

# DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 16 June 2019

*"The fire that destroys and burns can also heal..." Bishop Stephen's Chrism Mass Homily - p6*

## Church moves to heal representation wrangle

**L**ast month's decision by Perth and Kinross Council to withdraw the voting rights of its religious representatives who sit on the Lifelong Learning Committee has served to focus attention on the important role of all our Church Representatives in the area of Catholic Education.

The decision to ban the Church representatives from voting had put Perth and Kinross out of step with all other authorities across the country. According to Scottish legislation, three religious representatives must be appointed to local authority education committees. The voting ban, taken at a full Perth and Kinross Council meeting, had come after its controversial decision to close a rural non-denominational primary, which had been swung by the votes of other religious representatives.

Mrs Margaret McFarlane is the Catholic representative on Perth and Kinross' Lifelong Learning Committee - however she was not at the meeting where the decision to close the school was taken because she was unwell and, the Church says would not have voted on the measure in any case. The row was involving representatives from other faiths. The council's voting ban impacts on the traditional role of the Catholic Church which celebrated the special 100 year partnership between Church and State with events across the whole of Scotland during the past year.

Barbara Coupar, director of the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES), said, "Catholic representatives are only appointed to serve on councils where Catholic schools are present and only required to vote on matters which affect Catholic schooling. There are four Catholic schools in Perth and Kinross - St John's Academy, and St Stephen's, St Dominic's and Our Lady's primary schools."

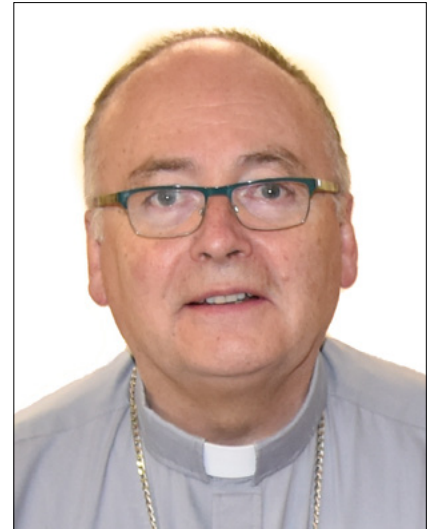
"The recent vote in favour of the closure of a non-denominational primary school was carried on the basis of a deciding vote from the Church of Scotland representative. Therefore we believe there was a disproportionate response from the council on this issue and that there were better alternatives to resolve the issue."

"We have a very distinctive and different role from the Church of Scotland as 20 per cent of Scottish schools are Catholic. In any case of proposed changes impacting on Catholic schools this would include a formal consultation with the Catholic Church. The church representative on the education committee has an invaluable role in articulating the official response of the Catholic Church on these matters."

"Catholic schools were 'transferred' into state ownership in 1918 in the same Education Act which established local education authorities. With this Act came assurances that the specific characteristics of the Catholic school would be protected in legislation. One of the mechanisms for monitoring the state's ongoing commitment to those assurances is the presence of a Catholic Church representative on every council where there are Catholic schools."

"The educational approach within Catholic schools is supported by a legislative framework which governs both the approval of teaching staff and the content of religious and moral education programmes. It is therefore right, just and proportionate to have a representative voice on the education committee to express the views of the Catholic community and vote on matters that will impact directly on Catholic schools."

Following a meeting with the Council, called by the Church, to address their voting ban, a church spokesperson for the Bishop Stephen Robson said:



The Rt. Rev. Stephen Robson

### My Dear People of the Diocese of Dunkeld

I thank you most sincerely for your kind wishes on my recent celebration of 40 years in the priesthood. I am so sorry the celebrations had to be delayed because of my leg and foot surgery.

I cannot thank enough the surgeon, doctors, nurses and staff of Ninewells hospital for their kind and efficient care and the staff of the diocesan office and the priests who supplied for me in my absence. Things are improving but I am told it will be at least a year until I am fully back to normal, but I thank the Good Lord for what I am able to do even now.

The delayed thanksgiving celebration of Mass for my jubilee is now on Thursday 20th June at 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral in Dundee. You are welcome.

God bless you all.

+ Bishop Stephen Robson

"The outcome of the meeting was both cordial and fruitful. Both parties are moving forwards to engage in a meaningful collaboration, working to strengthen our mutual partnership in support of Catholic Education."

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

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# Papal Award for St Joseph's parishioner's faithful service



John McKay has been presented with the Papal Medal, Benemerenti, at a ceremony in his home parish of St Joseph's, Dundee. Although a native of the nearby Ss Peter and Paul's parish, he has spent most of his adult life in the West End of the city. John has been a parishioner of St Joseph's, Dundee, for many years and, through that time, he has committed himself to serving the parish in many different ways.

Making the presentation after Sunday Mass, Bishop Stephen said, "John's first love, of course, is his family, his wife Irene, his sons Graham and Michael, their wives and his five grandchildren. St Joseph's comes a close second and John not only attends the church, he has, in the past, helped to rebuild it. When St Joseph's was being renovated in the early 1980s, the parish was blessed with quite a number of 'consultants' and there was no shortage of advice to the parish priest. However John not only advised but he was 'hands on', 'walking the walk' as they say today. The outcome of the renovations is this beautiful church that we

*Benemerenti presentation to John McKay by Bishop Stephen, with St Joseph's parish priest, Fr Leszek Wicaszek, S.A.C. (left), Deacon Ron Wylie (right) and John's wife, Irene.*

are in today. John played an important part in making this happen."

"John has fulfilled many roles in the parish over the years. Some have been roles that parishioners are aware of, for example as Master of Ceremonies at Mass up until last year, and also as a Eucharistic minister.

However he has also chaired the parish council; organized rotas; he has been, and continues to be, the parish's Safeguarding Officer; and he has looked after the fabric of the church, lovingly, for more years that he would care to remember.

St Joseph's parish priest, Fr Leszek said that John had, "Golden hands! Our parish has benefitted greatly from these hands as John has quietly gone about tasks, great and small, without fuss or attention."

## Clergy changes in Dunkeld Diocese

**In May 2019, Bishop Stephen Robson announced the following clerical changes in Dunkeld Diocese:** Fr Michael Carrie, parish priest of Our Lady of Victories and St Patrick's Dundee and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese is also to be School Chaplain to St John's High School, Dundee. Fr Michael is stepping down from his role a Director of Vocations for the diocese.

In his place, Fr Mark Cassidy, who is Parish Priest of St Mary's Lochee, is to become

Episcopal Vicar for Vocations. Their new ministries will begin as from the beginning of the new term of school and university in the middle of August.

Deacon Arthur Grant has been appointed as Parish Deacon to the parish of St Thomas', Arbroath. Deacon Ron Wylie who is currently Parish Deacon at St Joseph's Wilkie's Lane is also to assist Fr Ninian Doohan in his work as Catholic Chaplain to the Ninewells Hospital Group.



*Elaine Harrison writes*

# Mgr Hugh Francis McNally, RIP

HUGH FRANCIS MCINALLY was born into a devout Dundee family, the only son of William and Isabella McNally. The couple also had two daughters, Anne and Wyn. Educated by the Sisters of Mercy at Lawside Primary and Lawside Academy, on leaving school Hugh was an Articled Clerk to CI Dunbar, becoming a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland in 1956.

That year also saw him begin his National Service, serving two years in the RAF. Hugh had thoughts of Priesthood, but he recalled that his mother suggested he might finish his accountancy studies before embarking on another course.

He duly did, but he pursued his vocation on demob from the RAF and went to Paris to study at St Sulpice. He was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop William Andrew Hart in 1963. He then spent five years as Curate at St Columba's in the Kirkton area of Dundee, followed by four years as Curate in St Patrick's in the city.

His first appointment as Parish Priest was to St Fergus in 1972, where he served for nine years. At that time, the new housing scheme of Ardlar was springing up, and to accommodate a burgeoning Catholic population, St Fergus was linked to the new parish of St Leonard's, becoming Ss Leonard & Fergus, the biggest parish in the city. Such were the numbers wishing to attend Midnight Mass, tickets had to be issued as it was always standing room only. Father Hugh was also a very popular Chaplain to three schools, and a great champion of the youth in the parish. He established youth groups, altar server groups, Brownie and Girl Guide packs and choirs.

As a reward for the dedicated service of his altar boys, he took them one year on a trip to Iona. As they approached the sacred isle, Father Hugh decided it would be an idea if they all took off their shoes and approached the island barefoot, as Columba would have done. He deemed it good for their souls if not their soles!

