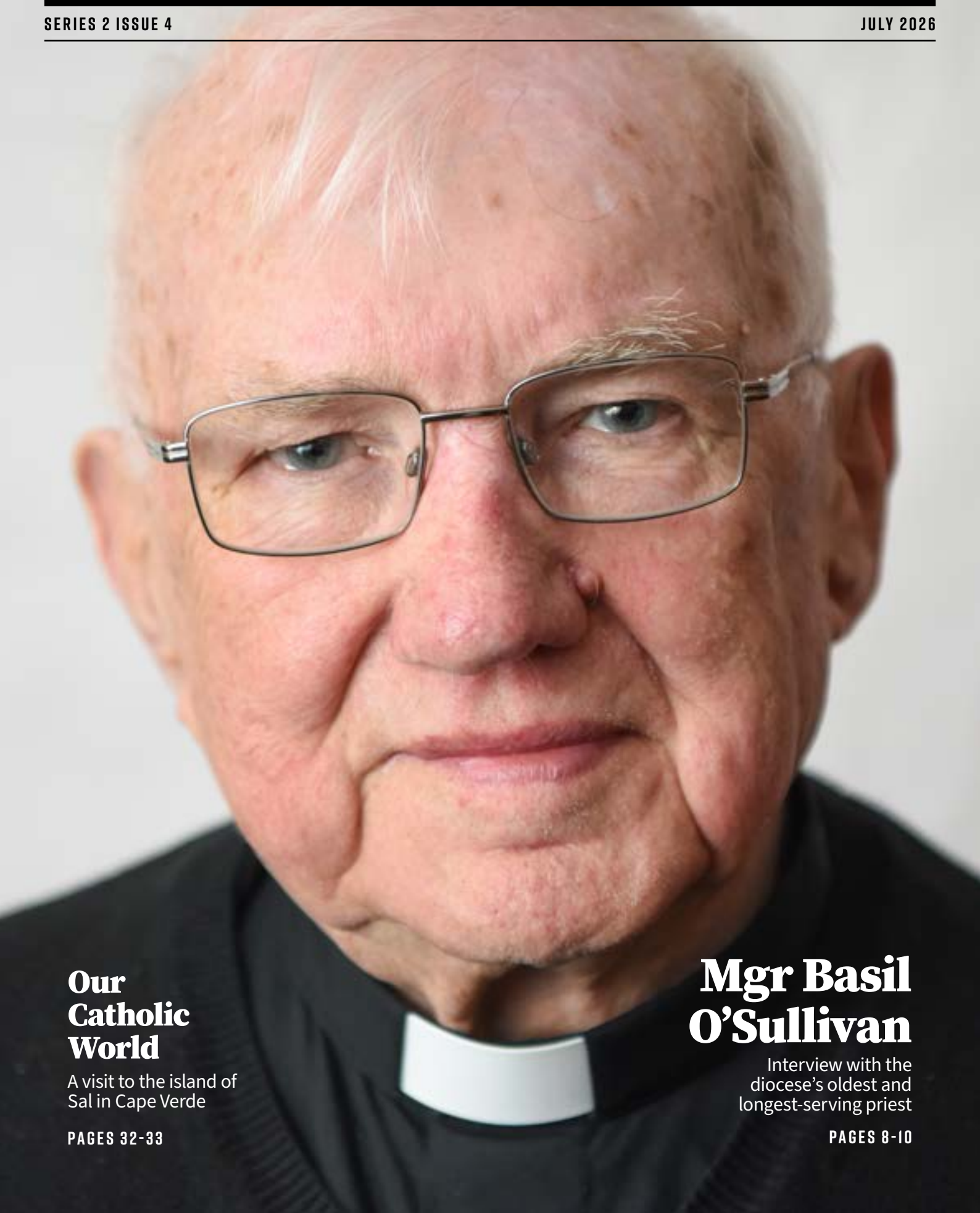


DUNKELD NEWS

SERIES 2 ISSUE 4

JULY 2026



Our Catholic World

A visit to the island of
Sal in Cape Verde

PAGES 32-33

Mgr Basil O'Sullivan

Interview with the
diocese's oldest and
longest-serving priest

PAGES 8-10

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS ARE HERE FOR YOU

Serving Ninewells, Royal Victoria, Roxburghe House and Perth hospitals and care homes

Dundee: 07821 624124 | Perth: 07842 538056

If possible, receive the Sacrament of the Sick from your parish priest before admission. It is essential to request a visit during admission, either by calling us directly or asking hospital staff, as admission lists are no longer passed to chaplains

01382 660111 (NHS switchboard. Ask for the Catholic priest on call)



Last Will and Testament

LET YOUR FAITH LIVE ON

*A gift in your will can change
lives for generations*

You've given your time, prayers and love to your parish during your life. By remembering your parish or diocese in your will, you can keep that love alive—supporting our priests, caring for our churches and helping those in need in our communities.

After looking after your family, this simple act can ensure the Church you cherish continues its mission for years to come.

Gifts to the Church are free of inheritance tax—every penny goes directly to God's work.

To find out how to include the Church in your will, speak to your solicitor or contact the Diocesan Office

01382 225453

SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of *Dunkeld News* will be published at the end of September 2026. We welcome your contributions in the form of news, community news, features and opinion articles.

Wherever possible you should also send photographs and/or illustrations with your written contribution. Images should be of the highest quality and as large as possible

Please note you must name all of the people in any photograph, include the name of the photographer and obtain permission from all of the people in the photograph for it to be used in the magazine.

The deadline for the next edition is

15 SEPTEMBER

Please email your contributions to dunkeldnews@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

DUNKELD NEWS

SERIES 2 ISSUE 4 | JULY 2026

EDITOR: JAMIE STEWART JONES. TEL: 01382 225453. EMAIL: DUNKELDNEWS@DUNKELDDIOCESE.ORG.UK

CONTENTS

4-5 > News

6-7 > Bishop Andrew:
Understanding God's
call

8-10 > Interview
with Monsignor Basil
O'Sullivan

11 > Father
Emmanuel Obidah:
Scottish smalltalk

3 > Safeguarding
development day

14-15 > Alyth
and Blairgowrie
anniversaries

16 > Synodality

17-20 > Children's
Corner

21 > Father Tobias
Okoro: Prison
chaplain

22 > Social Media
and obituary

23 > Letter from
Rome

24-25 > Lourdes
pilgrimage.

26 > Monsignor
Ken McCafferty's
retirement

27 > Father Ronald
McAinsh: The
Assumption

28-29 > Community
News

31 > News

32-33 > Our Catholic
World: Cape Verde

34-35 > Directory

36 > Alpha

Honouring service and giving thanks together



BY **BISHOP ANDREW MCKENZIE**

This time of year often marks an uplift in spirits—children break up for their summer holidays, the weather is nicer (well, usually!), nature seems to come alive and the short days of winter seem a distant memory.

The seasons are most certainly a gift from God, and we can also celebrate all the wonderful gifts He has given us in our diocese.

In this issue, we have the opportunity to celebrate key milestones in the loving service of our priests, the life of our parishes and our schools.

We give thanks for all of the work that goes on in the background, particularly that which often goes unseen, and we celebrate the contributions everyone in our

diocese makes to being part of the worldwide Catholic Church—a faith that unites around 1.4 billion people!

That also means, if you go abroad on your summer holidays this year, you can find a local Catholic parish and take part in Mass, knowing that it is the very same Mass we celebrate in our parishes, even if the language or local customs are different!

One of the key milestones we have celebrated is the 70th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan who, at 94 years young, is still serving as parish priest at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Auchterarder.

We give thanks to God for his many years of humble, loving service, and I am sure he is the longest actively serving priest anywhere in the whole country!

As always, I thank you all for your many contributions to our diocese and to this edition of the *Dunkeld News*.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this issue, and please do not hesitate to contact our team if you would like to contribute or share in future issues.

+ *Andrew*

www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk



tinyurl.com/dunkelddiocese



tiktok.com/@dioceseofdunkeld



instagram.com/dioceseofdunkeld/



x.com/DunkeldDiocese

DIOCESE OFFICE:

01382 225453

The quietest baby clinic in the world?

By Claire Cook, SCIAF

My ‘babies’ Jamie and Katie are now 25 and 22 but I remember their early days like it was yesterday. Now working for SCIAF, my mind often wanders back to those days, particularly when my work relates to children in the countries we serve.

When they were very young they would get weighed regularly at the ‘baby clinic’ where my sister Jacqueline worked as a health visitor – and every week I would bounce out the door, proud as punch that they had gained weight and I had made that happen. I would head straight to my parents’ house for lunch and to share my news.

I also remember their ‘Red Books’ and Jamie being on the 97th centile for his height. “This boy will be over 6-foot-tall one day” they said. Well he’s only 5’ 10” but I did my best!

Fast forward 25 years and I have the privilege to work for SCIAF. My colleague Jonathan has just returned from Malawi, which is facing a food crisis, and is giving the staff an update on his trip.

He tells us of a baby clinic in Nsanje and what strikes me is he says it was eerily quiet. That’s not how baby clinics should sound. They should be bustling, loud –

healthy babies screaming their lungs out for their next feed, and mothers chatting away.

And right there and then I am transported back and left thinking how fortunate my journey into motherhood was.

These babies are too weak to scream and the mums too weak to breastfeed their babies. Some little ones are barely clinging to life.

The mums patiently wait for their child to be weighed and measured. A tape is wrapped around their tiny arms to gauge how far the malnourishment has progressed. Measure green and they are deemed safe for now. Yellow means they are on the brink. Red? Read means danger but brings hope too.

For those with the frailest babies measuring in the red zone, the hope comes in the form of a fortified corn soya blend (CSB). I suppose it’s a bit like a ‘Super Cereal’ due to its rich nutritional value – a mixture of corn, soya and Vitamin Premix which comes in a powder form.

CSB remains a cornerstone of emergency nutrition programming. Because maize is Malawi’s staple food, CSB is culturally familiar and easily prepared as porridge, making it especially suitable for young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and other vulnerable groups during the lean season.

