

# DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 25 December 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE - A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, SYNOD NEWS, ST MARY'S FOREBANK 170th, CLERGY MOVES

## A synod that is 'far reaching and inclusive' Travelling together in Faith

We will all have heard about traditional Synods of the Church, with Bishops travelling to Rome every few years, and representatives of these Bishops from across the globe meeting in conference on a specific theme with the Pope.

The next such Synod will take place in 2023, but our present Holy Father, being ever open, far reaching and inclusive, wants the whole of the People of God to be involved in the run-up to that Synod, the theme of which will actually be synodality itself. It will be a gathering which will address just how we travel together as the Church of Christ.

As the process begins, Canon Kevin Golden, administrator at St Andrew's Cathedral and parish priest at St Mary's, Forebank and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry writes:

"For years at our Masses we have been singing words like, 'We are companions on the journey' and 'Awake from our slumber, arise from your sleep', and 'Here I am. Lord' and we have sung these lyrics with gusto."

"If every one is a prayer, then perhaps these sung prayers are being answered by the Lord in the person of our Holy Father Pope Francis and the kind of Church he is calling us to be with his challenge to us to be more synodal in our outlook, thinking and practice."

"Synodal is not a word we will have heard much and will have used even less! But it simply conjures up the notion of journeying together, travelling together - having a sense of companionship in our identity and mission as the Church of Christ."

"The people of every diocese across the world including those 'resting' from the  
*continued on p.2*

### Joining in 'Prayer for the Earth'



Back Row - Dermot O'Sullivan, Aileen Deas, Jack Smith, Nick Marra;  
Front Row - Marysia O'Sullivan, Pat Smith, Sue McAllion, Eileen Marra

On Mission Sunday parishioners gathered at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, for a 'Prayer for the Earth' service ahead of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow last month.

It was an opportunity to celebrate the beauties and wonders of God's creation, echoing the sentiments of the Holy Father's letter, Laudatio Si.



Fr Ronald McAinsh's Christmas Message - p3

MORE - SCHOOL and PARISH NEWS, FIRST COMMUNIONS and CONFIRMATIONS, ORDINATION PICTURES



Canon Kevin Golden leads 'Advent Day for Parish People'

From page 1....

external practices of faith and those disillusioned, upset or angry, are being given a voice and is being asked to share in the preparation for this synod. The process will take off in our Diocese in the New Year, but as a start-up for parishioners at St Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of Victory's, Forebank in Dundee, there has already been 'An Advent Day for Parish People' in St Mary's, Forebank, Hall and Church on Saturday 4 December."

Canon Kevin said, "The pandemic has meant we haven't been able to meet much together in recent times, with parish meetings, pastoral councils and Journey of Faith programmes all suspended, and indeed we are still seated a metre apart and follow all the regulations that are still in place."

"Some of us will remember in our diocese (though now more than 30 years ago!) We embarked on what could be called a model of synodality in the Renew process. It had at its heart, the gathering of people in the small groups centred around the reading of the word of God in scripture and a time to break open that word and share it in the context of our ordinary lives."

"Some of us, after the completion of Renew, tried to keep the process going, preparing suitable faith sharing material for small groups, but all that seems to have faded away."

"In larger group experiences, parishes have run processes and programmes which invited people to gather together around scripture and the liturgical texts, supported by the wisdom of the early Church Fathers and the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism and have reached out to potential new disciples through the RCIA process... so we have known some synodal

processes already."

"We also experience a certain synodality in family life as parents and children travel together on the road of life. In our Catholic tradition it is at the Eucharist itself where we most deeply experience ourselves as companions on the journey, breaking the bread of God, Word and Eucharist. I hope the synodal process will help us rediscover our communal vocation."

"In calling us to be this kind of Church, the Holy Father is placing before most ancient biblical image of the Church as the People of God, the roots of which surely go back to the birth of the chosen people at the exodus from Egypt. With Moses at their helm, the time of formation on the journey to the promised land and the 'travelling together' of God's people which gave them their identity and their mission."

"The Second Vatican Council in its Constitution on the Church rediscovered this image in a profound way and the Holy Father calls us continually to the vision of the Church of that Council as he eschews clericalism and invites us live lives according to the vocation given us, rooted in our Baptismal identity."

Canon Kevin concludes,

"I am excited already about the possibilities of this synodal approach and I hope you will find the whole process enriching and powerful."

## Transform lives this Christmas with a real gift

Real Gifts are a range of ethical Christmas gifts which not only provide joy to those you give them to, but can also mean real change for families living in poverty.

At Kinnoull Monastery in Perth, the Redemptorists are continuing their support for children in Zimbabwe through their Brother Benjamin Project.

When you purchase one of their £10 Real Gift cards, you will be sending your Christmas message to friends and family with these words - 'this voucher has been bought as a gift from you to the poor in Zimbabwe' - and 'this gift will feed a orphan child, often with AIDS or HIV, for one month, with a bag of maize.'

If you would like more details  
- please call 07976 912879  
- or email [rmcainsh@yahoo.com](mailto:rmcainsh@yahoo.com)

**A real gift  
for Christmas**

*"If anyone wants to be first,  
he must make himself last."*

*Could you put yourself last  
and Christ and his People first?*

*Could you serve as He did,  
in priesthood or religious life?*

**Speak to Fr Mark Cassidy**  
Vocations Director

[stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)  
or call 01382 611282

**Visit Priests for Scotland**  
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**to find out more**



# A CHRISTMAS STORY AND A CHALLENGE

## "So long as you do it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

**At this time of year as we approach Christmas, I am reminded of a story I heard a couple of years ago**

**It was the last shopping Saturday before Christmas in London, and the Underground was full of families returning from that last minute search for gifts. Those of you who have been on the Underground know that there is an unwritten rule that you don't speak when travelling on the underground. People take their books and simply sit or stand in silence. In fact the underground carriage that Saturday was a bit like a monastery, it was so quiet.**

Then at the far end of the coach a little girl who had Down's Syndrome, who about 10 years old, started to cry loudly. No matter what her parents did, they could not console her. Meantime everybody else in the carriage pretended not to notice, and to look at their magazines, their mobile phones or the advertisements around the wall.

As the crying increased, suddenly a little boy of about the same age walked the length of the carriage with a big balloon on the end of a stick. He had probably received it in one of the toy shops. He went straight up to the little girl, and he planted a kiss on her cheek and handed her the balloon. Immediately the little girl stopped crying and beamed a great smile - and at the same time, everyone in the carriage went, "awe..."!!! "How lovely."

Then the miracle happened. This large group of people who had sat or stood in silence, suddenly began speaking to one another. They were chatting about their weekend, asking what each other was doing for Christmas, wondering what shops they had visited in London, asking about each other's children. And from a scene of individuals, what suddenly emerged was a scene of communion. Strangers became friends. Ex-

periences and worries were exchanged, and I think people broke and shared the bread of their lives for each other in these moments in the most simple of ways.

By the time we have this copy of the Dunkeld News in our hands, Christmas will be on our doorstep. Christmas is a time of giving. It is above all about the extravagant generosity of God who gave his only Son for us. The story of Bethlehem, the story of Jesus and Mary and Joseph and the Crib and the animals, may seem sentimental but it is a profound reminder of the nature of God in whose image and likeness we are created.

Of course, Christmas is a time of giving and receiving. We exchange cards and gifts with those we love. But perhaps the story of the little boy and girl on the underground is an invitation to expand our horizons, and share with people we don't know or have never met. This might entail moving out of our comfort zones and doing that little bit extra at Christmas, perhaps giving to a charity or even to a beggar on the streets who might be giving to Jesus himself.

Pope Frances has reminded us of our duty to the less fortunate and the poor. He says that people often say, "I don't give to people on the streets because they might only use the money for drink or for drugs". The Pope's response is, "Well they might; but they might not". They might be desper-

ate to feed their families. And even if they do use it for a drink, he asks which one of us can say that they are not using it to kill a dreadful emotional, physical or psychological pain in their lives. We never know. Giving in this way, is a little risk.

So, this Christmas I suggest we take the risk the little boy in the underground took, and reach out to the stranger. Only you will know what that means in your life; but it has to be something. "So long as you do it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

The Christmas story is always fresh, and it reminds us of giving and receiving and generosity. I pray that this Christmas will be blessed for everyone in our Diocese and for their families, and that each one of us will know the joy of giving as well as receiving.

Happy Christmas from everybody in the monastery in Kinnoull. On Christmas afternoon at 4.30pm we will be celebrating Evening Prayer together, and then afterwards we will renew our vows to remind us that just as God has given himself to us, so we once again give ourselves to God.

In that special moment we will remember everyone in our Diocese and do hope there will be peace in your hearts.

