

# DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 7 June 2016

150th Anniversary, Immaculate Conception, Lochee - PAGES 8-9



***Corpus Christi***  
***Procession of the Blessed Sacrament***  
**3pm, Sunday, 29th May 2016**  
**Wellburn, Liff Road, Dundee**

Photo courtesy of 'Today's Catholic Newspaper', Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

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



# St Dominic's remembers its roots after 125 Years

On Sunday 14th February 2016, staff and pupils at St Dominic's Primary School, Crieff, celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the founding of their school. Fr Thomas Shields celebrated Mass for the occasion in the nearby St Fillan's Church, attended by Sister Pauline Burling OP, Mother General of the school's founding order, accompanied by Brother Andrew Brookes OP, a son of the parish, and Mrs Elizabeth Hunter, headteacher, with her staff and pupils.

Bishop Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld, blessed a plaque to mark the anniversary. He paid tribute to the long line of teachers who had served at the school and to the families who had sacrificed so much for their children's future and he told the pupils, "Today you are the living continuity of all those boys and girls who have been a part of this community over all those years".

Mrs Hunter thanked the generations of staff, families and parishioners. "They have left us such a rich legacy and we look forward with hope for the future. Our journey began 125 years ago when the first parents entrusted their children's education to the Dominican nuns who had travelled to Crieff to establish a convent.

We are entrusted to care for that living community, bearing witness to a common vision and mission. We are one big family who trust in their faith. Everyone is equally respected and unconditionally loved in a community which wants to reach out to all, especially the poor and the marginalised, and those in greatest need".

Brother Andrew recalled the school's early days when the Dominican Order first opened a convent in Crieff. "It was a local lady, Mrs Mary Elwes (Mother Mary Ignatius), who started the convent and soon afterwards opened the school appropriately named St Dominic's. Thirty pupils attended it, although the register reveals that there were initially many absences. The convent closed soon after due to the sisters' ill health, but the school survived and grew, being transferred to a new building, next to the church, in 1896. The old school site can still be seen in what is now the church car park. Despite difficulties in maintaining attendance in the face of frequent outbreaks of illness, and the need for children to help raise money for their families, the school flourished, supported by a small government grant but dependent mostly on the parishioners' generosity".

In 1919 the school came under the Perthshire Education Authority, and later, Perth and Kinross, lifting a financial burden from the parish. The generosity of the parish and the families nevertheless continues to the present day. Chairman of the Parent Council, Dr Harry Schnitker, presented a new 125th Anniversary Trophy to the school. "The school has a strong tradition of support from the local community, and particularly the parish of St Fillan's, here in Crieff".

The present building was opened in 1966.

Following the ceremonies, parents and pupils, past and present, were then invited

to visit the classrooms where the walls were lined with old photos and other memorabilia that had been loaned for the occasion. Sister Pauline and Brother Andrew looked back through the schools opening Log Book with Mrs Hunter, and were moved to read the accounts of ill health and other struggles that showed the great sacrifices that had to be made in the early days.

Sister Pauline, accompanied by Mrs Jenny Turnbull, led the school in singing a Dominican 13th Century Blessing, 'May God, Creator, bless us. May God, Redeemer, heal us. And may, God the Holy Spirit, fill us with light'.



# Working with young people in our schools and parishes

## Preparing for the Sacraments at St Bride's

The children from the catechism class of St Bride's, Monifieth who will be receiving the sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion this coming year, recently took part in the Rite of Enrolment where they promised to take part fully in the preparations both in class and at home. Following this they then signed their names in the Book of Enrolment. Fr Michael Carrie assured the boys and girls that everyone in the parish would be praying for them as they continue their classes.



**NIGHTFEVER**  
— DUNDEE —



5.30pm, Saturday 4th June  
in St Andrew's Cathedral,  
Dundee.