To carry out this life-saving work, SCIAF received funding from the Scottish Government Humanitarian Emergency Response Fund, known as HEF. Scotland has a long and proud friendship with Malawi, spanning back to the days of David Livingstone – they even named one of their main cities after the man from Blantyre.

So, when you next visit the baby clinic, or hold your grandchild, or get a smile from a baby on the bus, please think of these babies in Malawi. Do say a prayer and support SCIAF’s life-saving work via sciaf.org.uk/donate.



**EMERGENCY AID
IS RUNNING OUT.
SAVE A LIFE
TODAY.**

“No one can remain on the sidelines in the fight against hunger. This battle involves all of us.”

Pope Leo XIV



**GIVE NOW
[SCIAF.ORG.UK/DONATE](https://sciaf.org.uk/donate)**



**EMERGENCY
HUNGER**
Appeal 2026

Church welcomes court ruling in buffer zone case

A Glasgow court ruling has raised questions over the use of safe access zone powers and protections for peaceful public speech.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland welcomes Sheriff Stuart Reid's dismissal of two criminal charges alleging 'influencing within a buffer zone' against Rose Docherty, brought under the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Act 2024.

Mrs Docherty was arrested last September near the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow after offering a consensual conversation

and holding a sign reading: 'Coercion is a crime, here to talk, only if you want'.

Sheriff Reid dismissed the case against Mrs Docherty, finding that the Procurator Fiscal had 'failed to disclose an offence known to the law of Scotland'.

Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, said: 'The Bishops' Conference of Scotland welcomes the court's decision to dismiss the

charges brought against Rose Docherty.

'The ruling is an important reminder that peaceful, consensual conversation in a public place is protected, and that criminal offences must be clearly and properly made out on the evidence.

'This case should prompt a careful and thorough review of how safe access zone powers are applied so that they do not infringe fundamental rights'.



Bishop John Keenan.

Review of Scotland's dioceses looks to the future

The Bishops of Scotland have reviewed whether the country's eight dioceses remain the best structure for the Church's mission.

Following a request from the Holy See, bishops have consulted their dioceses on two possible approaches: closer cooperation and shared resources within existing boundaries, or the merger of some dioceses.

The review came amid falling clergy numbers, changing Mass attendance and growing pressure on diocesan resources.

Each diocese was invited to pray, reflect and contribute before responses are gathered into initial findings for the Holy See in the autumn.

Bishops described the process as pastoral and missionary.

SEASON OF CREATION CONFERENCE 2026

CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026
10AM – 3PM



EYRE HALL
ARCHDIOCESE OF GLASGOW OFFICES
CLYDE STREET, GLASGOW, G1 4JY



REGISTER
NOW

bit.ly/SeasonofCreation26

Season of
Creation

CARE FOR OUR
COMMON HOME

GUEST SPEAKER
Lorna Gold
Executive Director,
Laudato Si' Movement

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S CALL

BY **BISHOP ANDREW MCKENZIE**

I have often been asked to say exactly why I decided to become a priest.

The answer, I always feel, is ordinary, mundane and rather disappointing for the enquirer.

No spectacular revelations led me to priesthood, only a feeling that I could make a difference working as a priest and that I would be happy doing that.

I guess that it is the same for any vocation: married, single, religious or whatever—just a feeling that in the ordinariness of everyday life God may have a plan, and if we listen carefully, we may be able to discern what that plan is.

God does not often visit us in the unusual or spectacular.

God visits in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life.

Our task as Christians is to recognise his visits.

That's certainly the problem facing the crowds who meet with Jesus: the ordinariness of his appearing and the

fact that they know his background make it difficult for them to accept him.

He speaks wisely, but those who know him and his family find it difficult to believe him.

It occurs to me that there are similar prophets in our own time.

Yet, because we know where they come from and we see them as ordinary like us, we fail to hear them speaking of Christian values and working out their faith commitment.

I am thinking of married couples who sometimes, despite their difficulties, see things through and continue witness to the importance of married love.

I am thinking of volunteers who give up their time for others, seeking to build a friendlier and more accepting world.

I am thinking of priests and religious who give their lives in service of the Gospel and in leadership of the Church.

Why does God so often speak through the ordinary? In this reflection on priesthood, vocation and everyday witness, I invite us to look again at the people around us, recognising the quiet prophets whose faith, service and perseverance reveal God's presence in our diocesan community here and now.

I am thinking of retired people who bear witness to the enduring gift of faith as they attend morning Mass each day.

I am thinking of single people who give their time to work for change and live their lives by Gospel values.

I am thinking of young people who believe that God has a future for them and who seek to discover that future through prayer and in community.

I am thinking of young and old, single and married who refuse to accept what society calls normal and who are willing to strive and campaign for a more just and caring world.

There are many prophets in the ordinariness of our everyday world and in this gifted diocesan community.

We need only recognise their witness and follow their lead.

+ 





Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan. *Picture by Andrew Mitchell.*

A JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan celebrated his 70th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on 17 June, a cause for great rejoicing in our diocese. **Paul Allaker** sat with the Monsignor, who spoke about his life and ministry, from childhood in Ireland through to the present in our diocese. What follows is an excerpt from the interview, The full transcript can be found on the diocesan website by scanning the QR code below.

I was the youngest of nine children, born in 1932 in Wales, but I don't remember living there. I was taken back to Cork as a baby, and the rest of my siblings were born and brought up there.

My education began with the Christian brothers, in the North Monastery in Cork—that was in my primary school years—and then I went on to the diocesan college, called Farranferris, which was kind of a high school, but in the hope that people would become priests as well, and it was indeed a great source of vocations for the priests, especially for the diocese.

There was lots of religion—the Catholic environment was very strong in those days in Cork. It was a very strong community, and it was mainly during the war, of course, in which I was brought up: the period of childhood I remember best would be the 1940s.

I had two older brothers in the war, which affected us greatly as a family. One brother was in the RAF, seeing active service in North Africa and Italy, the other was, just as dangerously, in the Merchant Navy—he was sunk three times, but he lived to tell the tale, thankfully!

I can't tell you when I first thought about becoming a priest, but it always seemed to be in my mind. I was very taken with a local church run by the Dominicans,

maybe a mile or two away from my home, and they ran a noviciate. I was taken, I have to say, by the glamour of the way they were dressed: more like medieval knights than monks in robes!

A relative of mine became a student at All Hallows College in Dublin, a prominent seminary founded by John Hand in 1842 to train Catholic priests for missionary work in English-speaking countries where there were shortages of priests.

This was my first encounter with All Hallows and it was this idea of serving where there was a shortage of priests that appealed to me.

There were lots of young men at the college and there were 33 in my class. I really didn't know where in the world I was going to go because then you had to get a diocese to take you on.

It was, I suppose, kind of a marketplace!

One day—I wasn't long there, maybe a month or so—and the rector came to me and said there was this bishop over from Scotland.

This bishop met me and interviewed me and another student. He turned out to be the Bishop of Dunkeld.

He signed us on, and that was important because that's how we stayed in the college. You couldn't stay in the college without a diocese to go to because the college wasn't geared for the Irish



dioceses. When I mentioned Dunkeld to my friends, nobody knew where it was. One bright spark said it's a fishing village, and that's all I knew about the diocese for six years!

Eventually, I was ordained, supported by my family because the family had to provide the financial support. The fees were paid by the diocese, but everything else was paid for by my family—they took a little weekly collection in the family to keep me going.

I was very grateful to the professors because I felt there was a wonderful training and spirituality. One of the professors told us they were not really trying to make us into experts, but working priests in the parishes. That was the ambition: not scholarship, but educated working men for the parish we were going to.

Even though Scotland was English speaking, it was certainly a strange land, and there was a sense of being cut off, especially with having no facility to go home. Suddenly you were parachuted into a new place and trying to make your way, trying to find your feet and adapt to a new form of life, which we couldn't properly train for. But, in any case, I received nothing but kindness and help.

After some time, the bishop said to me that he wanted me to go to Rome to study canon law. It was a great experience, and being in Rome was also a great experience.

It so happened that Pius XII died during my time there, so it was great to be there for the big events, like the inauguration of John Paul XXIII.

In my first few years, I was sent to Dundee and was a curate at St Joseph's and at the Cathedral, before being appointed parish priest at Alva.

This was after 15 years or so. In those

days, you waited 15 years to get a parish! One of my big appointments was being sent to St Columba's in Kirkton. I was delighted to be there. They were lovely people and very supportive.

In 1987, I was sent to Dunblane and spent most of the rest of my life there: more than 30 years!

It was a very happy appointment, except for the Dunblane Massacre. We were there that day for the shooting. It was very difficult to handle all that, but the Lord helped me and the parishioners—they were very supportive.

There was huge pressure from the publicity point of view, but of course there was also the trauma of dealing with the people who had lost children. The whole thing is almost impossible to describe.

In many ways, the Dunblane Massacre formed a great trauma in my life because I still have after effects. I'm still known as the priest of Dunblane, and I was back there a few months ago to say the Mass for the 30th anniversary. So that has coloured my life ever since.

The bishop asked me to take over at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Auchterarder because there was no priest here.

I was priest at Dunblane and Auchterarder for the best part of 25 years, I think. Eventually, when I was getting old, I asked the bishop if I could stay here in Auchterarder and that's where I am at the moment.

That's the end of the story. Well, hopefully, not quite yet!

*In many ways,
the Dunblane
Massacre formed
a great trauma in
my life*

This interview is available in its entirety on the diocese's website at bit.ly/3Qst7iW



FATHER EMMANUEL OBIDAH

TEA AFTER MASS: HOW SCOTTISH SMALLTALK BECAME MY CATECHESIS

After Sunday Mass, faith comes alive in the parish hall, through tea, biscuits, small talk and the warmth of belonging.

For many, catechesis conjures images of dusty classrooms, memorising the Sacraments and trying to understand transubstantiation.

We imagine faith formation as a formal transmission of theology.

Yet, since joining St John Vianney's, Alva, I have discovered some of the deepest spiritual insights happen over tea and coffee in the parish hall.

In many places, the end of Mass is a quiet, individual affair: a quick genuflection and a silent exit into Sunday afternoon.

At St John Vianney's, as in many Scottish parishes, the *Ite, missa est* feels less like a dismissal and more like a starting signal.