**Ronald J. McAinsh, C.Ss.R.**



# Pope Francis has called the Church to ‘encounter, listen and discern’ Clerics and Lay People will walk the ‘common road’ in the coming Synod

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At the 11am Mass,  
on Sunday 17th October,  
Bishop Stephen explained  
what this means in our diocese

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“James and John the brothers, sons of Zebedee were chosen according to St Mark, to be second and third called by the Lord in his Gospel to join the intimacy of what would eventually be called the 12 Apostles. They couldn’t have become much more important in Jesus Life and apostolate – in fact they would be on the same level of importance as Peter himself and Andrew. James, became leader of the early Jerusalem Church; John, the youngest of the disciples, became the beloved, the agapeton, the Evangelist of the Fourth Gospel, the Apostle of the Incarnation, and the Apostle of Love.

“And yet the story of the request of James and John, in today’s Gospel to sit on the right and left hand of Jesus in the Kingdom, seems to us to be a bit like misplaced naked ambition on their part. The brothers do not seem to know what they are asking. Ironically, as we know, later in the Gospel in the Passion narrative, it would be the two thieves “one on his right and one on his



left” of Jesus’ Cross, who will take the very places that James and John had sought: ‘today, you will be with me in paradise’.

“James and John seemed to want unambiguous power from the Lord. Yet he does not rebuke them for this. He merely explains that they are asking for something impossible. For, as he concludes service, not power, is the sign of the way of Christ: And we can vividly see in our minds eye the Lord saying this:

‘For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’

“So for Jesus, power is service; no one can lord it over others; there is complete equality among the baptised... And Jesus also hammers this message home. ‘Can you not be baptised ... with the baptism with which I must be baptised.’“

Bringing news of the forthcoming Synod, the Bishop added.....

“Pope Francis has decided that in the next two years the whole church will be consulted in a process which he calls synodality.

“Last Sunday, in St Peter’s, Pope Francis, opened the process, and preached an extraordinary homily in which he explained to his hearers what Synodality is meant to be, what it is not meant to be and how it is to happen. So, I am going to use Pope Francis’ own words, in the context of today’s Gospel because he himself can tell what he means best. And I will adjust what needs to be adjusted to suit the context of today’s story of James and John.

“The Gospels, the Pope said, frequently show us Jesus “on a journey”; he walks alongside his people and listens to the questions and concerns lurking in their hearts. He shows us that God is not necessarily found in neat and orderly places, distant from reality, but walks ever at our side. He meets us where we are, often rocky roads of life.

“Celebrating a Synod, he said, means walking on the same road, walking to-

gether. So, let us look at Jesus in the Gospel today. First, he encounters James and John; he then listens to their questions, and finally he helps them to discern what they must do and become to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern. I would like to reflect on these three verbs that characterize what the Synod is all about.

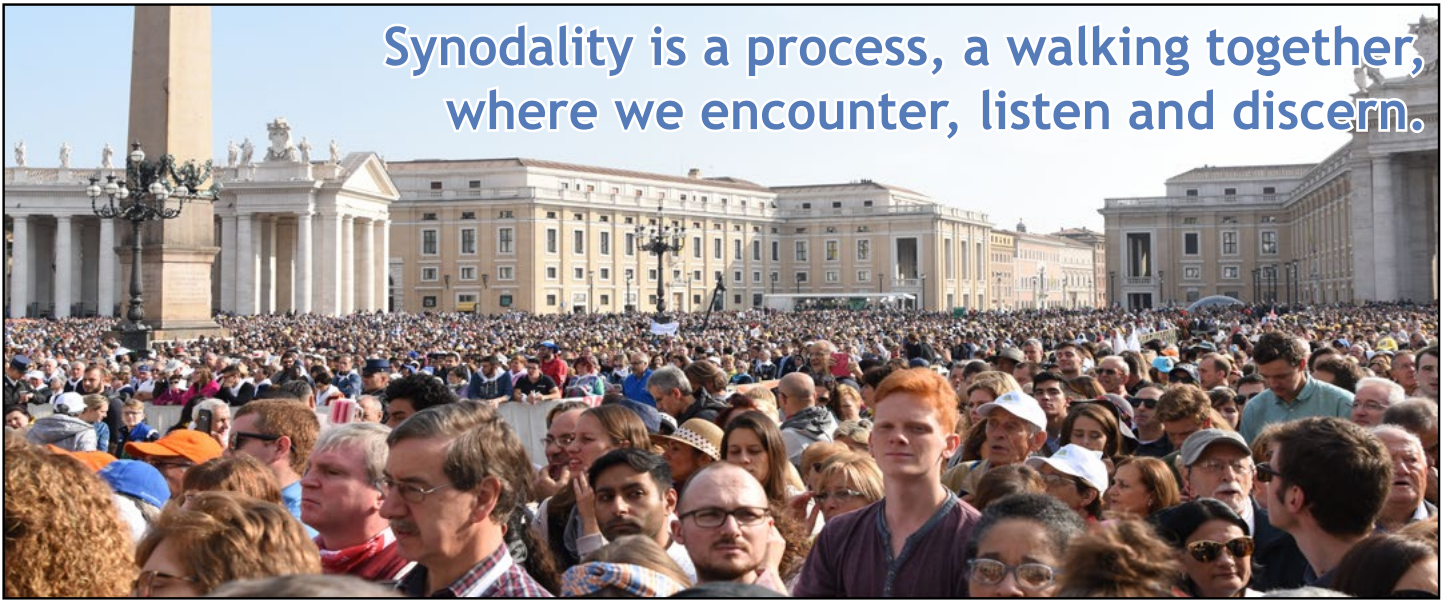
“The first is encounter. The Gospel passage begins by speaking of an encounter. James and John ask Jesus whether they might inherit seats on his right hand and left in the Kingdom in Heaven. So important a question, albeit an arrogant one, requires attention, time, prayer and thought. But the Lord does not stand aloof, appearing annoyed or disturbed. Instead, he is completely present to James and John. Nothing leaves Jesus indifferent; everything is of concern to him. Encountering faces, meeting eyes, sharing each individual’s history. That is the closeness that Jesus embodies. He knows that someone’s life can be changed by a single encounter. The Gospel is full of such encounters with Christ, encounters that uplift and bring healing.

“As we start this process of Synodality, we too are called to encounter others. Not so much by organizing events or theorizing about problems, as in taking time to encounter the Lord in one another. Time, first, to devote to prayer and to adoration – that form of prayer that we so often neglect –and to try to listen to what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church. Every encounter calls for openness, courage and a willingness to let ourselves be challenged by the presence and the stories of others. The experience of encounter changes us; frequently it opens up new and unexpected possibilities.

“The second verb is to listen. True encounters arise only from listening. Jesus listened to James and John’s question and to the concerns that lay behind it. He did not give a non-committal reply or offer a pre-packaged solution; Jesus simply listens, for whatever amount of time it takes; he is not rushed. Most importantly, he is not afraid to listen to James and John with his heart and not just with his ears. Whenever we listen with the heart: people feel that they are being heard, not judged; they feel free



# Synodality is a process, a walking together, where we encounter, listen and discern.



to recount their own experiences and their spiritual journey.

“Finally, to discern. Encountering and listening are not ends in themselves, leaving everything just as it was before. On the contrary, whenever we enter into dialogue, we allow ourselves to be challenged, to advance on a journey. And in the end, we are no longer the same; we are changed. We don't seek to change things: we ourselves are changed: a process of conversion is taking place.

We see this in today's Gospel. Jesus senses that James and John before him are good and religious men. Through talking to them and listening, he helps them to see through Jesus' own eyes: to discern. Jesus encourages James and John to look within themselves, and to discern in that light what their hearts truly treasure.

“So the Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in sharing with the word of God. God's word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process.

“In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did James and John in the Gospel today, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us.

“So, if this is what Synodality is, we need to reaffirm also what it is not, and there are examples in the Church where the idea of Synod has gone very drastically wrong, particularly at the moment in the Catholic Church in Germany. The mistakes of the German church are more often than not to do with money and power; riches and

financial clout; treating synodality like a parliament as they have been accused as doing is to throw everything up in the air and to want to change everything – including that which cannot be changed because the Church's teaching is already settled. To do so would be rash, madness.

“Let us remind ourselves again what the Pope himself said the Synod is not: The Synod is a work of the Holy Spirit. And God's word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process.

The Holy Spirit guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit.

“And a 'kind of parliament, a convention, a politicised gathering', is precisely what has gone wrong in Germany and even though the Pope has sent to the Catholics of Germany who are steering their own synodal process a very strongly worded letter, warning them of the outcome, that if they persist in their ideas of changing doctrines, processes, structures but not themselves, they are doomed to put themselves outside the communion of the Church.

“The German church, of course, is immensely rich in material goods. Last year they received 6 billion Euros in Tax money (Kirchensteuer). The German Catholic Church is also Germany's largest employer, something completely alien to us. But the German Church itself is dying; German Catholics are leaving the Church in their droves – which is so sad, because of the great works of charity and mercy which the German Church has always so generously carried out in the poorest of countries in the past and is still doing.

