

DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

December 2014



Rt. Rev. Stephen Robson

**My Dear priests, deacons,
religious and people
of the Diocese...**

**...this year I write to you after
having almost completed my
first year as your Bishop
in the Diocese of Dunkeld.**

**I wish you, first of all, a very
happy and Holy Christmas!**

What do I mean by a Holy Christmas?

The Season of Advent has been for us each year a Season of waiting, attention; A Season of anticipation, a Season of longing and a Season of desire. Waiting, anticipation, longing and desire for the Lord to come to us! During Advent we have remembered the promise that the Lord will come at the end of time, his Second Coming, to consummate his Kingdom. We are about to celebrate the First Coming of the Christ-Child at Christmas. But we also remember the Third Coming to us of the Lord in His Word, in the Sacraments – especially the Mass – and in our prayer and our loving encounters with one another. Our Lord, remember, promised to be with us until the end of time.

But in this Festive Season we also wish each other a Holy Christmas because Christ wants to be born, not only in the Manger, but also in our hearts, this Christmas. And our hearts need to be ready for



The heavenly multitude of P2 at St John's Academy, Perth, with Gabriella Gorbics as Mary and Reece Dalton as Joseph in their Nativity play - Angel Express

him to be born there. Our hearts need to become manger-like to receive the infant Christ. Hence Advent is the season of preparation and waiting! So the best service we could render the Lord at this time would be to prepare well in these last days of Advent. Then, when the Solemnity of Christmas dawns our hearts won't have been crowded out with our usual anxieties about gifts, and food preparations, and hospitality and parties. Rather the manger, which is our heart fittingly prepared, will be ready. We will have the time and space to welcome the Christ Child to be born again in our hearts.

May you all have a truly wonderful time this Christmas! Literally, may you have a time of wonder and awe; a time of longing and openness to welcome Jesus into your hearts.

And when the New Year comes? Likewise, prepare to confront the New Year with courage and boldness and confidence! Let us boldly and yet gently wear our Catholic Faith proudly and show by our actions that we really are apostles of the Infant Lord anointed to bring his presence, justice and peace to our world. A world that needs him so much.

A very happy and holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

With love to you all, especially the sick, housebound, hospitalised and the children

+ Stephen Robson

+ Bishop of Dunkeld





St Columba's, Cupar on Pilgrimage to Italy

At 4am on a chilly autumn morning 46 pilgrims from St Columba's, Cupar, led by their parish priest Canon Pat McNally, set out to fly to Italy following in the footsteps of some of the Churches greatest saints. During our week together we visited some beautiful buildings, shared some lovely liturgies and enjoyed fun and fellowship too. We considered the contribution made by some of the wonderful saints, men and women, of great faith and fortitude.

Our first Mass was in a small side chapel of the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence. Said to be the oldest church in Florence it was consecrated in 393AD and was a beautifully peaceful setting for our first Eucharistic celebration. San Lorenzo had an eventful life before his martyrdom; he was believed to have known the entire text of the bible and met a horrendous death on a grid iron. My favourite tale of this great saint however was that after the death of Pope Sixtus, he was ordered to hand over to Rome all the treasures of the church. He asked for three days to complete the task. He worked swiftly to distribute them as much as he could to the poor to prevent it being seized and turned up with the churches real treasure 'the poor, the crippled, the blind and the suffering'. "The church is indeed rich" he said, for this act of defiance he was martyred.

In Assisi we learned about Saint Francis and the origins of the Tau cross.

At the Fourth Lateran Council, on November 11, 1215AD, Pope Innocent made reference to the TAU and quoted a verse from Ezekiel (9:4) which calls for those who repent of their sins to have the Tau Cross marked on their foreheads. It is widely accepted that St Francis was present when

Pope Innocent said that those marked with the Tau Cross will obtain mercy if they have conformed their life to that of the Crucified Saviour. From then on, the TAU became Francis' own coat of arms. Francis used the TAU everywhere he went, painting it on the walls and doors of the places where he stayed, and used it as his only signature in his writings.

Assisi is synonymous with Francis, but Saint Clare, follower of Francis and founder of the Poor Clare's also lived there. We were privileged to visit the simple convent close to the church of San Damiano where she lived an austere life of prayer. Two highlights of our stay in Assisi were sung Vespers at St Clare's Basilica, and a very uplifting and moving liturgy at the tomb of St. Francis.