The destination is not the car park but the church hall.

The ritual that follows has taught me more about the heart of the faith than any textbook could.

Tea after Mass is not merely a social extra; it is where the Gospel meets ordinary life.

There is a particular sound to Scottish Catholic life: the rattle of teaspoons against cups and the low hum of parishioners all asking, 'How are you?' at once.

Sitting on a plastic chair with a cup of tea and a biscuit,



Sitting on a plastic chair with a cup of tea and a biscuit, I realised I was witnessing a living theology

I realised I was witnessing a living theology.

In the hall, the Gospel is lived through small talk. To an outsider, 'The weather's been dreich, hasn't it?' may sound banal, but to a parishioner, it opens the door to the joys and sorrows of the week.

Every Scottish parish has its formidable women who have run the tea urn for decades.

They are the custodians of the community's soul.

They do not lecture on the preferential option for the poor: they tell you about the neighbour who has not had a hot meal since Tuesday.

They do not explain the communion of saints: they hand you a list of the deceased and ask you to 'keep a mind of them' in your prayers. This is catechesis by osmosis.

By watching how they care for the lonely and welcome new arrivals, I learned the Church is not a building you visit, but a family to which you belong.

The tea hall is where the ideals of the homily meet Monday morning reality.

It is where 'Peace be with you' is tested in conversation with the parish's most talkative character.

The Eucharist does not end at the altar; it continues in the breaking of cake and the sharing of news.



Our unsung heroes

BY **CANON TOM SHIELDS**

The Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1973 requires local authorities to appoint three religious representatives: one Catholic, one from the Church of Scotland and one from another denomination or faith.

Why?

Well, partly this acknowledges the historic role of churches in education.

It also recognises the expertise and experience that former teachers and school chaplains bring to debates on schools.

These representatives sit on education committees or take part in full council meetings, as laid down in the procedures and rules of each council.

Catholic Church representatives have a specific interest to safeguard the interests of Catholic schools.

While it would be mistaken to think councils are generally anti-religious or against Catholic schools, it is the case they value guidance and input from those who have knowledge and familiarity with Catholic education.

On a practical level, council officials must consult the Church on the running of our schools, and the bishop of the diocese cannot be available for every discussion, so he nominates someone to

the relevant council. Our diocese stretches across Angus, Dundee City, Fife, Perth and Kinross, and Clackmannanshire and according to an old agreement between the diocese and the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, we have tended to share a representative.

Mary Caldwell, of the Archdiocese of Edinburgh, represents Bishop Andrew and Archbishop Leo.

Our other representatives are myself, Teresa Little, Susan MacLagan and Fr Michael Carrie.

Representatives attend council meetings, work with council education officers on matters related to our schools, visit schools to discuss staffing and curriculum issues and sit on interview panels for senior posts.

They will also take up individual cases when people approach them about difficulties they have with placing their child in a school or have other concerns.

Up until recently, they also dealt with the approval of staff for our schools under the terms of the 1918 and 1980 Education (Scotland) Acts.

This is now done by me for the whole diocese with the assistance of Dr Paul McFadyen at the curial offices.

While representatives come to the fore at times of crisis, most of the time they work quietly behind the scenes.

ANGUS:

ve.education@
dunkelddiocese.org.uk

DUNDEE CITY:

churchrepdundee@
dunkelddiocese.org.uk

PERTH & KINROSS:

churchrepperthand-
kinross@dunkelddiocese.
org.uk

FIFE:

melissa.gavan@staned.
org.uk or margaret.
barton@staned.org.uk

CLACKMANNANSHIRE:

churchrep-
clackmannanshire@
dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding firmly in focus: Parish coordinators meet for development day

BY LINDA GOURLAY, DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR

Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (PSCs) from around the diocese came together at the Pastoral Centre, Forebank, Dundee, on Saturday 30 May for the first safeguarding development day of 2026.

These meetings are held twice a year to provide the PSCs with the latest safeguarding information and updates from both a diocesan and national perspective. The gathering also gives PSCs the opportunity to raise any issues with the diocesan safeguarding advisor, share experiences and contribute to the overall

development of safeguarding practice in our parishes. The group was especially fortunate to have Canon Kevin Golden celebrate Mass with them, which was truly beautiful and much appreciated by all.

The afternoon was dedicated to the roll-out of the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency's PSC Training, which was expertly delivered by Maureen Foster, safeguarding training coordinator for the diocese. The next safeguarding development day will be held in October.



Do you know who your PSC is? Linda Gourlay (Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor), Deacon Jim Leary (Ss Peter & Paul's), Susan Etle (St Columba's), Jean Gilbert and Margaret Fern (St Mungo's), Noreen Hickey (St John the Baptist), Maureen Foster (St James's), Gerry Dignan (St Ninian's), Theresa Ritchie (St Thomas of Canterbury), Diane Mitchell (Our Lady of Lourdes), Fiona Burnett (St Thomas of Canterbury), Marie Stuart (Our Lady of Lourdes), Clare Clark (St Anne's), Adedamisi Pegba-Otemolu (Ss Pius X and St Patrick's), Brian Fearon (St John Vianney's) and Canon Kevin Golden. *Photograph by Pierluigi Carena (PSC St Andrew's Cathedral).*



MILESTONES

Early 1700s

Following the Reformation, Catholic life in Perthshire was maintained in secret, with small groups meeting in private homes, supported by travelling priests from the Perth Mission.

1829

The Catholic Emancipation Act allowed Catholics to practice their faith openly and build churches.

1830s–1850s

Fr Mackay began celebrating Mass for a small flock in Blairgowrie's old Town Hall.

1856

St Stephen's Church was dedicated in January.

1863

A wing was added to St Stephen's to serve as a day school, marking the beginning of Catholic education in the parish.

1900

St Luan's was built by public subscription, linking back to the ancient Pictish heritage of St Moluag.

1906

St Stephen's celebrated 50 years with extensive redecoration and a new organ, partly funded by Andrew Carnegie.

2018

Fr Gregory embarked on major conservation and restoration works, restoring the neo-Gothic beauty of St Stephen's for future generations.

PARISH CLERGY

1836-50: Fr James McKay

1850-53: Fr John Carmont

1853-82: Fr Andrew Dempsey

1882-90: Fr Thomas Crumley

1890-1917: Fr John Malcolm

1917-51: Fr Walter Robert Stretch

1951-59: Fr Jeremiah O'Donoghue

1959-64: Fr Kevin Aloysius Smyth

1964-69: Fr Patrick McNamarra

1969-77: Fr Edmund Purcell

1977: Fr Hamish Stuart

1977-81: Fr Joseph Creegan

1981-88: Fr Patrick McNally

1988-2005: Fr Hugh Sreenan

2005-10: Fr Ian Thomas Mullen

2010-13: Fr James Eugene Walls

2013-: Fr Gregory Ejiogu Umunna

CELEBRATING FAITH ACROSS GENERATIONS

Parishioners in Blairgowrie and Alyth marked historic anniversaries, giving thanks for their churches, shared faith and service across generations past, present and future.

BY **ANDREW MITCHELL**

Parishioners from across eastern Perthshire gathered in St Stephen's Church, Blairgowrie to celebrate the joint anniversaries of two long-established Catholic communities: the 175th anniversary of St Stephen's Church, Blairgowrie, and the 125th anniversary of St Luan's Church, Alyth.

The anniversary Mass was celebrated in St Stephen's Church and brought together parishioners, clergy and guests to give thanks for generations of faithful witness in both communities.

The Gospel was proclaimed by Fr Yohanna Ishaya of Perth, before the homily was delivered by Bishop Andrew McKenzie, who reflected on the deeper meaning of church buildings as places where faith is lived rather than simply structures of stone.

Describing both churches as places rich in memory, the Bishop said that if their walls could speak they would tell countless stories of prayer, sacrifice and dedication.

Yet, he stressed, the true significance of a church lies not in its architecture, but in the people who gather there.

"These buildings derive their

dignity as places where Christ gathers his people, where his word is shared and his Eucharist is celebrated", he said.

"Tonight we celebrate not just our buildings, but God's people and the faith that inspires us and binds us together".

Reflecting on the long history of both parishes, Bishop McKenzie paid tribute to the generations of priests and parishioners who had built up the Catholic faith in Blairgowrie and Alyth.

He also acknowledged those who continue to care for the churches and sustain parish life.

He noted that over many decades the churches had been places of both joy and sorrow, where families had gathered to celebrate baptisms, marriages and anniversaries, and to seek comfort in times of loss.

Drawing on the Gospel account of Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the Bishop encouraged parishioners not simply to look back with gratitude, but to look forward with confidence.

Just as the woman became a joyful witness to Christ after her meeting with Jesus, today's Christian communities are called to carry the Good News beyond the church walls.

"The community that is

shaped here must look to the future with confidence", he said, adding: "The Holy Spirit stirs in this place, calling for a new evangelisation and promising a new outpouring of his gifts, for God has great plans for his people".

As the anniversary celebrations concluded, parish priest Fr Gregory Umunna made presentations to a number of long-serving parishioners.

Bishop McKenzie invited the congregation to give thanks for the faith handed on through successive generations while remembering those who had worshipped in these churches before them and now rest in God's eternal peace.

The joint celebration marked not only significant milestones in the histories of St Stephen's and St Luan's, but also renewed the shared commitment of both parish communities to continue proclaiming the Gospel and serving their local communities with faith, hope and charity for generations to come.

Fr James Walls, Fr Gregory Umunna, Bishop Andrew McKenzie and Mgr Patrick McNally celebrating Mass at St Stephen's, Blairgowrie. *Photograph by Andrew Mitchell.*

Listening to the spirit for a church in mission

BY MAUREEN RUDDY

Participants from across the diocese gathered in St Mary's Forebank Hall on 9 June for an uplifting and thought-provoking presentation on synodality by Austen Ivereigh, the Catholic theologian and papal author, who joined the event over the internet.

Speaking as a parishioner and Parish Pastoral Council member and drawing parallels between synodality and the 2007 Aparecida experience in Brazil, where Church leaders were reminded that 'the early church spread through the action of the Spirit', he explained how, during the post-war years, the Church in the West has failed to evangelise and has become, in Pope Francis's words, 'self-referential'.

