Alva, Callander, Doune, Killin, Highvalleyfield, Broughty Ferry and in the city of Dundee at St Pius X and at Our Lady of Sorrows.

"It was my first visit to Dunkeld Diocese and the warmth of welcome and hospitality I received from each priest was wonderful and the opportunity to experience the faith and generosity of each parish community was most uplifting. Regrettably these visits are nearly always very short, so while I would have liked to have had more time to meet and chat with people, regrettably, very often it was not possible, particularly if I was in-between Masses or hurrying away for Mass with another faith community."

"Our Mission Awareness programme is not an inter-parish, or inter-diocesan competition so I won't divulge how much each parish so generously gave but the overall amount from the parishes visited came to just under £7,500, which is truly wonderful. I was also facilitated to avail of Gift Aid in respect of a considerable number of these donations so that will increase your generosity even more. But mission awareness is not primarily about money! It is much more about what can be done with your generosity. So I wish to repeat what I said when I visited each community - namely that every penny of your wonderful generosity will be sent to our mission areas

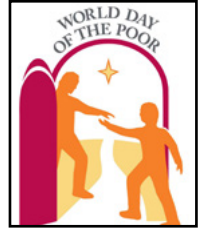
and will be used to bring life in your name. I know from my own mission experience that your faith and generosity makes a tremendous difference to the faith and quality of life of those blessed by the Lord to benefit from it. Nor will they be the only ones blessed. You too will be blessed because it is your faith and generosity which makes mission possible. So the first and foremost blessing of mission truly and rightly belongs to you."

"Many people expressed the desire to join our missionary family and receive our magazine - Africa. I trust by now you have received your first copy and that you will continue to see and rejoice in the Good News that you help to make possible for so many. May the Lord bless them and you."

"I am glad to report that my weekend visits to these lovely parts of Scotland were not all work! Being relatively new to Scotland, very often I took the opportunity to return home the scenic route - which afforded me some lovely walks as well as spectacular scenery. I have not been allocated any parish visits in Dunkeld Diocese for 2018, so those parishes I have not yet visited may have to wait a little longer! In the meantime I look forward to keeping in touch with many of you through Africa magazine and other correspondence and thank you once again for making mission possible and for all that you do for the Lord and his people. It was - and is - a privilege and a blessing to be the channel of so much generosity and goodness."

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Love not in word, but in deed...



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The Pope said he wanted to add this day to the already established 'world days,' because it adds an "exquisitely evangelical fullness, that is, Jesus' preferential love for the poor."

This day is meant to encourage all believers, regardless of religious affiliation, to react against a culture of discard and waste, and instead embrace a culture of encounter, which shares with the poor through "concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity."

"God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded," he lamented. St Francis, for example, is an excellent witness of how to serve the poor authentically, he explained. It was because the saint kept his eyes fixed firmly on Christ first that he was able to see Christ also in the poor and vulnerable," he said.

"If we want to help change history and promote real development, we need to hear the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalization," he said. "At the same time, I ask the poor in our cities and our communities not to lose the sense of evangelical poverty that is part of their daily life."

"Let us never forget that, for Christ's disciples, poverty is above all a call to follow Jesus in his own poverty. Prayer should be at the heart of all our concrete actions, he said. The Our Father is 'the prayer of the poor,' because, in it, we ask God for our 'daily bread,' expressing our entrustment to God for our most basic needs."

"This new World Day, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel."

"The poor are not a problem," he concluded, "they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practice in our lives the essence of the Gospel."



Spiritual renewal, friendship, prayer and much more

The beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Monastery and Retreat Centre, Kinnoull, provided the setting for the 7th Annual Retreat Day for the St John Paul II Prayer Movement in November. With almost 60 delegates ranging from children, youth and adults, it proved to be a time of deep spiritual renewal, inspiration and laughter.

The St John Paul II Prayer Movement, now in its 7th year, was founded under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to foster the work of the New Evangelisation that Pope St John Paul spoke about. It aims to reach out to all and help deepen relationships with Christ and move in greater openness to the Holy Spirit whilst growing in greater knowledge of their faith, understanding of Scripture and its application for its members daily lives.

Marian, Spirit-led and Eucharistic in its spirituality, it continues to grow since its inception with a dozen people to form four prayer groups within the Diocese of Dunkeld based at Kirkton, Lawside, Kinross



and Crieff. The retreat at Kinnoull, Perth, was attended by members from these various prayer groups across the Diocese, as well as a good number of parishioners from the wider church.