Father Hugh was an enthusiastic pastor and he never had any trouble getting adult volunteers and leaders to help him in the parish. Summer Fayres were legendary at Ss Leonard & Fergus, with thousands of pounds being raised for good causes locally, nationally and internationally. He was also co-founder, along with Dundee councillor



*Photo- Andrew Mitchell*

Charles Farquhar, of the Farquhar-McNally Fund which sent disabled pilgrims to Lourdes every year.

As well as leaving a host of memories and stories, of which parishioners past and present still speak, he left the parish of Ss Leonard & Fergus a lasting legacy in the shape of a set of beautiful stained glass windows.

His young Deacon in his last year at Ss Leonard & Fergus, 1990, was Kevin Golden, who was due to be ordained to the Priesthood later that year. Now a Canon and Administrator of St Andrew's Cathedral, it was Canon Golden who celebrated Mgr Hugh's Requiem Mass in the cathedral. That year he was appointed parish priest of St Mary's Forebank and St Patrick's in Dundee, a post he held until 2007. In 1990, he was also appointed a Monsignor and Vicar General of the Diocese. These churches, too, benefited from his generous refurbishment.

He was Chairman of the Catholic National Mutual Ltd for 10 years, with responsibility for the insurance of all cathedrals, churches and church properties throughout Scotland, England and Wales.

His Bishop for 34 years, Bishop Vincent Logan, recalls that Mgr Hugh gave generously and unfailingly, of his not inconsiderable talents to the Diocese, and the Church nationally, in the many roles, he was asked to fulfil. Bishop Logan, now Bishop Emeritus of Dunkeld, says, "Hugh was a most generous man, both with his time and his

talents, in the service of the people of God. A popular figure with his fellow priests, he was a most compassionate and caring shepherd of his flock. I personally owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all he did for our Diocese during my time as Bishop."

Mgr Hugh loved to travel and he visited all five Continents, mostly in the company of his great friends, the Ruddy family. When his mobility deteriorated, he still went on holiday with them, Jim Ruddy pushing him everywhere in a wheelchair. Knowing of his restricted mobility, many were surprised to hear Mgr Hugh proclaim that he "had done the Camino", the pilgrimage walk to Santiago de Compostela, only to reveal, to much laughter, especially his own, that it had been in a luxury coach!

After retiring in 2007, he took up residence in his "monastic cell", a little cottage in the Perthshire hills. He loved living there, enjoying the beauty of the landscape in the changing seasons. Although retired, this most gifted preacher was still in demand to deliver eulogies at the funerals of friends, a task he undertook with characteristic wit and generosity. His health deteriorated in recent months, but with the help and support of the Ruddy family, he was able to fulfil his wish to remain in his beloved cottage until the end. It was there, on March 30th, that he died peacefully. Mgr Hugh is survived by his sisters, Anne, who lives in Stratford upon Avon, Wyn of Monifieth, his nephews Hugh and Ian, and nieces Veronica and Kathleen.

*Requiescat in Pace*

# *The perfumed presence of the Risen Christ!* **Faith, Fish and Charcoal**



**by Mary O'Duffin -**  
*Dunkeld's Pastoral*  
*Education Development Officer*

**After a late Spring and a glorious Easter weekend we pause and reflect on our personal journeys. Many of us will have looked to prayer in these last weeks. I know many engaged in the Lenten Retreat provided by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, online or in booklet form, some gathering for weekly faith sharing; journeying together with Jesus.**

In our personal lives it may not have taken a meditation of the Stations of the Cross to be able to sorrow with Christ in His sorrow, although our Faith Tradition provided this prayer experience to help us draw close to The Lord in Lent.

Many of us are dealing with losses and griefs that unite our own suffering to the sufferings of Jesus: caring for elderly or frail parents; coping with a separation or bereavement; the loss of a job or friendship; challenge or disappointment can be alternating themes in the raising of children as well as those indescribable moments of pride and joy.

Yet here we are, resting in the soft light of early Eastertide in the sure and certain knowledge that Love has conquered Death, that we are promised peace and joy. Yet there remains a sense of yearning, of incompleteness. You might like to ask yourself how your heart is as we enter the Month of May, traditionally devoted to Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of The Church. This period of Eastertide stretches for 50 days – and during this period we read of the growth of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles, volume two of the Gospel of St Luke.

Why this focus on new beginnings and growth? Why this sense of desire for something more in our lives? Surely the great Feast of Easter should fulfil all our expectations and hopes? The wisdom of the Church Tradition is that, like the Apostles and Disciples, it takes time for the mystery of Christ resurrection and call to risen life to take root in our hearts and minds; for this radiant truth to transform us...

Mary Magdalene, we are told in the Gospel of John, arrives after the Sabbath has ended with costly ointment to anoint the body of Jesus. She finds the tomb empty and is distraught. She sees who she thinks is the Gardener. The Risen Jesus speaks her name and immediately she recognises him and tries to cling to him.

We all understand this reaction – so often we cling to what we love and forget that we were called to reach out to others and share the good news of our Faith. Mary is told to tell the disciples that The Lord is risen indeed, and she hurries to Galilee. For this reason, Mary Magdalene is known as the first person to witness to the Lord's resurrection.

How are we called to share our Faith in the Risen Jesus? Where are our Galilees? Perhaps, Arbroath, Perth, Pitlochry, Dundee or Alloa? Ask for the Easter Grace to share your Faith in word or in deed in the coming times. Allow some of the joy of Easter to bring light to your own heart and mind, and the hearts and minds of others; this could be friends, family, colleagues or strangers you encounter. Simple kindness and patience can have a transforming effect. The disciples had heard of this Good News but went back to their old jobs which they laboured at before the call of Jesus. We have all sensed that drift back to old ways in our Faith Journey...

They fish fruitlessly all night and they see a figure on the shore of the sea of Galilee. He tells them to put out into the deep and they haul in so many fish that their nets are almost breaking. They come ashore and discover that the Risen Jesus is cooking them breakfast. The scent of charcoal was last mentioned in the Gospels at the time of Peter's denial of Jesus. Imagine that distinctive barbecue smell reminding them of their weakness and lack of courage? Yet Jesus sees their exhaustion, discouragement and hunger – and he feeds them. Can we let Jesus tend to our needs? Strengthening and forgiving us for our failings so that full of gratitude we can share that experience in our daily encounters?

One of the most memorable encounters of the Risen Christ is that when he appears to the disciples in the upper room. He says,

"Peace be with you" a grace that we repeat often in our liturgical celebrations. He then shares the forgiving breath of God and commissions the disciples to minister the forgiveness of God to others and vanishes from their sight. His presence remains in the gathering of two or three people in his name and in the ministry of reconciliation and forgiveness.

One disciple, Thomas, was absent and on his return hears the account of his friends but is stubbornly unconvinced. Unless he puts his hands into wounds of Christ and touched his side, he will not believe that Jesus has risen from the dead.

We are all Thomas. We all long for proof and certainty before we take the risk of faith in our own hearts, much less sharing faith with others. How patient Jesus is with Thomas...he sees his struggles and doubts – and reassures him with his touch and presence. Isn't this precisely our own struggle with the life of faith? We too wait with Thomas to be convinced before taking the leap of faith. When Thomas finally recognises the Easter truth he proclaims, "My Lord and my God". This is now a devotional prayer uttered by many when the Host is raised at the Consecration. Can we make it our prayer?

We join with Thomas in that most difficult transition from doubt to faith. And Jesus knows how difficult this journey is. We are weak and lack courage and so we prepare our hearts in the 50 days of Eastertide for the coming of the Holy Spirit who will strengthen us and embolden us; The Holy Spirit will warm and console us with God's power and presence. Like the growing Church described in the Acts of the Apostles, we will receive the Holy Spirit afresh, the gifts of wisdom, piety, knowledge, understanding, courage, counsel and fear of The Lord.

Perhaps these days of Eastertide could be spent praying with a deep desire for the gifts of the Spirit that we need most to live our Christian life joyfully, with grace and generosity. For the Easter story is just the beginning of our journey...

A very happy Eastertide to one and all. Christ is risen as he said, Alleluia, Alleluia!





# Who do you think you are?

*Mary O'Duffin reflects on her series of talks for Catholic Teachers, Parish Catechists and others who are simply seeking to learn more about their Faith Story.*

**O**ne of my favourite programmes to watch is the one where a celebrity decides to trace their ancestry or family tree and discover the reality of their heritage and history.