Highlighting that openness to the Spirit demands pastoral conversion for everyone, he urged



laity, religious, priests and bishops to listen in order to discern what the Spirit is saying through the signs of the times, emphasising how faith is now mainly handed on through an encounter with Christ.

He spoke of the synodal process as an awakening to a new apostolic, mission-oriented era in which parishes become 'a community of communities... nearer to the people... and environments of living communion' (*Evangelii Gaudium* 28).

Acknowledging the strong leadership coming from Rome, he encouraged the practice of *Lectio Divina*, Conversations in the Spirit and Discernment as we ask ourselves how our parishes and deaneries must change if we are to form people for missionary discipleship.



Listening to Austen Ivereigh's talk on Synodality at St Mary's Forebank Hall.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



In this issue's edition of Children's Corner for you to pull out and keep...

Page 1 – Wordsearch

Page 2 – Pentecost Colouring Picture

Page 3 – Transfiguration Colouring Picture

Page 4 – Our Lady of Lourdes Colouring Picture

PENTECOST

SPIRIT

FIRE

TONGUES

MARY

DISCIPLES

CROWDS

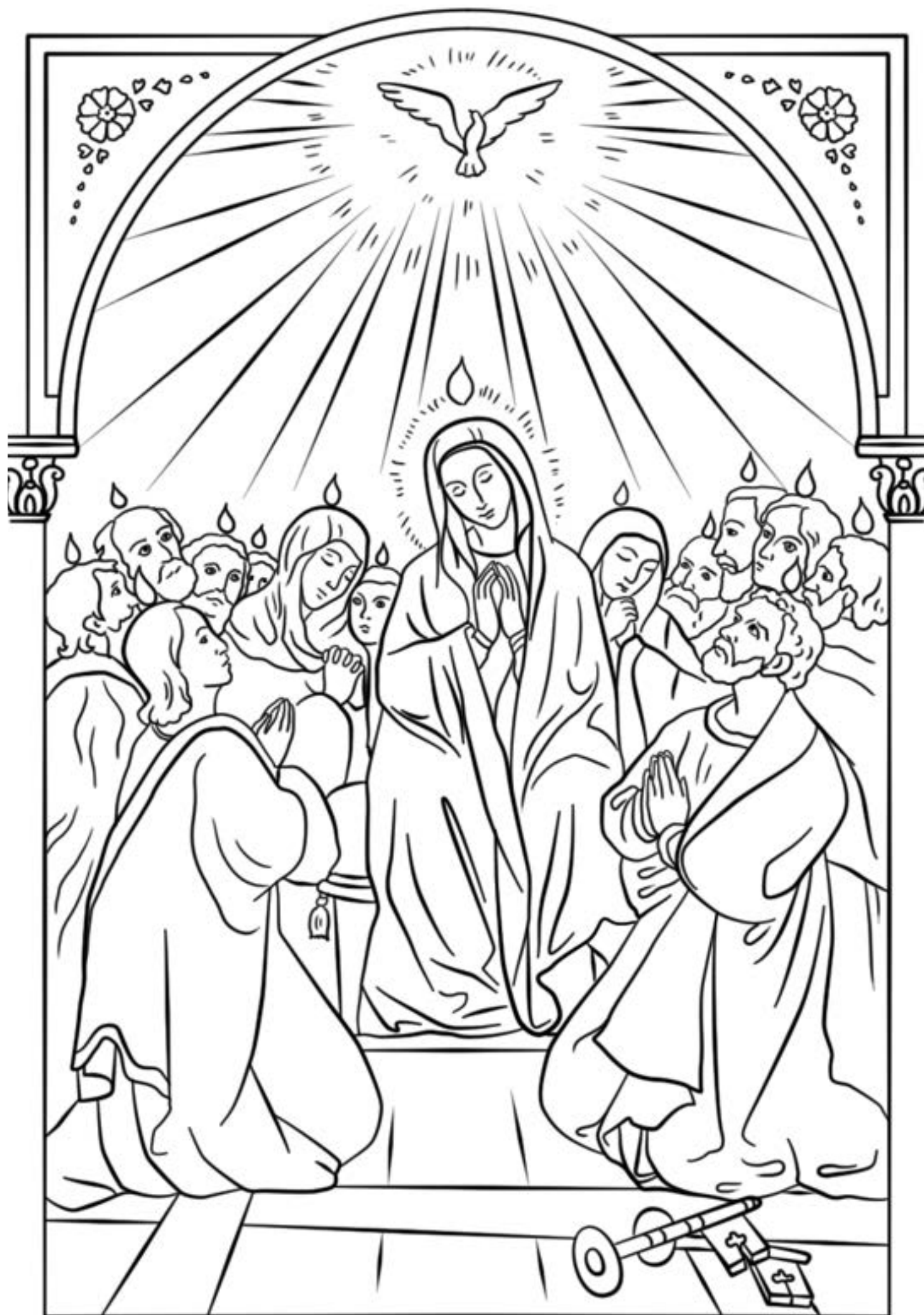
CHURCH



A	C	X	G	O	A	C	J	O	Z	S	J
T	R	U	O	S	Z	H	N	P	U	P	T
S	O	T	D	D	A	U	V	E	R	I	F
N	W	N	F	I	C	R	Q	H	I	R	H
R	D	E	G	M	R	C	G	B	B	I	S
Y	S	C	M	U	B	H	B	L	F	T	I
N	D	E	W	A	E	Y	C	J	X	F	K
S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	I	U	L
L	F	E	V	P	Z	Y	E	K	T	K	Y
P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	K	R	M
Q	R	P	C	X	W	G	U	O	A	N	J
H	S	W	G	D	Q	P	H	M	L	V	M



The words can be forwards, backwards or diagonal!



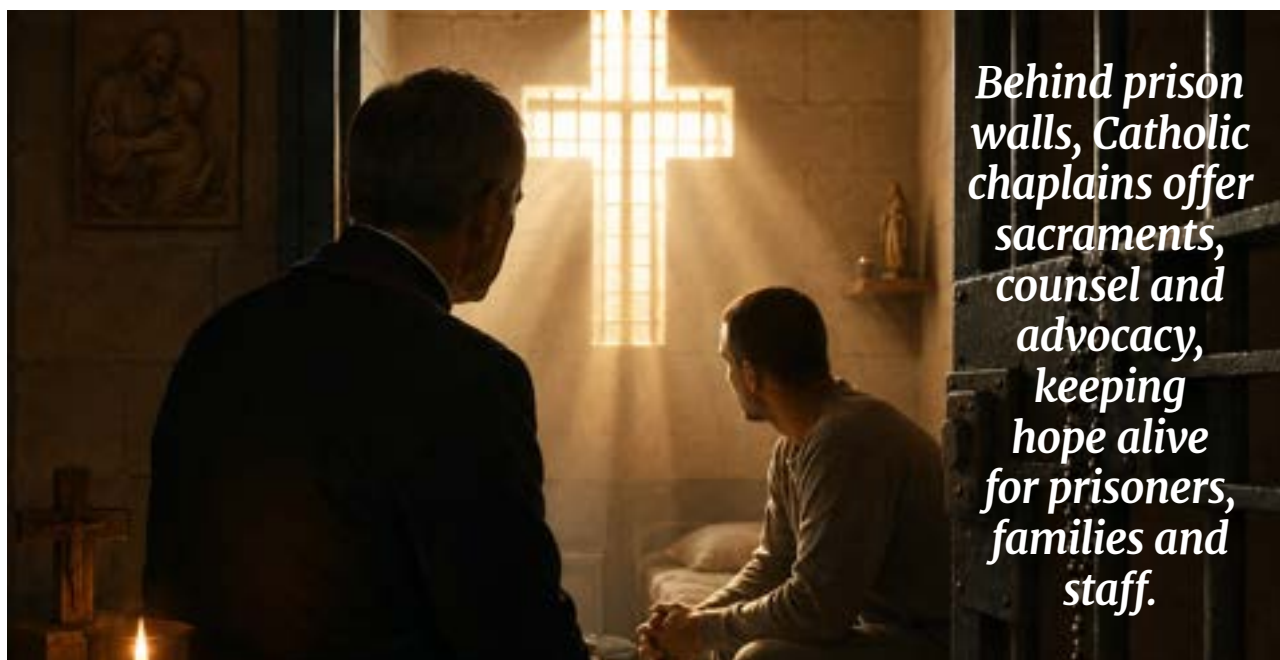






FATHER TOBIAS OKORO

SERVING GOD AND JUSTICE: THE ROLE OF A CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN IN A SCOTTISH PRISON



Behind prison walls, Catholic chaplains offer sacraments, counsel and advocacy, keeping hope alive for prisoners, families and staff.

Within the stark corridors of Scotland's prisons, from HMP Barlinnie to HMP Edinburgh, the Catholic chaplain serves as a unique bridge between faith, redemption and the reality of incarceration.

Appointed by the Scottish Prison Service in collaboration with the diocese, this chaplain's primary duty is not to judge, but to witness to the dignity of every person, regardless of their crime.

The chaplain's core duty is providing Catholic pastoral care.

This includes celebrating the Holy Mass, hearing confessions, anointing the sick, preparing the candidates and celebrating the sacraments of initiation (baptism, holy eucharist and confirmation) and distributing holy communion to those who express the desire.

For many prisoners, these sacraments offer a vital link to their identity and hope.

The chaplain also ministers to those on remand, in segregation, on life sentence or on their deathbed, ensuring no one dies

without the last rites if they so wish. Beyond liturgy, the chaplain offers one-to-one listening and non-judgmental counsel.

Prisoners often wrestle with guilt, shame and fear of rejection.

The chaplain helps them confront past actions, encourages accountability and supports reconciliation with families.

This role often involves mediating difficult conversations or writing letters on a prisoner's behalf.

Scottish prisons are religiously diverse, and the Catholic chaplain works alongside representatives of the Church of Scotland, Islam and of other faiths.

They contribute to interfaith events and join the prison's chaplaincy team, which reports to the governor.