The Movement's Spiritual Director, Fr Jim McManus took as his theme 'Our Spiritual Lifeline - The Oxygen of Prayer' looking at areas such as how to approach

prayer, awareness in prayer, coping with the challenges of prayer, such as distractions, dryness in prayer and the constant battle for prayer. The occasion provided insight, practical points and encouragement to persevere in prayer. The day also included Sacraments, prayer ministry, Adoration and fellowship. The delegates departed feeling refreshed, renewed and strengthened in faith and sustained by the graces and knowledge received.

Mother Teresa Sisters welcome to Dundee



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

The Mother Teresa Sisters continue to settle into the diocese and have already become active in a number of parishes. They are becoming familiar with the city and its environs.

Bishop Stephen said, "They are always out and about, walking everywhere and have already befriended many people on their travels. Please pray for them as they discern their particular apostolate here. They would dearly love to be involved in our schools and parishes assisting with

young families in need and especially with catechesis and early years formation of our youngest children. Since they rely totally on divine providence for everything, I would remind you that donations of food and other domestic necessities would be most welcome. I am so proud that we have the Mother Teresa Sisters among us, as also the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and know that their very visible witness as Religious Women will be strong in keeping the Faith visible and alive on our streets."

One delegate reported, "The day was summed up with the following written comment received as feedback, 'Many, many sincere thanks for such a wonderful experience. It was great in all aspects – spiritual renewal, friendship, prayer, support, relaxation, catering, location...'"

"The St John Paul II Prayer groups around the Diocese are there to serve those who are spiritually hungry and searching for more. We aim to help all in deepening their relationship with Christ through prayer and Catechesis in growing in better knowledge of our faith and greater understanding of Scripture and its application to our daily lives whilst ministering to people's needs in order to help all in our journey towards Grace."

For more information or to find a prayer group near you, contact Chris 07887 606807, chris@stjppm.com or visit their website www.stjppm.com

Dundee's Silent Vigil remembers 50th anniversary of Abortion Act

The Dundee branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) held a silent vigil commemorating 50 years since the passing of the Abortion Act in the City Centre on Thursday 26th October.

The town was busy with many late night shoppers giving encouragement to those witnessing. One lady taking part in the event said, "I know people don't really want to think about this but even those who have lost a child to abortion, I hope, might be glad that someone cares about their loss".

Around 50 people gathered for the silent vigil to commemorate the lives lost to, and the families hurt, by abortion. They held placards, some reading, 'Abortion kills a baby and hurts a mother', as well as coloured pictures of babies at various stages of development before birth.

SPUC runs a post-abortion counselling service called ARCH for those suffering after an abortion experience.



Clare McGraw, SPUC Dundee secretary said, "In Scotland, 33 unborn children are aborted every single day. And remember that some politicians are currently calling for abortion up to birth for any reason."

"Our vigil is peaceful, non-judgemental

Delegates from the Dundee Branch of SPUC attending the society's 50th Anniversary Conference in London in September

and an important part in the difficult debate around abortion which is the biggest killer in the world today."



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

BISHOP STEPHEN'S NEW APPOINTMENTS

Canon Kevin Golden

Canon Kevin Golden has been appointed Administrator of the Diocesan Centre at Lawside Road, Dundee. Canon Kevin is also the Administrator at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee where he hopes to develop the outreach of the Cathedral making it a centre of prayer and pastoral activity at the heart of the Diocese.

Fr Michael Carrie

As a result of Canon Kevin's new ministry, Fr Michael Carrie has been appointed as Administrator of St Bride's, Monifieth, St Anne's, Carnoustie, and St Thomas', Arbroath with Fr Peter Thomas OFMCap and Fr Joseph James OFMCap continuing their responsibilities for the day to

day running of St Thomas', Arbroath. Fr Michael will continue as Diocesan Vocations Director but will relinquish his post as Chaplain to the young people of the Universities of Dundee and Abertay.

Fr Gregory Murphy OP

Fr Gregory Murphy OP has been appointed Chaplain to the University Catholics of Dundee and Abertay as from the beginning of September of this year in succession to Father Michael Carrie. He will be assisted by Deacon Charles Hendry and two of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Fr Gregory has extensive past experience of University life as student, postgraduate and of Chaplaincy Ministry. In addition, Fr Gregory will

continue also as Chaplain to HMP Castle Huntly and as assistant to Fr Jim Walls in Douglas and Fintry. I am most grateful to Fr Gregory for his collaboration and helpful ministries.

Fr Rogi Thomas CST

Bishop Stephen has appointed Fr Rogi Thomas CST associate priest to Mgr McCaffrey and the parish of Ss Peter and Paul, Dundee. Fr Rogi will continue to live in the chaplain's cottage at Wellburn and I thank him for all his wonderful work in Wellburn and we continue to pray for the success of his PhD thesis for the Department of Philosophy in the University of Dundee, which is almost complete.