Contact Frankie McGuire,  
Diocesan Youth Officer  
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Dunkeld Youth Service  
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Children from St Clement's, Dundee pictured with their teachers at Children's liturgy



P4 and P5 at St Fergus Primary School, Dundee, pictured with Fr Neil Gallagher and school staff following the school's Education Mass

# Divine Mercy



## The absolute love

by  
**Kristoph Jablonski**

*Krzysztof was instituted as Lector by Bishop Stephen in Perth last year and will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate later this year.*

which was conveyed by Sister Faustina. The Lord Jesus told her: I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy (Diary 299). I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender Mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened (Diary 699). Jesus himself has defined the time of the feast in the Liturgical Calendar of the Church. He himself has defined the purpose of this feast, and how we should celebrate the feast, in order that we should receive his promised grace, the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day we should receive Jesus, in Holy Communion and in our heart, after fervent confession. It should be explained that confession does not have to be made on the day of the Feast of Mercy, we can make it earlier. What is important is that the soul should be pure, without attachment to any sin. You need also to arouse in itself the attitude of absolute trust to Divine Mercy and love of neighbour.

In preparation for this feast we are to recite the novena, consisting of the Chaplet to the Divine Mercy, for 9 days. The Lord



Jesus promised: By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls (Diary 796). The novena begins on Good Friday. The Lord Jesus said to Sister Faustina: 'The Feast of My Mercy has issued forth from My very depths for the consolation of the whole world' (Diary 1517). The choice of the first Sunday after Easter is not coincidental – this is the octave of the Lord's Resurrection, which crowns the celebration of Christ's Paschal Mystery. This period in the liturgy of the Church shows the mystery of the Divine Mercy, revealed most fully precisely in Christ's passion, death and resurrection, more than the other periods.

The Feast of Mercy is not only a day of great honour of God in the mystery of His mercy, but also a day of tremendous grace, which manifests itself in mercy, compassion and effective assistance in all our necessities. A living image of this huge mercy from God is Christ the Lord himself. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). It was this love that showed the great value that God places on every human being - because by the Precious Blood of Christ you have been redeemed (1 Peter 1:19, Evangelium Vitae 2). In a special way on that day, all people have the right and even the duty to seek refuge in the mercy of God, in the needs of personal life, family, social and political.

An important part in the awakening of our confidence to the practice Christian charity, is the image of the Most Merciful Saviour. Contemplating the image of Jesus, painted in obedience to His holy will, it is easy to notice that in the foreground there

'You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect', Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount to everyone gathered there (Matthew 5:48). How can the contemporary Christian become perfect? Is this possible at all? Trust God so sincerely and deeply to the end, and with Him everything is possible (cf. John 15: 5). The duty of every Christian is to save their souls and work for the salvation of their neighbours, so therefore we should capture a higher degree of perfection (cf. Lumen Gentium 32). In God's plan, all are called to salvation, and therefore we should all strive to holiness (cf. Lumen Gentium 39). Therefore, God comes to us first with His Holy initiative, his desire exposes its qualities of love, kindness and mercy in the followers of Christ, because God first loved us (cf. 1 John 4:19).

The Holy Father Pope Francis, in his Papal Bull 'Misericordiae vultus' announcing the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, says that the mercy of God has no limits, and that the Church is a credible sign of God's mercy. Therefore, we need to constantly contemplate these mysteries. Mercy is the way in which God and Man are connected, because it opens the heart to the hope of ever-lasting love, despite one's sinful limitations. As Pope Francis says, many saints made mercy missions of their lives, including, in a special way, St Faustina Kowalska. The extraordinary Holy Year is therefore declared in order to allow one to grow in mercy in one's everyday life. God never stops opening the door of his heart, repeating that He loves us and wants to share his life with us (cf. Misericordiae Vultus 24-25).

The Feast of Mercy is celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter, that is on the Second Sunday of Easter, which is called the Divine Mercy Sunday today. The institution of the feast was inspired by a desire of Jesus

are some meaningful elements. The loving gaze of Jesus, his hands, one raised in blessing and the other pointing to the pierced side, from which gush forth rays and a quiet step directed towards the one who at this painting continues.

Note that a necessary condition to obtain the blessed operation of the divine rays, is trust. The inscription "Jesus, I trust in you!" It is an integral part of the image of Merciful Jesus. The painting depicts Christ crucified and risen, who, at the price of his Passion brings us peace and salvation through the forgiveness of sins and all the graces and gifts. God's mercy to us is a sign reminding us of the evangelical call of active love of neighbour, and the cult of the image of the Merciful Jesus consists in trusting prayer joined with deeds of mercy toward one's

neighbours.

