

DUNKELD NEWS

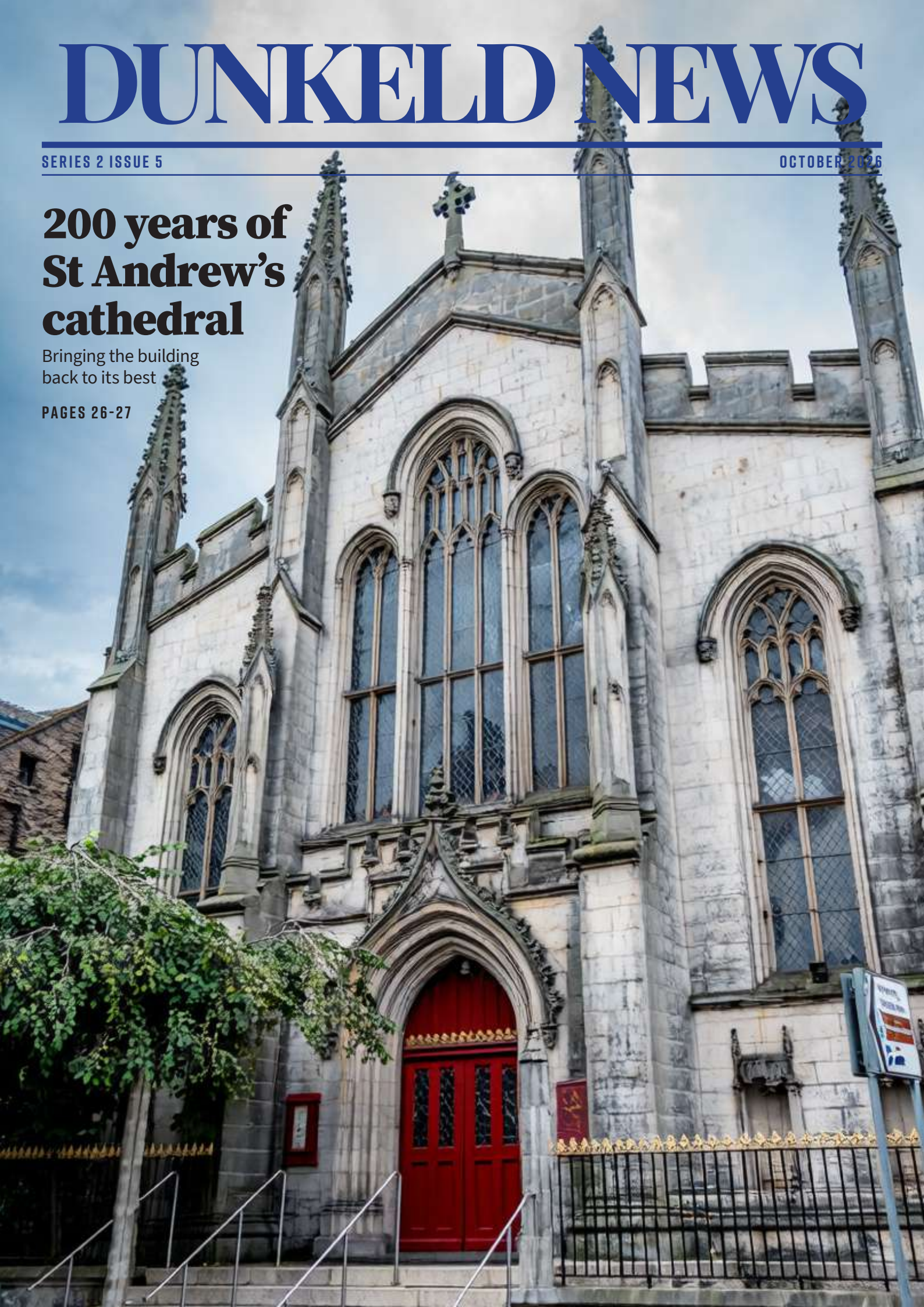
SERIES 2 ISSUE 5

OCTOBER 2026

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PAGES 26-27



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SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of *Dunkeld News* will be published in early December 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 NOVEMBER

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

DUNKELD NEWS

SERIES 2 ISSUE 5 | OCTOBER 2026

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Responding together to the call of our Lord and Saviour



BY BISHOP ANDREW MCKENZIE

Welcome to our latest edition of the *Dunkeld News*.

When I was reading the final draft of this issue, I was struck by a recurring theme that strongly unites all of the wonderful and varied contributions to the magazine.

That theme reminds us that we work together at God's invitation.

We see this as we read about the history of our Church, not only in Scotland but also here in our Diocese of Dunkeld, remembering how those who came before us responded to God's call in their unique time and place, with its own challenges and opportunities, just as we do now.

We see in synodality a remembrance and recognition of the primacy

of grace, a call to joy and renewal and for all to participate in the mission of the Church.

In this issue, you can read about the ongoing journey of synodality in our diocese and the next steps we will be taking.

Contributions from a variety of parishioners shine a light on how their parishes are responding to God's invitation.

This issue, in particular, contains a greater proportion of articles and contributions from lay people in the diocese: what a wonderful encouragement—and sign of participation—and I warmly encourage you to contact our editor with submissions for the next issue.

In the meantime, I trust that you will enjoy this issue and, as we return to perhaps a more 'ordinary' period of year, with the children back in school and the nights beginning to close in, may you be encouraged by what you have read here.

You may perhaps be reminded of the 'extraordinary' love God has for you as we journey forward together.

+ Andrew

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Proposed motion on abortion raises profound concerns

A suggested change to Scotland's abortion laws has prompted calls for compassion, stronger protections for unborn children and practical support for women facing difficult pregnancies.

BY JAMIE JONES

Bishop John Keenan and Anthony Horan have urged politicians to reject further liberalisation of abortion law in Scotland, warning that proposed changes would weaken protections for unborn children.

The Scottish Government says it has no plans to reform abortion law next year, but will consult on recommendations from its Abortion Law Review Expert Group and is proceeding with a nationally commissioned later-stage abortion service.

The expert group has recommended removing the requirement to give specified grounds or to obtain the approval of two doctors before 24 weeks.

It also proposes a new



Bishop John Keenan.



Anthony Horan.

framework for later abortions and recommends there be no specific legislative reference to sex-selective abortion.

Bishop Keenan, president of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland's National Office for Marriage, Family and Life, said the proposals raised 'grave moral and social questions', insisting that both mother and unborn child deserve support and protection.

Anthony Horan, director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, has also expressed concern over proposals to remove legal protections relating to self-administered abortion.

Both called on community leaders to offer greater support for women and families and reaffirmed the Church's teaching on the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SANCTIONS WELCOMED

Justice and Peace Scotland has welcomed UK action against illegal Israeli settlements, including an import ban and further sanctions, while calling for continued measures rooted in international law, Catholic Social Teaching and lasting peace.

TROTT ON DIPLOMACY

Former British Ambassador to the Holy See, Chris Trott, told the Catholic Union's St Thomas More Circle how the Vatican's global networks provide rich insights into world affairs and helped connect diplomats with front-line Catholic work.

CRAIGMYLE LECTURE

Tickets are available for this year's Craigmyle Lecture, to be given by Sir Gabriele Finaldi, director of the world-renowned National Gallery on Monday 26 October.

The lecture, which will take place in the Pigott Theatre at the National Gallery in Edinburgh at 6.30pm, will focus on how art can lead us to faith and faith can lead us to art.

ANDREW GAULD

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Hope in defence of life

Bishop Frank Dougan told worshippers at Westminster Cathedral every child is loved by God from conception.

The Bishop of Galloway preached at the Mass preceding the March for Life UK on 5 September.

The Catholic media estimated 10,000 pro-life supporters attended

Fifteen bishops were reported to have taken part, while a message from Pope Leo XIV affirmed the inviolable dignity of every human person.

In his homily, Bishop Dougan drew on Pope Francis's *Amoris Laetitia* and the Church's esteem for parenthood, describing mothers and fathers as reflecting God's loving care.

He stressed the responsibility of Christians to support parents, prospective parents and human life at every stage.

Reflecting on St Monica's perseverance in praying for her son St Augustine, Bishop Dougan warned against losing hope when society appears to be moving away from respect for life.

Catholics, he said, should continue speaking for those unable to speak for themselves while treating opponents with respect.

His message was one of peaceful, confident witness: perseverance, prayer and love remain central to the Church's defence of life.



Bishop Frank Dougan.



Scotland's Catholic converts

Scotland saw 549 people received into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year, with growing interest particularly noticeable among young adults.

In Edinburgh, around 100 young people attend the Sunday evening Mass at the Jesuit Church of the Sacred Heart, while a related WhatsApp group has more than 200 members. Behind the figures are personal stories of conversion, community and a search for meaning.

Aaron Johnstone, 27, from Aberdeen, was baptised and received into the Church in 2024. Raised without religion, he first encountered Christianity through his interest in philosophy, and particularly the writings of St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas. His decisive moment came during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

'I came to the realisation that it was, indeed, Christ

in the monstrance', he said. Aaron believes Catholic tradition offers young people a framework for life at a time of uncertainty, while Mass provides a strong sense of belonging and shared identity.

Corey Morrison, 21, from Inverness, was received into the Church at the 2026 Easter Vigil in Exeter. His journey began after attending Mass at St Aidan's, Aviemore.

For Corey, Catholicism offered fellowship and a sense of belonging. Regular confession, he said, also provides accountability and non-judgemental spiritual guidance.

'When joining a Catholic Church, it gives the young person a wider family and they join something bigger than themselves', he said.

Their experiences suggest that community, tradition and sacramental life are all playing a part in drawing younger Scots towards Catholicism.

NEWS IN BRIEF

SALAMANCA MEETING

The Bishops of Scotland have concluded their annual gathering at the Royal Scots College in Salamanca. The gathering coincided with Salamanca's patronal feast, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated across the city with a week of festivities.

MEDIA TRAINING

An in-service day on media communications and strategy was led by Paloma García Ovejero, Communications Director for Mary's Meals International. Sessions focused on communicating with clarity, confidence and creativity, stressing communication's vital role in evangelisation and Church mission.