**TIME LINE - October 2021 until October 2023. First the local phase from now until about Easter next year and we're only at the starting gate as so many people are nervous about it.”**

“Important questions to ponder: there will be a consultation on a series of pastoral questions, a continental phase, for us, Europe-wide, bringing all our insights together, then leading to the Synod of Bishops in October in 2023 for the whole world. This is truly a massive gamble on Pope Francis' part and it could all go pear-shaped. But for the Church to be led to Healing and Unity, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is its ultimate goal, and that is surely a laudable aim.

“Remember: Synodality is not about changing things, or truths of the faith; it is about changing us, and helping us to realise that God wants us as his baptised sons and daughters to realise our dignity, to be converted ever closer to Christ, and to share our Catholic faith with the world, not hiding it under a bushel because we are afraid and ashamed of ourselves or our history of over which we ultimately have no control.

“Finally as Pope Francis says: 'Synodality could lead to a Church capable of communion and fraternity, of participation and subsidiarity, in fidelity to what she proclaims, a Church which will be able to stand beside the poor and the least and lend them her own voice.

A Church entering with courage and freedom of heart into a conversion process in ourselves that is necessary for the 'continual reformation of which the Church always has need, in so far as she is a human institution'

“Watch this space!”



# Dunkeld's Dominican Joy at Cathedral Ordination



*A proud day for Fr Andrew's family at the ordination*

**On Saturday 25th September 2021, Bishop Stephen Robson ordained Andrew Brookes OP to the priesthood in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee. The following day Fr Andrew celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving in St Fillan's, Crieff.**



Andrew is a Dominican Friar currently based in London. However, he has strong connections with the Dunkeld Diocese. His parents have lived in Crieff, and been active in St Fillan's parish there since the 1990s. Crieff also boasts a great primary school, which was founded by Dominican Sisters in 1891.

Andrew himself lived there before moving to Dundee for 10 years. He worked first as an RE teacher, mainly at Lawside Academy, and then did other church work, associated with evangelisation and education, in the diocese and further afield.

Crieff remains like a second home to Andrew and so he was delighted when Bishop Stephen agreed that it was very appropriate to celebrate the Ordination to the Priesthood here in the Diocese of Dunkeld.

The occasion was also an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of the Dominicans to the life of Scotland. This year marks the 800th Anniversary Year of their arrival

in Britain, initially in Kent.

Andrew has been with the Dominicans since 2009. Officially called the 'Order of Preachers', the ancient order was established by St Dominic in 1216 to work for the salvation of souls through the preaching of the Gospel and other works, often







*Dominican Sisters from Elgin among the guests*

associated with the Ministry of the Word. This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the death of St Dominic, and also the 800th anniversary of the arrival of the Dominicans in the British Isles.

Within a decade or so the Order had established houses in Scotland. The Order was very well represented in Britain in the Middle Ages, and had houses in Perth and Dundee amongst several others. In Britain the Friars are often called Blackfriars owing to their distinct black cloaks which cover their other clothing which is white.

There is currently a house of Friars in Edinburgh, and a Convent of Sisters in Nairn. Individual Dominican friars continue to work in other places, including Dundee. Lay Dominicans are spread across Scotland.

Dominicans came from various places to join in the Ordination Mass. They were joined by the people of the diocese, especially the parish of St Fillan's, Crieff, but also others with whom Andrew had worked. Family and friends of Andrew came from various parts of Britain to be present, including Birmingham where he was brought up.

Both Dominican Provincial, Fr Martin Ganeri, and Bishop Stephen spoke with gratitude of the work of the Dominicans and their collaboration with the wider church in Scotland.

Many people remarked that it was a very joyful and prayerful occasion. Fr Andrew commented that it was the culmination of a long journey, and thanked people for their support, encouragement, love and prayers

along the way. He said that priesthood is a gift given to the Church to help connect people with God through Christ, and with each other in Christ, and to help us all work together to bring still more people into close and fruitful relationship with God. He asked people to continue to stay close to him so that he could be effective in his priestly ministry.

The ordination was livestreamed from the cathedral and can still be seen online - together with additional photographs at - [www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk/ordination-mass-streamed/](http://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk/ordination-mass-streamed/)



*Photos courtesy of Eddie Mahoney*



*Fr Andrew's First Mass celebrated in St Fillan's, Crieff*



# Equestrian Order installs its newest members in Dundee



*New Knights and Dames installed by Bishop Stephen*

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is a Papal Order made up of Knights and Dames. Unlike other Papal Orders, membership is not given as a reward for services rendered to the Church. Instead, it is an Order with an active dimension. Over and above their work for their local church, through their prayers and almsgiving members provide ongoing support for the Christian church in the Holy Land, the place where Christ was born, lived, died and rose again.

At a recent Mass in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, members of the Order gathered for the installation of its new Knights and Dames in a ceremony conducted by Bishop Stephen Robson.

Bishop Stephen was the Principal Celebrant at the Vigil and Investiture ceremonies.

He had himself been invested into the Order in 2018 and wished to reflect on what being a member entailed. Hence, in his homilies over the ceremonies of Vigil and Investiture he concentrated on the history of the Order and on its spirituality addressing how both were relevant to the present day.

He traced how historically what had been an order of military knights physically fighting to gain supremacy in the Holy Land had evolved into religious knights whose perspective had evolved into a zeal for the land of Jerusalem, through support for those Christians who lived in the Holy Land. He explained how this calling was intimately linked to the Christian vocation and how it was founded on the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. He considered how the architecture of



the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre contains within it both Calvary and the Tomb of Christ, just as the Eucharist embodies the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. As a junction with eternity the Eucharist is a means of accomplishing the Christian mission.

As a result he asserted that the modern Knight or Dame should be both a doer of the Faith and a defender of the Faith, gaining people for God by example rather than by coercion. To succeed in this the individual needs to live the Cross, with the Eucharist at its heart. A Knight or Dame has to manifest the faith that Christ has lived and died for us by his or her example, prayers, and in their imagination and in their hearts.

## THE SCOTTISH CATHOLIC

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Since the start of lockdown, for the first time in a century and a half, Catholics in Scotland have been without a national publication.

It's a loss that's left a void because our community needs a voice. A voice we can believe, that cuts through the gossip and the arguments so we can speak to one another and understand what we as Catholics are living through.

The new magazine, priced £2, was conceived and developed by Ian Dunn, a former editor of the Scottish Catholic Observer, and Dan McGinty and Mary McGinty, who bring a wealth of experi-

ence from the printing and publishing industries, our team have nearly 50 years of media experience, particularly in the Catholic press the Scottish Catholic is the magazine for Scottish Catholics.

Speaking at the new magazine's launch, editor Ian Dunn said, "We know the media and we know the Church. The pandemic has shown that there is a real hunger among Scottish Catholics to engage with their faith in new ways, and this magazine will do that."

At Dunkeld News, as we enter our own 40th year of publication, we wish the Scottish Catholic team every success.





## Confirmations at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Auchterarder

Antanas Andruska (left) and Dillon McGraw (right) joined with parishioners at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Auchterarder, as the boys celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Feast of Christ the King.

Mgr Basil O'Sullivan, newly appointed as parish priest in the small Perthshire town, congratulated the boys and presented them with illustrated certificate as a memory of the occasion.

*PHOTO by Allan Pereira*

## Pope Francis delivers 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4

### Dear BBC listeners, good morning!

Climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed our deep vulnerability and raised numerous doubts and concerns about our economic systems and the way we organize our societies. We have lost our sense of security, and are experiencing a sense of powerlessness and loss of control over our lives. We find ourselves increasingly frail and even fearful, caught up in a succession of "crises" in the areas of health care, the environment, food supplies and the economy, to say nothing of social, humanitarian and ethical crises.

All these crises are profoundly interconnected. They also forecast a "perfect storm" that could rupture the bonds holding our society together within the greater gift of God's creation. Every crisis calls for vision, the ability to formulate plans and put them rapidly into action, to rethink the future of the world, our common home, and to reassess our common purpose.

These crises present us with the need to take decisions, radical decisions that are not always easy. At the same time, moments of difficulty like these also present opportunities, ones that we must not waste. We can

confront these crises by retreating into isolationism, protectionism and exploitation. Or we can see in them a real chance for change, a genuine moment of conversion, and not simply in a spiritual sense. This last approach alone can guide us towards a brighter horizon. Yet it can only be pursued through a renewed sense of shared responsibility for our world, and an effective solidarity based on justice, a sense of our common destiny and a recognition of the unity of our human family in God's plan for the world.

All this represents an immense cultural challenge. It means giving priority to the common good, and it calls for a change in perspective, a new outlook, in which the dignity of every human being, now and in the future, will guide our ways of thinking and acting. The most important lesson we can take from these crises is our need to build together, so that there will no longer be any borders, barriers or political walls for us to hide behind.