Deacon Charles receives 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' from Pope Francis

On the Feast of Christ the King, Saturday 25th November, Bishop Stephen will present the Papal Honour 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' to Deacon Charles Hendry (pictured here with his uncle, Mgr Hendry).

The medal is being presented in recognition of his service to the Permanent Diaconate in Scotland where he has been National Director and also for his dedicated service to the parish at Ss Peter and Paul's, Dundee and to the diocese.

Five Benemerenti Awards at St Bernadette's, Tullibody



On Sunday 19th November, Bishop Stephen presented five Benemerenti Medals, Papal Awards, in recognition of many years of service given to the church by parishioners at St Bernadette's, Tullibody.

JIM TOBIN - a member of the Parish Council, has served as sacristan, eucharistic minister, leading devotions, RCIA, visiting the sick and on many journeys to Lourdes. A father of five, friends say if Jim had not married Margaret he would have been a priest!

ANNE ALLEN - is active in St Bernadette's and the neighbouring St John Vianney. She has served as a eucharistic minister for many years, visiting the housebound. But Anne was also a primary school teacher for over 40 years, serving first in Denny, then, since 1978 until her retirement earlier this

year. She has already taken up a new role working with MISSIO in the parish.

AGNES AND SAM MORRISON - and many like them, are described by parish priest Fr Mike Freyne as "the backbone of the parish."

"People who are dedicated to their families but at the same time share that same dedication for the Church. They always have time, energy and goodwill to follow the Lord's example in serving and putting others first. Because they have done it for so long, always constant in their dedication and done this so well as a married couple we feel they are an example and encouragement to others. Although they would never ask for this to be recognised our Parish feels we should thank them by awarding them the Benemerenti Medal."

(L-R) Sam and Agnes Morrison, Bishop Stephen, Elizabeth Philliben, Fr Mike Freyne, Anne Allen and Jim Tobin

ELIZABETH PHILLIBEN - started teaching in St Bernadette's in the year the school opened, 1977 only retiring earlier this year.

"Throughout all the years in the same parish her involvement has always been with music, the liturgy, St Vincent de Paul, the Parish Pastoral Council. More recently she has been very active in the Parish and Diocesan Mission group helping build up mission awareness, both for home and abroad, in our Diocese."

"She has been very active in the Just Faith Project bringing together SCIAF, Missio and Justice and Peace in a joint project. Elizabeth was in the team that introduced this into the Diocese."

M AROUND THE PARISHES



St John's UCM celebrates 70th Anniversary



Bishop Stephen enrolls five new members at UCM Anniversary Mass in St John's, Perth

Members of the Union of Catholic Mothers at St John's, Perth, marked the 70th Anniversary of their foundation. Bishop Stephen Robson celebrated Mass together with Fr Michael Carrie, Diocesan UCM Chaplain, and priests from throughout the diocese who had served at St John's, or as UCM chaplain, over many years.

St John's UCM President, Louise Goodison said, "We have seen a re-birth in support for the UCM locally. Earlier this year our neighbours at Our Lady of Lourdes started a whole new branch with over 30 members. Today, St John's are delighted have five new members asking for enrolment."

Net Ministries give Retreats at St Modan's



St Modan's High School, Stirling, invited a group from Net Ministries into their school last month to lead two full days of retreats with its S1 and S2. This vibrant and energetic team of very special young people led the pupils in prayerful, thought-provoking, interactive and reflective retreats. Some of the pupils are pictured here after Mass with Fr Andrew Kingham, school Chaplain. The school is also looking forward to celebrating St Modan's Day, in February, with Bishop Stephen as their principal celebrant.

Bishop Stephen was appointed National Episcopal Director of the UCM earlier this year. He praised the Mothers for their dedication and commitment. "The UCM have been the mainstay of many parishes."

"They have recently changed their conditions of membership to include single and divorced women who are in full communion with the Church. But the concept of Motherhood remains the same. This is truly a wonderful organisation with so much to offer parishes. We have a new UCM group in Perth and the movement could grow rapidly with the encouragement of parish priests. Members of the UCM are prepared to reach out to parishes and introduce themselves and the UCM in the hope of beginning a new phase in the growth of this wonderful group which has marriage and the family at its heart, and who pray for priests and especially seminarians.

St Columba's, Cupar, pilgrims at Fatima



To mark the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima over 40 parishioners from St Columba's, Cupar, including a few friends, set off on Pilgrimage. Their hotel in Tomar, called Hotel Dos Templarios, reflected the close connection between the town and the Templars over many years. A large castle overlooks Tomar, a Templar Settlement since the 12th century.