WORKING SESSIONS

Bishops discussed diocesan boundaries, evangelisation, safeguarding, liturgy, seminarian formation and Church heritage.

They also backed parents seeking a new Catholic secondary school in Aberdeen, considered a National Evangelisation Commission, reviewed SCIAF's work in Malawi and plans for a Catholic museum and archives, and discussed family initiatives and *Amoris Laetitia* preparations.

BISHOPS IN BURGOS

Bishops concluded their week with visits to Burgos Cathedral, Santo Domingo de Silos and Caleruega, combining prayer, reflection and fellowship before returning renewed for mission.

SYNODALITY

REMEMBERING, LISTENING AND DISCERNING TOGETHER

BY BISHOP ANDREW MCKENZIE

Synodality is not simply a buzz word or a theory, but a way for us to relate as a people of faith.

Through the synodal process, we are asked to reflect on our journey as a community of faith led by the Holy Spirit.

Synodality creates a space where we can rediscover our foundations, sending us on a journey to reclaim our identity as the people of God.

These foundations are rooted in listening to the Holy Spirit and, in that spirit, listening to one another. In part synodality is about remembering who we are and what has brought us to this point in our story.

Through the process of synodality, we become attentive to the past, listen to the voice of the Spirit and discern the way forward.

In scripture, remembering means recognising God's faithfulness throughout history.

Together we discern what the Spirit is saying today and open ourselves to the future God is preparing. This is far more than simply looking back. Israel learned to reinterpret its own journey by recalling the Lord's great deeds; Jesus invited his disciples to recognise

what God accomplished through their mission; and the early Christian community recalled their own experience as people of faith to discern the work of the Holy Spirit in their time.

What is being proposed belongs to this same spiritual dynamic. It is an occasion for us as the Diocese of Dunkeld to gather, to recall what the Lord has done, to savour and give thanks for the renewal taking place among us and to embrace the next steps to which we are being called.

Of course, this reflection has its twists and turns. Some are open to what the journey demands, while others are less so. Some are energised by new opportunities, whereas others feel threatened by change or lament that 'we've seen it all before'.

This implies that if it didn't work then, it won't work now. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, there is indeed 'nothing new under the sun'. Yet, if we are open, the Spirit will teach us new things. Each of us must challenge ourselves to expect a brighter, better tomorrow.

SYNODAL DISCERNMENT

Synodality is more than a buzzword or an administrative process; it is a fundamental



way of being together. It is an approach, an attitude and a lifestyle evolving within the Christian community through the work of the Holy Spirit.

As this process evolves, we are now being invited to consider three important steps to help us remain open to the Spirit, while strengthening the connections between us. We are invited to tell our story through a Narrative Report, to organise and take part in a Diocesan Assembly, and to write a letter to sister churches. While this sounds like a lot, the Diocesan Synodality Group will guide us through it. I am grateful to them for keeping us in track.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

The exercise of creating a Narrative Report asks us to respond to the following question: "In light of the journey undertaken... what concrete form of a missionary synodal Church, and what new paths of synodality are emerging in your community?"

This question helps the diocese remember its shared journey and become aware of its fruits. It invites the community to look back with gratitude and sincerity, recognising how the Lord has accompanied us and to what new steps He is calling us. The entire people of God are called to contribute according to their diverse charisms, vocations, and ministries.

To achieve this, we must create spaces that foster mutual listening, participation and communal discernment.

Recently, we have worked to revive Parish Pastoral Councils, engaged with Conversations in the Spirit and reinvigorated our deanery structure so that priests and people can share local initiatives. We have also reintroduced the *Dunkeld News* and increased our social media presence.

However, perhaps we may need to go

further by creating a Diocesan Pastoral Council to strengthen our unity. Change happens slowly and organically, but as your bishop, I am fully committed to this synodal pathway.

We must prayerfully discern where the Spirit is leading us, carefully engaging in difficult discussions regarding parish provision and the pastoral and financial restructuring of the diocese.

We must find new energy for evangelisation, engage our young people, and welcome those with lukewarm faith or no faith at all. As your bishop, I need your support, your encouragement, your ideas and your vision.

Dialogue is a core part of our Catholic identity, and it must be characterised by trust and goodwill.

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

We are also asked to participate in a Diocesan Assembly. Its fruitfulness will depend primarily on our willingness to be guided by the Holy Spirit, followed by careful organisation. There will be more about this in the weeks and months to come.

At the heart of this work is gathering and understanding what our communities have experienced through Conversations in the Spirit and during the synod implementation process more generally.

By bringing these diverse experiences into dialogue, we can recognise what the Lord has brought to maturity and identify the further steps He is calling us to take.

Our attentiveness to the Holy Spirit will allow us to discern the kind of Church emerging from our encounters.

The synodal journey is not simply a theory. It is, quite clearly, the work of the Holy Spirit in our time.

+Andrew

Synodality is not a series of meetings, nor is it a working method. It is a spiritual style.

It is born of encounter, grows through listening and matures in discernment... When we listen to one another with humility and freedom, making room for the Spirit, our conversations do not remain an exchange of ideas, but become a place of conversion, in which we grow together in fidelity to the Lord.

POPE LEO XIV

Join Young Caritas today: help create a better world

At a time when our world is a pretty scary place, young adults in Scotland are being given an opportunity to put their faith into action.

Young Caritas Scotland, launched by SCIAF, is a new national movement aiming to encourage young adults across the country to engage in the international work of the Catholic Church

SCIAF is part of Caritas Internationalis, a network of Catholic humanitarian organisations spanning 200 countries, united in their goal of reaching out in love to people in the poorest parts of the world. These organisations have developed 'Young Caritas' in their own country, and SCIAF is now creating this in order to provide a platform for young Catholics here in Scotland.

SCIAF's Michael Hamilton said: "Caritas means love and love is at the centre of everything we do for our sisters and brothers around the world.

"Young Caritas will give young adults to chance to speak up, take action and join a global family working to build a better world.

"Whether you are motivated by the war and devastation we see on our screens, climate change or social injustice, this can be a space for you to help shape how our Church can respond to these issues here in Scotland."

Young Caritas has the backing of the team behind the Caritas Cup, which has organised charitable football and netball tournaments across dioceses in the country, including Adam Costello, 22.

Adam said: "The Caritas Cup started as a game of football between two schools in Airdrie and Coatbridge. It then spread to multiple sports across many parts of Scotland and last year it even reached Rome.

"We support SCIAF due to the values instilled in us from a very

young age. The values that resonate with people across our Diocese.

"We are so pleased to be involved in the launch of Young Caritas Scotland. It gives young people an opportunity that others places don't and that's the opportunity to take action.

"That's what we love, being able to put our faith into action and see where we can make a difference. It's being part of a community, where everyone is focussed on the same goals.

"Being involved in Caritas has allowed us to see this work around the world, meeting with other Caritas networks and working with people from all walks of life. It's a great community, which everyone should get involved in.

"It really is one thing seeing what's happening in the world on your phone or news feed. Young Caritas is a place where you can do something about it, take action and make your desire for change happen."

To find out how you can get involved, please visit sciaf.org.uk/youngcaritas

**Young
Caritas**
Scotland

**"An authentic faith always
involves a deep desire to
change the world."
Pope Francis**

Fed up with the state of the world?

Your faith. Your world. Your move.

SCIAF is launching Young Caritas Scotland: a new movement for young adults who want to put their faith into action, meet like-minded people from the global church and help build a better world.

SCIAF
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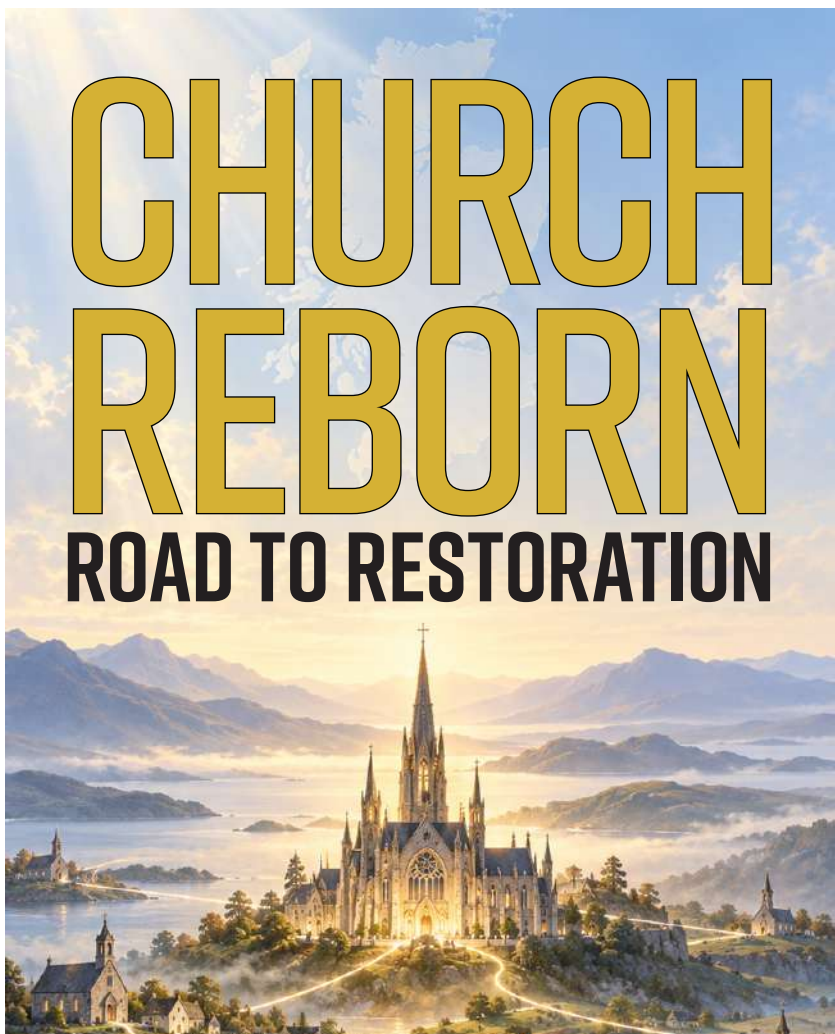
Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
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**Join our movement today,
and help shape our world
tomorrow.**



sciaf.org.uk/youngcaritas

CHURCH REBORN ROAD TO RESTORATION



BY FATHER MICHAEL CARRIE

In this article I will look at the diocese in the years leading up to the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in Scotland in 1878.