Some days ago, I met with religious leaders and scientists to sign a Joint Appeal in which we called upon ourselves and our political leaders to act in a more responsible and consistent manner.

I was impressed by something said by

one of the scientists present at that meeting. He told us: "If things continue as they are, in fifty years' time my baby granddaughter will have to live in an unliveable world".

### **We cannot allow this to happen!**

It is essential that each of us be committed to this urgent change of direction, sustained by our own faith and spirituality. In the Joint Appeal, we spoke of the need to work responsibly towards a "culture of care" for our common home, but also for ourselves, and the need to work tirelessly to eliminate "the seeds of conflicts: greed, indifference, ignorance, fear, injustice, insecurity and violence".

Humanity has never before had at its disposal so many means for achieving this goal.

The political decision makers who will meet at COP26 in Glasgow are urgently summoned to provide effective responses to the present ecological crisis and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations. And it is worth repeating that each of us – whoever and wherever we may be – can play our own part in changing our collective response to the unprecedented threat of climate change and the degradation of our common home.

# St Mungo's looked as good as new for its Diamond Jubilee



*Bishop William Andrew Hart consecrates St Mungo's in 1961*

A special Mass was held recently to mark the Diamond jubilee of the St Mungo's Church building in Alloa. The congregation came together on the evening of Tuesday, September 21, marking the 60th anniversary of the opening of their church.

The Mass of Thanksgiving celebration was led by Bishop Stephen Robson who was joined by Fr Michael Carrie, the current parish priest.

From the surrounding parishes, Fr Mike Freyne, Fr Leszek Więcaszek SAC, Fr Brian McLean and Mgr Ken McCaffrey were also in attendance along with Provost Tina Murphy and staff and students from both St Mungo's Primary, Alloa and St Modan's High School, Stirling. Canon Steven Mulholland acted as Master of Ceremonies.



Anniversary Mass is streamed online - follow this QR code to watch online  
or







*Bishop Stephen Robson blesses the new statue of St Mungo*

Fr Carrie said: "It was a nice celebration, Bishop Stephen Robson came through from Dundee, he led us in the celebration of the Mass. It was nice to just have a full church, especially after all the restrictions we had to keep to for Covid."

The current building was opened on Tuesday, September 21, in 1961 by Bishop William Andrew Hart. However, the parish has been serving the Alloa community for much longer. The building replaced an original church, on the Clackmannan Road, which had been in use since 1869. Plans for a new place of worship had been in the works for many years, but had to be put on hold due to the outbreak of World War II as well as post-war restrictions.

When the construction eventually started in 1955 it was supervised by Canon James Matthews, who was the parish priest at the time. Thanks to him, his predecessors and the parishioners, there was no debt once construction was complete. Dur-

ing the Diamond Jubilee ceremony, Bishop Robson also blessed a statue of St Mungo, which was commissioned for the occasion.

Alloa's town motto - 'Look about ye' was never more apt than for those returning to Mass in the Clackmannanshire capital. The parish had done a glorious job in the decoration and upgrading of the building for its anniversary.

Fr Carrie, paid tribute to the many priests and people who had contributed to building up the community over these years - and particularly to Canon John Harty who died earlier this year.

Fr Michael Carrie added: "It was nice to be able to sing hymns and the congregation were happy to sing along, even though they are still singing behind their masks. It was a good way to mark 60 years of the current building. The parish has been here for over 160 years so it's a long-time as part of the wider community."



*Elise Young - cantor*



*Former parish priest at St Mungo's, Mgr Ken McCaffrey, proclaims the Gospel*



*Bishop Stephen and Provost Tina Murphy with the priests and pupil representatives of St Mungo's PS and St Modan's HS.*



*Bishop Stephen and Fr Michael Carrie with Knights of St Columba*



*Scriptures were read by Theresa McCutcheon*

# St Mary's, Forebank, Dundee

**Mass was celebrated on Sunday 28th November for the milestone of the 170th anniversary of the opening of St Mary's, Our Lady of Victories Church, Dundee**

*Dundee's William Coupar looks back to the church's centenary celebrations in 1951*

Seventy years ago this year, in 1951, one of the oldest parishes in the Dunkeld diocese celebrated its centenary. Founded in 1851, the church and parish of Our Lady of Victories was the second Catholic Church to be erected in the city after St Andrew's Cathedral.

This venerable old parish has, for decades, been known to all as St Mary's Forebank, or even simply 'Forebank'. For 170 years it has served the once teeming tenements of the Hilltown, Ann Street, and what we Dundonians know as the 'Tap o' the Hill.'

When this photograph (above) was taken in 1951, the slow but inevitable depopulation of the slums was starting. Many new parishes were to spring up in the next 20 years serving the council schemes to which many of the church's parishioners moved.

Even then the parish still had around 6,000 parishioners, and the centenary would have been a proud moment for them. The event was captured in this remarkable photograph taken when the Diocese hosted the city's Lord Provost at Forebank.

Two robed figures stand at the centre. Wearing his civic robes we see Lord Provost Richard Fenton. To have him attend their



centenary would have made the parish very proud. It is worth remembering that, at this time, the largely Irish Catholic community in the city still felt itself to be on the margin of public life. It would be another decade before the city had its first Catholic Lord Provost in Maurice McManus.

Alongside Fenton in full episcopal robes stands the Bishop of Dunkeld, James Donald Scanlan. It can't have been very often that the city's First Citizen found himself upstaged in terms of grandeur! The significance of that would not have been lost on Bishop Scanlan.

As Archbishop of Glasgow twenty years later, he was renowned for his love of pomp and ceremony. Just as interesting though is the rest of the line up in the photo. These men (yes, there are no women in the photo, despite the great service of the nuns at Wellburn, Roseangle and Lawside), were the leaders of Dundee's Catholic community from the War into the Sixties.

The small figure on the left in the grey overcoat (it was obviously a cold day) is Canon Keenan of St Mary's Loch, Provost of the Cathedral Chapter, and senior priest

of the diocese. Canon Keenan had been ordained in 1901 and so would have been born even before the Diocese was formed in 1878. To his right wearing glasses we see Canon Andrew McKinlay who was parish priest of one of the city's other senior parishes, St Patrick's.

Remarkably there are actually three bishops in this photograph not just one! Standing behind Bishop Scanlan's left shoulder is his Vicar General, Joseph McGee, who would be appointed to the See of Galloway within the year. Behind Bishop Scanlan's other shoulder is Michael Foylan. Still in his forties Monsignor Foylan was already Cathedral Administrator. He would serve as the next Vicar General before becoming Bishop of Aberdeen in the 1960s.

It is not too fanciful to think that Bishop Scanlan, who was a shrewd clerical politician, had a hand in both appointments. Unusually for a Scot, he was ordained in 1929 for Westminster Archdiocese. He was Chancellor there, before he was moved to Dundee at the end of the War to help the aged Bishop Toner in his declining years.

We also see the redoubtable Canon James



Quinn who was parish priest at Forebank. Canon Quinn was a leading figure in the Catholic community right through to his death in the 1970s. His name would suggest he was one of the many Irish priests then serving in the diocese. Canon, later Monsignor Quinn was actually a Blairgowrie man with a good Scots accent to prove it.

None of the figures in the photograph are still alive. Some will still be well remembered to this day. Many will recognise a young Father John Ross, standing in the front row. He was still a youthful looking man into his senior years and is perhaps best recalled for founding St Ninian's in Menzieshill. We also see Fr David Keith who, although a Dundonian, spent his career working in Aberdeen diocese. Was he a 'son of the parish' one wonders?

Other names whom older readers will recall include Canon John Molloy, Fr James Ward and Fr James Malaney. All served in a number of city parishes. Canon O'Donoghue, a larger than life personality, and Fr Purcell were two of the numerous priests who came from the Emerald Isle to serve in the Dunkeld diocese.

We also see members of the Franciscan and Augustinian communities who were to serve the city so well but who, alas, are no longer in Dundee. The newly arrived Servites, whom Bishop Scanlan brought, through his London connections, to look after St Vincent's are however absent.

One more key figure, on the far left, is the only layman, the small bespectacled fig-

ure of Bailie Willie O'Neil. O'Neil was the long time councillor for the Craigie Ward of the city and sat for many years on the Bailie's bench. His fellow Dundee Catholics held him in high regard and his name is remembered in O'Neil Terrace in the Hap-pyhill area of the city.

Yet another highly regarded figure, wearing the white collar of a Marist Brother, and standing in the back row is Brother Liguori. He was for years Head Teacher of St John's Secondary School founded around 1930 and at that time located in Park Place near today's University campus. Liguori's name was still being talked about in the 1980s by those who had been at the school pre-war.