Canon Pat McNally reports, "we enjoyed a full week of uplifting liturgies, and various sightseeing expeditions, including a trip to the coast on the Sunday afternoon to a delightful village called Nazare, noted for its expansive beaches, cliff-top views and a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary."

"On our last day we concelebrated Mass at the Chapel of the Apparitions, accompanied by a group of pilgrims from the

US led by their Bishop, and also a group of pilgrims from Motherwell Diocese led by Bishop Joseph Toal. It demonstrated very forcibly the unity of the Church and the strength of the faith that we share together."

Our Pilgrimage concluded with an inspiring and emotional way of the Cross, led by pilgrims themselves, which followed the route the three shepherd children took from their home in Valinhos to the Cova de Iria where the Apparitions took place. Along the way there is a shrine to the Angel of Peace who appeared to the children 3 times during 1916 to prepare them for the Apparitions the following year.

Following the success of their Fatima experience the parish are organising a Pilgrimage to Krakow in June next year and it is already fully subscribed.



...and on the Camino to tomb of St James



Pilgrims from St Columba's, including eight young teenagers, with parish priest, Canon Pat

Earlier in the summer, another group of pilgrims from St Columba's, Cupar, undertook the Pilgrim Way of St James, known as the Camino, flying from Edinburgh to Madrid, and then taking a five hour train journey to Sarria. After six days of walking, covering 70 miles, they arrived at the magnificent Basilica of St James at Compostela in time for the Pilgrim Mass.

Canon Pat said, "We were blessed with fine weather and, having completed the Camino, we enjoyed a couple days of rest in the magnificent surroundings of Santiago de Compostela. We arrived back home completely overwhelmed by the wonderful experience."

The plan is to do it all again in 2021 when Santiago celebrates a Holy Year and the Feast of St James next occurs on a Sunday.

St Margaret's Montrose pilgrims at Ampleforth Abbey

Parishioners from St Margaret's, Montrose, went on retreat to Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire in September, joining in the Offices of the Day in the Abbey, led by the chanting and deeply spiritual presence of the Benedictine monks.

They were led by their parish priest, Fr Jim High and accompanied by Fr Jim McCruden from Callander, who gave evening talks. They managed to fit in both sight-seeing and shopping with a day in York, dominated by the splendour of the Minster.

Excursions included a day in and around the North York Moors, with Mass in the eighth century crypt at Lastingham and hiking a few miles on the moor; and a day around Ampleforth ending at Rievaulx Abbey (pictured top right), the ruined Abbey of the Cistercian monks, situated in what must be the most attractive and uplifting valley in Yorkshire.

The talk on The Rule of St Benedict, by the Abbey's Fr Kieran, was very informative but also so full of meaning in today's troubled world. His insight into the monk's world was delivered with no little humour.



Parishioner John Elder reports, "Ampleforth was a marvellous base: excellent accommodation and cuisine and a five star Abbey shop. It was made particularly moving by the monks and we thank them for allowing us to share their week. Hospitality has always been an important rule of St Benedict; it was clear to us all that this continues today.

"The parish enjoys many day trips to Perthshire and Fife and they have helped to forge friendships, to bring the parish closer together and inspired us through beauty and prayer."

Holy Family, Dunblane, parish pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi



Parishioners from the Holy Family parish at Dunblane get up close in St Peter's Square as Pope Francis makes his way through the crowds. Led by Mgr Basil O'Sullivan the pilgrims were delighted to see the Holy Father and also to have the chance to soak in Rome's great history.

Another particular delight for the pilgrims was the time spent in Assisi exploring the sites associated with St Francis. Reporting about her visit to Assisi, one parishioner wrote "A visit to Assisi is highly recommended. It was definitely the highlight of a great trip for me."

NEWS IN BRIEF

India School Project at St Bride's, Monifieth

The Race and Craft charity event in aid of the Indian schools project at St Bride's was a great success enjoyed by everyone. The amount raised was £517.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event such a success. The final total for the project was an amazing £9828 This is almost double what we set out to raise, so a thank you to all in coastal parishes, St Andrew's Cathedral, and St Thomas' Primary who organised, helped at or attended any of the fundraising events.

Educational Milestone

Schools around the diocese are making preparations for next year's celebration of the passing of the 1918 Education Act.

Bishop Stephen said, "Plans are well under way and schools and parishes as well as the diocese will be involved in this great act of Commemoration. Important dates to remember are: Catholic Education Week 2018, 28th January until 2nd February; Diocesan Education Mass, Thursday, 7th June; National Schools Mass in Falkirk Football Stadium, Thursday, 14th June celebrations start at 12noon with Mass at 1.30pm.

Our staff and pupils in Dunkeld Diocese will also be welcoming the beautiful icon of Christ our Teacher for one month during the summer. There will be more detail about this and other educational events in the near future.