Before that historic moment, Scotland was very much mission territory. The ancient hierarchy had effectively ended with the death of Cardinal James Beaton, Archbishop of Glasgow, on 24 April 1603.

For a time, Scotland's Catholics came under the jurisdiction of the archpriests and first vicars apostolic of England, and later local prefects of the mission.

A more distinct Scottish structure emerged in October 1653, when the *Congregation de Propaganda Fide* established a Prefecture Apostolic for Scotland.

Its first Prefect Apostolic, William Ballantyne, was himself a convert to Catholicism.

Within three years he had been arrested and imprisoned in England.

He was released two years later on the personal order of Oliver Cromwell, returned to Scotland in

1660 and died the following year.

The mission continued to develop. In March 1694 Scotland became a Vicariate Apostolic under its first bishop, Thomas Nicolson. By 1727 the country had been divided into Highland and Lowland districts, each under a bishop, and a century later, in February 1827, these became three vicariates: the Eastern, Western and Northern districts.

Those administrative changes reflected a Church that was beginning to change dramatically.

During the following 50 years Scotland's Catholic population grew significantly, particularly in the central belt, as Irish Catholics arrived in search of work. By 1829 they outnumbered indigenous Scottish Catholics, and the industrial south-west gradually replaced the Highlands and north-east as the principal centre of Catholic life.

Our own area experienced the same transformation, particularly Dundee, where large numbers of Irish Catholics found employment

in the city's jute mills. Their arrival created an urgent need for churches and schools. In 1836 St Andrew's Church, now the Cathedral, was built in the Nethergate, with rooms beneath it providing Dundee's only Catholic school. As the Catholic population continued to grow, another church followed. Our Lady of Victories opened in Forebank Road in November 1851.

The city's priests were equally determined that young Catholics should receive a good Catholic education. Schools were established and, in 1859, the Sisters of Mercy and Marist Brothers arrived. Between them they would go on to educate thousands of young Catholics in the diocese.

Meanwhile, restrictions on Catholic life were gradually disappearing.

Catholic Emancipation in 1829 brought civil and political liberties, while Edinburgh saw the foundation in 1832 of the first convent of nuns since the Reformation. In Glasgow, the Catholic population grew from only a few hundred to 24,000. A new seminary was also established at Blairs.

By the 1870s, the old missionary system of Vicariates Apostolic increasingly appeared both unmanageable and obsolete. Scotland's Catholics were no longer the scattered missionary community for which the system had been created. Requests went to Rome for the hierarchy to be restored and for Scotland finally to cease being regarded as mission territory.

Pope Pius IX had wished to restore the hierarchy, but died before he could do so. His successor acted almost immediately.

On 4 March 1878, the day after his coronation, Pope Leo XIII issued the papal bull *Ex Supremo Apostolatus Apice*. Scotland once again had a Catholic hierarchy, comprising two archbishops and four bishops.

The restored Diocese of Dunkeld became a suffragan of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, alongside Aberdeen, Argyll and the Isles, and Galloway.

After centuries of missionary organisation, the diocese had been restored. Now Rome needed to find its bishop.

The man chosen was no stranger to either Dundee or Perth. His name was Fr George Rigg.

His story will be told next time.

In 2005, as St Columba's Parish in Cupar celebrated the 40th anniversary of the church's opening, Monsignor Pat McNally suggested something a little different: a parish pilgrimage. The plan was simple, four nights in Rome and two in Assisi. To his surprise, more than 100 parishioners signed up, requiring two successive pilgrimages over a fortnight.

While I had past experience organising European holidays for people with special needs, this was something entirely new.

I travelled first with an adult group and then with families the following week, thinking the adults might cope better if any problems arose.

In fact, everything went remarkably well. At the end of the first pilgrimage, parishioners were already asking, 'Where are we going next?'

It is a question that has been repeated ever since.

The following year, drawing on connections from my time at the Royal Scots College in Valladolid, we journeyed to Santiago de Compostela to pray at the tomb of St James.

Along the way, we visited Salamanca and Ávila, including St Teresa's Monastery of La Encarnación.

Once again, the response was overwhelmingly positive.

In 2007, our pilgrimage explored Seville, Córdoba and Granada, a journey I called 'The Muslim Trail' in recognition of the Moorish influence that shaped Spain for centuries.

The Giralda, the Mezquita and the Alhambra offered unforgettable glimpses into that rich history.

Equally memorable was the

privilege of celebrating Mass in the cathedrals of all three cities.

One unexpected highlight came in Granada when our coach driver arranged tickets to a flamenco performance in the famous Gypsy caves overlooking the city.

Sharing that vibrant celebration in such an intimate setting remains a treasured memory.

On another visit, our junior choir was granted permission to sing in each cathedral, delighting visitors and pilgrims alike.

Many other pilgrimages followed: Loyola and Montserrat in the footsteps of St Ignatius; Assisi and Siena; Fátima and Lisbon; Ávila and Toledo following St Teresa and St John of the Cross; and Kraków and Częstochowa, where we celebrated Mass both at the Divine Mercy Sanctuary and deep within the renowned salt mines.

Since 2015, we have also organised Camino de Santiago walks.

These experiences have strengthened faith, forged lasting friendships and created bonds that extend beyond Sunday worship.

This month, 48 pilgrims, including school pupils, parents and teachers from across the diocese, will set out on the Camino.

¡Buen Camino a todos!



A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP



Our pilgrimage explored
Seville, Córdoba and
Granada on a journey I
called *The Muslim Trail*

A PARISH TRANSFORMED

INSPIRED BY
LAUDATO SI', ST
NINIAN'S HAS
SHOWN HOW CARE
FOR CREATION CAN
GO HAND IN HAND
WITH THE CHURCH'S
MISSION OF SERVICE,
HOSPITALITY AND
STEWARDSHIP

All Are Welcome +

St Ninian's, Dundee, has been recognised with a national award nomination for combining renewable energy innovation with a long-standing commitment to community outreach.

BY JAMIE JONES

St Ninian's, Dundee, has been nominated for the Best Community Project Award at the Scottish Green Energy Awards 2026, in recognition of its commitment to renewable energy, environmental responsibility and service to the community.

The nomination is milestone in a journey that has seen the parish become a notable example of how Catholic communities can respond practically to the call to care for our common home.

The story began in November 2019, when the Parish Pastoral Council approached the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) in response to Pope Francis's appeal in *Laudato Si'* for greater environmental stewardship and a transition away from fossil fuels.

What followed was a programme of renewal that transformed the church and parish hall.

St Ninian's installed air-source heat pumps, roof, wall and floor insulation, LED lighting, solar panels and battery storage systems.

The work was completed in stages between 2022 and 2026 with the support of CARES and other funding sources.

St Ninian's now operates through renewable energy technologies, having replaced its gas-based heating system with air-source heat pumps.

The most recent phase of the project resulted in the installation of 105 solar panels on the church roof, together with battery backup units capable of storing energy for later use.

The parish reports these developments have reduced energy costs and may allow surplus electricity to be exported to the grid.

The overall investment amounted to £188,093, the majority of which was funded through grants.

The project provides an example of how church buildings can be adapted to make use of renewable technologies while continuing to support worship, parish activities and community outreach.

The award nomination also recognises the parish's commitment to those it serves.

Twice a week, St Ninian's hosts a community cafe that provides free hot meals and a welcoming space for conversation, friendship and fellowship.

St Ninian's experience has been instrumental in inspiring other dioceses and parishes to explore renewable energy projects within Catholic Church properties.

Its experience has been shared through a case study produced in conjunction with the Bishops' Conference of Scotland's Care of Creation Office, helping others considering similar initiatives.

The project demonstrates how care for creation can be expressed in practical ways. The work has brought together parish volunteers, funding partners and specialist contractors.

Inspired by the vision of *Laudato Si'*, St Ninian's has shown how environmental responsibility can go hand in hand with good stewardship of parish resources and a continued commitment to community service.

Finalists for the Scottish Green Energy Awards 2026 will be announced in October, with the awards ceremony taking place in Edinburgh on 3 December.

Whatever the outcome, the nomination is a welcome recognition of the dedication and foresight shown by St Ninian's over several years and highlights a community that has embraced the Church's call to care for creation while continuing to serve its neighbours, offering an encouraging example of faith in action.



THE PROCESSION THAT CLAIMED A LIBERTY

A Corpus Christi procession in Dundee became a quiet act of courage, helping Catholics reclaim public witness and reminding us what freedom of faith asks of us today.

BY MARGARET MALCOLM

Every time we receive the Eucharist we are reminded that we, too, are the Body of Christ.

As I watched the Corpus Christi procession at the Cathedral, I found myself reflecting not only on the mystery of the Eucharist, but also on the remarkable history of this procession in Scotland and its connection to our civil liberties.

A SIGNIFICANT CENTENARY

This year is especially significant, marking the centenary of the 1926 Catholic Relief Act, legislation in which public Catholic processions played an important part.

The story reaches back to the Papal Jurisdiction Act of 1560, passed by the Parliament of Scotland, and intended to outlaw Catholicism.

The Act was presented to Mary, Queen of Scots for ratification, but she refused. It was not ratified until 1567 by her son, James VI.

Remarkably, the Act has never been formally repealed.

FAITH DRIVEN UNDERGROUND

For centuries, the Church was forced underground, striving to keep the faith alive, to hold the Body of Christ together, and to care for people's spiritual and corporal needs, just as Christ commands in the great commission at the end of the Gospel of St Matthew.

The good news still had to be preached, even when doing so was difficult and dangerous.