The recipe is a simple one: a person may have gathered some facts by word of mouth, listened to stories in childhood and have a rather patchwork and dreamy image of their family story. With research assistance and often some foreign travel if they are lucky, they begin to weave together the joys and sorrows, challenges and consolations of a human story. Far off and shadowy personalities become familiar as the archives and registers of births, deaths and marriages unfold a picture of human striving and flourishing often in unpredictable and fresh understandings of human history. Compassion, pride, joy, sympathy and sometimes embarrassment are experienced for figures who somehow enter into closer relationship and understanding because of this curiosity, desire and searching.

My mother hailed from South Uist in the Hebrides and my father was born in Brooklyn of Scots and Dutch lineage so I always thought there would be some discoveries and interesting research to be done there –

but for you and me – the chance to explore our roots may never arise, at least courtesy of the BBC.

A similar opportunity has been at work in our faith formation sessions which we held for six consecutive weeks before Lent, and began again on Monday 13th May 2019. In these evenings, 7-8pm, we have been exploring the roots of our Faith, researching some of the teaching documents and encyclicals, (a sort of round-robin letter from the Pope sent to all the Church worldwide); Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The aim is that we feel at home in our own skin as Catholics, relish the beauty and reason behind our Church's teaching and above all see that Faith is about an encounter with Jesus, the Son of God, through the Word and Sacraments; and in our encounters in prayer, liturgy and our relationships to one another.

Much like the “Who do you think you are?” programme, we journeyed together to establish a shared understanding of our Catholic family history. People who attended these sessions said how they were delighted to discover the beauty and significance of their faith. Increased confidence, gratitude and a deep desire to continue learning about how to live the faith joyfully and invite others to the same discovery.

Why not join us? The nights are getting lighter and each session can stand alone. If

you would like to ‘watch again’ or ‘catch up’ on previous sessions, our very own media man, Andrew Mitchell has captured the sessions and guiding images on video and these can be viewed on the Dunkeld Diocese website under NEWS. And it is really GOOD NEWS.

Among those able to follow the programmes online is Bishop Stephen. Having joined us for the first two sessions, we hope that, after his convalescence, he will be back among us again. He is delighted by the fidelity and enthusiasm of all who attended and continues his prayer for our Diocese of Dunkeld that we will experience grace upon grace in our home parishes.

Canon Kevin Golden VG has accompanied us throughout our meetings, sharing hospitality, encouragement and comment; and we have both felt heartened by the openness and joy in the room whenever we have been exploring the Faith.

I am sure all of us are more grateful, enthusiastic and energised now that we understand a little better “Who we think we are as Catholics”! Every blessing on you all this Eastertide. The Lord has risen as he said! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*You are very welcome to join this series of talks at the Pastoral Centre, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee DD3 6XY. Final sessions 13/20/27th May and 3/10/17 June - all at 7pm.*



# The fire that destroys and burns can also heal...

## Bishop Stephen Robson's Chrism Mass Homily

*Photo by Kamila Guzowska*

**A**fter returning from Mgr McInally's funeral, I turned on the TV, to see the breaking news that Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was on fire. Flicking to BBC News 24 and glued to the screen, in the space of 90 minutes it seems that 850 years of Catholic Church history was all but destroyed. Of all the beautiful buildings dedicated to the worship to God all over the world, Notre Dame, as the archetype of the Gothic style of architecture, 200 years in the building and dedicated to our Lady, was consumed by fire. How many prayers, Masses, pilgrims, visitors – have passed through its doors? Whether drawn by curiosity, or by Faith, the beauty of Notre Dame is a 'Feast for the Senses' drawing visitors and pilgrims alike into the Mystery of God.

James Day, an American News anchor, speaking on Tuesday morning commented: "It took flames to engulf the French soul to remind us that cathedrals remain one of the best evangelizers, and France was once hailed as "the most Catholic country." Yet on Monday of Holy Week, the jewel of that once deeply Catholic country, Notre-Dame Cathedral — as central a character in Victor Hugo as Esmeralda and Quasimodo, as iconic as anything Paris added to its city scape in the 850 years since it was constructed So durable that it stood fast during Robespierre's Cult of the Supreme Being ceremonies in the French Revolution, withstood Napoleon's emperorship,

and stood tall as Nazis occupied its great city — was still yet evangelizing even as she burned, like Joan of Arc before her, like the martyrs".

Notre Dame was home to wonderful works of art; bronze statues of saints; a beautiful oak roof with literally a forest of original 12th century roof rafters and beams; a gothic wooden carved choir; a magnificent beautifully shaped soaring chapel dedicated to Our lady behind the High Altar; the relics of Christ's passion and the precious relic of the crown of thorns; the world's finest 12th century stained glass rose windows all created by the exquisite skill of medieval glass craftsmen and enclosed in frames of lead – ALL created by the hand of man for the Glory of God and yet engulfed burned and melted, shattered and destroyed – all in the space of 90 minutes. All seemed lost. Did all this destruction nullify the beauty that man had created to glorify God?

### A terrible tragedy

French President Emmanuel Macron, on visiting the site of the conflagration said to the Parisians who had gathered: A part of us is burning. For the French, and especially for Parisians, Notre Dame is an Icon of national identity. For French Catholics, Notre Dame is the mother church in France of devotion to the Mother of God. A terrible tragedy this, for the French and I think for us too!

However, the mood on Tuesday morning was very different. The fire raging through the night had been extinguished. The damage was devastating. But gone was the inferno and the tears and the mourning of the good people of Paris, especially the Parisian Catholics for whom this magnificent cathedral was their Mother Church.

And standing still proud in the morning sun after a night of devastation was the elegant stone skeleton of the medieval Cathedral. The twin Gothic towers, partly burned but still there. The delicate tracery of the rose windows with at least some of the 12th century medieval glass. The majestic Gothic walls and the flying buttresses and broad shape of this beautiful Gothic House of God. They were all still there.

The roof and much of the interior was now gone but the language, the faces of the people who had prayed and sang all night, and the responses on the news bulletins were markedly different, infinitely more hopeful. Our Lady of Paris would rise again! Some 800 million euros had been pledged to restore her beauty: the Phoenix would rise from the ashes. For, far from being a medieval shell, albeit a beautiful one, this wonder of the world is still home to a living Catholic Community.

Yesterday morning on BBC World, I caught a news bulletin where some nuns were being interviewed on the Left Bank



of the River Seine opposite Notre Dame. They corrected the comments of the news reporters on the TV, putting some much needed Catholic Faith into the story line. The Church is not dead. She is alive and the Lord will rise! After all, Notre Dame, beautiful as she is, is also a monument to Faith – Faith in Christ, his Mother, and also in the Church, in a sense the common home of all of us.

We love our history and our Catholic past but also with hope. We live in hope our Catholic Future, viewed through the lens of Faith, not only history. Such a building is, however much a monument, an expression of inspired creativity, art and Faith. For the Church is also made of living stones. And the Lord will rise this week.

### A terrible tragedy

**Within this observation we can Christianise our response, not denying the terrible destruction caused by fire. For fire burns and destroys, but it also purifies. So suddenly the fire becomes a metaphor for us:- for our religion, yes; but also for the sickness of our wounded and struggling society; for our broken politics, for the intransigence of our political leaders over the seeming the interminable Brexit question, and the sclerotic arguments used by our supposed leaders, seemingly made of stone like the gargoyles on the drainage pipes and parapets of Notre Dame.**

Also, the narrative of our social story is alight. Social experiments including the overturning of God's laws must surely anger God. In recent years the up-ending of the truth of marriage, of human sexuality, the weakening of the already weakened bonds of marriage – such that still exist in law; the social deconstruction of gender, and the enshrining of them all as part of the body of the positive law of the land – in which all of us are constrained by this law to follow whether we like it or not.

But there are laws far more powerful for us Catholics, far more powerful than those espoused in Party political agendas and pushed by the vested interests of powerful pressure groups: Natural law, the structures of the human personality built into mankind by God the Creator into the mind and heart of human beings, and the Divine law, the law of Almighty God expressed in the Commandments and in the New Ways of Jesus Christ, illustrated so clearly in the Gospels; Divine and Natural Law which we must always obey and which can never be trumped by the Laws of man, however democratically expressed by Parliament – which ever Parliament – when they clash

with the Laws of God.

The Law of God is a much higher Law, the ultimate Law. To rebel against the design of the Creator is a grave matter indeed!

The Church too, never exempt from the destructive impulses of sinful men is ablaze with wave after wave of scandal, breeding instability and further faithlessness. The Church too can never trump God's Law – ever – 'To she who is given much, much will be expected'. God's love and mercy, but also God's judgement, excludes no one. No one at all.