In the remarkable city of Siena we learnt about Saint Catherine. It is said of Catherine that she had her first vision of Christ when she was only five or six years old. With her brother she was on the way home from a visit to a married sister, and is said to have experienced a vision of Christ seated in glory with his disciples around him. At age seven Catherine vowed to give her whole life to God and she remained ever faithful to that promise.

Our last Mass together was in the Basilica of St Dominic, which houses relics of St Catherine, where Canon Pat spoke about the chance each one of us has to follow in the tradition of the saints: lay people, women, children, all of us are called ... indeed the Church's greatest treasure remains its faithful!

After an overnight in the shadow of St Paul's outside the walls in Rome, we returned home to prepare for our next parish adventure.

Eternal City welcomes Dunblane's Pilgrims

On Sunday 12th October thirty-five members of the Holy Family church, Dunblane and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Auchterarder met at the Holy Family. Although it was exceptionally early, 4.15am, most of the tiredness was masked by that fact that every single one of us was overwhelmed with excitement.

We arrived in Rome and went to our residence where we had just enough time to unpack and attend Mass before we were then whisked off to a tour of the Vatican City then to a three course Roman meal. After a long day of travelling, tiredness had finally caught up to us all and we retreated to our beds to recharge ourselves for, the long anticipated, first full day in the city.

First we visited the Catacombs of San Callisto, it was amazing to hear about the history and to see the different markings that had different meanings. An extra bonus felt by everyone was that it was a lot cooler so it gave us a break from the heat that we weren't quite used to yet.

We were also fortunate enough to be able to celebrate Mass in the Crypt Partenio in the catacombs, which was an experience we all valued largely.

From there we visited both the Basilica of St Paul's outside the Walls and the Basilica of St John Lateran. Seeing all the past popes on the walls of St Paul's outside of the Walls was so surreal, it's a reminder that Catholicism goes beyond our lives.

After lunch we visited St Mary Major Basilica, which according to legend Pope Liberius had a dream in which the Virgin Mary appeared to him and told him to build a church where he found snow. That year snow fell on the 5th of August in the height of Rome's summer. We then had a bus tour of the city in order for us to gather our bearings and see this beautiful place we were in. During this tour we were able to see historic landmarks of Circus Maximus, Roman Forum, Piazza Venezia and the Castel Sant Angelo.

We then had our evening meal together which concluded our first jam-packed day of sightseeing. The following morning we headed to St Peter's to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St Peter. Once the Mass had finished



The pilgrims' farewell on their final tour of Rome

ished we were able to wander around the St Peter's Basilica and see the great artwork and the graves of all the saints including St John Paul II. The rest of the afternoon was free to stay in the Vatican or to go shopping in the Borgia Pio. We all had dinner together again that evening and then met in the Vatican for night prayers. We all then discovered that by night the Vatican is even more peaceful and beautiful in contrast with the loud, busy city.

On Wednesday we attended the Papal Audience and for majority of us saw Pope Francis for the first time! We took some amazing photos and were about only a few feet away from him. After this extremely eventful morning we went for a walking tour, in true pilgrimage fashion, to the Piazza Novona, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and the Spanish steps. As our feet were aching it was off to Mass in the residence chapel then out for dinner followed by an early night to cure our exhaustion.

The next day we had a guided tour of the Vatican museum and the Sistine chapel. We saw the works of many different artists and heard of the history and feuds behind each painting. The Sistine Chapel was beautiful and very detailed it seemed a shame to me that they didn't allow you to spend much time in it. Then Mass in the beautiful Vatican Parish Church of Sant Anna, the paintings here were also gorgeous.

L-R - Dunblane's Youth Pilgrims at the Colosseum - Cara Casey, Sara Lamb, Nicola McDonald, Rebecca Raw, Imogen O'Leenskie, Natalie Young, Lewis Edwards, Nathan Lamb, Oliver Edwards, Iona O'Leenskie



On Friday we spent the day in the heart of Ancient Rome. We visited the 12th century Basilica of San Clemente, which is administered by the Dominican order. We then continued to the Colosseum, which was the first amphitheatre to be built in Rome. Some of us also got the chance to walk through the Roman Forum. We returned to the residence for Mass and then went out for dinner.