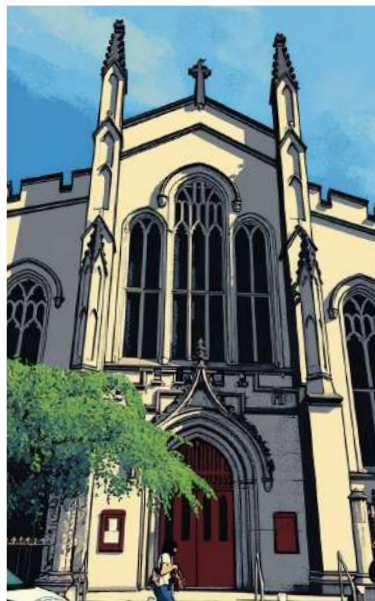
I often think how hard that must

have been, because once I came to believe, I found it impossible to keep the faith to myself.

GRADUAL RELIEF

Over time conditions gradually improved, particularly as fears of Catholic claims to the throne diminished.

In 1778, parliament passed the first Catholic Relief Act, allowing Catholics to join the army and purchase land if they swore allegiance to the Crown, though the ability to worship was still restricted.



The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1791 formally legalised the celebration of Mass.

Catholic places of worship were permitted, but they could not have bells or steeples. Priests were

forbidden from wearing vestments outside church buildings and from celebrating liturgies in the open air, while assemblies could not be held behind locked doors.

Further liberties came with the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, commonly known as Catholic Emancipation, which allowed Catholics to sit in parliament, vote and hold most public offices.

Yet restrictions on the public practice of the faith still remained.

CATHOLICISM IN DUNDEE

St Andrew's Church opened in 1836, becoming the oldest Catholic church in Dundee.

Its basement originally housed the city's only Catholic school during the 1840s.

In 1923 it was dedicated as a cathedral and became the seat of the Bishop of Dunkeld.

In 1951, St Mary's Forebank (Our Lady of Victories) was founded: a name that would later seem especially fitting to me.

RESTORING THE HIERARCHY

In 1878, Leo XIII became pope, and one of his first acts was to restore the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Scotland and reorganise its structure through the papal bull *Ex Supremo Apostolatus Apice*.

In effect, this was a direct response to the legacy of the 1560 legislation that had denied papal jurisdiction in Scotland and sought to suppress Catholic worship.

Although the old Act technically remained in force, no legal action was taken.

Thus, the restored Scottish



hierarchy endured. This historic moment ended 318 years of underground missionary administration and allowed Catholicism once again to function openly with its own bishops.

SOCIAL TEACHING BEGINS

In 1891, Leo XIII issued *Rerum Novarum*, the foundation of modern Catholic social teaching.

Then, in 1895, two notable events occurred: he established the Diocese of Dunkeld Cathedral Chapter on 16 July, and that same year St Mary's Forebank held the first public Corpus Christi procession in Scotland since the Reformation, 318 years earlier.

I cannot help wondering whether those events were connected.

PIONEERS FOR CHRIST

How must the parents of those children have felt, finally free to profess their faith openly and to walk as the Body of Christ behind the Real Presence of Christ through the streets of Dundee?

Imagine the boys in their kilts and the girls in their white dresses, making history as pioneers for Christ.

Around 600 people processed while 7,000-8,000 looked on.

PROCESSIONS AND OPPOSITION

Yet the story did not end there.

Other parishes followed, including St Francis Xavier, in Carfin, which encountered opposition.

The 1829 Act still allowed authorities to prohibit clergy from wearing liturgical dress in public, and they were warned the law would be enforced if another procession took place.

Processions returned to church grounds, but Catholics now possessed the vote.

Parishioners appealed to their MP, asking why Dundee could process publicly while Carfin could not.

LIBERTIES SECURED

The matter was raised with the Secretary of State for Scotland, who claimed no knowledge of the restriction.

Many in parliament considered the situation unjust, and in 1926 legislation permitted clergy to appear publicly in liturgical dress.

Finally, in 1929, a further Catholic Relief Act granted Catholics essentially the same civil liberties as other citizens, with the remaining constitutional exceptions relating to the throne, the Archbishop of

Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

PAST PROCESSIONS

As I sat in the Cathedral watching this year's procession, I noticed there were no children in first communion dresses or kilts.

I found myself remembering the great processions of earlier years at Wellburn.

After the Reformation, the Church in Scotland became a small remnant of the Body of Christ, yet that remnant grew.

So, I prayed that today's remnant will grow again.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

This centenary of the 1926 act is a victory for Our Lady of Victories.

Perhaps when we reach the centenary of the 1929 Catholic Relief Act, inspired by the witness of Pope Leo XIV and his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, we may once more see a great Corpus Christi procession filled with first communicants leading the way as we follow the Body of Christ through our streets.

Like these pioneers 175 years ago, all of us, not just priests, can be ambassadors for Christ and promote His kingdom in our diocese.

Lourdes: Faith in every step

BY **ANDREW MITCHELL**

The week at the Shrine of Our Lady brought pilgrims together in worship, fellowship and service, with particular care given to those who were sick or frail.

Throughout the pilgrimage, members of the Dunkeld Lourdes Yellow T-Shirts, supported by parishioners from across the Diocese and beyond, offered practical assistance and companionship.

Their generous service reflected the special spirit of the shrine, where care for the sick is rooted in dignity, compassion and Christian charity.

Bishop Andrew was joined by priests from around the diocese and beyond: Fathers Obiorah, Ngobili, McLean, Monsignor Aldo and Fathers O'Sullivan and O'Brien from the Diocese of Motherwell.

At the heart of each day was Holy Mass, together with the Candlelight Marian Procession, the Rosary, Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Way of the Cross.

These offered opportunities to remember the sick, their families and the wider diocese.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

For a first-time visitor, one of the most striking impressions was the serenity of the sanctuary and its deeply spiritual atmosphere.

Despite the thousands of pilgrims

arriving from different countries, there was a remarkable sense of peace.

The pilgrimage offered a vivid experience of the universality of the Church, with pilgrims coming from different dioceses and countries, with very different stories and circumstances, but gathered around the same Eucharist and in shared devotion to Our Lady.

That universality was especially evident when Dunkeld pilgrims joined the Eucharistic Procession with others from Luxembourg.

Walking together behind the Blessed Sacrament, distinctions of nationality and language seemed to recede.

What remained was a common profession of faith centred on Christ in the Eucharist.

PLACES OF DEVOTION

The churches of the sanctuary each contributed something distinctive.

The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception rises above the grotto with its slender Gothic form.

Beneath it, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, with its mosaics and chapels depicting the mysteries of the Rosary, provides a beautiful setting for Marian devotion.

In contrast, the immense underground Basilica of St Pius X allows thousands of pilgrims to gather around the altar as one worshipping community.

Another memorable celebration took place at the Grotto of Massabielle,





From candlelit processions to quiet acts of service, Dunkeld's pilgrims found in Lourdes a powerful experience of faith, fellowship and the universal Church.

associated with the apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette Soubirous in 1858.

There, Dunkeld pilgrims joined Archbishop Nolan and pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Glasgow for Mass.

Celebrating the Eucharist beside the spring discovered by Bernadette, in a place where generations have brought their hopes, illnesses and sorrows, was a powerful reminder that its story continues through those who come there today.

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

As the week unfolded, there was a growing sense that pilgrimage is about more than travelling to a holy place.

It is itself a journey of faith.

The physical journey leads into an interior one through encounter, service, reflection and companionship, inviting each pilgrim to consider where he or she is going and Christ who accompanies us along the way.

The pilgrimage also included an excursion to the village of Gavarnie high in the Pyrenees, beneath the glacial peaks and waterfalls of the Cirque de Gavarnie.

Its beauty provided another setting for quiet reflection.

The visit also recalled the older tradition of pilgrimage through this part of France, along historic routes towards Santiago de Compostela and the tomb of St James the Apostle.

The shrine may be a destination, but pilgrimage does not end there.

The pilgrim returns home changed by the journey and called to continue walking in faith.

CARRYING THE EXPERIENCE HOME

At the final Mass, Bishop Andrew thanked the volunteers, young people and clergy, whose service made the week possible and who helped sick and frail pilgrims participate fully.

The lasting memories are many: the silence at the grotto, the basilicas, candlelight moving through the sanctuary, the Blessed Sacrament carried among pilgrims of different nations, Mass with the wider Scottish Church, companionship and the landscape of the Pyrenees.

Perhaps the strongest memory is of a place where worship and service belong together, where the sick and frail are not on the margins but at the heart of the community.

The Dunkeld pilgrims returned home carrying its message: to remain close to Christ, entrust themselves to the maternal care of Our Lady and put faith into practice through loving service.

Planning is already under way for next year.

At reunions in Dundee on 19 and 20 September, organiser Ruth Ann O'Neill announced the 2027 pilgrimage will run from 14 to 21 July.

For those who travelled this year, that invitation is also a reminder that every pilgrimage continues long after the journey home.

Left: Consecration at the grotto. Photograph by Photo Lacaze.

Above: Leading the procession. Photograph by Andrew Mitchell.

A worthy experience

Fr Alex Obiorah reflects on his first pilgrimage to Lourdes, where he discovered a place of living faith, youthful service, fellowship and healing that challenged his expectations.



Since 2019, I have lived in the flat at SS Leonard and Fergus Church. Over the years, I have watched Dunkeld diocesan pilgrims leave for Lourdes and return again.

On departure, their joy, excitement and hopeful expectation were unmistakable.

On their return, there was always the same sense of contentment and satisfaction.

I longed to be part of it.

That opportunity came when the SS Leonard and Fergus SVDP society offered to sponsor a Lourdes pilgrimage for me.

I owe them special thanks, because without them that longing might have remained only a dream.

The day before we left, a parishioner said to me, 'Enjoy your holiday.'

It made me wonder whether I was going on pilgrimage or holiday.

Once we arrived, I had my answer.

Lourdes is not just a place; Lourdes is an experience.

It offers many possibilities: holiday, pilgrimage, faith, spirituality, healing, compassion or socialising.

What you experience depends partly on what you bring to it.

The real pilgrimage began when I crossed into the Sanctuary.

There was something extraordinary about seeing the basilica and the familiar arc that, until then, I had known only from photographs.

Even more powerful was standing at the Grotto, touching the stone and reflecting on the place where St Bernadette encountered the Mother of God.

I returned often to the spot across the stream where Bernadette stood. It became my favourite place.

Lourdes nourished my faith.

Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come as witnesses.

I found myself thinking: faith brings them, faith keeps them and faith will bring them back.