Our Bishops and Priests often feel overwhelmed. They are also often overburdened and overwhelmed with the guilt and the sins and crimes of those others who have tarnished the priesthood and the Episcopate – and yes, even the Papacy. As ministers of the Gospel, we are all held guilty by association – simply for being priests

and bishops, highly visible and vulnerable members of the believing community.

But as we've said, the flames that destroy can also sterilise and purify, they can bring low and call to repentance, to change the direction of our hearts and to make us start out again. On the one hand, the laws made by men can constrain our bodies but they can never bind our souls, if we refuse to let them. But the laws of God remain forever. The designs of God remain forever. They can be changed by NO man on Earth. Witness the martyrs who would rather die that accept that the laws of God to be trampled on by men: witness St Thomas More.

The conflagration of Notre Dame has been a shock for France and for the French. But as President Macron reminded us on Monday: 'When Notre Dame burns we all burn' – the Medieval cathedral consumed by fire seems to me to be an excellent metaphor for our time. It embodies all the hopes

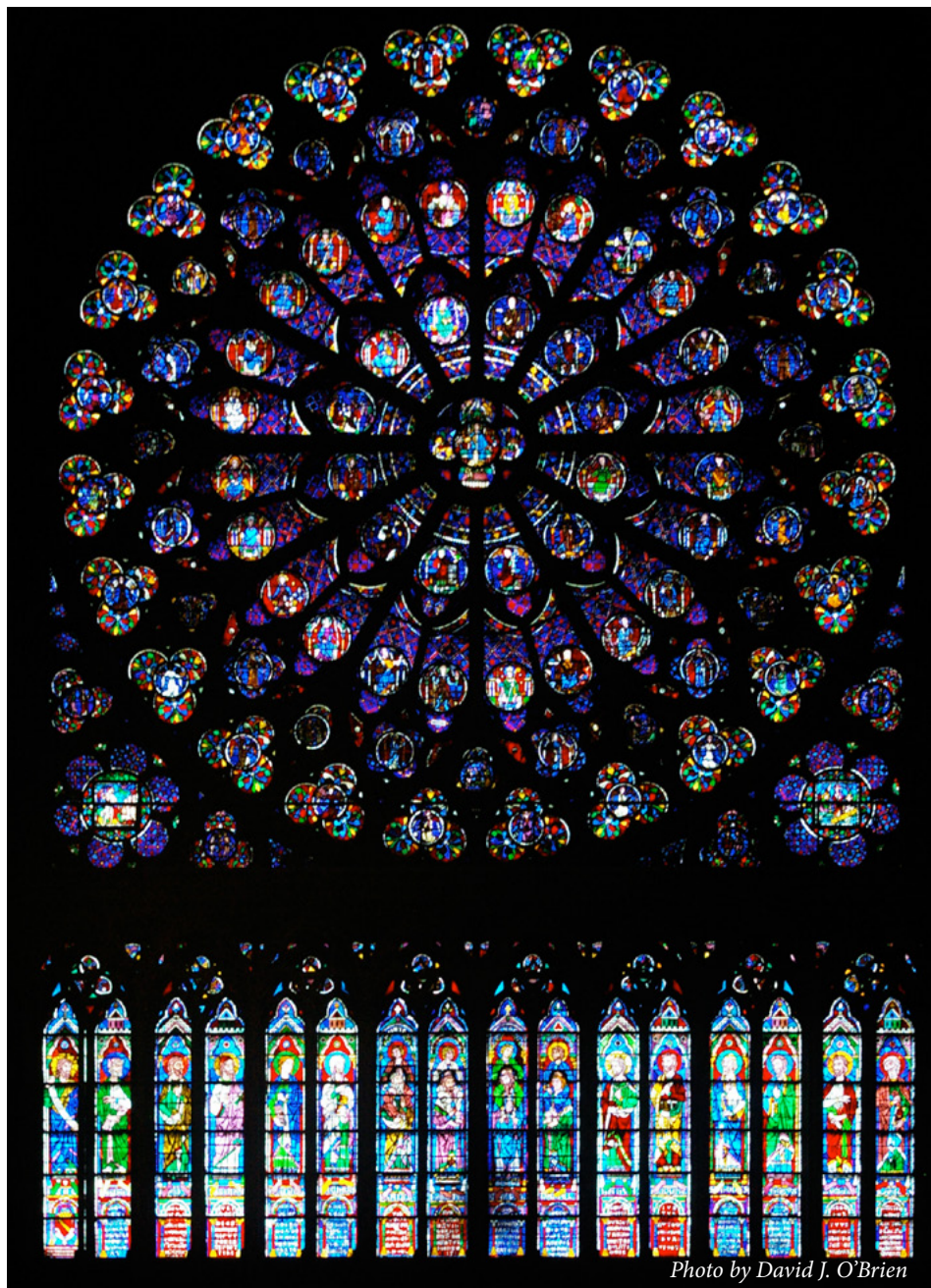


Photo by David J. O'Brien





and fears, the history and the destiny of all Frenchmen, and somehow by analogy, of all of us – even the people who never go near the church or darken her doors.

As our Lord in St John's Gospel reminds us: the seed must die in the ground before it germinates and rises. And with the greatest Good News of Holy Week, just as the Lord endures his passion and death only to rise, passing through the darkness of death, so are we called to be an Easter people of hope who are destined to the follow in the same path to Resurrection.

In spite of the mess, the instability, the threats, the gathering storm clouds in politics, in business, in families, in the changing social climate, in the social engineering experiments of recent years which show man wanting to rebel against the Creator and go against the Natural Law and the Law and Design of God. All his can and will end.

**The fire that burns and destroys can also sterilise and purify and heal. Broken politics can be mended; fractured society can be re-united; violence and stress and contention can be solved and salved; the wounded Church we love so much, despite the flaws human sins inflict on her, can be once again be purified and healed, if we have a mind to cooperate with the Lord's Grace. Some of the old self needs to die; the dead wood needs stripped out; the tarnished face of the church needs re-cleansed; and the solution for this healing is to radically turn to God and leave aside the broken promises of the world – at whatever cost to ourselves.**

And what does the Liturgy ask of us to-night? We receive the message to re-awaken us from our torpor. At this most awful juncture, when the Church is being pulled

in so many different ways by so many – within and without – the liturgy asks us to do something radical and powerful: at the very time of our greatest feeling of weakness and vulnerability: to go out to witness and to preach Christ by the way we live our lives.

In the context of the evil and treachery that lies at the heart of Holy Week, we are being asked to set the world afire with the cleansing power of Christ. In contrast to the death and decay of a broken world, we're being asked to set out and refashion it with God's grace after God's pattern, in the image of God and though the power of Christ. At the nadir of our weakness God is calling us radically to become bolder than ever.

In this context we come to Mass to bless the healing, welcoming and Spirit-filled Holy Oils to be used in the Sacraments that build up the Church, heal the church and fill her with the Lord's spirit.

They are used not only to anoint us as Members of the Body of Christ, but also to heal us in the Lord on our Christian journey and to fill us with the Spirit to become witnesses to Christ's Truth. The word witness of course comes from the Greek word for a martyr. To lay down, as Christ did, our lives for our brethren.

Ironically in this age of unbelief it has been the 20th and 21st centuries that have been the most prolific period of martyrdom (not as popularly thought the 1-3AD). Throughout the world in the Holy Land and Middle East, in Syria, Iraq, among the Catholic minorities in atheistic countries, in Africa, in Asia, in South America and in Europe martyrdom proliferates. In fact, the Centre for the Study of Global Chris-

tianity (CSGC) tells us that Christians are the most persecuted religious group in the world. According to them, 900,000 Christians have been 'martyred' in the last decade alone, equating to 90,000 a year and one every six minutes.

The second century Church Father Tertullian once said: The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christians. And we need the spirit of martyrdom today for the Church to be cleansed and to grow. Perhaps not bloody martyrdom, but martyrdom of a spiritual type: witnessing to the Faith.

Despite the negativity and instability and the blackness all around us, we need witnesses to stand up for the Church and to stand up for Christ and the values of our faith: – for the truth of the nature of the human personality; for the truth and nature of human sexuality; for Christian marriage; for the uniqueness of our Divine Lord Jesus who is our only Saviour; for the Church, his Spouse, which despite being the wounded Bride of Christ because of the sins of her members, but which is yet the Sacrament of our Salvation; and for the blood of the martyrs. Those who witness to Christ's Truth are the seeds of new Christians!