Our Merciful God invites us so that we will draw from the well of His mercy, because for all of us, He wants only good.

In His concern, Jesus expresses these words: before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice..." (Diary, 1146).

Therefore, do not delay, only with confidence, let us pray: 'Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world' (cf. fragment, Chaplet of Divine Mercy).



*St Faustina Kowalska*

# Year of Mercy sees renewal of Station Masses in the diocese



'Station Masses' originated in Rome under the auspices of Pope Gregory the Great (590 – 604). They were conceived as a daily pilgrimage in the footsteps of the martyrs and saints. Pilgrims and penitents visited forty churches in Rome on foot and performed penitential exercises and celebrated Mass in each "stopping place" or "station". In doing so, they were also following the example of Jesus who went out into the

desert and fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for his mission. It is this "journey" which forms the spiritual background to the forty days of Lent and the journey each of us has to make into the desert of our own hearts and lives.

During this Holy Year of Mercy, our Lenten Journey took us to each of the Holy Door churches. As we make the journey

*St Mary's, Forebank, Dundee*

through each Door of Mercy may we open the desert of our hearts and minds to God's infinite Mercy as we prepare for the events of Calvary and Easter.

During Lent this year, Bishop Stephen visited Dundee, Perth, Arbroath, Alloa and Dunblane as completed his circuit of Station Masses around the diocese.

# On their road to the priesthood Dunkeld welcomes new vocations

**Andrew Marshall  
writes**



*Recently Andrew Marshall received the ministry of Lectorate along with nine of his fellow seminarians. Among the many concelebrants at the Mass at St Mary's Oscott was Fr Michael Carrie, Dunkeld's newly appointed Vocations Director. Lectorate is one of two ministries given to seminarians during their time of formation.*

I am a Third Year seminarian in St Mary's College Oscott in Birmingham. Before applying for seminary, I did a Masters degree in modern languages and worked as a teacher. I spent many years living abroad, where I worked and lived among the locals to broaden my horizons and experience new cultures. I had felt the call to priesthood from a very young age but took a long time to answer it, due to feelings of unworthiness and a need to get more life experience.

I expressed the call to family and friends when I was a boy and it was even recognised by others, who would often encourage me to put myself forward. When I was 25 I nursed my grandmother through cancer and comforted her on her death bed, as well as easing the pain of my other family members by praying with them. This experience confirmed my calling to me and gave me the final push to step forward and offer my life to God.

I originally studied in the Scots College Rome for the diocese of Edinburgh and St

Andrews and then I spent some time doing missionary work to discern a missionary vocation. I worked in Uganda with the Millhill Missionary Society for 9 months. I had a wonderful and life-changing experience there but during that time I realised that God needed my services back on my own soil; thus I reapplied for Scottish Diocesan priesthood but this time for the wonderful diocese of Dunkeld.

I am extremely happy studying in Oscott and know that I am definitely in the right place. There is a good formation system in place and a very prayerful atmosphere. The staff are all very dedicated and the students are very much united as one community, bound together in love. I am committed to study and I am working very hard to develop a good prayer life, as well as to develop humanly and pastorally so that I can be the best possible priest for the people of Scotland.

I am looking forward to working in this diocese both as a student and hopefully as a priest.

## ...waiting for 'a wee nod from heaven'



**Br Ninian Doohan's  
call to serve**

Over the years I have found that the more I try to explain my vocation the less I am able to make the mystery comprehensible to myself; but Blessed Mother Teresa called it "doing something beautiful for God".

I was born in Glasgow, but between 1993 and 2003 I grew up in Australia. During my university years I started asking a great deal of questions to myself, and found that I was more frequently on my knees asking

God to make manifest the answers I desired to hear. It took a couple of years to be prepared to accept that God was asking me to discern a vocation to the Sacred Priesthood.