On Saturday we had the opportunity to visit the Scots College which is one of the three seminaries for young men preparing to serve as priests in Scotland. Here we celebrated Mass in their modern chapel and then we were given a tour of the college. We met some of the young men there and ask them about their time at Scot's College which was great as it's not often we're presented with that chance. We then had our final meal together where we could discuss our individual experiences of the trip. To round up the already perfect trip we took a tour of Rome by night and we were able to see this fascinating city light up.

Overall it was a spiritually enhancing trip and we had a great time. It is a trip that we would both hope to be privileged to experience again and return this ever-changing city all over again.

Report by Grace McDermott

On the Feast of St Cecilia - Patroness of Musicians



Marking National Music Day 2014 at the St Ninian Institute, Dundee: distinguished speakers addressed a One Day Conference entitled 'Music in Catholic Liturgy' including - (L-R) Paul Livingston, Ben Saunders (Director of Music at Leeds Cathedral Music Department), Bishop Stephen Robson, Bishop Hugh Gilbert (Musica Sacra Scotland), composer James MacMillan and organist Rodger Williams.

A change in the age for Confirmation

After consultation with the priests and head teachers of the diocese I have decided to change the age for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation from P4 to P7 (around the age of 12). There are all sorts of reasons why this is necessary, not least because it seems unreasonable to burden parents, teachers and priests – not least the children themselves – with the preparation and celebration of three important Sacraments in what is effectively just over a year. There are also many other reasons why this change seems necessary but these would be subservient to this main reason. The sacraments are too important to be hurried.



Confirmation in particular is linked to a growing maturity in the practice of the Faith. Also Faith Formation will be linked in the future to the Pope Francis Faith Award programme which will be introduced in P6 in our Catholic Primary schools which can also be run in our parishes. The Bishop will continue to administer the sacrament in normal circumstances in the future to all the children if at all possible. This change would also give the Bishop a regular pastoral locus for the visitation of the parishes. I ask your continued support and prayers as we plan for this major change in our diocese. A similar change has already happened in the majority of other dioceses in Scotland.

Though this policy decision would be the norm in the majority of our parishes where there is a Catholic Primary School, I have also decided that the parish priests of rural parishes, which do not have the assistance

of a Catholic Primary School, are to be at liberty to prepare their young people for the sacrament of Confirmation at a later age using the recently developed Youcat Vatican approved Confirmation Preparation Programme (or something similar). In addition, rural parishes, where the burden of catechesis lies with the parish priest and his religious catechetical team, often have logistical reasons why it is better that Confirmation be administered at a later age.

This decision has been shared already with the Head teachers' Conference of Dunkeld, who I think are generally happy with the change. I have also decided that this change would be announced via the Dunkeld news. Hence the reason for this article.

Of course there will be a lag period of up to three years before the new system can be introduced. This will give us sufficient time to plan and execute our pastoral preparation for the change. The last celebration of Confirmation in P4 will be this academic year. The next celebration of Confirmation for P7 pupils will be in 2018. There will be confirmations for adults and others who come into the diocese from outside Dunkeld in the interim period.



The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are delighted that our five new Religious Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have arrived in the diocese and are now fully settled into St Joseph's Convent at Lawside. They are happy and full of fun and zeal! Shortly they will begin working in the Diocesan Offices, St Ninian Pastoral Centre, the hospital, some parishes and perhaps even one of the prisons. Please pop in to see them, if you are in Dundee.

The Superior is Mother Mary Dominic and they would be delighted to see you. Mass is celebrated regularly at 8.30am for early birds in the Convent chapel at St Joseph's Convent. The Sisters would be delighted if you would like to join them for Mass. On Sundays the Sisters generally share in the Mass in the surrounding parishes.

Little Sisters of the Poor - Wellburn

You will no doubt know by now that the Little Sisters of the Poor are to leave Wellburn and the diocese after 151 years. This is truly a tragedy for us and we shall miss them greatly. Wellburn has always been in Catholic hands; first, with the Marist Brothers when it was a boys' school in the 1840s; then as a Sisters of Mercy Convent and finally as St Joseph's Home.