The chaplain also sits on risk assessment and parole board meetings, offering insight into a prisoner's genuine remorse and rehabilitation.

The chaplain's duties extend to prison officers and

staff, who also face trauma and moral injury: the chaplain is a confidential ear for them.

Likewise, they assist the families of prisoners, arranging baptisms for children, offering bereavement support or simply easing the anxiety of a visit.

Finally, the chaplain acts as a quiet advocate.

They might challenge inhumane treatment, advocate for healthcare access or help a foreign national prisoner navigate the asylum process.

Rooted in Catholic social teaching, especially the option for the poor and the call to mercy, the chaplain reminds the prison system that punishment must never eclipse the possibility of redemption.

In a Scottish prison, the Catholic chaplain does not carry keys or handcuffs, but their duty is no less crucial: to keep a small window open to grace behind locked doors.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FRANCESCA FORBES



Francesca manages content across Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X, covering key events, pilgrimages and liturgical celebrations.

We've recently launched a new diocesan social media series introducing the priests of the Diocese of Dunkeld, helping us to get to know a little more about the people who serve our parishes.

Through short, informal video interviews, each priest shares something of their parish life, personal interests, and vocation in a relaxed and engaging way. The aim is to highlight the richness and

diversity of parish life across the diocese, while offering a more personal and human insight into ministry.

The series has already been a great way of building connection across our communities, and we look forward to continuing to share these conversations in the months ahead.



tinyurl.com/dunkelddiocese



tiktok.com/@dioceseofdunkeld



instagram.com/dioceseofdunkeld/



x.com/DunkeldDiocese

DUNDEE PREGNANCY AND PARENTHOOD SUPPORT

We urgently need cots and buggies.

Open Tuesday and Wednesday
9.30am to 12pm

Thank you for your kindness and support.

07453 784295
dundee1paps@gmail.com

St Columba's Presbytery
Beside St Columba's RC Church
Near Asda in Kirkton.



Margaret McFarlane

Margaret Angus McFarlane, 82, passed away peacefully at her home in Dundee on 18 May 2026 following a battle with cancer.

Born on 2 October 1943 in Carnoustie, the eldest of four children. In 1961, she entered the Edinburgh School of Domestic Science to obtain a teaching diploma in Home Economics. It was at this time that she met her husband, David 'Dee' McFarlane, a native of Jamaica who would later be ordained a deacon for Dunkeld Diocese (1994), who passed away in 2003.

Dee and Margaret spent 10 years in Jamaica following their marriage in July 1967, before returning to settle in Dundee.

Margaret was devoted to her family and friends and shared a strong relationship with the Lord.

She is now at peaceful rest with her beloved husband and her parents, and is survived and greatly missed by her children Michelle, Mark and Debbie and grandchildren Charis, Arianne, Jordan, Alisha, Lana and Shane.

Margaret taught at Lawside Academy, St Saviour's High and St John's High, where she was appointed deputy head.

She was active in the wider activities of the school, facilitating and contributing to school shows and pilgrimages, including taking a group of S6 pupils to the Holy Land in 1994. She also oversaw the



upgrading of facilities at St John's and contributed to improving the curriculum as an adviser for implementation of Higher Still and was a member of the Scottish Catholic Education Service.

In 2009, she was awarded the Papal Award Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice for her services to the Catholic community.

Following her retirement from teaching she worked for the diocese as advisor of religious education before finally retiring in 2018.

Margaret and her husband served the community for many years by running spiritual retreats for all ages at the diocese retreat centre in Birnam between 1989 and 1993. They were also involved in running the first prayer group for charismatic renewal in Dundee from 1978-2003.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at Ss Peter and Paul's Church, Dundee, and she was laid to rest at Birkhill Cemetery.



CANON MARK CASSIDY

LETTER FROM ROME

As the academic year ends, our seminarians prepare for ordination, renewed formation and hopeful growth for the Church in Scotland next year.



We are coming to the end of another academic year, with final classes and exam preparation for the seminarians, while we, the formators, are busy writing final reports to be sent to the men's bishops.

It is also a time of anticipation—and not just for the summer break.

In the past weeks, three of our men were ordained.

The first, Gerard Holden, was ordained to the Order of Deacon on 17 June, the ordination being presided over by Cardinal James Harvey in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls.

The second, Rev Kieran Burt was ordained in St Joseph's, Blantyre on 19 June by Bishop Joseph Toal and then Rev Matthew McCafferty was ordained priest on 3 July (on the Feast of St Thomas) in St Mary's, Bathgate, by Archbishop Leo Cushley.

Please keep these three men in your prayers.

These events remind us of what we are all about in the seminary: forming and preparing men to be priests—please God, good priests—for the mission in their dioceses.

We emphasise that the day of ordination is not the end of a journey and that they are not 'the complete and perfect package'.

Someone wrote that, 'seminary should prepare a man for ordination, but ordination starts their formation as a priest'.

We have done what we can in seminary to prepare these men, but part of the responsibility for the next stages of our growth and formation as priests, however long we have been ordained, falls to you, the faithful in our parishes.

Through the many ways that you call upon us to be priests for you, for the ways in which we all collaborate together to bring Christ into the world and simply through your friendship towards your priests, you help make us the priests that God calls us to be.

Already looking forward to next year, we are anticipating a substantial number of seminarians joining us in first year—possibly as many as 14, which would almost double the size of the College.

We will have at least one, if not two, new members for the formation team and hope to review the formation

programme to build on the good work being done and make the formation even more tailored to the needs of the men joining.

If we were also to find the new home for the College that we are looking for, the beginning of the academic year of 2026-27 could be one of real good news for the Church at home in Scotland.

Here in Rome, as I am sure it is with you at home, we have continued to be inspired by the ministry of our Holy Father.

His apostolic journey to Africa brought joy and a sense of hope both to those who were present for his visit and encouraged us here in the College with the sense of the mission to which we are called.

His repeated pleas for peace have also inspired us to pray more fervently for the reconciliation of nations that are in conflict with one another, especially Ukraine and Russia, and Iran, USA, Israel and Lebanon.

As I write this, we are coming towards the end of Eastertide and looking forward to Pentecost.

May the Holy Spirit renew our vigour in the service of Christ and the Church.

ST JOHN PAUL II

AN EXEMPLARY LIFE OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

BY ANGELA MARY GRIFFIN

In October 1978, I was a Grade 8 student at a Catholic school, so preoccupied with my own adolescent dramas and shenanigans that the election of a new pope didn't even register on my pre-teen radar.

In May 1981, I was a student at Catholic Central High School in London, Ontario, in love for the first time as a 16-year-old, sitting in the school cafeteria completely absorbed by the object of my newly-formed affections, when it was announced over the school PA that Pope John Paul II had been shot in St Peter's Square.

Our principal immediately called for us to pray, and the entire school offered up a collective Hail Mary! for our stricken pontiff.

He survived and then recovered, and I don't remember thinking about him much after that, except that I marvelled at how he forgave his would-be assassin—even visiting him in prison two days after Christmas in 1983.

I started to pay attention to St Pope John Paul II in 1998.

I learned that he became a priest in Poland in the 1940s through clandestine means, in the face of Nazi occupation.

As I read about his life, I came to admire the man and the pope equally. I also saw how the youth loved and responded to this man, often referring to him as their *papa*.

When he appeared at his window for the last time before his death, he tried to give the world one final blessing.

It was difficult to look upon his declining health.

When Donald Trump was asked what he thought of that final image of the ailing pope, he replied that such an appearance 'doesn't do anyone any good'.

Yet, I thought about what message was delivered to the world by St John Paul II's humble, fragile appearance at the window of his papal apartment.

I know he was sending the message about his suffering and his humanity, but also about



the sanctity of all human life. That was the blessing he delivered in his silent suffering.

Contrast our discomfort when faced with failing health or indeed anything short of perfection with the example of St John Paul II's courage in appearing before the world in a fragile state.

This is even more relevant now in a world that strives to usher in laws that will allow those who are ill and suffering—as he suffered—to end their suffering and lives prematurely.

For Catholics, it is not the Way of the Cross.

Upon his passing I knew I was watching the passing of a modern saint.

Our battered world had known only three days of peace since World War II ended in 1945, yet this man of God had brought together world leaders often at odds as well as millions of followers in one final show of peace. People from all corners of the world found a bridge to Christ through the life and the love of St Pope John Paul II.

The word pontiff means bridge. St Pope John Paul II was humanity's bridge to peace and to Christ.

His life is a testimony to divine providence.

It is no accident that a Polish pontiff who lived through the atrocities of Nazi occupied Eastern Europe, led the Church at a time when communism was finally defeated in our world.

God had a plan for Karol Wojtyła, just as he has a plan for each of us.

I am reminded to surrender my fate to the hands of God to realise God's plan for my own life.

After all, God can dream a much bigger life for us than we can ever imagine for ourselves.

Angela Mary Griffin belongs to St Fillan's parish in Crieff. She was born in Scotland but grew up in Canada. She currently teaches English at Crieff High School.

A life full of grace, service and humility

Retirement gives those of us still on a journey the chance to reflect on the path we have shared with our dear friend and colleague, Monsignor Ken McCaffrey.

Mgr McCaffrey came to Ss Peter & Paul's in Dundee 17 years ago and soon faced the many demands that come with leading a new parish.

At the time, the parish was going through difficult days: the church was undergoing renovations and the people needed support, guidance and love.

Mgr McCaffrey met these challenges with energy and determination, making sure everyone felt included in the changes ahead.

He oversaw the day-to-day life of the parish, ensured the building work was completed on time, and helped parish life continue to grow through trust, love and stronger bonds.

His wider role in education demanded constant time and energy to support and safeguard Catholic education.

Mgr McCaffrey served as the Church's representative at Dundee City Council meetings, sat on the Board of Education at Glasgow University and worked with the SCES Board and its director, Barbara Coupar, in Glasgow. He supported Catholic headteachers across the diocese and worked closely with headteachers in Dundee, offering unfailing support and encouragement as they introduced major new

programmes in Catholic education, including Called To Love, This Is Our Faith and Setting Out On The Road.

He remained fully committed to our schools throughout, working closely with St Paul's RC Academy and St John's RC High School, and visiting to offer valued support and advice.