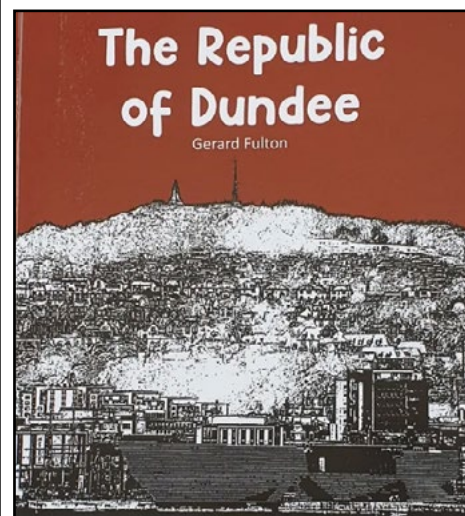
Although they didn't realise it at the time, 1951 was a watershed moment. The huge move out of the city affected parishes, like Forebank, greatly. It had up to four curates at the time. Today it no longer has a resident priest.

The tight knit Irish Catholic community too was changing. Fifty years later the grandchildren of the parishioners who were at the Centenary Mass in 1951 were spread wide across the city, across the UK and abroad as people emigrated to Canada, Australia and beyond.

The church itself with its two imposing bell towers, reminiscent of a church in an Italian hill town still stands today. It is a fitting legacy to the poor community who laboured hard in the many jute mills in the area and whose generosity built St Mary's Forebank.



## Proceeds from Dundee book sales go to Mary's Meals



A masterpiece in Dundonian is now in its third re-print thanks to parishes across the city and beyond. The inspired work of Dundee writer, Gerry Fulton, its proceeds are going to Mary's Meals, meaning that, to date, book sales have made it possible for over 200 children to be fed and attend school.

Gerry's wife Clare contacted Dunkeld News to say, "a HUGE thank you to every single person who has purchased the Republic of Dundee to support the outstanding work being done by the charity."

"We should like to say a special thank you to the priests who have raised awareness of this fund raising opportunity through word of mouth and their parish newsletters."

"The book has a special appeal for Dundonians, but not only! It is written almost entirely in authentic Dundee dialect and is a humorous account of the City of Dundee becoming an independent republic!"

An ideal Christmas gift or stocking filler, the book costs £10 (including postage) and can be obtained via the following link: <https://therepublicofdundee.godaddysites.com/>

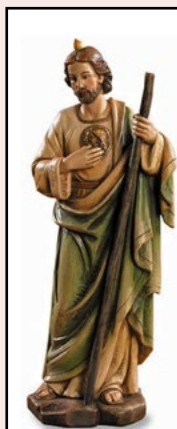
Scottish Book Trust is a national charity that believes everyone living in Scotland should have equal access to books. The charity works to provide opportunities to improve life chances through books and the fundamental skills of reading and writing. Find out more here: [www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)

## Novena to the Patron of impossible causes

A parishioner at St Columba's, Cupar, prayed a Novena to St Jude, Patron Saint of hopeless cases, to intercede for her so that her grand-daughter might make a good recovery from an illness.

"My father had a great devotion to St Jude and St Jude's statue sits in pride of place in my house," said Anne-Marie Close.

"My 9 year old grand-daughter was so embarrassed by a skin condition that, even when she was very hot, she would keep her arms covered. Some people never get rid of the condition. I prayed the Novena and her arms completely recovered!"



*May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.*

*Sacred heart of Jesus pray for us.  
St Jude, worker of miracles pray for us.  
St Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.*

## St Joseph's, Dundee - winter warmers appeal

As part of the Advent Appeal at St Joseph's, Dundee, this year, parishioners are being encouraged to show support for a charity close to home. The first is Eagles Wings Trust, an ecumenical charity that supports the homeless in Dundee. Secondly, Jericho House, a live-in multipurpose unit operating in the parish, at the centre of the city, for almost 40 years, caring for people recovering from alcohol addiction. Parish priest, Fr Gregory Murphy OP said, "We are requesting warm hats, scarves and gloves for Eagles Wings and men's toiletries, t-shirts, crossword and Sudoku Puzzles, and Christmas treats for Jericho House. Donations please - to the box in the porch."



## High Valleyfield marks disaster's anniversary

On 28th October 1939, 35 men lost their lives following an explosion at the High Valleyfield pit in Fife. The disaster happened at 4am when gas caught light and set fire to coal dust. The blast that rocked the mine and was likened to an earthquake in newspaper reports at the time.

Parish priest, Fr Michael Carrie celebrated Mass in St Serf's, High Valleyfield, for all those who lost their lives in the disaster, on its 82nd anniversary.

## A fond farewell to the Holy Family, Dunblane

*In his final message to his parishioners at the Holy Family Church, Dunblane, Mgr Basil O'Sullivan writes:*

"At my request, the Bishop is sending me to the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Auchterarder, as a semi-retired priest."

"Bishop Logan sent me to the parish of the Holy Family, Dunblane, on March 4, 1988 - over 33 years ago. I want to thank each and every parishioner of the Holy Family for his/her support, help, friendship

and love over so many years; and for putting up with my shortcomings and failings so generously. It has been a wonderful privilege to serve as the priest here for so long."

"I have grown old in this corner of the Lord's vineyard and I will be eternally grateful for that. May the good Lord bless us all and keep us in his love as we start a new phase in our journey together to the Promised Land. We do so in the joy of the Lord."

*Yours in Christ, Monsignor Basil*

## Laudato Si' is the focus of online faith development at St Margaret's, Montrose

Parishioners at St Margaret's, Montrose, may be back to Mass in person - but the Zoom format for their Online Faith Development Programme remains very popular.

The key focus for last month's meeting was the outcome of COP26 - see <https://ukcop26.org> - but also their continued discussion of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, 'Laudato Si': On care for our common home'.

As advance reading for the meeting Fr Jim High suggested suggest the first half of Chapter 6 of Laudato Si' (paragraphs 202-227) and Genesis 9.8-17.

He added, "Even though we are now on the last chapter of Laudato Si', new members would still be very welcome."

"The problems discussed in Laudato Si' won't go away and we're now starting to focus on what we can do in our own lives to make a small but important contribution to tackling climate change."

Fr Jim encourages further reading and discussion and welcomes the technological legacy the pandemic has left by bringing people together in this way.

*(To join in - please contact Jan Mimiec)*



# AROUND OUR PARISHES

## Raising funds for St Mary's, St Columba's and Ss Leonard & Fergus

Although the focus for fund raising at St Mary's, Lochee has been for the Restoration Project, the parishes have also been actively supporting Mary's Meals and the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund. A Christmas Fair, which began in St Mary's in mid-November, travelled firstly to Ss Leonard & Fergus and onto St Columba's, Kirkton for the start of December. Over £2,500 had been raised at the time of publication.

**Gift of Artwork by Harry McGregor**



Anne Ireland recently donated many paintings of her late father, Harry McGregor, to be used for charity fund-raising. These have been sold so far to the benefit of Macmillan Cancer Care, SCIAF and will also be sold for the St Mary's Restoration Project. Parish priest, Canon Mark Cassidy said, "are deeply indebted to Anne for her generosity."

### St Mary's Restoration Fund

Dundee's Lydian Singers, directed by Susan Cassidy, will hold a Carol Concert in St Mary's, Lochee, from which all proceeds will go to the Restoration Project at St Mary's. The Concert will be on Wednesday December 15th at 7pm. Following the concerts there will be an opportunity to purchase some of Harry McGregor's artwork.

## An Advent Journey at St John the Baptist's, Perth

On Saturday 4th December, Fr Martin Pletts, parish priest of St James', Kinross, led day of reflection with Mass and a Eucharistic Healing Service at St John the Baptist's Church in Perth. Fr Pletts's talk was entitled 'Our Lady and her role in our lives as disciples of the Holy Spirit.' St James' Worship and Praise Band led the singing.

## Fr Sam's farewell at Our Lady of Sorrows



"Many thanks for your show of love, good wishes, gifts and the beautiful send-off organised for me. I appreciate you all. I have resumed and I am settling well in Brixton. I keep you all in my prayers. Please say a prayer for me as well. Kind regards." *Fr Samuel Alabi*

## New members at St Thomas', Arbroath



*Photo by Eddie Mahoney*

*Fr Andrew Marshall Parish Administrator of St Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church in Arbroath, pictured centre welcomed four members into the Catholic Church*

## Dunkeld's east coast parishes link to Indian school project



*Fr Peter Thomas (3rd from right, back row) with delighted members of the school community in Vao*

Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth parish's combined efforts to support an education project in India have reached fruition and they were delighted to receive a package of photos together with video and other news from the school in thanks for their efforts. The cause had been highlighted by Fr Peter Thomas and Fr Joseph, Francis-

can priests from the Indian State of Kerala, whilst they were serving in St Thomas', Arbroath. St Francis School in Vao, Arunachal Pradesh, on India's north east border with China, is run by Franciscans and was in desperate need of a more suitable buildings. A staggering £10,000 was raised and the delight of the staff and pupils is evident!