+ Bishop Stephen Robson



# Catholic Education Working out the 'how' of the Resurrection

**Canon Tom Shields**

*Vicar Episcopal for Education*

**A**s propagandists, the early disciples weren't up to much. They made outlandish claims, gave contradictory accounts, and showed themselves up as bunglers and losers. But how were they as teachers? Well, in relating the Resurrection, the disciples were not interested in showing how clever they had been through it all, or how they had asked searching questions and offered penetrating analysis.

Nor did they lead others in a programme towards self-improvement. Instead, they seemed to be interested in only two things: sharing their experience, and showing why Jesus had risen from the dead, and the two were linked in their own life story.

## **What they saw and heard**

The disciples told of their own confusion, fear, disbelief, and lack of immediate action. They struggled to put into words what they had seen and heard: the Jesus who was the same, yet different; the facility he had to appear and disappear at will, from Jerusalem to the Sea of Tiberias; his ability to walk through closed doors, but still somehow managing to sit down and eat with them.

Above all, they talked of how apparent disaster on the Cross, and their timidity, all too evident in Jesus' hour of need, was transformed by the Resurrection.

Despite their lack of clarity in describing the risen Christ, there was one thing they were very clear on: Jesus had risen from the dead to bring about the forgiveness of sins; to reconcile humanity with God; to bring peace and eternal life. This, they had experienced firsthand, and they offered this to all they met.

## **The message**

Wherever the Church went in those early days, and whether to Jew or Gentile, the message was the same: our hopes and dreams are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In other words, we are saved, and our lives can have meaning and purpose in

mutual love and upbuilding. That message has not changed in two thousand years. Wherever we are and whatever our beliefs, we humans need purpose, a future, and to be loved and to give love: faith, hope and charity. However, while we might all share those common goals, today, more than ever, we differ on how to achieve them.

From varying philosophies and spiritualities to self-help books and life coaches, there is no shortage of twenty-first century options. Christianity with its parables and commandments may give some value for money, but it is seen often as only one way among others, and what we often claim as Christian ideals can easily enough be packaged as courtesy and common sense. Is there more?

## **What of our personal relationships?**

We hear a lot these days about rights and respect, about the needs of minorities and individuals. All of this is as it should be, but is there something more? The gospels tell us that the one who was judged has become the judge. The one who was counted as nothing and as a slave has become the gold standard for human endeavour, and the way to liberation.

The one who was outcast has shown us how to include others and build community. It is not just that I must respect others or refrain from stereotyping. I am called to see the transforming power of Christ in the poor – and the poor are called to see Christ in themselves and others! The individual is not just to be respected but challenged as to how selflessness can help build community. Having problems does not excuse me from seeing the need in others, or from contributing to the common good.

## **Personal healing**

My desire for healing does not mean that I can heal myself. Admitting my brokenness might be a start, and there may be practical steps I can take, but I need something more if I am to thrive and not just 'get by'. As a Christian, I am fully cognizant of the power that comes from the glorified Lord that will in turn glorify me. I am not just 'getting there': I know where 'there' is.

## **Does the universe point to God?**

I am amazed at the immensity of space, at least one hundred billion galaxies in the observable universe. The reality of this overwhelms me, and my childhood dreams of clambering aboard some version of the Starship Enterprise and warping off to strange new worlds are just that – childish imaginings. It isn't going to happen anytime soon. Does this fill me with a sense of inadequacy or the 'irrelevance' of my 'happenstance existence'? Or is there something in the very nature of creation that gives sign of the God who is beyond my comprehension and calls me to look at the bigger picture?

## **Experience, the way to Resurrection**

Today, authenticity is prized almost above all other virtues or moral concerns. The first disciples were, if nothing else, authentic.

They were honest to the point of being a publicist's nightmare. They did not claim that they were superheroes – quite the opposite. Nor did they claim that there was something in the human psyche or make up that was just itching to 'go transcendental', and just had to be let out.

Their experience of death and Resurrection was real: their limited lives changed by grace a testimony not to the 'endurance of the human spirit' but to the mercy of God.

## **Catholic Education**

**And that is where Catholic education comes in. When I attended Catholic schools in the 1960s and 70s, there was no denial of evolution, nor was there any lack of science subjects. We were not banned from reading challenging literature, nor from asking awkward questions. But faith was brought into every aspect; not in opposition to knowledge but, rather, as a context and framework for how to assimilate and make sense of the data we were all taking in.**

I am not looking back with rose tinted spectacles: there were plenty of mistakes made, and we were all too aware of human failings, and the shortcomings of a system which often favoured the gifted. Again, our faith taught us that we had to first ask for forgiveness and offer it freely to others; admit our weakness and seek the mercy of God.

If we have lost sight of this perspective, we need to refocus. Catholic education is about the how and why of the Resurrection in our lives; how we make sense of life because of the death and Resurrection of Christ, not despite it.

## St Thomas', Arbroath Forty Hour Devotion



Photo - Eddie Mahoney

Mgr Aldo Angelsanto joins Fr Joseph James (Parish Administrator) and the parishioners at St Thomas of Canterbury, Arbroath, for Quarantore.

## Lourdes donation



(L-R) Canon Neil Gallagher receives a £100 cheque for the Diocesan Lourdes Fund from Dave Easton, Mike Bruce and Dillon Lawson, members of the Logie Pool Section, Dundee.

## Fr Vella recalled to Malta

Fr Edward Vella, St Bride's, Pitlochry, has been asked by his Bishop in Gozo, Malta, to take a parish back in his home country. In a message to his parishioners he told them that Bishop Stephen has promised to send a new parish priest to take over in the town.

Bishop Stephen said, "Please pray for Fr Edward, that the Lord will always be with him in his new ministry, and also that the Lord will send to St Bride's a priest according to His heart and that will He guide us always into His ways."

## St Bride's Monifieth helps Sea Apostleship



Photo - Eddie Mahoney

The Thursday Morning Tea Group at St Bride's Monifieth presented a cheque for £50 in aid of the work of the Apostleship of the Sea. Mrs Lorraine Noble is seen handing over the cheque to Jacqueline McGuire, representative of the Apostleship of the Sea. Also in the picture is Mgr Aldo and Deacon Douglas Duncan (2nd left), one of the chaplains to the Apostleship of the Sea.

## Confirmations at Our Lady of Good Counsel



Photo - Eddie Mahoney

Bishop Stephen visited Broughty Ferry to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on these young people from the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

## St James', Kinross, are led on a Mission from Ganglands to the Promised Land

Earlier this month, parishioners at St James' Kinross and St Matthew's Auchtermuchty, heard from the inspirational Catholic speaker, John Pridmore, as he led them in a 3 Day Mission.

Once a serious 'Face' in London's East End; his jackets were tailored to hold his machete and knuckledusters; his drug deals netted him thousands; he had a penthouse, sports cars and women and then, at the point when he nearly killed a man outside a nightclub, something extraordinary happened and his life was turned around.

John Pridmore has spoken to millions of people around the world about his past and present life and has inspired thousands through his powerful talks, conferences and parish missions.

The talks were entitled, 'God's Love - The amazing story of John Pridmore'; 'God's Mercy - A chance to meet Jesus personally'; and "God's Healing - Healing Service".

John also spoke at the morning Masses, introducing himself to the parishioners of the two parishes.



## A journey through Holy Week into Easter at Cupar

Around 150 members took part in Good Friday Ecumenical Walk with the Cross at Cupar, Fife. The group set out from St James the Great's Episcopal Church, and threaded its way through the burgh's busy narrow streets stopping at each of Cupar's five churches to pray a Station of the Cross.

At St Columba's, on Easter Sunday, parishioners arrived to find a beautiful Easter Garden in front of the altar (*below*) - with a scene depicting the rolled back stone, an empty tomb and neatly folded white gar-

(Right) Mgr Pat McNally is accompanied by Rev Roy Anetts (St James' Episcopal Church) on Cupar's Walk of Witness



St Columba's, Cupar, Easter Garden

## Polish retreat at Perth



Fr Damien, a missionary of the Order of the Most Precious Blood from Czestochowa, led a Mission in Polish at St John's, Perth entitled, 'Come Back Home' - inviting all to be open to God's love. Fr Damien also admitted three of the Perth parishioners as members of the Community of the Blood of Christ - Irena Maryniak, Helena Kmiecniak and Miroslav Kruszynski.