His work at Ss Peter & Paul's primary showed his deep commitment to young people. He was always approachable and put children, young people and adults at ease with his warmth, humour and genuine interest.

Over the past 17 years, Mgr McCaffrey has guided our parish and the wider community with deep faith, dedication and love.

The priesthood is not an easy calling: it requires patience, compassion, a clear understanding of human frailties and the ability to bring light to those facing dark times.

Mgr McCaffrey has lived out his ministry with such grace and humility that he made it seem effortless.

He has loved his parish unconditionally and has been loved just as deeply in return.

He will be greatly missed, and we take this opportunity to thank him for his kindness, generosity and the faith he shared so freely with us.

He has lightened our burdens, and we hope retirement brings him the same peace and serenity he has given to so many others.



Mgr Ken McCaffrey.



Pope Leo XIV. Picture by Edgar Beltrán.

Pope Leo calls for a 'true conversion' away from war

At a recent gathering in Bamenda Cathedral in Cameroon, Pope Leo praised interreligious solidarity and urged a 'true conversion' away from war.

When he arrived at the Cathedral of St Joseph, he visited the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a moment of prayer with Archbishop Andrew Nkea Fuanya of Bamenda.

During the interreligious peace gathering, Nkea said the Pope's presence was consoling for the people.

The meeting included testimonies from locals, including Catholics, Protestants and Muslims.

'Holy Father, help us to have peace', said Imam Mohammad Abubakar of the Central Mosque of Buea after speaking about violent episodes that have taken place in recent years.

'It is a joy for me to be with you in this region that has suffered so greatly. As your testimonies have just demonstrated, the lived experience of suffering by your community has only made stronger your conviction that God has never abandoned us', said the Pope.

The Holy Father also expressed his gratitude to all the laypeople and religious women who care for those traumatised by violence—a work that is dangerous and unseen.



FATHER RONALD MCAINSH

WHY THE ASSUMPTION STILL MATTERS DEEPLY FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

The feast of the Assumption reminds us Mary is in heaven, body and soul, as Mother of the Church. It is also a celebration of human dignity, womanhood and the hope promised to all God's people.

During August we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

It is a feast celebrated across the world, but especially in continental Europe. I often wonder if people truly realise the great significance of this very special celebration.

It has been held from the earliest times of the Church that Mary did not die in the way that we die.

The early Church held that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven. This belief was formally made a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius XII on 1 November 1950. However, it had been the firm belief of all Church members from time immemorial.

What does it mean?

We are told in the scriptures that: "The wages of sin are death".

In other words, because of our human and sinful condition, we will spend our time here on earth and eventually our bodies will die, and our spirits only will go before God, awaiting the last day.

That is the lot of every human being: to be born, to live as full a life as possible, and then to die.

However, since Mary was conceived without sin, and did not know sin, it is logical that she did not die in the conventional sense.

Indeed, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was defined by Pope Pius IX on 8 December 1854, although again this was a belief that had been held by the earliest of the Fathers of the Church in our Christian tradition.

It is pure logic that if Mary did not

know sin, then she did not, as it were, pay the wages of sin, which is death.

Originally the name of the feast was The Dormition of Mary—right up until the 7th century.

The word dormition means 'falling asleep'.

The early theologians held that Mary did not expire in the way we do, but simply, in a manner of speaking,

and to the Church at the foot of the Cross.

And the reason this is an important feast is because in our age we need to celebrate the bodies of women.

At a time when women are being trafficked around the world and their bodies selfishly used and abused, at a time when women are being used for pornography and for the gratification of others, it is very important that we have this reminder of the wonder of the human body and, of course in this case, the body of Mary.

We already have a feast in which we celebrate the body of Jesus: Corpus Christi, the body of Christ.

And on 15 August we have this great feast celebrating the body of Mary: the Assumption.

Let us take this feast as a very special day for each one of us because we have someone, one of us, a woman and a human being who is truly, body and soul, in Heaven and interceding for us.

She is the Mother of the Church and she is also the mother of each member of the Church.

Let us pray to her in every situation of our lives.

Each Saturday at 12:15 in the Monastery here in Kinnoull we have the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help; and it is a perpetual novena because we are always in need of support and prayer.

Everyone is always welcome.

Our Lady, assumed into heaven, pray for us.



slept into the arms of God. And whereas Jesus ascended into heaven, Mary was assumed into heaven.

However, no matter in what manner we understand it, it is the profound teaching of the Church that Mary is now in Heaven.

She is in Heaven with God, not as a nice thought or a pious picture or an icon, but as a real woman—as the mother that Jesus gave to John

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCIAF Shield

Put your faith into action and take part in the SCIAF Shield—our knock-out tournament that uses football to raise money for the world's poorest people.

The SCIAF Shield is a five-a-side tournament that brings together 16 teams for an exciting afternoon of community and sport—all in support of SCIAF's life-changing work overseas.

This year, funds raised by the SCIAF Shield will go towards our Emergency Hunger Appeal, to provide emergency food packages and help people grow more food in places devastated by floods and droughts in Africa.

Sign up for a team entry at sciaf.org.uk/sciafshield

Lenten appeal

On behalf of everyone at SCIAF, we sincerely thank the parishioners of St Bride's Monifieth and St Anne's Carnoustie for your donations for our Lenten Appeal, that is £1155 for the Wee box Collection and £636 for the Special Collection.

This Lent you stood in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world, showing that a better future is possible for everyone.

Your contributions enable us to continue our vital work, from providing clean water and food security to empowering communities through education and economic development.

Catholic Medical Association

Whether you are a doctor, nurse, student, or allied professional—if you are a Catholic in healthcare, join us to grow in fellowship, prayer and formation together.

For more information and upcoming events, visit catholicmedicalassociation.org.uk

Parishioners' form

The new St John's, Perth, parishioners' form is in the Church porch for those whose records we do not have in the parish.

Those who wish to update their details should do so as well. Fill and return to us please.

Please also note that the parish has a new phone number **01738718473**. Please replace the former one with this.

Bible course

In response to requests for a course on the bible, St Mary's, Lochee, will run a Bible course from the week beginning 23 August.

The course will be organised around small groups that will meet at different times to allow as many people to attend as possible. See the Parish newsletter for information.

Glowing report

An extremely positive assessment of Our Lady's RC Primary School and Nursery Class in Perth was published on 23 June 2026 by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland (HMIE).

You can read the full details on the Perth & Kinross Council website at [linkly.link/2IIYu](#) or by scanning the QR code.

Huge congratulations from all of us at the Diocese of Dunkeld to the staff, pupils and their families at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School and Nursey Class.



Hope for families

St Columba's is reaching out for donations of clothes, toys, homeware items, kitchen utensils and more to helping people facing hardship in our community.

Your generosity will help us provide practical support to families who are struggling.

If you would like to donate or require further information, please contact Geraldine Nwobilo phone 07469237196.

DPAPS at National Synodal Festival

Dundee Pregnancy and Parenthood Support (DPAPS) were delighted to be invited by Bishop Andrew to represent the diocese at the recent Festival of Synodality in Glasgow. Joanne McCourt, Angela Galbraith and Clare McGraw spoke about the organisation's work in Dundee.

Statistics show Dundee has a particularly high abortion rate. Through DPAPS, the Church offers a practical alternative to abortion for those struggling financially. Delegates showed great interest in the pro-life work being carried and were hopefully inspired to take the message back to their own parishes and dioceses.



Altar servers

St Mungo's, Alloa, has been encouraged to see children coming to Mass regularly prior to receiving their First Holy Communion, and hopes that it can continue.

One way the children can become more involved in the parish is by volunteering to be an altar server.

Serving at Mass is both a honour and a privilege, as you assist the priest and also learn more about the Mass.

If any of the boys and girls would like to be an altar server, please let either Anthony Cassidy or Fr Michael know.

Full training will be given and other experienced servers will be there to help.

Day pilgrimage

On 26 September, St Columba's, Dundee, will be going on a day pilgrimage to St Margaret's Church, Dunfermline, named for the patron saint of Scotland, who lived in the Fife city.

If you are interested in taking part on the pilgrimage, then please contact Ian Craig at stcolumbasfinance@gmail.com

St John's, Perth

The collection of non-perishable foods for the Foodbank takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

There will also be bacon rolls available after 11am Mass on that day—with a suggested donation £2.50 each.

All proceeds go towards food for the Foodbank.

St Anthony

The 40th Anniversary of Establishing a church in Kirriemuir in honour of St Anthony of Padua falls in 2027.

If anyone has an idea of how this could be celebrated, please discuss with Fr Dijo.

MAKE YOUR DONATION GO FURTHER WITH GIFT AID

Weekly donation	Monthly donation	Annual donation	With Gift Aid
£5	£20	£240	£300
£10	£40	£480	£600
£20	£80	£960	£1200
£25	£100	£1200	£1500

Sign up today so our parishes and diocese can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, at no additional cost to you.

You just need to pay UK income or capital gains tax and donate via identifiable methods to qualify for Gift Aid.

GIFT AID HELPS OUR PARISHES AND DIOCESE THRIVE.

Please contact your parish priest or Gift Aid organiser for more details about the Government's Gift Aid scheme.

St. Mary's Care Home



At St Mary's Care Home, we are passionate about providing safe, personalised care that supports independence, choice, and inclusion for everyone who lives with us.

We strive to offer the kind of care we would want for our own loved ones. We treat residents, their families, friends and staff with respect and dignity in everything we do whilst valuing equality and diversity in the Home.

We achieve this by nurturing a team of compassionate, well-trained staff who work together to create a high-quality, warm, and welcoming home where everyone feels valued and supported.



Where to find us:

**39 Panmure Street,
Monifieth,
Angus,
DD5 4EG**

Scottish Charity No: SCO46741

Contact Us



manager@stmaryscarehome.co.uk



01382 533376



www.stmaryscarehome.co.uk

RADIO MARIA EXPANDS ITS COVERAGE ACROSS MUCH OF SCOTLAND

Radio Maria United Kingdom (RM UK) is pleased to announce a significant expansion of its DAB digital radio coverage, with the addition of a major new signal across Scotland at 11 am on 22 June, and a new frequency in the city of Bath, England

The new Scottish DAB signal covers up to 70 per cent of the nation's population, reaching Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, as well as Scotland's Central Belt, including the Glasgow to Edinburgh corridor.