Their visit is an act of faith and their faith is strengthened by the visit.

That faith is sustained in many ways: Mass at the Grotto or in the chapels, the Sunday International Mass in the underground Basilica of St Pius X, Eucharistic and Rosary processions, the Stations of the Cross and personal Eucharistic Adoration.

People expressed their faith through prayer, gestures, service, lighting candles, washing with Lourdes water and taking some home.

I was not simply observing others.

As a pilgrim, I was being encouraged by them.

Everything I saw suggested that the Church is very much alive.

In our parishes we sometimes hear people compare the present unfavourably with the past and conclude that the Church is slowly dying.

Lourdes challenged that idea.

Thousands of young people were actively involved.

Our own Yellow T-Shirts were mainly young people.

I watched with admiration as they pushed wheelchairs, helped pilgrims and served with energy and compassion.

Their joy made me wonder whether this sense of belonging and shared life is something young people are searching for.

Lourdes is also deeply associated with healing.

I saw many people in wheelchairs, but I believe everyone who comes carries some need for healing: physical illness, hopelessness, loneliness, sadness, doubt or spiritual dryness.

For me, nobody leaves Lourdes untouched.

Lourdes is not just a place.

It is an experience, and it is an experience worth having.

Fr Obiorah



CELEBRATING FAMILY LIVING IN THE LORD

BY CLARE MCGRAW

St Columba's welcomed families and regular Saturday morning parishioners for a special Mass dedicated to Marriage, Family and Life, celebrated by Bishop Andrew.

He was joined at the altar by Fr Alex, parish priest of St Columba's, and Fr John Paul, recently appointed chaplain to the Dunkeld Diocesan Marriage, Family and Life Commission.

In his homily, Bishop Andrew stressed the importance of the Commission's work in the life of the Church.

He spoke of marriage as a holy vocation that requires careful preparation, continual nurturing and the support of the wider parish community.

Turning to family life, he described the home as the 'domestic church', where parents have a vital role in the Catholic formation and spiritual guidance of their children.

He also affirmed the sacred dignity of all human life and called for its faithful protection and compassionate care from conception to natural death.

At the end of Mass, Fr John Paul thanked Bishop Andrew for appointing him as chaplain and spoke of his enthusiasm for the work ahead.

The celebration then moved to the parish hall, where families and parishioners enjoyed bacon and sausage rolls, together with a homemade strawberry and cream cake.

Children were kept entertained with Catholic-themed crafts and face painting, while adults stayed for more than an hour catching up with friends and meeting new people.

The gathering reflected the Commission's vision of encouraging families to come together for relaxed family days combining prayer for marriage, family and life with practical opportunities to explore how these values can be lived out in everyday life.

The Commission is also looking for parishioners willing to support its work across the Diocese.

Opportunities include helping with marriage preparation, representing the Marriage, Family and Life Commission in local parishes, assisting with family events and taking an active role in pro-life advocacy and support.

Anyone interested is invited to contact the team or speak to Fr John Paul.

Further events are already planned.

On 5 December 2026 at 10am, St Andrew's Cathedral will host Saturday devotions, Mass and a homily from Fr John Paul, followed by Advent crafts and a social.

On 20 February 2027, from 1pm to 4pm, Our Lady of Victories, Forebank, will host an Afternoon for Life, with devotions, Mass, pro-life speakers and activities for children.

A further gathering is planned for June 2027 at St Thomas, Arbroath, including devotions, Mass and a family picnic in the garden.



CANON THOMAS SHIELDS

UNDER CHRIST'S MANTLE

From St Martin's cloak to the modern Catholic school, chaplaincy remains a ministry of presence, accompaniment and care.



The best-known story of St Martin of Tours dates from his time as a soldier.

On meeting a beggar shivering in the cold, he cut his cloak—his cappa—in two and gave half to the man.

Tradition holds that kings later carried this piece, or cappella (little cloak), into battle as an inspiration to the troops.

The priest responsible for the relic was called a cappellano, and the building that housed it a cappella.

Through French, these terms evolved into the English words chaplain and chapel, and the story helps explain the origins of military chaplaincy, in particular.

This chronicle immediately captures the essence of chaplaincy: guarding, ministering, and accompanying people through lives that can sometimes be dangerous.

It also implies vulnerability, because sharing others' journeys means facing some of the same difficulties.

This companionship often takes chaplains beyond their comfort zones.

For a priest, entering an unfamiliar setting means giving up the control he has in his church or presbytery.

Of course, when it comes to being a chaplain in a Catholic school, you might think that the priest is on more familiar territory.

Certainly, the head teacher and staff, and many of the pupils will be from a Catholic background, but few of the children and young people will come from practicing Catholic families and many of our staff will have a tenuous relationship with the Church or be from other faiths.

The relationship between home, school and Church, which still forms the foundation of Catholic education, is at times as tattered as the flag that was often raised in victory on the battlefield.

Relationships are still the focus, but the nature of the relationship must change.

Priests understand that

they do not know the young people in a school as well as their teachers and often don't know the families who have decided to send their children to a Catholic school, or at least not in the same way that they might have in the past.

The school is the arena for many agencies who care for young people and their families, not just teachers, but social workers, health specialists and even law enforcement, as well as education experts and charities who support the welfare of young people.

Everyone involved in education is called upon to respect the expertise and the place of the other, working as a team to nurture those for whom they care. The chaplain comes to offer Christ.

While it may seem, on the surface, to be little more than a cloak of spiritual and emotional support, because it is Christ's mantle it can make all the difference to others, just as Martin's cloak did for the beggar he encountered.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

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

Page 1 – Wordsearch

Page 2 – St Thérèse of Lisieux

Page 3 – Our Lady of the Rosary

Page 4 – Christ the King

THERESE PRAYER LOVE FLOWER
ROSARY CHRIST KING HOLINESS

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

The words can be forwards, backwards or diagonal!

St Thérèse of Lisieux



"Small acts of kindness, done
with great love, yield miracles."

Our Lady of the Rosary



*"Say the Rosary every day to
obtain peace for the world."*

Christ the King



"King of kings and Lord of lords."



FATHER RONALD MCAINSH

SPEAK, LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

St Teresa of Avila reminds me that prayer is not only about speaking to God, but also about listening. Here I reflect on how that deeper conversation can enrich our lives.

The editor very generously invited me to write about any of the feasts that fall during the month of October.

I chose St Teresa of Avila, who, with St Catherine of Siena, was among the first women to be declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

A Carmelite nun who reformed her Order, Teresa suffered greatly and wrote extensively about prayer.

She understood prayer as utterly essential and expressed it very simply: 'Prayer is a conversation with God'.

That is important because a conversation is a two-way dialogue. Teresa invites us to speak to God, but also to listen.

Many of us are quite good at speaking to God, telling Him our petitions and asking for what we need.

Sometimes our prayer list becomes so long it is rather like going to an ecclesiastical Tesco!

But speaking is only one part of prayer: God also speaks to us.

He speaks through scripture, particularly

the New Testament, which tells us how deeply we are loved and encourages us to share that love.

He speaks through the sacraments and at Mass.

Sometimes people tell me: 'Father, what You said today touched me', or: 'I felt God was speaking to me'.

I occasionally think: 'I cannot remember saying that', but clearly God is at work. God speaks through nature too.

Recently in Africa, I looked up at the vast night sky and its stars and felt his presence. He can speak through music: the sound of a violin can touch the soul and lead us to praise.

So, St Teresa's advice is simple.

Spend some time in prayer *just listening*.

Say: 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'.

Sit quietly for five or ten minutes with an open heart and let God tell you how much He loves and cares for you.

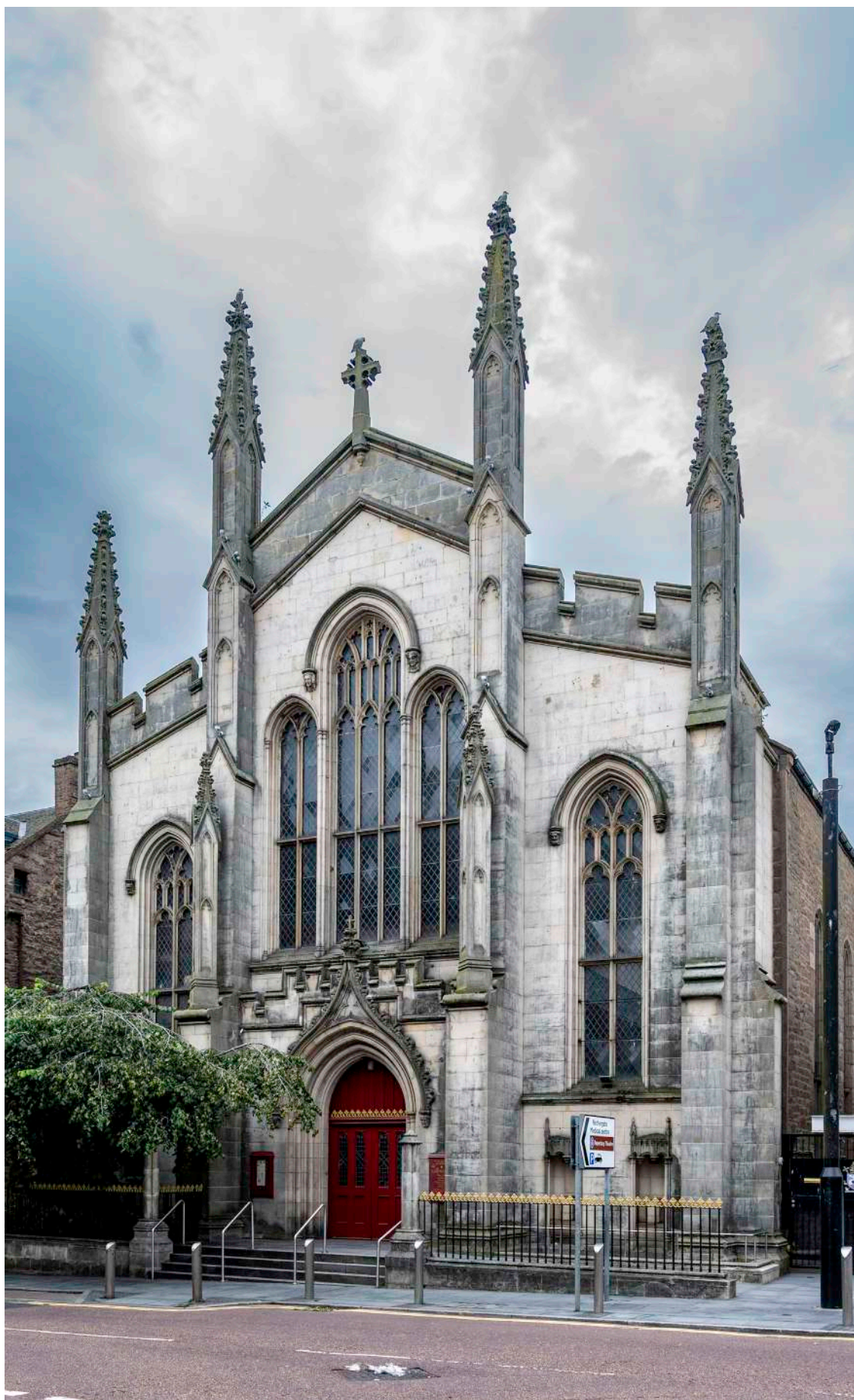
Then respond.