Deacon Krys Jablonski said "The rule of life of the Community of the Blood of Christ is summarized in the words of the Gospel: 'greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). As Jesus, the Son of God, showed his love by shedding his Blood, so we, guided by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves to love others and to make a sacrifice of our lives to God and for our brothers and sisters (Lumen Gentium 42). Now that our new Community is established in our parish, we will pray for the necessary graces to be given to our priests and all our parishioners so that the Blood of Jesus, which in the modern world should be heard more loudly than the blood of Abel (Hebrews 12:24), becomes for us a solace and remedy for our daily worries."

## Mass at St Clement's marks Fr Rogi's farewell to Scotland



Photo - Eddie Mahoney

A Mass of Thanksgiving and celebration for the services of Fr Dr Rogi Thomas CTS was held in St Clement's church, Charleston, Dundee on Friday night, followed by a

buffet reception. Bishop Stephen was joined by many priests of the diocese reflecting the warmth of their love and gratitude for Fr Thomas' ministry in the diocese.

Fr Rogi Thomas, of the Congregation of St Therese, came to Dundee in 2008 from India. He served in St Clement's, Wellburn Home, Ss Peter and Paul's and has offered Masses in most of the parishes in the diocese, over the last 10 years whilst also studying for his MLitt and PhD. Bishop Stephen thanks Fr Rogi for all his work and said, "We wish you every blessing, our prayers and love as you continue serving the Church in Rome and India."

Also present at the Mass was Professor Davey and representatives of Dundee University where Fr Rogi carried out his post-graduate studies.

Photo - (L-R) Bernadette Dailly, Mgr Ken McCaffrey, Bishop Steven, Fr Thomas and Moira Leck



# Fr James Roderick McCruden, RIP

Father Jim McCruden served as priest of Ss Fillan & Alphonsus, Parish, Doune, for 26 years. The parish is extensive, covering 1,000 sq. miles and he celebrated Mass every Sunday, first at Doune, then St Joseph's in Callander, and finishing up at Killin.

Born in 1945 and brought up in St Andrews, he was proud to be descended, on his mother's side, from the fishing community in the town. The middle child of three, he spent an idyllic childhood with his head always in a book and singing in the Episcopal Church choir. He was so fond of history and reading that his mother had to chase him out of the house to get some fresh air.

Young Jimmy's love of history and old architecture was fostered by an aunt and uncle who were in service. He visited them every Saturday in his teenage years and was fascinated by the history of the family who employed them and the upstairs/downstairs life. He had a strong sense of family and maintained close links with his brother and sister, nephews and nieces and their families.

After attending Madras College as a pupil, Jimmy (as he was known to his family) went on to read Medieval and Modern History at St Andrew's University. After University, Jimmy trained as a teacher at Moray House in Edinburgh and returned to Madras College as a History teacher. It

was there that he honed the skills of oratory and teaching which served him so well as Parish Priest.

In 1982 he decided to convert to Catholicism, two years later, answering a call to the priesthood, he went to The Beda College in Rome to study. After completing his studies he served at The Friary in Dundee and at St John's in Perth before being given the parish of St Fillan's.

His sermons were interesting, thought provoking and often peppered with historical references. He didn't shy away from controversy and preached honestly, with great integrity and compassion for all. This extended to his duties as pastor in the parish, where he visited the elderly, sick and housebound, regardless of their denomination. People in need were his concern and this attitude endeared him to both his parishioners and the wider community.

Away from the rigours of parish life, Father Jim indulged his love of walking, bird-watching and medieval architecture. His favourite haunts were Montrose Basin, Glen Esk, Berwick and the Dales. His love of medieval architecture led to him choosing Careston near Brechin as his final resting place. Father Jim was a quiet and humble man with a wicked sense of humour whose guidance and care is sorely missed by all, especially his congregation.



## Carmelites welcome new members as saint relics come to Dunkeld



The Dundee Secular Carmelite Group, 'San Juan de la Cruz', held its three-year elections last month and a new Council has been formed. (Pictured with their Spiritual

Director Fr Tom Stone). Mr David Dow was elected President, Anna Pilley as Treasurer, Helen Wylie as Secretary and Silvia Delnevo as Representative Council Member.

The new Council decided immediately to arrange an Open Evening for everyone interested in learning more about Carmelite Spirituality and the Dundee Secular Carmelite group in particular.

The group meet regularly on the first Saturday of each month in St Joseph's Convent, Lawside, from 10am to 1.30pm. For further information please contact Mrs Helen Wylie (Sec.) on 07751542496 or by email at [h21wyl@outlook.com](mailto:h21wyl@outlook.com).

The relics of the Carmelite Saint, Therese of Lisieux, are to be on display from 4th to 7th September 2019 in Dunkeld Diocese and the Dundee group will hold an Open Evening shortly after, entitled 'An Introduction to Carmelite Spirituality' on Tuesday, 17th September 2019 at 7pm, in Lawside. All interested parties are invited to come along on the night.



*Pray for those who serve, and for those in need, and you will be amazed*

# Quietly shining diamonds

*A personal tribute to the quiet work done by Dundee members of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, supported by local parishes, in Dundee's Hilltown*

"I have always seen the work, indeed had a vision embedded in my heart, of the Catholic Church as a treasure trove of gigantic magnitude. Wall to wall goodness (Godness!). Realistically, there are some gaps too. Sadly, these gaps, although small in comparison to similar situations outwith the Church, are often the parts that attract the most attention. However, quietly shining in this treasure trove are some small, but powerful, diamonds which are held very firmly in place by their clasps - the hands of loving people. One such gem is to be found in the little shop at the 'bottom o' the Hilltoon"

*- writes a Dundee parishioner*

'New 4 U' was founded by Pat McGoldrick, Annie Crowe and the late Bunty Ward in 2003 with the help of other members of St Vincent de Paul Society. In the last five years Jean Barr, Eleanor Mudie, Isabelle Bunce and Edith Alexander (*who is missing from the photo above*) have been very faithful and loving hands.

This oasis of love has been a place of welcome and sharing, providing resources for all, but in a way that be afforded and accessed by all. The shop is beautifully kept, just like a department store, but served by the ladies with a measure of love in the basket. They are very busy! People need them from all walks of life as they do not get the



care, love and interest in too many other shops. I am not attempting to comment on the amazing work carried out by other members of the Society, that would require a book and their works of charity too numerous to mention.

As I reflected over the Easter period, I reminded myself to be grateful and thank God for the gentle faithful work of a small band of ladies (and probably some men fetching and carrying in the background). It is not always the big splashes which make a lasting impact but the many little diamonds which are embedded in Our Catholic Way of Life all over the world, with people like these ladies of St Vincent de Paul giving a continuous sparkle, in a world which is desperately in need of it. It would be good to pray for these ladies here in our diocese

and for all the other groups who work tirelessly for others. A decade of the Rosary or any other prayer offered daily and we could become part of the cement and be part of this loving work.

Prayer suggestion - put a container in a place you will see often and then fill it daily with your prayers. Very soon you will find that you have a bag of 'cement' - the love that binds us to God and to one another!!

Pray for those who serve, and for those who are in need, and offer it to the Lord. Give love and you will be amazed at what happens!!

St Vincent de Paul said, "We should spend as much time thanking God for his benefits as we do asking for them."





## The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) thanks supporters in Dunkeld Diocese for their incredible support for its WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE APPEAL

Members of the diocese have been very generous in previous years, and this year looks set to be no exception. Parishes, schools and individuals have worked hard holding fund raising events, organising collections and giving up a favourite treat to fill up their WEE BOX.

This year's Lent appeal told the story of the charity's work helping vulnerable young people in Uganda to earn a living so they can support themselves and their families. SCIAF is now encouraging people to return

their WEE BOXES so the donations can be used to help more families in poor countries to live in peace, free themselves from hunger, poverty and injustice, learn new skills, and to fully recover when disaster strikes.

SCIAF Director, Alistair Dutton, said: "Thank you to everyone who supported the WEE BOX appeal this year. The money raised makes a huge difference to our brothers and sisters in need around the world. I'm grateful for all the effort people

have put into fund raising this year, but the job isn't finished yet."

People can send their donations to SCIAF by returning their WEE BOX to their local parish or counting the money from their WEE BOX and donating that amount to SCIAF. Donations can be made at SCIAF's website or sent by cheque to Freepost SCIAF. But donating is not the only way to support SCIAF. There are plenty for fund raising and volunteering opportunities on the charity's website.