This economic and social heartland is home to nearly four million people and represents one of the most significant expansions in Radio Maria UK's history.



The Pontifical Scots College on Via Cassia, Rome, has been sold.

Sale of Scots College marks a new chapter

Bishops mark the sale of Via Cassia, giving thanks for generations formed there as the Pontifical Scots College looks to the future.

BY JAMIE STEWART JONES

The Bishops of Scotland have confirmed the completion of the sale of the former Pontifical Scots College building on the Via Cassia in Rome, bringing to a close an important chapter in the history of the college.

The Via Cassia building had served as the home of the Pontifical Scots College since 1964, forming generations of Scottish seminarians for priestly ministry and providing a spiritual home in Rome for many of the priests who have gone on to serve parishes across Scotland.

Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, gave thanks for all those whose priestly vocations had been nurtured there.

'Today we give thanks for the generations of priests who were formed at the College on the Via Cassia and who have faithfully served the people of Scotland', he said.

'As one chapter closes, another begins. With confidence in the Lord's

providence, we look to the future and to the continuing mission of the College in forming priests who will proclaim the Gospel with faith, generosity and hope'.

Fr Mark Cassidy, rector of the Pontifical Scots College, said the sale marked a significant moment in the life of the Church in Scotland.

'The sale of the Via Cassia building brings to an end a significant chapter in the life of the Church in Scotland', he said.

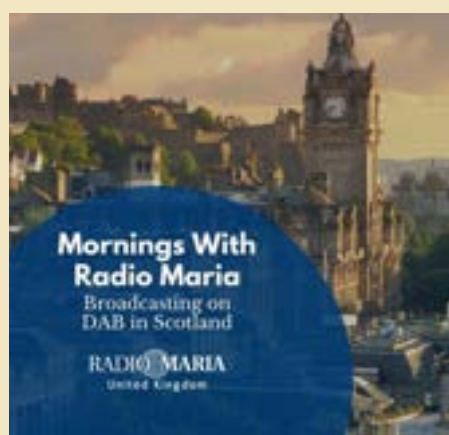
'We now look forward to the next chapter in our 425-year history and to finding a new home for the seminary, where we can continue to form men ready for the Church's mission'.

The bishops also expressed their sincere thanks to Fr Mark and to the teams in Rome and

Scotland who worked with him to bring the sale to completion.

Although the sale marks the end of the College's long association with the Via Cassia site, its mission continues: to help form future priests for the service of the Church in Scotland.

*With confidence
in the Lord's
providence,
we look to the
future and to
the continuing
mission of
the College in
forming priests*





NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES

OUR LADY OF SORROWS
SANTA MARIA, SAL, CAPE VERDE

Our Catholic WORLD

Tucked away on the island of Sal in Cape Verde, the Igreja de Nossa Senhora das Dores (Our Lady of Sorrows church) serves as a testament to the universality of our faith



Services can take some time at Nossa Senhora das Dores because Mass is repeated in several languages, including Portuguese, French and English. *Pictures by Jamie Stewart Jones.*

Wherever we travel in the world, the Catholic Church offers a familiar welcome.

A Mass celebrated in another language, in a church shaped by another culture and history, can still feel profoundly close to home.

The prayers, the sacraments, the rhythm of worship and the shared profession of faith remind us that the Church is not confined by borders, nations or customs.

It is universal.

In this occasional series, we will visit Roman Catholic churches around the world, exploring the communities that gather in them and the traditions that give each place its particular character.

From great cathedrals to modest parish churches, from ancient shrines to modern chapels, each has its own story to tell.

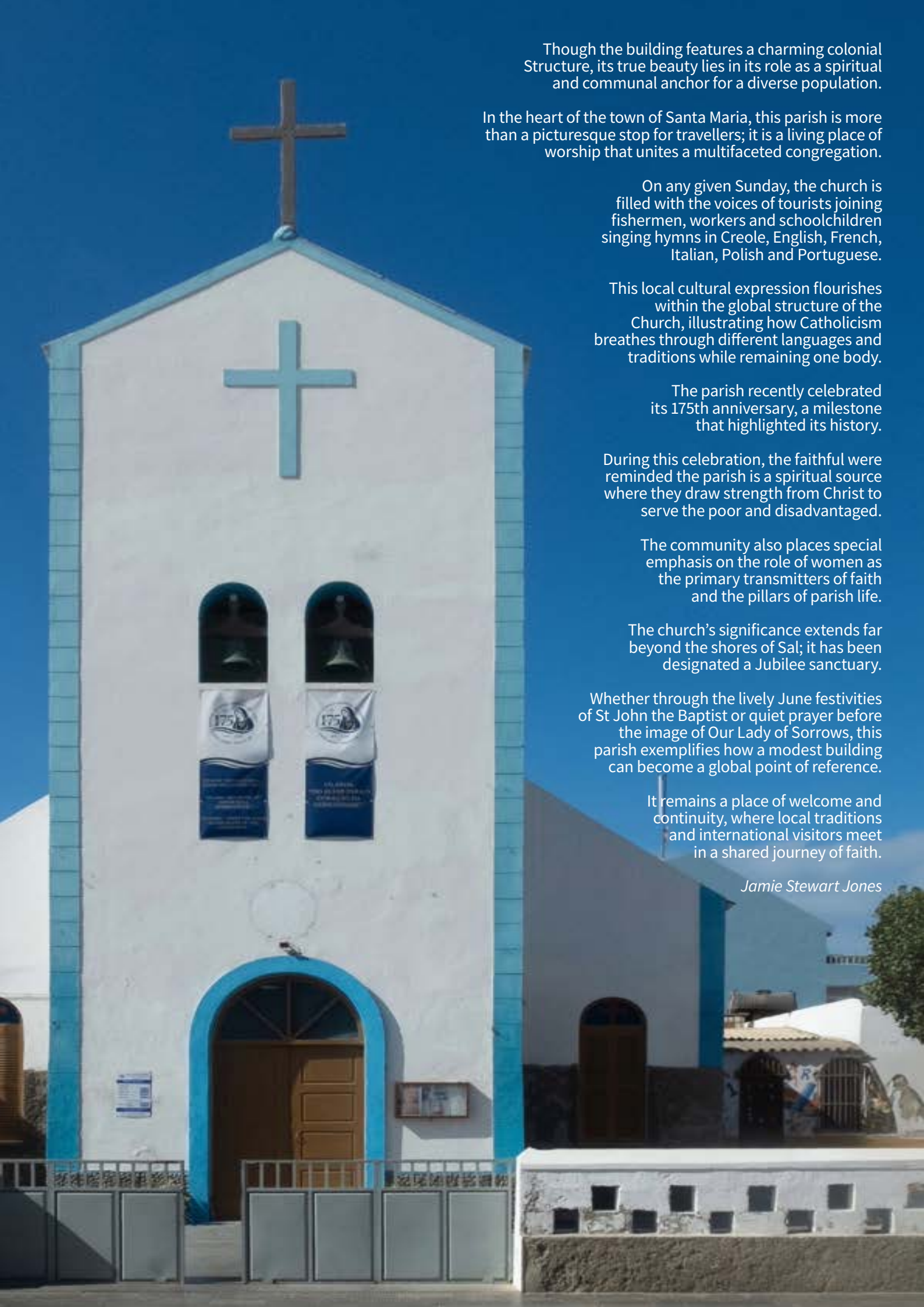
Yet all are part of the same living Church, uniting people of different races, languages, cultures and histories in one faith.

That unity creates a special sense of fellowship.

Even far from home, Catholics can find themselves among family, joined by belief, prayer and the Eucharist.

We would love readers to share their own experiences of worshipping abroad.

Send us your photographs, memories and reflections from Catholic churches you have visited around the world, and help us celebrate the richness and unity of our global Church.



Though the building features a charming colonial Structure, its true beauty lies in its role as a spiritual and communal anchor for a diverse population.

In the heart of the town of Santa Maria, this parish is more than a picturesque stop for travellers; it is a living place of worship that unites a multifaceted congregation.

On any given Sunday, the church is filled with the voices of tourists joining fishermen, workers and schoolchildren singing hymns in Creole, English, French, Italian, Polish and Portuguese.

This local cultural expression flourishes within the global structure of the Church, illustrating how Catholicism breathes through different languages and traditions while remaining one body.

The parish recently celebrated its 175th anniversary, a milestone that highlighted its history.

During this celebration, the faithful were reminded the parish is a spiritual source where they draw strength from Christ to serve the poor and disadvantaged.

The community also places special emphasis on the role of women as the primary transmitters of faith and the pillars of parish life.

The church's significance extends far beyond the shores of Sal; it has been designated a Jubilee sanctuary.

Whether through the lively June festivities of St John the Baptist or quiet prayer before the image of Our Lady of Sorrows, this parish exemplifies how a modest building can become a global point of reference.

It remains a place of welcome and continuity, where local traditions and international visitors meet in a shared journey of faith.