ADVENT HOLY HOUR

led by Fr Ronald McAinsh CSsR
for all those in Religious Orders
in Dunkeld Diocese

3pm, Wednesday
13th December

Followed by refreshments

St Joseph's Chapel

24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee DD3 6XY

Any diocesan priests who wish to participate will be most welcome

New start for St Francis PS, Dundee



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

Bishop Stephen was assisted by Mgr Ken McCaffrey, (left) and Fr Tom Shields (Vicar Episcopal for Education) at a Mass in Our Lady of Sorrows, Fintry, celebrating the start of term at the new St Francis Primary

School, Dundee on Wednesday 4th October.

Headteacher Mr Neil Loudon, welcomed Bishop Stephen and representatives of

Dundee City Council. "I am so proud of how our children have settled into St Francis and I am sure you agree that they look fabulous in their new uniform. I want to extend a grateful thanks to Bishop Stephen for leading us in our celebration tonight and I know that it is always a special event when he comes to our Parish. I want to share with you the values that our school community choose for St Francis as these sit at the centre of our school: Love; Faith; Respect; Honesty; Trust and Co-operation."

"Therefore, as we gather this evening, I would ask you to focus on the value of 'Love' for our school. We pray that St Francis will always be a school of love and that the Gospel Values and the teaching of Jesus will sit at the heart of our school. I ask for your prayers for the children, staff and parish community of our school as we begin a new and chapter in Catholic Education."

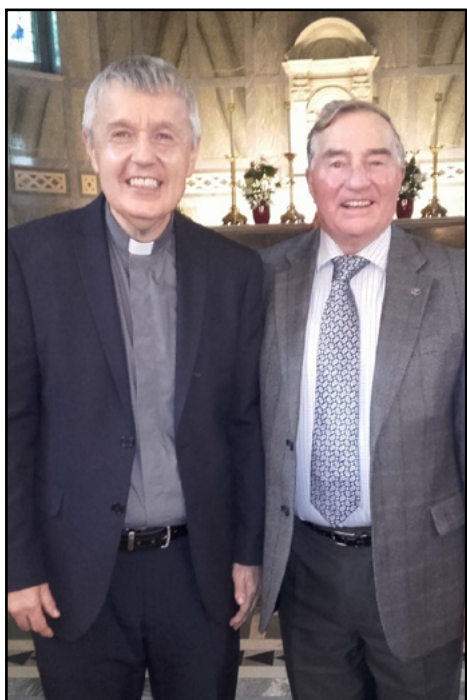
St Fergus Primary raising funds for home and abroad

At St Fergus RC Primary, Dundee, P4 and their teacher, Miss Johnstone, carried out a week long Cake and Candy to raise money for the SCIAF appeal to help those affected by recent hurricanes. They managed to raise a total of £308.

P7 and P2 classes together with their teachers Mrs Britton and Mrs Dunbar, held a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon for the whole school, parents and parish. They raised a fantastic £493.98 and all cakes were sold out!



St John's High School's great pride at Fr Kevin's ordination



Kevin O'Donnell, formerly Principal Teacher of Religious Education at St John's High School, Dundee was ordained to the priesthood, in June this year, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church, East Kilbride.

Kevin said, "This was my family parish where I grew up and where my mother still lives. The ordaining Bishop, Bill Nolan of Galloway Diocese was the former parish priest there for over 12 years."

"The sun shone throughout the weekend. It was a great celebration of the family spirit of my Religious Order, the Salesians of Don Bosco, and the happiness and hospitality of a strong parish community. The tone of joy and reflection was set by Bishop Nolan's sermon which emphasised the role of a priest as a servant and shepherd, leading by example through his personal relationship to Christ and his responsiveness to the

needs and concerns of those he serves."

Many of Fr Kevin's friends and former colleagues from Dundee attended the ordination including former headteacher, Mr George Haggarty (pictured here). "I remember with great fondness my time in Dundee and really do believe that the strong community spirit and deep care of young people at the heart of the work done at St John's nurtured my vocation to religious life and my belief in the active spirituality and work of God in young people."

"This belief has been further deepened by my years as a Salesian of Don Bosco, a religious order dedicated to working with and for young people, especially those who are in danger and vulnerable. This order was set up over 150 years ago by Fr John Bosco, a priest who dedicated his life to working with the poor in Turin, Italy."

Perth pupils continue work of the Mercy Project

Senior pupils at St John's Academy' in Perth took part in this year's Romania Mercy Project and look back on their adventure as both moving and life changing experience. The pupils were volunteers at the Budimex (Marie Curie) hospital for children and St Joseph's Recovery (Recuperare) Centre, Bucharest for a week during their October holiday.