## Commissioning Mass for Caritas pupils at St John's High School, Dundee



Photo by Eddie Mahoney

Mgr Ken McCaffrey with Mr John Paul Cecil, PT Religious Education at St John's High School, Dundee with the school's S6 pupils as they receive their commission on the CARITAS project. Introduced in 2011, as part of a legacy of the visit to Scotland of Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010, this award asks young people to use their faith

learning as a starting point for further faith reflection, leading to actions which show their faith witness.

Participants in the Caritas Award are supported in deciding how they can develop and use their gifts and witness to God's love ("Caritas") in their communities.

## St John's Marian shrine is blessed



A new shrine in the foyer of St John's High School, Dundee, commissioned by Mrs McLagan before her retirement was blessed by school chaplain. Mgr Ken McCaffrey. The shrine is dedicated to our Blessed Lady, and is to foster the devotion that the school's patron St John had to the Blessed Mother of Jesus.

## First Holy Communicants at St Mary's, Forebank



P5 and P6 children who received the Sacrament of Holy Communion at St Mary, Our Lady of Victories, Dundee, on Saturday, 6th November.

Canon Kevin Golden celebrated the First Communion Mass with the children, their invited guests and staff members from the school.

One teacher remarked, "The children have had to wait a long time to be able to celebrate this wonderful occasion."

## Kilgraston pupils sing at the Shrine of St Margaret



On the feast day of St Margaret, Fr Martin Pletts, parish priest at St James', Kinross, celebrated Mass with the pupils and staff at Kilgraston School. Later in the day, Kilgraston's Director of Music, Mr Andrew Morley, and headmistress, Mrs Dorothy MacGinty, took a group from the Chamber Choir to Dunfermline Abbey. They took part in an ecumenical service led by Rev. Mary Ann Rennie, to celebrate St Margaret. The choir

sang the anthem 'O Beata Trinitas' by Sarah MacMillan.

The words are a motet for the Feast of Holy Trinity (Queen Margaret founded Dunfermline Abbey in the 11th Century and dedicated it to the Holy Trinity). The choir then sang the Salve Regina at the shrine of St Margaret, (left) located just beyond the east end of the Abbey.



# M AROUND OUR SCHOOLS

## St Bernadette's, Tullibody, recite a Mission Rosary



Children from St Bernadette's Primary School, Tullibody, at the Children's Mass on Mission Sunday, dressed in costumes from around the world, taking a moment after Fr Mike Freyne's sermon to explain the Missionary Rosary to the parishioners. The

Mission Rosary has a colour-coded decade for each continent where the Church continues her mission. It's a wonderful way to relate to the world around us and gain an understanding of what it means to belong to the Universal Church.

## St Paul's pupils pedal power for charities



Two cheques totalling £700 were handed over recently by pupils at St Paul's Academy, Dundee. The first to the Claverhouse Rotary Club, for the STV Children's Appeal (£350). The second (pictured above) to the India Village Project (£350), which was started by Law-side Academy in 2006. The monies were raised by pupils and staff through this year's Cyclathon. Mrs McCallum presents the cheque to Miss Jones from The India Village Project.

## St Thomas', Arbroath, Confirmations



Photo by Eddie Mahoney

Bishop Stephen (centre) with Fr Andrew Marshall (right) and Deacon Arthur Grant (left) and staff and pupils from St Thomas' Primary, Arbroath - celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.



## Kilgraston School at Mass with Papal Nuncio

On the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, His Excellency Archbishop Gugerotti (Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain) celebrated Holy Mass at St Augustine's Church in Coatbridge. The Mass was celebrated with the Bishops of Scotland, and present in the congregation were pupils and staff from the Catholic schools of Scotland. Kilgraston's chaplain, Mr Paul Allaker, Upper 6's Maria and Upper 3's Caitlin represented Kilgraston School at this joyful and uplifting event.

Mr Allaker said, "It was a wonderful surprise to arrive and see all the surrounding streets lined with school children waving Vatican flags, awaiting the arrival of the Papal Nuncio, as well as the huge number of Vatican flags hanging from the windows of the surrounding buildings!"

Pope Francis had intended to visit COP26 and celebrate this Mass with the Catholic faithful of Scotland, but he was unable and so instructed the Papal Nuncio to represent him at COP26 and this Mass.

## St Stephen's, First Communion



Fr Gregory Umunna with children from St Stephen's RC Primary, Blairgowrie and from the wider parish community - celebrating their First Holy Communion Day during a recent Sunday Mass.

# Safeguarding manual updated and Scotland's Bishops announce Independent Safeguarding agency

In July 2021, the Bishops of Scotland unanimously ratified the final text of 'In God's Image version 2' (IGI v2). It came into effect on 8th September and provides each Diocese an "Instruction on Safeguarding for implementation in all Catholic canonical jurisdictions in Scotland and by all other groups and organisations in Scotland subject to a legitimate canonical authority of the Catholic Church".

Version 2 of 'In God's Image' was published following a period of consultation, reflection and discussion among many who have direct experience and expertise in the front line of the Church's safeguarding practice. Significantly, this experience includes responding to the hurt and anguish of those who have suffered abuse at the hands of clergy, religious and others working within the Catholic Church.

The updated edition makes reference to key statements made by Pope Francis and to instructions and norms published by the Holy See in recent years. The document also takes into account evolving changes to best practice in Safeguarding in Scotland and beyond.

Within our Diocese, we continue to strive to uphold the highest standards in our Safeguarding practice. In particular, we have added experience in Social Work, Education and Law to our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group and we are already seeing the benefits of this experience. In addition to this, we have also taken the significant step of appointing an independent Chair of the Advisory Group as well as our Risk Management Team. This change allows for a scrutiny of our practice and processes that have never been in place before.

As a diocese, we seek to uphold the highest safeguarding standards in our relationships with people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity within the Church and its organisations. As with last year, our parish communities have been severely affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We are aware that many of our volunteers throughout the Diocese have continued to provide support where possible within our parishes. The task of reopening our churches and their activities is a significant one,

and on that our safeguarding efforts should be at the forefront of.

Throughout our Parish Communities, we welcome and fully appreciate the contributions made by all those who volunteer and offer their time, expertise, and skills. Within our Diocese, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us to work together to protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm.

As ever, a significant part of our commitment to Safeguarding, is our duty to remember those who have been harmed or abused either by a member of the Church, by members of their family or by any other person. We ask that you continue to keep in your prayers all survivors of abuse as we pray for their healing and comfort.

The year ahead will no doubt present new challenges. In February 2022, the Diocese' Safeguarding procedures will be audited by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). SCIE have been tasked the Independent Review Group to assess each diocese in Scotland's efforts to implement the recommendations of the McLellan Commission. This audit is designed to measure compliance with the safeguarding standards set out in 'In God's Image'.

The results of this audit will provide the Diocese with a clear view of how effectively we are embracing a culture of safeguarding which respects, protects and nurtures the dignity of all people, keeps them safe and is compliant with legislation.

Nationally, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, has announced the establishment of a new independent Safeguarding body – the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (SCSSA).

The agency will operate entirely independently of the Church and will have its own staff and Board of Management who will work in close collaboration with dioceses and religious communities to ensure that they are able to meet national safeguarding standards.

Part of the agencies remit will be to develop a process that will provide an independent review of complaints about safeguarding practice and crucially, establish



a forum in which those who have experienced abuse can contribute their own perspectives to the development of safeguarding.

The task of Safeguarding within our parishes, remains a vital element of our Diocese commitment to caring for each other and for others.

On behalf of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group and with each priest of the Diocese, we remain grateful for all the hard work done by our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators and our parish volunteers.

**The dedication and motivation of the people in our parishes, continues to raise awareness of Safeguarding and highlights our shared responsibility in delivering a duty of care to all who engage with our parish community.**

+ Stephen Robson



# Renewal of vows as Dunkeld's priests gather for Chrism Mass



*Photos by Eddie Mahoney*

**The Chrism Mass is normally held during Holy Week in every Catholic diocese. During this Mass, the priests, deacons and representatives of the entire diocesan community gather around their Bishop, who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming year; the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and the Sacred Chrism.**

Due to the pandemic, social distancing and restrictions on attendance have resulted in the Chrism Mass being postponed. In 2020, a very much muted Mass was livestreamed from St Joseph's Chapel, at Law-side.

Usually at the Chrism Mass, the Cathedral is filled with priests and parishioners from every parish across the diocese. This year, despite a lifting on many of the restric-

tions that have been part off the Church's life for the past 18 months, the attendance was controlled and booking was required.