As a diocese we are trying to find a solution to this grave loss and will endeavour to seek a way of keeping the care apostolate of the Catholic elderly going at Wellburn in one form or another. Consultation is on going on this issue. Please pray for a successful outcome, as the prospect of losing Wellburn for the history of the diocese would be catastrophic. I am also on the search for a new body of Religious Sisters to take over the Little Sisters' ministry at Wellburn.

2015 - The Year of Consecrated Life

The year for Consecrated Religious Life called for by Pope Francis has already begun on the first Sunday of Advent. In order to mark the beginning of this special year there will be a celebration of consecrated life in In Wellburn Convent in the early New Year (dates and times to follow). There will also be a national celebration of Consecrated Life in Saint Margaret's chapel at Gillis Centre in Edinburgh on 2 February at 12noon, the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. During this special year please make the Religious Priests and Sisters of our diocese, especially those newly among us, feel particularly welcome and valued during this coming year.

*Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
with a warm welcome for guests
at the St Ninian Institute, Dundee*



New Bishop for Galloway

I would like to acknowledge the appointment, by the holy Father Pope Francis, of the new Bishop of Galloway, Bishop elect William Nolan, present parish priest of our Lady of Lourdes in East Kilbride. I have known Fr Nolan for many years and know him to be a great pastor. He was also the Vice-Rector in the Pontifical Scots College in Rome for a number of years. On behalf of the diocese of Dunkeld I would like to congratulate him and ask God's blessing on his episcopal ministry in the diocese of Galloway. His episcopal consecration will be on February 14 in the Grand Hall at Kilmarnock at a time yet to be decided. Please pray for him.

50th Anniversary Celebrations of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

2015 will be an important year for SCIAF our own Scottish Catholic Development Charity. During this year our Scottish Catholic development fund will celebrate its golden anniversary. There will be various celebrations, especially a national Mass which will be celebrated at 12noon on Sunday, 8 February, in St Columbkille's Church, Rutherglen, the parish from which SCIAF came into being. There will also be a celebration for the Diocese of Dunkeld on Thursday, 2 July in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, at 7pm. There will be more about this and the JUST FAITH initiative – a joint initiative of SCIAF, Justice and Peace Scotland and Mission Matters - which was launched recently in the St Ninian Pastoral Centre, Lawside, after the beginning of the New Year.

Aid to the Church in Need

Please pray in solidarity with Aid to the Church in Need for the Christians of the Middle East, especially in Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The suffering and persecution of these brave people because of their faith is intense. For further information about ACN and its work please contact Lorraine McMahon on (01698) 337470 or email Lorraine.mcmahon@acnuk.org.

The Scottish Inter-Diocesan Tribunal

As a result of a decision made at the last bishops conference meeting in November the Bishops Conference of Scotland have decided that from now on there will be no charges to the Petitioner for any marriage nullity cases carried out at the Scottish Catholic inter-diocesan tribunal.

Early in the New Year I will be announcing some new arrangements to help the pastoral care of couples whose marriages are in difficulties. In addition, I would be prepared at any time to receive requests from anyone within the diocese who would like to have the validity of their marriage tested. I would be pleased to receive contact from anyone in such difficult circumstances. We have three Canon Lawyers in the diocese: Mgr Basil O'Sullivan, Fr Brian McLean and Myself who can give advice for those who might seek a nullity.

MISSIO FUNDS BOOST FROM CHILDREN IN MONIFIETH



St Bride's Church in Monifieth Primary 7 catechism class pictured with their boxes along Teachers Angela Galbraith and Ann Mahoney having collected £283:51p for Mission Matters Scotland, as throughout Lent they focussed on giving prayer for the Mission Societies, donations were also made to the collection boxes by the parishioners.

Report and picture from Eddie Mahoney

KNIGHTS SUPPORT FOR WORTHY CAUSES

Council 636 of The Knights of St Columba is centred in Clackmannanshire, our members are mainly drawn from the parishes of St Mungo's Alloa, St Bernadette's Tullibody and St John Vianney's Alva.

Throughout the year we run various social events, which not only raise funds for charitable causes, but also play an important part in the social life of our local parishes. This year, the money raised at these

events enabled us to distribute £ 3670.00 to a number of charities and causes, which included support for the young people of our parishes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, where they worked helping infirm pilgrims. Donations were also made to SCIAF, ACN, Mary's Meals, Rachel House Children's Hospice and a number of smaller local charities and foodbanks.