Head Girl, Louise Ford, explained, "we were the seventh group since 2013 to take part in the project which started in honour of the work of the late Sr Mary Aloysius, a Sister of Mercy and co-founder of the Dundee based Lawside Romania fund."

"We spent six incredible days volunteering: During our time there we helped in the play rooms of the hospital, ergotherapy and arts and crafts as well as building relationships and playing with children who were in for long-term treatment or recovery. Having the opportunity to interact with such amazing children during a vulnerable time of their life was truly incredible for everyone and gave us insight into their world where many are very ill and only able for limited activities. The moments when we were able to put a smile on their little faces is something truly unforgettable."



The language barrier made it a bit of a challenge to speak and interact with the children at first, but they quickly overcame it and learned to communicate through actions, smiles and the odd word in Romanian!

"We also enjoyed getting to know some of the young Romanian volunteers, many aspiring to the medical profession, and to spend a day exploring Transylvania. They told us that having the opportunity to speak English and learn about Scotland was invaluable for them and we found that extremely satisfying."

In the course of the week the young Scottish students had the opportunity to see how the money they had raised at home was being used to help the children in Bucharest. The sun shone brightly and the park was often full of kids and parents playing. A swing designed specifically for wheelchair users will be installed soon.

With items donated by their school, they personalised shoeboxes for patients in the cancer ward. Witnessing their reaction, and seeing the difference that such a small gesture made to their day, made a profound impression on the volunteers.

Inter-generational team work at St Stephen's, Blairgowrie

P6 and 7 pupils at St Stephen's Primary School, Blairgowrie, took part in an inter-generational project, supported by the Dementia Centre based at Stirling University, as part of their work in attaining the Pope Francis Award.

At their local Care Home, care worker Amanda Sword drew from her experiences to encourage the children to inspire residents with their art work.

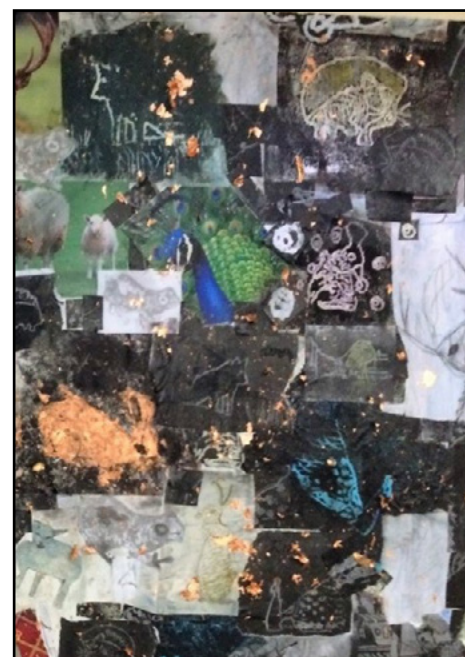
"Having worked with the elderly in various settings during my nursing career, I have always enjoyed listening to the stories they would share, looking at old photos, and hearing about what they used to do and how things used to be," said Amanda.

"As this involved younger children, and could be quite daunting for them, we started by having 'getting to know you' sessions. The children, along with the Art and Head teacher coming along in the afternoon and spending time with the residents."

"They played games in groups one week and sang for the residents, and in another week the children read stories that they had written. This all helped to make the children feel comfortable coming into the home and quickly there was good interaction between the children and the residents."

The art project for the Primary School involved a group of residents and a group of children. The plan was again one of reminiscence using local landmarks and wildlife as the topics, to create one large canvas by printing, rolling, collage and painting. The residents helped with all parts and thoroughly enjoyed the process. This canvas also has a prominent position to show off our resident's work.

"Everyone involved in the process of doing this has benefited. The children all feel comfortable coming into the home and working with the residents. The residents enjoy spending time with the children and doing something different. Even those



residents who are less able managed to take part and some who could not be physically involved enjoyed sitting on the side-lines watching and listening."

Blessing for Kinross' Marian Shrine



Bishop Stephen joined Fr Martin Pletts and parishioners at St James' Kinross for the Blessing of the Shrine in honour of Our Lady.

The shrine came about as an idea from Fr Pletts when a large tree needed to be removed from close to the church and the house. Fr Pletts said, "The tree was removed to prevent significant damage and now the new shrine offers parishioners, and others passing by a chance to honour Our Lady in Prayer and devotion."

Giving a Blessing, Bishop Stephen prayed, "On this Remembrance Day, invoking the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace, let us pray for all our beloved dead, especially those who have died in wars and conflicts down through the ages; those who have

sacrificed their own lives to secure peace and stability for their brothers and sisters.