That is a deeper form of prayer, and our lives can be richer for it.



*Mental prayer is
nothing else but being
on terms of friendship
with God, frequently
conversing in secret
with Him*

St Teresa of Avila



St Andrew's Cathedral celebrates its bicentenary in 2036. *Photograph by Jamie Jones.*

GETTING READY FOR THE BIG 200

In 2036, St Andrew's Cathedral will mark 200 years since its opening, **writes Bishop Andrew**. It is an amazing milestone in the history of the Church in Scotland and an important date in the story of our diocese.

Built in 1836, the Cathedral is the oldest Catholic church in the city of Dundee, the focal point of diocesan liturgical life over these two centuries.

It is also a building of considerable historic significance, which needs ongoing care and investment if we are to preserve it for future generations.

Since coming to the Diocese of Dunkeld, I have been considering the best way to go about the ongoing care and development of the Cathedral.

Having taken professional architectural advice and input, along with liturgical considerations, we now have a proposal—for further consultation—to carry out a restoration and improvement project for the Cathedral buildings in a number of phases.

The first phase will concentrate on the most important repairs identified in a recent condition survey.

Alongside those repairs, crucially we are also proposing to install a new lift and create an accessible entrance at the rear of the Cathedral from the Greenmarket.

Making the Cathedral more accessible is a vital part of the project.

We want everyone to be able to enter and take part in the life of the Cathedral, (both church and hall) regardless of their mobility, and we know there are significant hurdles in this regard at present.

Further phases of development will include refurbishment of the Cathedral hall, improving its space, creating a much improved kitchen facility, in the hope that the hall can be more widely used by the local community.

Improvements to the liturgical spaces in

the Church are also under consideration.

At the moment, the estimated cost of the essential repair works is around £400,000, plus professional fees and VAT. The lift is estimated at around £146,000, again plus professional fees and VAT. The cost of the garden and rear access works is still being worked out.

Clearly, this is a significant undertaking, and we will not be able to do it without financial support. We are therefore looking at a number of sources of funding.

An application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is being considered for the lift, while Historic Environment Scotland, the National Churches Trust and other funders are being approached in relation to the repair works.

An important part of the funding applications will be demonstrating the support that exists for the project. So, we will be asking for letters of support from those who worship regularly in the Cathedral on parish and diocesan occasions to bolster the project's success, as well as seeking the support of people in the wider community, including local councillors and MPs.

Parishioners will also be asked to take part in a consultation exercise regarding the proposed developments.

There will also be opportunities to involve local organisations, including the University of Dundee and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, in activities that help us learn more about the history and heritage of the Cathedral.

Please pray for the success of this venture.

These are early days and more details will follow.



**FRANCESCA
FORBES**

Over the past few months, our social media channels have continued to grow, and it has been wonderful to see more people engaging with and interacting with our content.

Social media gives us an opportunity to share the life and mission of the Church across the diocese with people wherever they are, while helping our parish communities connect with one another.

One of the highlights of recent months has been our 'Meet the Priests of Dunkeld' series.

Through a series of short videos, we have been getting to know the priests who serve across our diocese: hearing about their vocation, ministry, parish life and the people behind the collar.

This has been one of the

most enjoyable parts of my job. Travelling around the diocese and meeting priests from different parishes has given me the opportunity to visit places I would otherwise not have had the chance to go and to hear the stories from the people who serve our communities.

Every conversation has been different, and I have enjoyed hearing about each priest's journey to the priesthood, their experiences of ministry and the things they consider important.

It has also been a reminder of the richness and diversity of our diocese.

While our priests serve in different communities and have their own stories and experiences, each has a unique contribution to make.

The series has given us a

chance to share some of that with you in a relaxed and personal way.

For those viewing at home, it offers the chance to meet priests from across the diocese.

Parishioners can hear directly from priests they may have never met, learn a little more about the person celebrating Mass in their parish or perhaps discover something new about a priest they have known for years.

We hope the series helps build that sense of connection between our parishes and reminds us we are part of one diocesan family.

The series will continue over the coming months as we visit more priests from across the diocese and give them the opportunity to share their stories.

LOURDES DIARIES

Another focus over the summer was our coverage of the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

This was the second year we followed the Yellow T-shirts, giving our followers an insight into their journey and experience of serving alongside our pilgrims.

This year, we followed the pilgrimage through the eyes of the people experiencing it, including those of Lennon Brisbane, pictured, and Mgr Aldo.

From the Yellow T-shirts' journey by coach and ferry to Lourdes, through to their arrival and the beginning of the pilgrimage, we were able to bring our followers along for the journey.

Lourdes Diaries gave people at home the opportunity to see something of the pilgrimage as it happened - from Masses and processions to the Baths, Stations of the Cross, the Grotto, the Blessed Sacrament Procession and the many moments of friendship and community that take place throughout the week.



Alongside these larger projects, our social media continues to highlight the many different things happening throughout the diocese. From parish celebrations and anniversaries to schools, charities, prayer initiatives, events and opportunities to get involved, we want our channels to reflect the breadth of life within our Catholic communities.

Looking ahead

As we move into the autumn and towards Advent and Christmas, there are plenty of opportunities to continue building on our work.

Alongside regular parish and diocesan updates, we hope to develop more short-form video content, continue our priest series, share more stories from around our parishes and find creative ways for people to participate in our online community.

Social media is becoming an increasingly important way for people to encounter the life of the Church.

For some, it may be the first place they hear about an event,

discover a parish, learn about an aspect of the faith or simply see what is happening within the wider diocese.

Our aim is to continue making our diocesan social media channels informative, welcoming, personal and reflective of the vibrant communities across Dunkeld.

Thank you to everyone who follows our pages, watches our videos, shares our posts, sends us photographs and stories and continues to engage with what we share.

Your support helps us to reach more people and, most importantly, to keep building connections across our diocesan family!

tinyurl.com/dunkelddiocese

tiktok.com/@dioceseofdunkeld

instagram.com/dioceseofdunkeld

x.com/DunkeldDiocese





Our baptismal mission

BY PAUL ALLAKER

When we think about the word *mission* and how that relates to God's call for every Christian to participate, it may be helpful to consider our baptismal identity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) provides some clear explanation on this.

First, baptism makes us members of the body of Christ (CCC 1267). That means we share in the priesthood of Christ, in his mission, to declare the deeds of he who called us out of darkness and into his light (CCC 1268).

We no longer belong to ourselves but to he who died and rose for us; we are called to be subject to each other (CCC 1269) and, reborn as sons and daughters of God, profess before everyone the faith they have received from God through the Church and participate in the apostolic and missionary activity of the people of God (CCC 1270).

SYNODALITY

One of the ways the Church is embracing its call and encourage all to participate in mission is through synodality.

Synodality is the path of spiritual renewal and structural reform that enables the Church to be more participatory and missionary

so it can walk with everyone, radiating the light of Christ.

It is a call to joy and renewal, a recognition of the primacy of grace.

Formation in synodality and the Church's synodal style will make people aware the gifts received in baptism should be put to use for the good of all: they cannot be hidden or remain unused.

As Jesus told us in John 13:35: 'By this, all men will know that you are my disciples.'

PARISH LIFE

There are lots of opportunities for synodal practice to be recognised or incorporated into what parishes are doing, as well as opportunities to explore what more could be done for every baptised person to fully participate in mission and evangelisation.

An effective parish pastoral council can support the parish priest in equipping all parishioners to put their gifts and talents to use for the good of all.

This is something Bishop Andrew would like to see active in every parish in our diocese.

House and parish groups are a wonderful opportunity for friendship, personal invitation, accompaniment and study, providing fertile ground for spiritual growth in parishioners and non-parishioners alike.

There is something for everybody to contribute, and I have seen so many wonderful examples of parishioners embracing this.

On the following pages, as well as in future issues, we will have the opportunity to share examples with one another.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

In Matthew 28:19-20, we read of Jesus's great commission: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Our mission is to make disciples, baptise and teach.

Everyone has a unique combination of God-given gifts and talents and life experiences nobody else possesses.

We are all called to contribute to this mission.

All God asks is that we give our fiat, our whole-hearted *yes*, following the example of Mary.

And even better, God will not only help us say *yes*, but he will give us everything we need to carry out that *yes*.

Go!

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT ST MUNGO'S



Anthony Cassidy, Susanne Chalmers, Sheila Menzies, Richard Small, Cathy Ramage, Pauline Gibson, Helen Morgan and Nita Kane. *Photography by Anthony Cassidy.*

BY **ANDREW CASSIDY**

A parish social group formed after the pandemic has helped rebuild community life, bringing parishioners of all ages together through simple, welcoming events.

Fr Michael Carrie came to St Mungo's in 2021, at a time when parish life, like so many local communities, had been disrupted by the Covid pandemic. Groups had closed and numbers had fallen. He proposed a social group to help rebuild a sense of community, belonging and energy within the parish.