Report by Alex McCluskie



Brother John Glass accompanied by Brothers Jim McKay & Ian Ramage presenting a cheque to Marie Brownhill, Centre Manager of The Gate Charity at their Alloa Foodbank.

Winter Wonderland - Put Your Skates On



Ulla Gingule and Matthew Clark take to the ice in Edinburgh with members of the Perth Catholic Youth Project at the end of another busy session.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Advance notice about several developments and events happening in the diocese over the next few months, particularly associated with the St Ninian Pastoral Centre, Lawside Road, Dundee.

Marriage Preparation

Coming early in the New Year will be the Training and Formation of Married Couple Catechists to deliver a new Marriage Preparation Programme. This programme was devised and piloted by the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh and will help to supplement what is already happening here in the Diocese of Dunkeld. Support for Marriage and Family has to be one of our greatest priorities in this Year 2015 on the Synod on the Family in Rome in October. There will also be on-going consultation on the preparatory documents for the Synod early in the new year.

Catholic Grandparent Association

The exhibition and launch of a branch of the Catholic Grandparents Association in the diocese will take place on Saturday, 17th January 2015, from 10.30am-3pm, with Mass. This event will take place in the St Ninian Pastoral Centre at Lawside, Dundee.

SPRED Programme

A visit from the Edinburgh diocesan director of SPRED, the special religious education programme and methodology for communicating the faith to people with learning difficulties, both young and old. This will take the form of a presentation on Saturday, 21 February from 11am-3pm in the St Ninian Pastoral Centre, Lawside.

The Bishop helped launch this initiative in Edinburgh over 20 years ago and it has been a great grace for the diocese as well as for the catechists and those with special needs. There will be more about this later.

Day for Life

There will be a day for celebrating life - its beginnings and endings, on Saturday 28th February from 10am-3pm, with Mass, at the Diocesan St Ninian's Pastoral Centre at Lawside. This pro-life Day will be sponsored by the diocese and will be led by a number of people, especially Sister Roseanne Reddy of the Cardinal Winning Life Project in the Archdiocese of Glasgow with Rachel Kidd from National SPUC Office and our local diocesan pro-life group.

Keep in Touch

All official communications should be addressed to the Diocesan Chancellor

Office opening hours 8.30am-4.30pm

**Diocese of Dunkeld,
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Tel 01382 225453 Fax 01382 204585

Hospital Admissions

Most of the priests already do this, but would you please ask your family members who are admitted to hospital – and remind them often – to let their parish priest and the admissions team who admit them to hospital whether for elective or emergency/acute care, that they are Catholic Christians and would be happy to receive a visit from the Catholic chaplain.

Too often the Chaplains do not actually know that our Catholic people are in hospital as the Data Protection Act does not allow us as priests to access the religious affiliation or the names of patients. Many of our people are disappointed when they don't receive a visit from the priest-chaplain who may simply not know they have been in hospital. Shortly there will be leaflets available with a tear-off slip to complete and present to the admissions team when you are admitted to hospital.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE IN HOSPITAL? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS IN HOSPITAL?

Name _____ Hospital _____ Ward _____

Please complete/ tear off and return with your collection - or hand to your priest after Mass

Please make a note for your diary and look out for further details on our website and in your parish newsletters.

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Rev. James High
(Laity and Lay Organisations)
23 Market Street,
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Stirling 2015

Scottish Catholic Youth Festival

30th July to 2nd August 2015



We invite you to experience the fun, prayer and joy of a World Youth Day at Stirling University campus.

For more information please contact:

Frankie McGuire (Diocesan Youth Officer)

youth-office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

01382 225453



World Youth Day
Krakow - 2016



**WORLD YOUTH DAY
KRAKOW, POLAND
25TH - 31ST JULY 2016**

WHAT IS IT?

WYD is a celebration of Catholic youth, who gather from all over the world at the invitation of the Pope. WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter with other young Catholics centred on Jesus Christ. This event is an opportunity to experience firsthand the universality of the Church; to share with the whole world the hope of many young people who want to commit themselves to Christ and others.

WHO IS INVITED?

Previous World Youth Days have drawn literally millions of Young Catholics between 16 and 30. You could be one of millions! Information Evenings are planned near you.