"With gratitude, we ask Almighty God to welcome them all into the joy of His Kingdom and to bless our world with the lasting peace which only He can give." Bishop Stephen then led the congregation in praying the 'De Profundis'

A wreath was then placed before the Shrine and small crosses placed individually in the ground around the Shrine, each represent the prayers of a family, before observing a minute's silence. The ceremony concluded "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord! People: And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Finally, the children of the parish laid flowers at the shrine.

Diocese marks Sr Kosi's final profession



Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at diocesan celebrations for Sr Kosi's Final Profession. Dcn Ron Wylie (left) and Bishop Stephen (right) and Vocations Director, Fr Michael Carrie (in the background) look on with (l-r) Sr Mary Delphine, Sr Mary Ita and Sr Mary Kosi.

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Scouting success at Our Lady's, Perth



Perth's Polish Community has launched a Polish scout group in the Fair City which works closely with PSA (Polish Scout Association). They extend a very warm welcome is extended to both boys and girls - Cubs 7-11 year; girl/boy Scouts 11-15 years; girl/boy Explorers 15-18 years and Team Leaders 18+.

The Scout group meetings are held in the Congregational Church Hall, Perth, on Tuesdays at 6pm, and the Guides on and the Cubs on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm. Also there are various weekend camps and trips, as well as in traditional celebrations like their Polish National Day. The group works closely with other Scouts' troops in the United Kingdom whilst remaining part of the Polish Scout Association.

Guides and Scouts with leaders (back row l-r) Paulina Rybicka, Kasia Franczak, Kasia Dlugolecka, Wojtek Dlugolecki and Szymon Erdzik.

Scout Leader Wojtek Dlugolecki makes this appeal to parishes and charitable groups, "we would be delighted to take up a challenge with a group that can offer us an outdoor project so that we can combine our young people's spirit of adventure with a worthwhile effort in support of the wider community." Wojtek can be contacted at 07563 126161

"We look forward to greeting new members. Check out the local group's Facebook & Instagram @ZHPPPerth with further details available from www.zhppgk.org."

St Paul's pupils learn from history



Congratulations to S5 pupils, Kerys Donoghue and Allan Barber who were chosen to represent St Paul's Academy, Dundee, on a ground-breaking certificated educational project supported by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The four-part course explored the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The project aimed to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

NIGHTFEVER

Saturday Evenings

16th December

3rd February

7th April

26th May

in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

Backpacks for Mary's Meals at Ss Peter & Paul's



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

Ss Peter and Paul's pupils have been collecting resources to fill backpacks which will be sent to 'Mary's Meal's and distributed to those in need. Our P6 and P7 Rotakids' who work with the Rotary Club Dundee, organised the collection, monitored the donations and filled the backpacks fairly. We have successfully collected 49 backpacks with the support of our staff, pupils, and extended school family.

DUNKELD NEWS

Coming editions

11th March 2018

3rd June 2018

9th September 2018

Email your stories and photos

dunkeldnews@dunkelddiocese.co.uk

CALL or TEXT 07806 789791



A Message from the Diocesan Youth Office

Building a Dynamic

Since my appointment as the Director of Youth Formation in Dunkeld Diocese, I have settled down to work in the office. Every Tuesday and Wednesday between 11am and 4pm are the official hours I am in the Youth office at the Diocesan Centre, Dundee. I am happy to work with the Diocesan Youth Commission made up of some young, vibrant and dedicated youths. Their zeal and commitment gives me the confidence that they have what it takes to animate the Youth ministry in the diocese. We have had meetings and are planning for some programmes which are already being publicized in our parishes and schools. Also some of our past events have been reviewed as are mentioned in this message.

Our Advent Youth retreat comes up between Friday 8th and Sunday 10th of December, 2017. The theme is "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (Mark 1:3). We have sent posters and forms to the parishes, but these can also be downloaded on our website www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk. The Diocesan Youth Music Animation Team (DYMAT) led by our dear Misia Paul has commenced rehearsals in preparation for the retreat. If you play any musical instrument or are interested in singing and would like to join us, please visit our website for details. You can keep up to date with events and activities on our social media platforms, follow us on our twitter handle @RCDunkeld_Youth, like our Instagram page: [dunkeld_youth](https://www.instagram.com/dunkeld_youth) service and join us on Facebook: [dunkeld youth service](https://www.facebook.com/dunkeldyouthservice).

I would like to express our appreciation to Bishop Stephen, our parish priests and parents for their spiritual, financial and moral support. With your assistance, we have been able to organize programmes and trips that help deepen our faith and enhance our integral formation. The great patron of the youth, Saint John Bosco once said "it's not enough to love people have to feel that they are loved." This is how you make us feel, that we are loved by you. We are grateful.