My 'duc in altum' moment (to put out into the deep) was a return to Scotland initially thinking that I would become a seminarian in the land of my birth. However, God opened up a new avenue and I entered Religious Life with the Canons Regular of Prémontré (also known as the Norbertines) in August 2004. When my Priory in Manchester closed I completed all my studies for the Sacred Priesthood in Our Lady's Abbey of Tongerlo (Belgium). Life in the Low Countries was a vastly different experience, and by the work of the Holy Spirit I became proficient in Flemish, as well as broadening my horizons at the cross-roads of Europe. Soon after my ordination to the Diaconate I entered into a difficult period of prayer and discernment.

The more fundamental calling to minister in the active apostolate, in the pastoral and parochial service of the Church in Scotland, could not be ignored. Whilst visiting a friend in Dundee I came to make the

acquaintance of Bishop Stephen. By Divine Providence, and our mutual discernment, I was accepted for incardination into the Diocese. I was appointed to assist at St Mary's, the Immaculate Conception, Lochee, and arrived on the commemoration of the Most Holy Name of Mary (12th September).

This "wee nod" from Heaven only confirms the role Our Lady has played in my vocation from the start, as I live by the motto: Ad Jesum per Mariam (et Joseph cum Petro) "to Jesus, through Mary (and Joseph, with St Peter)". My appointment as Spiritual Director to the Legion of Mary here in the region is one of the many joys that I have thus far experienced in coming to Dundee.

Deo volente I will be incardinated into the diocese very soon, and in the Autumn be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood. This isn't of course the "end" of my vocational story, but rather only the continuation of service in the Lord's Vineyard, albeit changed forever and conformed to Christ more than ever before.

*Br Ninian will be ordained to the  
priesthood on Monday 15th August 2016*

# Fishing Project that gets the youngsters hooked



Perth fishermen, Chris Connolly and John Cook, have been passing on their knowledge to a new generation thanks to an initiative from the Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA). Chris and John are members of Perth and District Anglers' Association and they were keen to see their skills being taken up by groups of young people.

Working together with the Perth Catholic Young Project, a group of eight youngsters were given short courses in safety, knot tying and casting in preparation for a session of fly fishing at Perth's Willowgate Fishery at Kinfauns.

Andrew Mitchell, a youth worker at St John's, described the enthusiasm of both the children and their coaches. "The youngsters were eager to get the opportunity to try out the sport. The two experienced anglers came along with an infectious passion for fishing and quickly earned the respect of the group."

"We were pleased to invite four boys from two of the new Syrian families who have just arrived in Perth. The plan is to repeat these introductory courses for new groups over the summer and to look at ways in which they might take their interest to a new level."

At the Willowgate Trout Fishery, beneath Perth's Friarton Bridge, rods were assembled, reels threaded and flies carefully knotted in anticipation of a big catch. On the riverbank the young fishermen got the added support of one-to-one tuition as they cast and re-cast their lines.

Two fish escaped, but finally, to his delight, Charlie Doogan (front centre - and right), at pupil at St John's Academy in Perth, landed the catch of the day, a one and half pound rainbow trout.

Perhaps Mgr Martin Drysdale, parish priest at St John's has spotted a potential vocations opportunity in the venture - af-

ter all the apostles Andrew and Peter were fisherman before being called to become disciples!

## Charlie Doogan displays the catch of the day...



## Prison chaplain embarks on the path to permanent diaconate

Bishop Stephen congratulates Dr Harry Schnitker on the occasion of his institution as a Lector at the outset of his journey towards the permanent diaconate. Dr Harry is an assistant Chaplain to HMP Perth and is a parishioner at St Fillan's, Crieff.

The ceremony came at the end of Bishop Stephen's pastoral visits

to HMP Glenochill and HMP Perth which included celebrations of Mass. During one of the Masses, a young man received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Harry is a historian and writes regularly for the Scottish Catholic Observer and in looking forward to entering the diaconate.

# In loving memory of all the people who gave their lives for St Mary's, Lochee

“To God alone is known the full and wondrous record of all the good achieved in Lochee as the result of the opening of the Immaculate Conception, St Mary's Lochee one hundred years ago” - so wrote Bishop William Andrew Hart on the occasion of the Centenary. Now as we have the joy of celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of this beautiful Church, we can do no better than to associate ourselves fully with these inspiring sentiments.