From the outset, its purpose was clear: it would not be a fundraising group, any money raised would go towards future events, everyone would be encouraged to take

part and the group would be parishioner-led rather than run as a formal committee. One of the first ideas was monthly Tea and Toast after Sunday morning Mass.

A quick hello at church can easily remain just that, but sitting down together gives people time to talk and get to know one another. Tea and Toast has proved especially popular with families and young children.

The group also organises an event every two or three months. Summer picnics, bingo, gin tasting, wreath-making, concerts and a children's film afternoon have all brought parishioners together, with participation growing year by year.

A particular success was last year's international buffet,

celebrating the parish's multicultural character. Parishioners brought dishes reflecting backgrounds including Poland, Slovakia, Italy, Spain, Cuba, the United States, Nigeria, India and Thailand, with the social group paying for ingredients.

We have also strengthened our links with the parish primary school, welcoming children and their families as they celebrate First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Currently 11 regular helpers meet each month to plan forthcoming events.

The social group has brought fresh energy to St Mungo's and strengthened our sense of community, both within the parish and with other local churches.

A PARISH FOR ALL AGES

BY MARIA BARTLETT

St James' Catholic Church is a family-friendly and welcoming parish in the Diocese of Dunkeld, situated in the heart of Kinross and easily accessible to the local community and those further afield.

The beautiful gardens at the front of the church attract many visitors, who often stop and sit quietly by the Shrine of Our Lady and the statue of Jesus Christ.

In 2026, the church will celebrate its 70th anniversary. A large part of the parish community has been journeying together for more than 50 years, making St James' an incredibly supportive and caring community.

This is reflected in Fr Martin's continued and genuine care for the children and young people of the parish.

St James' is also blessed with a flourishing children's liturgy and catechism class.

From small beginnings, a

dedicated team of volunteers has worked to engage and educate the children, encouraging them to return to Mass each week.

With the continued support of parents and guardians, building

To intercede for the needs of others, to live out and proclaim the gospel of peace and to allow God to use us in any way He wishes

relationships, trust and common ground has helped children and young people become more involved in parish life. Around 20 to 25 children now attend the after-school catechism class, and it is a joy to see them enjoying and growing in their faith.

Parish life also offers many

opportunities for fellowship. Tea and coffee are served in the hall after Wednesday Mass, while the fortnightly Saturday Bacon Roll and Blether brings parishioners together for food and conversation.

Among the parish's long-established groups is the prayer group, which has met every Monday evening for the past 43 years. Its activities include the Rosary, Scripture reflection, teaching, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, intercessory prayer and time for recollection and sharing.

Its mission is 'to intercede for the needs of others, to live out and proclaim the gospel of peace and to allow God to use us in any way He wishes'.

Through prayer ministry over the years, members have supported many people experiencing spiritual and physical illness.

Praise and thanks be to God always.





CANON MARK CASSIDY

LETTER FROM ROME



The seminarians with the new vice-rector and Canon Mark. Picture by Canon Mark Cassidy.

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE ETERNAL CITY

Eleven new seminarians, a new vice-rector and a doubled College community begin the academic year with language study, formation and fellowship.

This session of the academic year began for us at the end of August as the men in first and second year returned for their Italian language courses.

The three men in second year travelled to Urbania for a month's immersive course which sees them attending the language school every weekday and living with local families.

The first-year men remain with us here in the College and attend lessons in Italian language at the Gregorian University.

We are delighted that there are eleven men entering the College this year: nine Scots from five dioceses and two men from the Diocese of Stockholm in Sweden.

Our relationship with the Diocese of Stockholm is now entering its third year and it is a privilege to have six of their seminarians with us.

This is the largest intake we have had in many years and doubles the size of the College.

Having the new men resident in the College for the month of September enables us to run an orientation course in parallel with the language training. As well

as giving us the opportunity to introduce them to the College's formation programme, we have been able to celebrate Mass as a group in St Peter's, St Paul's

Outside the Walls and in the Rooms of St Ignatius.

The new men have been quick to take to the Roman culture, visiting various religious sites as well as enjoying the odd plate of pasta or pizza.

As well as the new seminarians, we also have a new member of staff in the person of Fr Matthew Carlin, a priest of the Diocese of Paisley who brings his own gifts and talents to the role of vice-rector.

The whole of the College community will return in time for the start of the year retreat beginning on 28 September and will be led by Bishop Brian McGee.

Please remember us all in your prayers, especially Fr Matthew and the new seminarians as they start a new chapter in their lives here in the College.

May we as a community grow together in mutual charity and understanding as we seek the Lord's will in and for our lives.

The new men have been quick to take to the Roman culture, visiting various religious sites as well as enjoying the odd plate of pasta or pizza.

Walking together in faith

Listening, sharing and discovering where the Spirit is moving were at the heart of our recent synod event, *Pathways to Synodality*, which was held at St Mary's Forebank on Saturday 19 September.

BY MAUREEN RUDDY

The gathering brought people together from across the diocese to hear how synodality is already taking root in our local churches and to look ahead to the programme of opportunities for participation over the next two years.

As a member of the Dunkeld Synod Core Group, I introduced 'A Feast For All Peoples', a five-session small-group resource from the School for Synodality, which offers practice in synodality that several parish groups have explored over the summer.

Graham McKenzie from St Anne's, Carnoustie, and Professor Scott Brady from St Patrick's shared their experiences of taking part.

Their reflections highlighted the rich spiritual fruits of coming together to listen, pray and discern, showing that synodality is not simply something we talk

about: it is something we can live. I then shared next steps in our synodal journey.

Following guidance from the General Secretariat of the Synod, we are being invited to prepare for a Diocesan Assembly in 2027.

This is an opportunity for all of us to recollect, look at what is already happening in our parishes, and ask where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Monsignor Aldo led a *Lectio Divina* as we began our Conversation in the Spirit, where hopes and ideas were shared to try to discern what new paths of synodality were emerging, or waiting to be explored.

Core Group member George Haggerty outlined the timeline for the implementation phase.

The event concluded with Bishop Andrew who gave a short address on the way forward for the diocese.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January–June 2027:

Diocesan and Eparchial Assemblies Report and Letter to Churches must be submitted by 30 June 2027.

June–December 2027:

National Assemblies.

January – April 2028:

Continental Assemblies.

October 2028:

Ecclesial Assembly in Rome.



Participants learning about the Pathways to Synodality at the St Mary's, Forebank, gathering . Photograph by Eddie Mahoney.

VOCATION

RESPONDING TO THE GIFT OF PRIESTHOOD

BY **FATHER JIM WALLS**, VOCATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

A vocation to the diocesan priesthood is a lifelong consent to be transformed into the self-giving love of Christ. Fr Ron Rolheiser offers a pattern for understanding this journey.

It moves from early fervour and activity toward a mature, purified, and trusting love.

In the first stage, a man may experience joy in prayer, ministry, learning, friendship, and the thought of serving God's people.

He wants to preach, celebrate the sacraments, and accompany the suffering.

These desires are gifts. Yet they can be mixed with a need to be admired, effective, needed, or certain that one is doing God's will.

The next stage involves purification. Prayer may become dry; ministry may bring

criticism, misunderstanding, loneliness, or an awareness of one's limitations.

The priest may discover that he cannot solve every problem, heal every wound, or keep every parishioner happy.

Rather than proving that God has abandoned him, this darkness can become a school of deeper faith.

It loosens the grip of ego, achievement, and control.

In persevering with prayer, celibacy, pastoral service, and the promises of ordination, the priest gradually learns radical trust.

His prayer becomes less an attempt to obtain reassurance or results and more a willingness to let God reshape his heart.

He learns to remain before God even when he feels little consolation.



Bishop Andrew at the 2026 Vocations Mass. *Photograph by Eddie Mahoney.*

The mature fruit is a gentler priesthood: humble, patient, compassionate, free from the need to dominate, and able to stay close to people in their grief and uncertainty.

A diocesan priest serves not from self-assertion, but from communion with Christ. His ministry becomes credible because he has allowed God to make his weakness a place of grace.

Such a priest gives his life away daily and, in time, learns to give his diminishment and death away as a blessing for his people and community.

Events take place regularly in the diocese for those considering the call to discern a vocation to diocesan priesthood. Please check the diocesan website for updates. You can also contact Fr Jim Walls, the diocesan Vocations Director at james.walls@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Forth Bridge Abseil



Angus parishioner Zofia Korabiowska-Smith is raising funds for Chest Heart and Stroke as an alternative to family and friends giving her a birthday present this year.

Despite her fear of heights, Zofia will step off the iconic Forth Bridge to help the one in five people in Scotland who live with chest, heart, stroke and long Covid.

You can donate to the fund-raiser by scanning the QR code that will lead you to the JustGiving page.



St Mary's, Forebank

The parish's annual mission awareness event will take place on Saturday 17 October at St Mary's, Forebank. The Saturday before Mission Sunday will begin at 9.30am with reception, teas and coffees, with the work continuing to 3.30pm at the latest.

The theme is Catholic Social Teaching (CTS), and will be led by Lorraine Currie, the chief executive of SCIAF, who will spend the afternoon focusing on lobbying.

Bishop Andrew will celebrate the noon mass. Please feel free come and take part.

St Columba's

Is holding a Harvest Lunch in the church hall from 1-3pm on 30th October. Tickets cost £5 each with proceeds being donated to Mary's Meals.

After lunch there will be a film and a short talk about the work the charity does.

Women's Interfaith

We are excited to host a Women's Interfaith night at the Quakers Meeting House on Whitehall Crescent, Dundee, from 6-8pm on 19 October.

The venue is accessible.

Light refreshments will be provided. Please let us know of any dietary requirements when booking.

We are also seeking volunteers to join our steering group to support this and future events.

If you would like to get involved, please send a message to katie@faithincommunitydundee.org.

Book your place by scanning the QR code that will lead you to the Eventbrite webpage:



Celebrating 70th anniversary of ordination

On 3 September, Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan concluded the celebrations for his 70th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Auchterarder.

Concelebrating the Mass were Bishop Emeritus Stephen Robson, Canon Kevin Golden and 15 priests from around the diocese. The parishioners provided the readings, bidding prayers and music for the Mass.