In his homily, Bishop Stephen spoke directly to the clergy of the diocese. He recognised the daily difficulties and trials faced by priests this year particularly, as for many people, the isolation during the long days of lockdown.

"Whenever the Holy Oils are used in a diocese, the ministry of the Bishop who consecrated them is symbolically present. The Chrism Mass also reminds us of our oneness in Christ through Baptism and its Holy anointing, made possible by the ministry of the Bishop and his priests."

The Chrism Mass is also a key moment

in which the unity of the Bishop with his priests (together, they form the presbyterate) is manifested and renewed. During the liturgy, the entire assembly is called to renew its baptismal promises; deacons and priests also renew their vow of obedience to the local Bishop and their commitment to serve God's people. At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to parishes of the diocese for use in the coming year.

As the clergy renewed their ordination promises, Bishop Stephen asked the people to pray for their priests and for their Bishop. He described the clergy's reaction to coping with the pandemic – livestreaming, regularly corresponding with parish communities and caring for those who are isolating – as "magnificent."



# Three generations of prison chaplains in Perth

Three generations of Catholic Chaplains to HMP Perth met whilst on retreat at St Mary's Monastery in Kinnoull last month. (L-R) Fr Andrew Clark 2004 - 2020; Fr Tom Molloy CsSR 1994 - 2004 and Fr Gregory Murphy OP 2020 to present. It was an opportunity for them to exchange experiences from their ministries spanning a period of over 25 years.

It was a timely encounter too - just as the annual Week of Prayer for Prisoners was starting. Each year the event provides the opportunity to open up a wider discussion asking how we view all of those people who are touched by the Criminal Justice System; how can society, churches and individuals break down hostility toward prisoners, their families and former prisoners?



## Mary's Meals celebrates feeding over 2 million of the world's poorest children - photo on page 23

Daniel Adams, Mary's Meals Executive Director, addressed the landmark meeting of volunteers in Dundee's Queens Hotel on the day the 2 million announcement was made.

**Gift, who had received support from Mary's Meals whilst trying to cope as a street child in Malawi, came to Dundee as a surprise guest. Gift had been scavenging daily for scraps to eat or begging on street corners but Mary's Meals made it possible for Gift to attend school and he now attends Queen Margaret University near Edinburgh.**

The charity has grown from feeding 200 children in Malawi, to now reaching more than two million around the world in 19 countries. Emma Hutton, head of Grassroots Engagement at Mary's Meals, said: "We are so thankful to all our volunteers and supporters in the East of Scotland for all their efforts, which will help us give more hungry children the gift of food, joy and hope. "Thanks to the kindness of those who donate or fund raise, children who might otherwise be working in fields, or begging on street corners for their next meal, can instead be sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, learning how to read and write."

It costs just £15.90 for Mary's Meals to feed a child at school for a whole year; and with 93p from every £1 going directly to its feeding programmes. One way to fund raise is by

participating in the charity's Miles for Mary's Meals campaign which invites people to set themselves an active challenge and make a donation or ask friends and family for sponsorship for every mile they meet. By supporting Mary's Meals, fund raisers are helping to transform the lives of children like Veronica, 14, from Mkanire Primary School in Zambia. Veronica, who hopes to become a nurse one day, said: "I enjoy eating Mary's Meals porridge every morning; it gives me energy to concentrate in class and to play netball with my friends. Sometimes I leave home without eating, and it motivates me to come to school knowing that I will be fed."

**To find out more about the work of Mary's Meals, or to get involved, please visit [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) or @MarysMealsUKcharity on Facebook**

## A warm welcome to Fr Dijo on his arrival in Scotland



Fr Dijo Thomas CST was born in Kerala, India to Mrs Cicily Thomas and Mr O. A. Thomas. He is the oldest of two siblings. After the completion of his secondary education from Little Flower High School, Chemmamalamattom, Kerala, he became a candidate to the religious - priesthood in 'Khrist Jyoti Province' of 'Little Flower Congregation' in Punjab, India. He received his initial religious and priestly formation from Little Flower Minor Seminary, Malout, Punjab. He made his Religious Vows in 2003 after completing one year Canonical Novitiate at Little Flower Novitiate, Mookkanur, Kerala. After his philosophical studies at Little Flower Major Seminary, Aluva, Kerala, he left for Ujjain, MP to pursue his theological studies at Ruhelaya Major Seminary. He was ordained a priest on 28 April 2011 at XII Apostles' Church, his home parish, by Bishop Joseph Kallerangatt, Bishop of Pala.

Besides his Philosophical and Theological Studies, he has also taken a few Degrees, such as: Graduate degrees in Bachelor of Science (Psychology) and Bachelor of Education and Post-Graduation in MBA (Human Resource Management) and Master of Education.

He has done his Religious and Priestly Ministries in various capacities as formator to train students for Religious- priesthood; as Parish Priest in different parishes in Punjab and Rajasthan; as manager and director of various Educational Institutions in Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan.

He reached Scotland, on his first time abroad, on Wednesday 10th November, for pastoral ministry in Dunkeld Diocese - where parishioners at St Ninian's and St Clement's were among the first to welcome him.



# Dunkeld's clergy changes and appointments



**Bishop Stephen Robson recently announced the following Clergy appointments and changes in the Diocese of Dunkeld:**

Fr Samuel Alabi MSP, parish priest at Our Lady of Sorrow's, Fintry has been recalled for service to his Religious Congregation after seven years in the Diocese of Dunkeld. He will take up a new appointment in London, as parish priest at Our Lady of the Rosary, Brixton.

Mgr Neil Gallagher, at present parish priest in Pitlochry, will become parish priest at Our Lady of Sorrows, Dundee from the weekend of 13th/ 14th November.



Fr Emmanuel Adindu MSP (above) arrived in our Diocese on October 28th, and will be resident at the Cathedral for a few weeks until he takes up an appointment in the parish of Pitlochry.

Mgr Basil O'Sullivan, Parish Priest of Holy Family, Dunblane will move to Our Lady's, Auchterarder, where he will become parish priest.

Fr Louis Uwaezuoke, who has been the resident priest serving the people of Newport and Tayport, has been appointed the Administrator of Holy Family, Dunblane with effect from 13th/14th November 2021.

From 13th/14th November 2021, Canon Kevin Golden will cease to be Parish Priest of Newport and Tayport, and Mgr Patrick McNally will now serve the combined Fife parishes of Cupar, Tayport, Newport and Auchtermuchty. Fr Jude Mukoro has been appointed assistant priest to Mgr McNally, serving these combined parishes of Cupar, Newport, Tayport and Auchtermuchty.

Fr Sebastian Polack SDS, who arrived in the Diocese a few weeks back, has been appointed assistant priest at St Mary's, Lochee and as Chaplain to the Polish Community in Dundee.

## New Canons

**Following the deaths of Mgr Charles Hendry and Mgr John Harty – and replacing two other long serving priests, Canon Neil Drysdale and Mgr Basil O'Sullivan, the following priests of Dunkeld Diocese were appointed as Canons of the Chapter of St Andrew's Cathedral on Thursday, 21st October, 2021:**

Fr Mark Cassidy, Fr Brian McLean, Fr Tom Shields and Fr Kevin Golden. Together with Mgr Ken McCaffrey, Mgr Pat McNally, Mgr Neil Gallagher and Mgr Aldo Angelosanto this now restores the number of Canons to its full compliment of eight –

Mass for the Installation of the new Canons took place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Tuesday, 30th November, 2021, St Andrew's Day, followed by lunch for the new Canons.

Bishop Stephen offered his congratulations saying, "May I congratulate our new Canons who bring the compliment of the Chapter back up to eight and also the people of the parishes who will be delighted to see their parish priest's promotion in this way."

### Bishop of Dunkeld:

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Robson  
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Tel 01382 225453  
bishop@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

### Vicars General:

Very Rev. Mgr. Aldo Canon Angelosanto  
67 Newton Crescent  
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Very Rev. Kevin Canon Golden  
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Vice-Chancellor:  
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Tel 01382 611282

Very Rev. Michael Freyne  
(Mission, Justice & Peace)  
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Baingle Brae, Tullibody. FK10 2SG  
Tel 01259 213274

Very Rev. James High  
(Laity and Lay Organisations)  
23 Market Street, Montrose. DD10 8NB  
Tel 01674 672208

Very Rev. Steven Canon Mulholland  
(Ecumenism and Interfaith Relationships)  
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Very Rev. Mgr. Basil Canon O'Sullivan JCL  
(Clergy)  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour,  
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PH3 1JW

Very Rev. Thomas Canon Shields  
(Education)  
The Presbytery, St Fillan's  
Ford Road, Crieff. PH7 3HN  
Tel 01764 653269

# Scottish Bishops' message about the return of Sunday Obligation

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Christ is born for us, come let us adore him. Christmas is approaching. It is an occasion to renew our family life, to reach out to the lonely and to celebrate the core of our faith: Emmanuel, God with us. We have all experienced the negative impact the pandemic has had on our common liturgical celebrations and our access to the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Now that more people are attending church, the Bishops of Scotland want to encourage all the Catholic faithful to renew their covenant with the Church and her worship. Christmas seems the right time to do this. We remember how the shepherds said to each other: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, which the Lord has made known to us" (Lk 2:15). The Child in the manger calls to us to go with them.