On Friday 13th May 2016 as the Church community gathered with our Bishop Stephen Robson, the Priests of the Diocese, honoured guests from civic and educational life, we give thanks anew to God who alone “knows the full and wondrous record of all the good achieved in Lochee as the result of the opening of the Immaculate Conception, St Mary's Lochee.



Lochee is a bustling suburb of Dundee nowadays but its inhabitants are fiercely proud of their locality ( it was once a separate village) and even today still speak of “going in to Dundee”. The presence of the Catholic community has done its fair share in forging the character of this local community. Prior to the 1830s there is no record of there being any Catholics in the village at all, but if we jump ahead a few years we discover that with an increase of prosperity, brought by industrialisation in Dundee, industrialists of that period even

chartered boats to bring Irish workers over to their factories and so the Jute Mills of Dundee and Lochee were soon filled with workers and soon Lochee would boast of an area called “Tipperary”.

By 1847 there were 200 Catholics in the village of Lochee and district. They had no church or place of worship and had to walk the two miles or so into Dundee to attend Sunday Mass in St Andrew's Church in the Nethergate, come snow, rain or sunshine.

Soon a chapel was available for them in the newly acquired property of Wellburn, much nearer home. However soon this chapel too became too small as the Catholic population kept on increasing. And so to cut a long story short, we must mention a certain Fr Davidson who work seriously hard and collected funds for a new Chapel in Lochee. It fell to his successor Fr McKerrell to continue this work, with great success, when this beautiful Church designed by the famous Architect Joseph



(L-R) Monsignor Aldo Angelosanto, Parish Priest, Councillor Tom Fergusson, and Mrs Fergusson, Councillor Jim McGovern, and Councillor Norma McGovern, Mrs Duncan, and Lord Provost Bob Duncan, Bishop Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld.

# love, toil and hard-earned money celebrates 150 years

Hansom (who is well-known for having also designed the Hansom Cab) was finally opened on 13th May 1866.

Quoting the centenary booklet again, we learn that “the church is a magnificent, highly ornamental building, partly Norman and partly Early English in style of architecture.. it was built at the time of the Gothic revival in architecture in Britain and is one of the finest examples of this style. Hence it is today a Grade-A Listed building.

It was on Sunday 13th May 1866 at 11.30am that this beautiful Church, named in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (a dogma of faith only defined in 1858) was Solemnly dedicated in a Pontifical High Mass led by the Rt Rev Dr John Strain Vicar-Apostolic of the Eastern District, soon to be Archbishop of Edinburgh.

To the glory of God and to the loving memory of all the people who gave their love, toil and hard-earned money then, to build this beautiful Church, to the beloved memory of all the families who through these past 150 years gave witness to their Catholic Faith and who worked hard for the Schools to educate their children in the faith and to all who went on to give of their gifts and talents to the wider community of Lochee and Dundee, which has made its own harmonious mark on our local area, bringing the whole community together, we renew our dedication to God and our thanksgiving to the motherly care of Our Blessed Lady, the Immaculate Conception.

**PHOTOGRAPHS: Eddie Mahoney**



# New appointments



Bishop Stephen has appointed a new Chaplain to look after Catholic students at Dundee's two universities. Fr Michael Carrie takes over from Canon Kevin Golden as Catholic Chaplain to Dundee and Abertay Universities in the city.

Fr Michael said, "I look forward to working alongside the other chaplains to the university. The spiritual and pastoral care of our young people while at university is an important task. A lot of our young people fall away from the practice of the faith at this age, but hopefully through the Catholic chaplaincy and Catholic Society we can bring them back to the faith and nourish that faith through the celebration of the sacraments and catechesis."

As well as his role as university chaplain, Fr Michael has also been appointed a member of Bishop Robson's Episcopal Vocations Group which will involve promoting prayer for vocations and supporting those who are currently discerning a vocation to diocesan priesthood.