Shortly before I took up my new role with the young people of Dunkeld, some of our youths, led by Frankie McGuire, travelled to the Netherlands to attend the Lifeteen camp event. It was a wonderful experience for them and some have

FEEDBACK



The European Life Teen Summer Camp 2017 took place in the Emmaus Retreat Centre, Helvoirt, Netherlands in August 2017.

It was open for 12-19 year olds from various different countries, and was a week of fun, faith and new faces.

The theme for the week was "Unfinished", and this year was the 10th anniversary of the camp.



Life Teen was a really good experience. It was my first time doing a camp like that and I thought it was wonderful. Life Teen gave me the chance to do different things and as we weren't allowed to use technology much I was really able to focus on the time that I had with God. As we had to share rooms with people from other groups it was a really good chance to mix in with other girls and form friendships with them.

All of the staff were so friendly and welcoming and are really good at what they do and the Netherlands is such a beautiful

setting. The activities were really different and creative I personally loved the rosary walk and the adventure day we had. I did things I would never dream of doing (and didn't think I could do) but my team were wonderful. I also got the chance to bond with my small group and we had some wonderful conversations. It was amazing, to bond together the way we did, and to talk through issues. It was great to embrace some Dutch culture and I got to spend a week with people I really love and value. I would recommend the camp to anyone and I can't wait to go back!!!! **Lauren Quinn**

Youth Ministry

decided to write about it. I hope you will enjoy reading how this event has made significant impact in their lives. We look forward to going on more of such pilgrimages that would inspire and edify us.

May I also appreciate our young people, and in particular those who filled in the online questionnaire in preparation for the next synod on youth scheduled for October 2018 in Rome. The theme of the synod, "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment", chosen by Pope Francis shows we have a special and important role to play in the Church and in our society. We pray for the Synod fathers and all would be participants at the synod, that based on our responses and guided by the Holy Spirit, they will emerge with suitable

pastoral initiatives that will aid our growth towards Christian maturity and enable us fulfill our role in the world.

I encourage our young people in parishes and schools to key into our programmes and also come forward with ideas that will help us build a dynamic youth ministry in the diocese. I shall also be establishing contact with our parishes and schools to see how we can mutually achieve this wonderful task. Thank you for your time and please keep praying for and encouraging our youths.

Fr Samuel Alabi, MSP
Dunkeld's Director of Youth Formation

Two Advent Youth Retreats

**Friday 8th - Saturday 9th
December**
12-16 years

**Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th
December**
17-25 years

*Retreats run from 5pm - 5pm
with prayer, reflection,
confession, games,
catechesis and Mass*

Diocesan Centre

24-28 Lawside Road,
Dundee, DD3 6XY

Download an expression of interest form at
www.dunkeldyouth.org.uk

*let your parish priest know that
you wish to attend*

"I would 100% go again"

The Life Teen Summer Camp 2017 was truly an amazing experience. The whole week was full of fun from start to finish, but there was still time for serious reflection, prayer and teaching about our faith, through the stories and testimonies of many there, as well as small group discussions and quiet reflection times. It was also a great way to experience different cultures, as there were so many different countries represented within the people there.

There were team building activities to get to know people and to form lasting friendships, and many opportunities for free time to mingle together. As well as all the themed and team building activities, there were also opportunities to celebrate everyone's culture, with "About Our Country" presentations and a talent show at the end of the week. Everyone there was so warm, welcoming and supportive; there was a real sense of "family" that I have only ever experienced at similar events.

I would 100% go again, and I encourage anyone else who might be interested to do so too – there is something for everyone and it's just an all-around enriching and growth experience.

Charis McCrosson



Retiring director, Frankie McGuire, squeezes into one last selfie with the youth



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

Children from the nursery and P1 classes at St Thomas' Primary School in Arbroath pictured with teachers, senior pupils, and Fr Michael Carrie after their welcome Mass at St Thomas' Church.

Recording a Christmas Day STV Broadcast Surprise



St Joseph's PS, Dundee



Ss Peter and Paul's PS, Dundee

A DIOCESAN **ADVENT** RETREAT DAY

**SATURDAY,
2ND DECEMBER
DIOCESAN CENTRE**
given by Canon Kevin Golden

**'Come let us go up
to the Mountain
of the Lord'**

10.15am - Morning Prayer and Praise

10.45am - Tea and Coffee

11am - Talk: "Come, let us go up"

... followed by reflections/comments

12 noon - Mass

1pm - Lunch

Please bring a packed lunch
- coffee and tea provided

1.45pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**then a choice of
Silent prayer in the chapel,
an opportunity for confession or
take part in a faith sharing group**

3pm - Closing prayer and Benediction

To register please call 01382 225453
or email kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com