Christmas Day this year falls on a Saturday. It will be followed immediately by the feast of the Holy Family on the Sunday. We therefore strongly encourage you to take advantage of the celebrations of that weekend by attending Mass on both days, or at least one.

We have often been asked about reinstating the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of obligation. In our fluid situation, this is not an easy judgment to make. Thanks, however, to the effort and good sense of so many, our churches have proven to be safe places. So, saving any serious worsening of the situation, we believe that Christmastide provides an opportune moment to restore the obligation.

**The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation will therefore be reinstated from Sunday 2nd January, the first of the new year. That Sunday coincides**

**with the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. It will be an occasion for us to join the wise men in offering worship to the Infant Jesus.**

In accordance with the common teaching of the Church this obligation does not bind those in ill health or those otherwise impeded from attending Mass. Nor in the context of Covid, does it bind those showing symptoms of the virus or with underlying health conditions, or those with responsibilities for people in need of special care.

The obligation to keep the Lord's Day holy by attending Mass should not be seen as a burden. It is a summons addressed to our human freedom and to the heart of every baptised member of the Church. "There is within me", said St Ignatius of Antioch, "a murmur of living water which says, 'Come to the Father'". The obligation calls us to come to the Father together with our fellow-believers, to "listen to the word of God and to take part in the Eucharist, calling to mind the passion, resurrection and glory of the Lord Jesus, and giving thanks to God who 'has begotten [us] to a living hope, through the resurrection of Christ from the dead'" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 106; 1 Pt 1:3). Sunday Mass can reinvigorate and refresh our Christian faith, our sense of community and our desire to live as missionary disciples in the world. This is why the Church takes this obligation seriously.

It has been good to have access to the Sacred Liturgy online, and we encourage those unable to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays to continue making use of this. Of itself, though, online participation does not fulfil the obligation. Nothing can adequately replace actual presence. At the heart of our Christian life is the event of the Word becoming flesh and our incorporation through the Sacraments into his Body. It's to experience this that we come to church. Our current re-

flection on synodality points us in the same direction: we are a people who meet together because we journey together.

Let us therefore use the coming Christian season to return, with purified hearts and fresh fervour, to our sacramental and liturgical life. During Advent and beyond, there will be opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And Christmas itself is more than a Day. It is a Season. Beyond Christmas Day, it includes the beautiful feasts of the Holy Family, of Mary, Mother of God, of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. In the northern hemisphere, this season falls at a dark and low time of the year. This is not by chance. It's precisely at this time, made darker still by so many current uncertainties, that we are offered divine energy and the joy of the human birth of a divine child. Christ's birth means the forgiveness of our sins and our rebirth as children of God. We sense how Mary's motherhood embraces us as well and, at the Epiphany, the star of faith lights up our hearts. As the Lord is immersed in the River Jordan the waters of our own baptism can flow in our lives with new force. We are given light and strength to live a new year in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In his Letter of the 9th of November to the Catholics of Scotland, written in the midst of CoP26, the Holy Father said, "In these challenging times, may all Christ's followers in Scotland renew their commitment to be convincing witnesses to the joy of the Gospel and its power to bring light and hope to every effort to build a future of justice, fraternity and prosperity, both material and spiritual." We echo these words as we seek together to follow God's ways and open our hearts to the gift of his Son.

Yours devotedly in Christ,  
+ Hugh Gilbert (Aberdeen)  
+ Leo Cushley (St Andrews and Edinburgh)  
+ Joseph Toal (Motherwell)  
+ Stephen Robson (Dunkeld)  
+ John Keenan (Paisley)  
+ William Nolan (Galloway)  
+ Brian McGee (Argyll and the Isles)  
Mgr Hugh Canon Bradley (Glasgow)



Boys and girls from St John's Academy Perth, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Canon Steven Mulholland



# An Interfaith cultural event in aid of Mary's Meals

by Claire van Geet

**W**orking with a team of people across Dundee city from Craigie High School, Dundee University, Dundee and Angus College and many faith groups; students Jeanne Armand (Catholic Students Society) and Rabee'ah Ahmed (Muslim students society) and I created and hosted an International Culture and Food event.

Participating groups were invited to contribute something to the gathering be it a song, dance, food or element of their Faith or culture. Every faith group participated in some way including beautiful Hindu classical Indian dance and Bollywood dancing from Dundee Ashram and Mandir; Celtic Trad musicians from Craigie High and Dundee University; a Jazz Group from Grove Academy; a local piper Ross; a local singer song writer Haystack Monolith; Vicky a Chantuese Francais and the inspiring Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lawside, with African drums and praise. Described by one attendee as "the best night out in Dundee".

The Steeple Church donated its space for the event by the Rev Robert Calvert, rang out with the best in laughter, culture and friendship as people forgot for an evening what can divide us; and learned a little more of what unites us all.

As a Christian Catholic I was blessed to be led through the teachings on the pillars of Lent (prayer, fasting and charity) by Canon Kevin Golden. I benefitted enormously from having a closer walk with our Lord Jesus, immersing myself in His Word and spending time in prayer, worship and stillness: where I could listen more readily

to the prompting of our Lord in the person of the Holy Spirit.

In the stillness I had a deep sense of the Lord impressing on me the words of John 17:21 "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind, just as you and I are, Father – that just as you are in me and I in you, so they will be in us, and the world will believe you sent me". I began to pray for unity across the Christian Church and opportunity to get to know each other.

After the atrocities in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and USA I turned to the Lord in prayer, as I felt a holy anger, that we are all being robbed because of these evil acts.

When I discussed this with my uncle who is a Dominican priest, his first response was this; "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." (attrib. to Edmund Burke) So I cried to the Lord.

I very keenly felt Him encouraging me from John 21:6 "Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, "throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something". So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish (153) that they could not haul it in".

I decided to go to the the University Catholic Society (CathSoc) Mass and talk to the students, Fr Gregory Murphy and Sister Sobrina and Sister Kosi. Charis, Jeanne, Fiona and so many more said yes – and encouraged me to go to the other faith communities. I spent a period praying for an opportunity to gather us together as peoples of faith. We are a diverse population now in Dundee and I am fortunate to have time



**The charity Mary's Meals was chosen by Claire van Geete, of St Andrew's Cathedral, "to give a boost to a wonderful Scottish based charity."**

with our very multi-cultural population within St Andrew's parish. Jeanne, and her friend Rabee'ah, went on to develop a Face Book page to keep the connections going. It is called United Communities of Dundee.

The team at The Steeple were so kind in organising of the event. As the Cathedral Hall is down some tricky steps, and was not large enough for our event, it was touching to have our Christian neighbours step in and support the vision. As we had approached nearly every faith group in Dundee it was amazing to see the turn out across Hindu, Baha'i, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian and even two Muslim men; who had felt they might not come because of Ramadhan; actually came in. The Spirit of the Risen Lord is moving – praise Him.

We decided we would like to focus on a charity to gather round in support and chose 'Mary's Meals' They are a Scottish family run charity who support now 1.5 million children in 18 countries with food and education every day! [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) So far we have raised £700 but hope to swell that further with a raffle and the school fund raising of pupils at Craigie High, Dundee.

The food that remained was donated to Jericho House homeless project which operates close to the Cathedral.



Photo by Eddie Mahoney

## SUPPORT OUR WORK

### Remembering your Parish/Diocese in your Will

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

#### Benefits to Others

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

#### Getting Advice

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

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

## CAROL CONCERT Cecilian Choir

Directed by Mary Veal  
Organist - Kevin Veal

3pm, Sunday 19th December

St Andrew's Cathedral  
150 Nethergate  
Dundee

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Gift Aid helps our parishes  
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Donation			Total with Gift Aid
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£10	£40	£480	£600
£20	£80	£960	£1200
£25	£100	£1200	£1500

*giftaid it*



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

## Top 5 Gift Aid Myths

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



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

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

**HMRC WILL AUDIT OR REVIEW  
MY PAST YEARS' RETURNS**

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



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

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

**THE GOVERNMENT WILL CHECK MY  
IMMIGRATION STATUS**

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



**MY TAXES WILL GO UP IF I CLAIM  
GIFT AID**

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

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

## DUNKELD NEWS

### Coming editions

27th February 2022

8th May 2022

3rd July 2022

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and photos

Photos need to be high resolution .jpg  
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Patients with  
foreknowledge of their  
admission to hospital should  
endeavour to seek the  
Sacrament of the Sick  
from their Parish Priest  
beforehand