## Deacon Tom retires



After 22 years of faithful service as a permanent Deacon in Dunkeld Diocese, Deacon Tom Clark who has served at St Francis' Dundee and latterly at the Immaculate Conception, Lochee, has retired. Bishop Stephen paid tribute to Deacon Tom's contribution and his support of the priests and people of the diocese.

# University students make retreat to Pluscarden Abbey



Members of Dundee University Catholic Society recently went on retreat to Pluscarden Abbey. Accompanied by their newly appointed chaplain, Fr Michael Carrie, the group of 20 students spent a couple of days at the medieval Benedictine monastery. During their stay the group attended Mass and most of the monastic offices, which are sung in Latin using Gregorian

Chant. The group also had the opportunity to meet with the Abbot, Fr Anselm Atkinson OSB and were given an informative and entertaining talk about the history of the monastic buildings and community by Fr Giles Conacher OSB. It is hoped that the retreat will become a regular part of the chaplaincy/CatSoc calendar.

# St Anne's parishioners receive awards from Pope Francis



Bishop Stephen Robson presented two parishioners at St Anne's, Carnoustie with Benemerenti medals on behalf of Pope Francis. Margaret McKinley, and John Ferguson received the awards in recognition of their work for the church. Their parish priest, Canon Kevin Golden, shared in the joyous occasion.

# Seafarers feel at home in city of Discovery



Jacqueline McGuire (centre above), a ship visitor working with the Apostleship of the Sea, passed these kind words to Bishop Stephen after his warm welcome to two seafarers, Edmund and Michael from the Philippines, who attended the Easter Vigil at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee.

"I took Edmund, a steward on the Research/Survey Ship 'Dorado Discovery' and Michael, 3rd Officer on the Asphalt/Bitumen Tanker 'Pandion' to the Easter Vigil Mass at St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee. Both of these ships were berthed in Dundee port during Easter."

"Edmund and Michael were delighted to get the opportunity to go to Mass and very excited. In the car Edmund and Michael found out that they were both from Cavite in the Phillipines and chatted away. The Mass was led by Bishop Stephen and was very uplifting. We all really enjoyed it. At the end Bishop Stephen chatted to us all and we all received a blessing from him and also posed for photos!"

"Edmund commented that it was a once in a lifetime experience and soon they were both posting the photos on their Facebook pages! New friends were made that evening and Edmund and Michael are going to keep in contact with each other via Facebook. It was very windy and cold when we came out of the Cathedral but I had a few woolly hats in my bag and they were gratefully received."

"The next day Michael left on the Pandion for Antwerp and then flies back to the Phillipines in April. Edmund is on a nine month contract and will go back to see friends and family in September. Bishop Stephen was really interested in finding out about the seafarers e.g. where they were from, their families, the ships they were on, where they were going next and when they were going home. It was really appreciated that he took the time to be with us, listen and ask questions."

## Golden years at St Ninian's Primary in Dundee



St Ninian's Primary School Dundee, celebrates 50 years. Present staff were joined by staff from previous years along with pupils and ex pupils to celebrate with Mass which was led by Bishop Stephen Robson. Monsignors Ken McBride, Ken McCaffrey, and Charles Hendry also took part in the wonderful celebration.

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# Scotland's youngest UCM branch opens in Perth



## Day of Prayer for the Sick



*Bishop Stephen and Mgr Aldo are celebrating Mass on World Day of Prayer for the Sick in the Immaculate Conception, Dundee*

In his message to the sick and to those who care for them Pope Francis said: "Every hospital and nursing home can be a visible sign and setting in which to promote the culture of encounter and peace, where the experience of illness and suffering, along with professional and fraternal assistance, helps to overcome every limitation and division."

"For this we are set an example by the two Religious Sisters who were canonized last May: Saint Marie-Alphonsine Danil

Ghattas and Saint Mary of Jesus Crucified Baouardy, both daughters of the Holy Land. The first was a witness to meekness and unity, who bore clear witness to the importance of being responsible for one another, living in service to one another. The second, a humble and illiterate woman, was docile to the Holy Spirit and became an instrument of encounter with the Muslim world."