Jamie Stewart Jones

BISHOP OF DUNKELD

Right Rev. Andrew McKenzie
bishops-secretary@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

VICAR GENERAL

Very Rev. Kevin J. Canon Golden
kevin.golden@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

VICARS EPISCOPAL

Adult Faith Formation

Very Rev. Kevin J. Canon Golden
kevin.golden@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Clergy

Very Rev. Andrew Clark
fr.andrew.clark@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue

Very Rev. Louis Uwaezuoke
louis.uwaezuoke@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Education

Very Rev. Dr Thomas Canon Shields
thomas.shields@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Mission, Justice and Peace

Very Rev. Mike Freyne
stbernadette@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Religious

Very Rev. Elias Gweme
elias.gweme@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Youth

Very Rev. Michael Ngobili
michael.ngobili@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Vocations Director

Very Rev. Jim Walls
james.walls@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

PARISH DIRECTORY AND TIMES OF MASSES

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, BROUGHTY FERRY:

Canon Kevin Golden
standrew@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5.30pm (Sat), 9.45am
Weekday: Mon-Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil 6pm (previous evening), 9am

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, PERTH:

Father Leszek Wiececzek
ourladyoflourdes@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 10am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

OUR LADY OF MERCY, ABERFELDY:

Canon Steven Mulholland
stbridespitlochry@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, AUCHTERARDER:

Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan
chancellor@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 10am
Weekday: Wed 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil 6pm

OUR LADY OF SORROWS, DUNDEE:

Father Gregory Murphy
ourladyofsorrows@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Mon, Wed 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, TAYPORT:

Monsignor Patrick McNally
stcolumbacupar@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat)
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

SS LEONARD AND FERGUS', DUNDEE:

Father Alex Obiorah
stleonardstfergus@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6pm (Sat), 10am
Weekday: Mon, Wed 6.30pm, Fri 9.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil 6pm (previous evening), As announced

SS PETER AND PAUL, DUNDEE:

Monsignor Ken McCaffrey
stpeterandstpaul@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6pm (Sat), 10am
Weekday: 9.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil 7pm, 9.30am

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, DUNDEE:

Canon Kevin Golden
standrew@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11am, 6pm
Weekday: 1pm (daily except Sat); 10am (Sat)
Holy Day of Obligation: 1pm, 7pm

ST ANNE'S, CARNOUSTIE:

Monsignor Aldo Angelosanto
stbridesmonifieth@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: Tues, Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 11am

ST ANTHONY'S, KIRRIEMUIR:

Father Dijo Thomas
stfergusandanthony@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.15am
Weekday: Tue, Fri 9.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: 6pm

ST BERNADETTE'S, TULLIBODY:

Father Michael Freyne
stbernadette@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5.30pm (Sat), 8.30am, 11.30am
Weekday: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sat 9.30am, Frid 7pm
Holy Day of Obligation: 9.30am, 7pm

ST BRIDE'S, MONIFIETH:

Monsignor Aldo Angelosanto
stbridesmonifieth@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 11.30am
Weekday: Mon, Thurs 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 9.30am, 7pm

ST BRIDES'S, PITLOCHRY:

Canon Steven Mulholland
stbridespitlochry@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST CLEMENT'S, DUNDEE:

Father James Walls
stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: Wed 9.30am; rest of the week 10am (at Immaculate Conception, Dundee)
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST COLUMBA'S, CUPAR:

Monsignor Patrick McNally
stcolumbacupar@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6.30pm (Sat), 11.15am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: 7pm

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNDEE:

Father Alexander Obiorah
stcolumba@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Tue, Thu 8.30am, Sat 9am
Holy Day of Obligation: 9am

ST COLUMBA'S, DUNKELD:

Canon Steven Mulholland
stbridespitlochry@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6pm (Sat)
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST FERGUS', FORFAR:

Father Dijo Thomas
stfergusandanthony@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6pm (Sat), 11.15am
Weekday: Wed, Thu 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil (previous evening) 6pm

ST FILLAN'S AND ST ALPHONSUS, DOUNE:

Father Emmanuel Adindu
stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.45am
Weekday: Wed, Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 6pm

ST FILLAN'S, CRIEFF:

Father Tobias Okoro
stfillancrieff@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5.30pm (Sat), 11am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: 9.30am, 7pm

ST FILLAN'S, NEWPORT-ON-TAY:

Monsignor Patrick McNally
stcolumbacupar@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 10.15am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST JAMES', KINROSS:

Father Martin Pletts
 stjames@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 10am
Weekday: Mon, Wed, Fri 10am, Tue 6.15pm, Thu 6.45pm
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PERTH:

Father Louis Uwaezuoke
 stjohndunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Anticipated 4pm (Sat), 9am, 11am, 6.30pm
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST JOHN VIANNEY, ALVA:

Father Andrew Marshall
 stjohnvianney@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am, 6.15pm
Weekday: TBC
Holy Day of Obligation: 9.30am, 6.15pm

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, CALLANDER:

Father Emmanuel Adindu,
 stjosephcallander@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Tue, Thu 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 10am

ST JOSEPH'S, DUNDEE:

Father Michael Ngobili
 stjosephdundee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11am
Weekday: Wed 6pm, Thu, Sat 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: Morning as announced, evening 6pm

ST LUAN'S, ALYTH:

Father Gregory Umunna
 ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: Wed 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST MARGARET'S, COMRIE:

Father Tobias Okoro
 stfillancriff@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: 6pm

ST MARGARET'S, MONTROSE:

Father James High
 stmargaret@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Mon, Fri, Sat 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST MARY MAGDALENE'S, PERTH:

Father Leszek Wiececzek
 stmarymagdalen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 10am, 12.30pm (Polish)
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST MARY, OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, DUNDEE:

Canon Kevin Golden
 standrew@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Mon-Fri 11.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: 11am

ST MARY'S MONASTERY, PERTH:

Sunday: 10am
Weekday: Mon-Sat 12.15pm
Holy Day of Obligation: 12.15pm

ST MARY'S, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DUNDEE:

Father James Walls
 stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 4.30pm (Sat), 11am
Weekday: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat 10am (Wed 10am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion)
Holy Day of Obligation: 10am, Vigil (as announced)

ST MATTHEW'S, AUCHTERMUCHTY:

Monsignor Patrick McInally
 stcolumbacupar@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST MUNGO'S, ALLOA:

Father Michael Carrie
 stmungo@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 6pm (Sat), 9.30am
Weekday: Tue, Thu, Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil (previous evening) 7pm, 10am

ST NINIAN'S, BRECHIN:

Father James High
 stmargaret@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 10am
Weekday: Tue, Thur 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 6.30pm

ST NINIAN'S, DUNDEE:

Father Michael Ngobili
 stninians@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 9.30am
Weekday: Tue 6pm, Wed, Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST PATRICK'S, DUNDEE:

Canon Kevin Golden
 standrew@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 9.30am
Weekday: Mon, Thu 9.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST PIUS X, DUNDEE:

Father Gregory Murphy
 stpiusx@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 10am
Weekday: Tue, Fri 9.30am
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST SERF'S, HIGH VALLEYFIELD:

Father Michael Carrie
 stmungo@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 11.30am
Weekday: Wed 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 2pm

ST STEPHEN'S, BLAIRGOWRIE:

Father Gregory Umunna
 ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 5.30pm, 11am
Weekday: Tue, Fri 10am, Wed 7pm
Holy Day of Obligation: As announced

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, ARBROATH:

Canon Tom Shields
 stthomas@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 10.45am
Weekday: As announced
Holy Day of Obligation: 10am and 7pm, (School Mass as announced)

THE HOLY FAMILY, DUNBLANE:

Father Charles Chukwa
 holyfamily@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: Vigil 5pm (Sat), 11am
Weekday: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10am
Holy Day of Obligation: 10am, 3pm, 7pm

CURIAL OFFICES

24-28 Lawside Road, Dundee,
 DD3 6XY
 01382 225453

CHANCELLOR

John Smith
 chancellor@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Melissa Walton
 finance@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR ASSISTANT

Lily Haverman
 accountsadmin@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Emily Cochrane
 emily.cochrane@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

FINANCE CLERK

Adam Johnstone
 financeclerk@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

BISHOP'S PA/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Paul McFadyen
 bishops-secretary@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

PROPERTY MANAGER

John Omeara
 property@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

PROPERTY ASSISTANT

Ihor Hodovaniuk
 propertyassistant@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR

Linda Gourlay
 safeguardingadvisor@
 dunkelddiocese.org.uk

COMMUNICATIONS & EVANGELISATION

Paul Allaker
 paul.allaker@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

DUNKELD NEWS

Jamie Stewart Jones
 dunkeldnews@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

WEBMASTER

Andrew Mitchell
 webmaster@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Francesca Forbes
 socialmedia@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Explore
life,
faith &
meaning



BY PAUL ALLAKER

ONE OF THE MANY JOYS I HAVE EXPERIENCED IN MY ROLE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANYING PARISHES EMBARKING UPON ALPHA FOR THE FIRST TIME

At the heart of Alpha is the fundamental Gospel message—the *kerygma*—professed by all Christians, and the culture of personal invitation.

Alpha adheres to Catholic Church teaching and is often used as a pre-catechumenal tool to accompany seekers before formal preparation for the sacraments: it can also reinvigorate a sense of mission for existing parishioners who attend.

This is also a great ministry to empower the laity, not adding another responsibility on the clergy, but rather owned by the whole community.

The journey began earlier this year when Mike Roache, who leads Alpha in a Catholic Context for Alpha UK, came to our diocese to run a training

day, and a number of our parishes were represented.

In one parish I have been accompanying, the team of volunteers really demonstrated just how powerful personal invitation can be.

As they were running the course for the first time, they focused on personally inviting existing parishioners as well as close family and friends who were curious about the faith or had fallen away from regular attendance. This showed not just in how many turned up, but how many wanted to come back.

At the first session, there was the most wonderful atmosphere—I think also helped by the care they took in preparing some wonderful food to share first, as well as the way they made the

church hall so inviting. By the second session, the opportunities for discussion during the meal and during the videos were allowing people to not only respond to the teaching in the videos, but to also learn more about each other and grow closer as a result.

When you have encountered the person of Jesus, not only does your life change forever, but it fills you with such excitement, joy and desire to see others also come to know him.

The early signs of how Alpha can help support that in a parish setting certainly seem exciting to me and, God willing, we can help as many people as we can to encounter Jesus—and also be excited about it.

Try Alpha.

Alpha

IF YOU ARE A SURVIVOR OF ABUSE BY SOMEONE WITHIN THE CHURCH AND WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE, YOU CAN DO SO BY CONTACTING OUR DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR IN CONFIDENCE

OUR SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR IS LINDA GOURLAY

safeguardingadvisor@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

01382 225453 (Option 5)

The Catholic Church in Scotland has a mandatory reporting policy. This means all allegations of abuse are reported to the police. Although all allegations are reported, you will have the right to decide whether or not to engage with the police at this stage. If you wish to make a statement to the police, or if you decide you are unable to do so at the moment, the Safeguarding Advisor is still available to offer you support.