After the photograph was taken, the priests were able to head off and enjoy a celebratory meal with Mgr O'Sullivan.



November questions

BY FATHER LESZEK WIECASZEK

November has a particular atmosphere.

Shorter days, falling leaves and the stillness of cemeteries invite reflection on the passing of time and the remembrance of those who are no longer with us.

Their faces return to mind, together with their words and the goodness they left behind.

At times, we also remember unfinished matters and words that were never spoken.

In such moments, loneliness can be felt especially deeply.

Loneliness is one of the most common human experiences.

It does not affect only those who live in isolation.

A person may be surrounded by family, friends and colleagues, yet still face loss, disappointment or a sense of being misunderstood alone.

The modern world makes it easier to establish contact, but it does not always help us to form lasting and meaningful relationships.

November's reflective atmosphere therefore raises the question of whether, in life's most difficult moments, a person is ever truly alone.

For someone who has been baptised, even if they have not participated in the life of the Church for many years, this question may create space for



renewed reflection on the presence of God.

The Bible tells the story of a God who does not give up on humanity.

In Jesus Christ, God entered into the reality of human suffering, rejection and death.

Jesus's cry from the cross: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' shows that even the experience of abandonment can become a prayer.

The cross does not provide an easy explanation for suffering, but it reveals the truth of a God who remains close to us even when His presence cannot be felt.

The resurrection of Christ brings to this reflection the hope that death does not have the final word.

Visiting graves, lighting candles and praying for the dead are therefore more than the observance of a tradition.

They express the conviction that human life does not lose its meaning at death, and that relationships formed in love are entrusted to God.

November may therefore become a time of rediscovering His presence.

Sometimes this begins with a moment of silence, the lighting of a candle or the simple words: 'God, if You are near, help me to recognise it'.

In such an experience, a person may discover that before they began to search for God: God was already searching for them—not to condemn them, but because every human life matters to Him.

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

Faith around the table

Two parishes within our diocese have successfully completed Alpha courses, **writes Betty Madhill:** St James's in Kinross and Our Lady of Lourdes in Letham, Perth. All who participated in the sessions gained much worthwhile encouragement on ways to deepen their walk of faith. Those who took part are keen to do more and hope that others will feel encouraged to respond to the personal invitation to join in future courses.

We explored a variety of ways in which we can have a closer relationship with God the Father and with Jesus by reading the Scriptures, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Each session began with a shared meal, this having been prepared beforehand by some of the participants. After enjoying the shared food and getting to know each other a bit more, we watched a video provided by Alpha about an aspect of the Christian faith giving us ideas of how people around the world practise their faith.

These included committed churchgoers, those still searching

and those who were yet to be convinced whether God and Jesus are real.

The videos posed various questions such as: Who is Jesus? Why and How do I pray? How does God guide us? and many other related topics.

The video would be paused part way through so that we could have a discussion and explore how we, personally, felt about the question asked. We sat around tables in groups of 6-10.

We were invited to speak, but there was no pressure to do so, and some folk were happy to listen as others told how they were impacted by what had been said in video, while others were willing to relate how they had experienced a similar example in their own life, resulting in helping them grow in their belief in God and Jesus.

At Our Lady's, we were sad when the course finished because it was such a wonderful source of faith and friendship. We can't wait to get started on running the next Alpha course!

Try Alpha.



Alpha

Explore
life,
faith &
meaning

A journey of ministry, study and of service

BY PAULINE VEAL

Since coming to serve in the Diocese of Dunkeld last September, Father John Paul Ogueri has quickly become a familiar and welcome presence among parishioners across many of our churches.

He has generously assisted in parishes throughout the diocese, helping respond to the continuing shortage of priests.

Fr Ogueri is the third child and eldest son of Nze and Lolo Mathias Iwuanyawu Ogueri.

He was raised in Umueze II, Imo State, Nigeria, and was ordained to the priesthood on 30 September 2017.

Before coming to Scotland, he served in several parishes, schools and hospitals in his home diocese of Okigwe.

With the permission and blessing of his bishop, Fr Ogueri came to Scotland to further his studies at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) in Paisley.

While pursuing his studies, he continued his ministry by assisting in parishes within the Diocese of Paisley.

Following the recommendation of his bishop and fellow priests, Fr Ogueri offered his services to the Diocese of Dunkeld.

He is now resident at St Pius X Church, Douglas, Dundee, alongside the parish priest, Fr Gregory



Fr Ogueri with his parents in the grounds of Paisley Abbey after his graduation. *Picture by Fr John Paul Ogueri.*

Murphy, and continues to celebrate Mass and assist in parishes whenever and wherever he is needed.

Despite the demands of priestly ministry and academic study, he successfully

completed his MBA in business administration with risk management, graduating with distinction from UWS on 9 July.

As he celebrates this significant academic

achievement alongside nine years of priestly ministry, we offer him our warmest congratulations and sincere appreciation for his generous service to the Church and the people he serves.

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@dunkelldiocese.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.

Our Catholic WORLD

NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN

LANZAROTE, CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN

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.

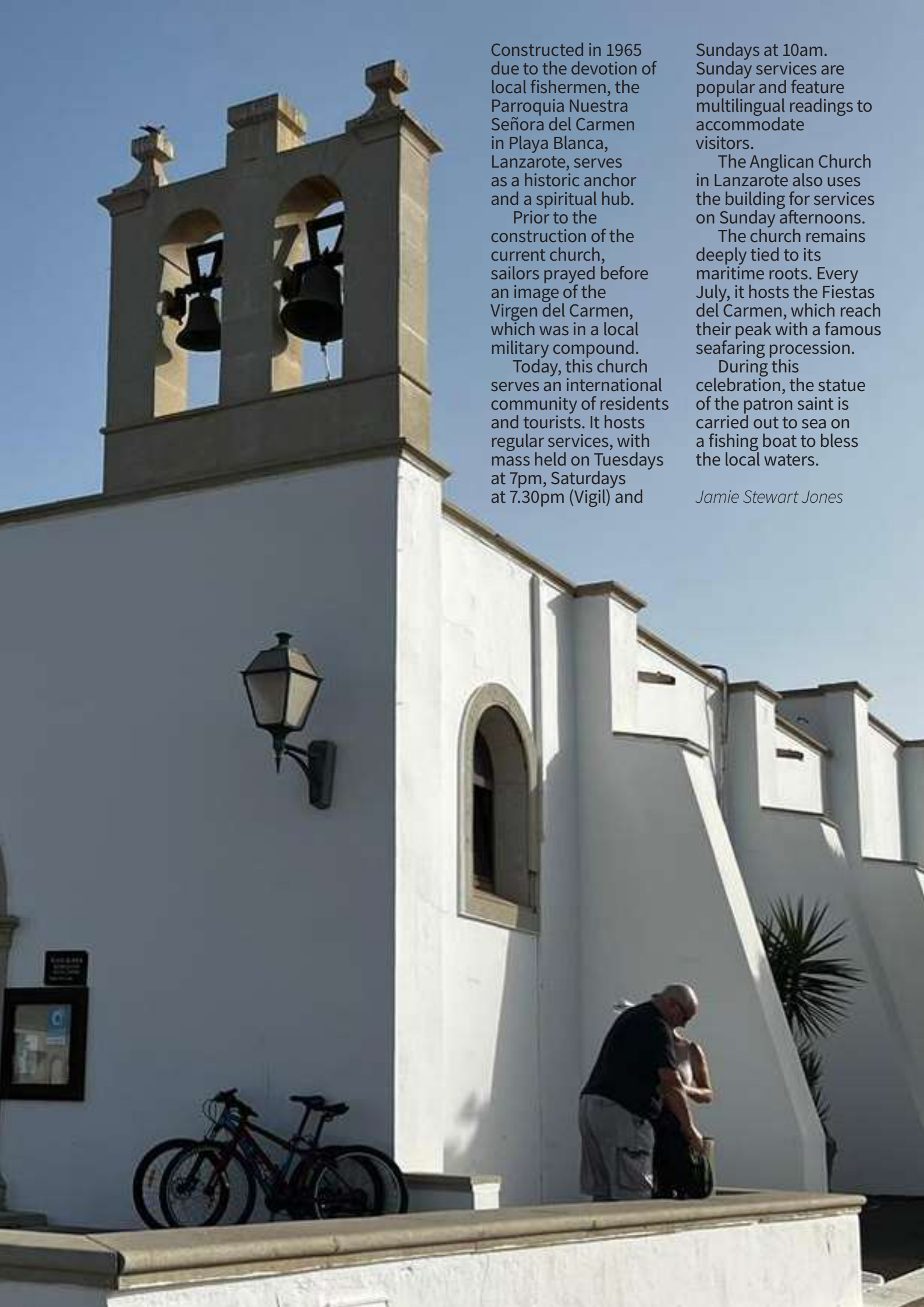
We would love readers to share their own experiences of worshipping abroad.

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.



Located in Playa Blanca on the south of Lanzarote, the Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Carmen welcomes an international congregation. Holy Mass is celebrated weekly on Tuesdays at 7pm, Saturdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 10am.





Constructed in 1965 due to the devotion of local fishermen, the Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Playa Blanca, Lanzarote, serves as a historic anchor and a spiritual hub.

Prior to the construction of the current church, sailors prayed before an image of the Virgen del Carmen, which was in a local military compound.

Today, this church serves an international community of residents and tourists. It hosts regular services, with mass held on Tuesdays at 7pm, Saturdays at 7.30pm (Vigil) and

Sundays at 10am. Sunday services are popular and feature multilingual readings to accommodate visitors.

The Anglican Church in Lanzarote also uses the building for services on Sunday afternoons.

The church remains deeply tied to its maritime roots. Every July, it hosts the Fiestas del Carmen, which reach their peak with a famous seafaring procession.

During this celebration, the statue of the patron saint is carried out to sea on a fishing boat to bless the local waters.

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

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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 (Sat) 5pm, 11am
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:

Father Malcolm Hutchison
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 Augustine Franklin
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 Emmanuel Obidiah
 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 Augustine Franklin,
 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 Abraham Poonoly
 stmarymagdalen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk
Sunday: 10am, 1pm (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
 stniniandunkelddiocese.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
 ststephendunkelddiocese.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

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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.



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