## Scottish Churches joint statement on church service to mark weapons of mass destruction anniversary

Bishop William Nolan, (President of Justice and Peace (Scotland), on behalf of the Scottish Bishops' Conference, issued a joint statement with Rt. Rev. Susan Brown, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, against the decision to mark the 50th anniversary of the Continuous-at-Sea-Deterrence of the UK's weapons of mass destruction.

"As men and women of faith, and as leaders of the Christian communities in Scotland we offer our thanks and sincere gratitude to all the men and women of our nations' armed forces for their service, and for the families and friends who support them in that task. However, as Christians, acknowledging our responsibility to be

careful stewards of our world, and the moral questionability of nuclear weapons, we consider it inappropriate to have a church service celebrating 50 years of Continuous-at-Sea-Deterrence of these weapons of mass destruction.

"Since 1982 the Bishops' Conference of Scotland has condemned the use, or threat of use of, nuclear weapons as immoral. In 2017 His Holiness Pope Francis noted that the very possession of nuclear weapons is to be firmly condemned. For over thirty years the position of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been that the possession, threat of use, or use of nuclear weapons is inherently evil. The 50th anniversary of the UK's nuclear weapons sub-

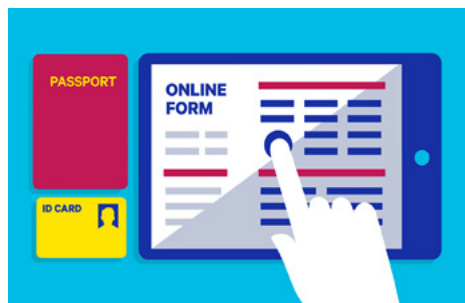
marines sailing out of Faslane, therefore, is not a moment for celebration but rather a point for lamentation and profound regret.

"In following Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we continue to oppose the UK government's possession of nuclear weapons, which are a daily reality for those of us in Scotland who live alongside them.

"We urge the government to take seriously its treaty obligations to work for disarmament, and recall the words of Isaiah:

*"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."*





## Scottish Bishops' statement on the EU Settlement Scheme

"The Catholic Church in Scotland is committed to supporting all EU citizens who have made their home here. The Church has experienced first-hand the extensive contribution that people from across Europe have made to our society. They are an integral and valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

As the majority of EU citizens are Catholic, raising awareness of the EU Settlement Scheme is a special pastoral responsibility to the Catholic Church.

The UK Government has launched the EU Settlement Scheme offering EU citizens living here a legal route to remain. EU (European Union), EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss citizens living in the UK must apply if they are to protect their existing rights and their place in our society.

(Irish citizens or those with valid indefinite leave do not need to apply.)

It is free to apply, and the scheme will remain open until 30 June 2021. We ask all Catholic parishes, schools and organisations to bring the settlement scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and also to be aware of vulnerable people who may not realise they need to apply.

In particular we encourage Parish Priests, Headteachers and Catholic Organisations to signpost people towards the official website page on the settlement scheme here: <https://eucitizensrights.campaign.gov.uk/>, and the official helpline for the settlement scheme 0300 123 7379.

Finally, we urge the whole Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here".



Members of the St John Paul II Prayer Movement, gathered at St Mary's, Kinnoull, Perth for their annual Divine Mercy Weekend Retreat. Bishop Stephen and Fr Ronnie McAinsh were among those who addressed the group during their programme of Sacramental Celebration, Scripture, Prayer, Adoration and Reflection. There was also a showing of Sr Faustina's film, 'Divine Mercy in Our Souls'.

The St John Paul II Prayer Movement meets in parishes across Dunkeld and is inspired by the words and works of St Pope John Paul II. Coordinator, Chris McCrosson, a trainee Permanent Deacon said:

"Our aim is to bring people closer to God, forming a deeper relationship with Christ through deeper knowledge of the Catholic faith and understanding of Scripture. We aim to grow outward and reach as many people as possible. It is our aim to respond to the call for a New Evangelisation by helping to foster the Lay Faithful in discovering new depths of personal relationship with Christ through prayer, worship and the nurturing of a greater openness and response to the Holy Spirit."

Chris' daughter, Charis added, "Throughout the weekend there were opportunities for participants to partake in a range of prayer activities to explore and expand their relationship with God. These included praising Him through wonderful music, kindly provided by talented musicians, Gary and Ronnie; praying for Our Lady's intercessions through the rosary; morning and evening prayer; time for adoration, confession and prayer ministry; praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet; and time for fellowship and sharing experiences with one another. Overall the weekend was very successful and many left feeling revitalised and renewed."

Currently there are three such 'Schools of Prayer' across the Dunkeld Diocese in Scotland. These are groups of people who aim to expand their knowledge of the Faith and understanding of Scripture, as well as growing deeper in personal relationship with Christ. Weekly meetings take place at the St Joseph's Convent, 24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee on Thursdays – between 7-9pm and also in St Columba's, Kirkton, at 7-8pm on Mondays; and at St Fillan's, Crieff, at 7-8pm on Wednesdays.



## St Stephen's, Blairgowrie marks its 'Values Day'



St Stephen's celebrated their new school values on 26th April – 'Love, Integrity, Faith and Tolerance'. This was the school's 'Values Day' a fitting celebration after a year of consultation with its learning community.

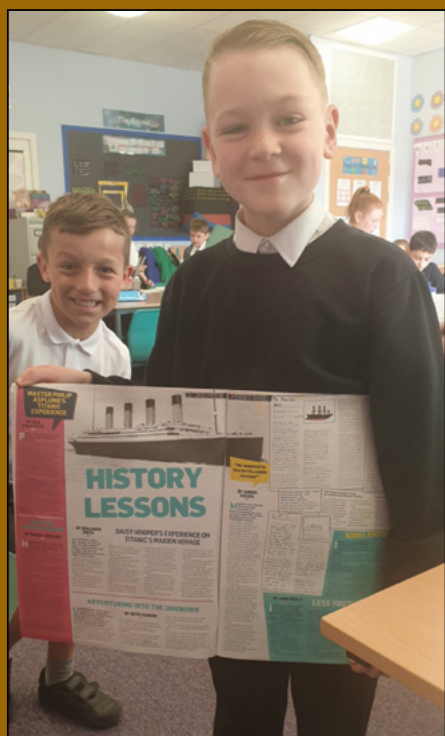
Each of the four classes took a value and presented this to their families as part of an Open Afternoon which was well attended. The school also had a Mass celebrating these values which was led by their parish priest, Fr Gregory Umuna, who commended the children for their work and also the

school working group who have chosen four excellent values which represent the school and its ambitions.

St Stephen's Primary headteacher, Mr Simon McKell said, "We are grateful to the Parent Council which has financed new posters for us, which are on display in the school and campus. We were also delighted to be awarded our second Eco Schools Scotland green flag now, this week, and our application to become a 'Gold Rights Respecting School' has been sent in the post."



### At St Clement's, Dundee, finding history can be fun



*Browsing through the latest edition of the Evening Telegraph's Chalk Talk - Jaksyn finds an article about last term's history topic - the Titanic.*

## St Pius X, Dundee dramatise the Stations of the Cross



P7 Pupils at St Pius X Primary School, Dundee, were invited to take part in a dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross. The school's Principal Teacher, Mr Daniel Albayati, said, "Along with the traditional readings and prayers, we found that the children gained a greater understanding through their costumes and in the acting out of the scenes."

The origins of the Stations of the Cross date back almost 1000 years to the time of the first Crusades to the Holy Land and a wish by pilgrims to follow the exact Via Dolorosa or Way of the Cross.

The Stations also form a part of the famous annual Passion Play which is enacted in the village of Oberammergau, Germany.



## Kilgraston celebrates Goal of Faith



Maja Kruczynska is the Scholastic Book Competition winner at Our Lady's, Perth



Girls in the Upper 3rd have been learning about the Mass and they worked in their Religious Studies lessons (Photo) Fr Martin Pletts, with headteacher Mrs MacGinty and the girls in the Upper 3rd.

## St Fergus Primary Dundee - Mass for Mary



Primary 2 class who led the pupils and teachers of St Fergus Primary, Dundee, so beautifully in Mass on the theme of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Pictured here with the children are Canon Neil and their class teachers Mr Hay and Mr Samson.

## Confirmations at St Clement's, Dundee



Photo by Eddie Mahoney

Children from St Clement's Primary, Dundee pictured with Bishop Stephen Robson, along with St Clement's parish priest Fr Johny Raphael parish priest and Fr Rogi Thomas, after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Sacred Heart schools in Scotland, Ireland and Malta have been celebrating the goal of Faith. Chaplain, Mr Paul Allaker reports:-

"Girls in the Upper 6th at Kilgraston planned and led a variety of activities for the whole school to enjoy, with the aim of helping everybody to engage with the theme of Faith in God, faith in each other and faith in ourselves.

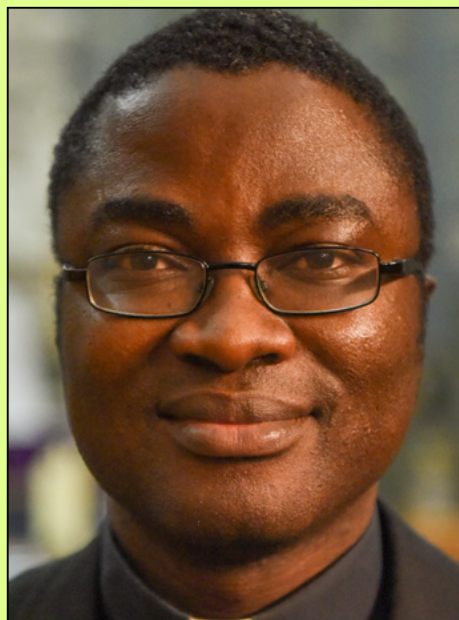
The activities included melting sweets to create stained glass windows; winter walks around the school grounds, with stops for silence and meditation; cooking (and tast-ing!) a variety of foods from different religions; and making origami paper cranes, inspired by the Hiroshima Peace Park."

One of the highlights was iPray24, where the girls transformed the RE classroom into an incredibly cosy set of prayer stations, complete with sheets, cushions, duvets and fairy lights. It was open for 24 hours for girls to come and visit and spend some time in prayer and contemplation."

"During Goals Week, Kilgraston also celebrated Red Hand Day with an assembly by the girls and the opportunity to make red hand prints to send to the United Nations. They even managed to find time to learn a song about the Sacred Heart Goals that the Upper 6th had composed! All in all, a hugely enjoyable and faith-filled week!"



# dunkeld youth service




Fr Samuel Alabi - Youth Director

youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk



Photo by Eadie Mahoney

Members of the Dunkeld Youth Service at a Retreat led by Fr Samuel during Lent



## NATIONAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

31 AUGUST 19  
ST ANDREWS  
1200 - 1700

**CONTACT YOUR DIOCESAN REP FOR MORE INFO:**

<b>ARGYLL &amp; THE ISLES</b> CASTLEBAY@ RCDAL.ORG.UK	<b>ABERDEEN</b> SCOTLAND@ OP-TN.ORG	<b>GLASGOW</b> YOUTH@ RCAG.ORG.UK	<b>PAISLEY</b> VOCATIONS@ RCDOP.ORG.UK
<b>DUNKELD</b> YOUTH-OFFICE@ DUNKELDDIOCESE.ORG.UK	<b>GALLOWAY</b> INFO@STEPHEN MCGRATTAN.ORG.UK	<b>MOTHERWELL</b> MISHAL@ RCDOM.ORG.UK	<b>ST ANDREWS &amp; EDINBURGH</b> VECATECHNETICS@ STANED.ORG.UK

## LifeTeen Europe 2019

**What?**  
A week-long retreat for teens. Run by the Life Teen staff, it promises a week of fun, faith and fellowship with teens from across Europe!

**Where?**  
Emmaus Retreat Centre  
Helvoirt  
The Netherlands

**When?**  
4th - 11th  
August 2019

**Who?**  
Teens 14-19 years

**How Much?**  
Estimated between  
£300-£350

**Get In Touch!**  
For any queries or to  
register, please email:  
youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

**EXPEDITION Q**  
Relentless Father

For more information about the camp, visit their website  
www.lifeteen.nl

For testimonies from previous years see [www.dunkeldyouth.co.uk](http://www.dunkeldyouth.co.uk)  
Registration forms can also be found on our website

**Please Note:** The camp has very limited spaces so we will operate on a first-come-first-served basis, and a waiting list thereafter

## Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage

**Sunday 9th June 2019 10am-8.30pm 12-30 years**

Join Bishop Stephen and the Dunkeld Youth Service for a fun-filled, educational journey around some of Dunkeld Diocese's spiritual landmarks and beautiful scenery.



**Cost for the day: £10 (lunch not included)**

**To register or for more information please contact the youth service via email or social media.**

✉ youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk    @RCDunkeld\_Youth  
 @dunkeldyouthservice    www.facebook.com/DunkeldYouthService

(Please note under 18s will require a parental consent form to be completed and returned by Friday 7th June 2019. These can be obtained online or via the youth office.)



# NEWS EXTRA!



P2 pupils at St Serf's Primary, High Valleyfield on a visit to their local library



St Ninian's Primary, Dundee, set up a newspaper group and their first edition was a sell out netting a profit of over £60! Part of it was reproduced in the Evening Telegraph's Chalk Talk supplement - featuring news from local schools. Well worth celebrating!



St Joseph's Primary, Dundee, are the winners of the 2019 Meikleham Cup - well done!

## Justice and Peace Scotland to hold a Day of Reflection Laudato Si' encyclical

On Saturday 21st September 2019 - 10am to 4.30pm; Blythwood Hall, Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath St, Glasgow

Speakers include:

- \* **Lorna Gold**
  - Divestment from fossil fuels
- \* **Stephen Curran**
  - Eco-Congregation Scotland
- \* **Dr Pete Walton**
  - Climate Science
- \* **Will Dickson**
  - Ethical Finance

Four expert speakers will explore important topics on the environment ranging from divestment from fossil fuels to ethical finance. There will be time for discussion and questions to each speaker and there will also be a plenary session involving all 4 speakers, giving an opportunity to ask questions directly to the panel of experts.

The day will start at 10am with registration and coffee. At 10.30am Bishop Nolan, President of Justice and Peace Scotland, will welcome everyone and open the conference. Lunch, including vegetarian and vegan options, will also be provided.

## At St Joseph's, Lawside...



..in the early stages of her Noviciate!







Canon Steven Mulholland (back right) joins parishioners at St John the Baptist's, Perth to thank Mary O'Duffin for the series of Lenten Retreat talks she led in the parish during Lent, entitled 'Walking Together with Christ'.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2019

**Apostolate of Communications**  
2nd June

**Peter's Pence**  
30th June - Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul

**Apostleship of the Sea**  
7th July - 14th Sunday of the Year

**Day for Life**  
16th July - 16th Sunday of the Year

**Mensal Fund**  
4th August - 18th Sunday of the Year

**Ecclesiastical Students Fund**  
15th September - 24th Sunday of the Year

**Mission Sunday**  
20th October - 29th Sunday of the Year

**Scottish Catholic Education Service**  
17th November - 33rd Sunday of the Year

## Ss Peter & Paul's Primary Helps Sea Mission



**A**postleship of the Sea was delighted to return to Ss Peter and Paul's Primary School, Dundee, where they were humble recipients of a £111 cheque. Bishop Stephen is the charity's Bishop Promoter for Scotland, and he was delighted to learn the news that the children had raised such a generous amount through the sale of raffle tickets in recent weeks throughout the various years.

Evie Dempster, of Primary 5, was the winner of a signed Dundee United football which the pupils had eagerly competed to win.

Denise Derby, Acting Head Teacher, said: "We are very happy to support this excellent charity. As they approach their centenary in 2020, we should keep the importance of seafarers in our prayers remember them our own everyday lives. It's always nice to finish up on such a high ahead of our two-week Easter break."

Euan McArthur, Scottish Development Officer, expressed his sincere thanks for the school's on-going support for AoS. He said: "We are once more very appreciative of everything Ss Peter and Paul does to help our charity and it's great to know we have a future generation of supporters."

## DUNKELD NEWS

### Coming editions

25th August 2019  
1st December 2019  
1st March 2020

**Email your stories  
and photos**

Photos need to be high resolution .jpg  
dunkeldnews@dunkelddiocese.co.uk  
on Twitter @DunkeldNews  
Editor - Andrew Mitchell

**CALL or TEXT 07806 789791**



All are welcome - especially those who are joining the Church at Easter - indeed everyone who is searching to gain a deeper insight into scriptures and the liturgy. The talks will often draw on Scripture readings for Sunday Masses and so will be helpful to readers and cantors wishing to enrich their ministry

**Led by Canon Kevin Golden**  
the popular adult formation series

**Wednesdays at 7.30pm,**  
at the Pastoral Centre,  
24-28 Lawside Road,  
Dundee, DD3 6XY

Contact Canon Kevin (01382 225228)