"To all those who assist the sick and the suffering I express my confident hope that

Fr Colin Golden, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, welcomed Bishop Stephen Robson to celebrate the start of Scotland's youngest branch of the Union of Catholic Mothers on Friday 11th March. Representatives of the UCM, both National and Diocesan gathered to witness the new shoots of life for an association that marked its centenary in 2013.

Throughout its proud history the UCM has been involved with current affairs, particularly those that have an impact on the family. The UCM's National Committee ensures that members are kept informed about parliamentary activity and encourages members to exert pressure on matters that concern them. It was the family, domestic, parish and diocesan, that Bishop Stephen reflected on during his homily in the Mass. Branch President Lynn Mendes has unveiled a busy social programme for the year ahead and the doors are wide open for even more new members.

they will draw inspiration from Mary, the Mother of Mercy. "May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy "Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness" (ibid., 24), allow it to dwell in our hearts and express it in our actions! Let us entrust to the Virgin Mary our trials and tribulations, together with our joys and consolations. Let us beg her to turn her eyes of mercy towards us, especially in times of pain, and make us worthy of beholding, today and always, the merciful face of her Son Jesus!"

# POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARDS

## St Stephen's Primary, Blairgowrie



On a Pastoral Visit to St Stephen's Primary, Blairgowrie, Bishop Stephen had the opportunity to speak with families and staff while viewing some of the pupils' recent project work before sharing lunch with the school's 'Lunch Club'.

In the afternoon, Bishop Stephen joined the children in their lessons and later talked to them about the work on the Pope Francis Faith Awards and how the children can use the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The children showed examples of their reflections in their journals. The house captains in the school lead Gospel activity sessions each Monday and shared their leadership experience of this process.

The afternoon was finished with a meeting with the school "Mini Vinnies" a group of ten children who have worked with the parish SVDP. Headteacher Mr McKell thanked the Bishop and all families for their support for school.

## St Clement's Primary, Dundee



Primary 6 at St Clement's Primary School, Dundee with Father Rogi (Parish Priest) and Mrs Carolyn Dammer (Class Teacher) at the enrolment ceremony for the Pope Francis Faith Awards.

## BISHOP'S DIARY

May - June 2016

### MAY

Tuesday 3rd May - Wednesday 4th May  
Bishops' Conference, Edinburgh

### Thursday 5th May

7pm - Mass for Feast of the Ascension  
& Jubilee for Single People  
St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

### Saturday 7th May

11am - Mass for the Sick - St James', Kinross

### Sunday 8th May

9.30am - Parish Visit to St John Vianney, Alva

### Friday 13th May

7pm - 150th Anniversary Mass  
in The Immaculate Conception  
(St Mary's Lochee)

### Saturday 14th May

#### 12 noon - 2.30pm

Deacons' Meeting  
- St Ninian Institute, Dundee

### Mon., 16th May

9.30am - SCIAF Board Meeting, Glasgow

### Wednesday 18th May

2pm - Head Teachers' Conference  
St Ninian Institute

### Sunday 22nd May

9.30am - Parish Visit to  
St Patrick's Church, Dundee

11.15am - Parish Visit to  
Our Lady of Victories, Dundee

### Thursday 26th May

7pm - World Youth Day Krakow Pilgrimage  
Meeting - St Ninian Institute

### Sun. 29th May

11am - Jubilee Mass for Eucharistic Ministers,  
Pass Keepers, Readers & Servers  
St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee

### JUNE

#### Thursday 2nd June, 2016

7pm - Education Mass  
St Andrew's Cathedral

### Sunday 5th June

Knights of Malta  
Day of Reflection at Duns.

### Monday 6th May

pm - Caritas Awards, Glasgow

### Tuesday 7th - Wednesday 8th June

Bishops' Conference, Edinburgh

### Wednesday 8th

7pm - Council of Deacons  
- St Ninian Institute, Dundee

### Friday 10th June

11am - Mass at St. John's High School, Dundee  
(Feast of Marcellin Champagnat)

### Friday 17th June

7pm - Mass to celebrate Mgr. Basil O'Sullivan's  
60th Anniversary - Dunblane

### Sun. 19th June

10am - Parish Visit to St Mary Magdalene's, Perth

### Wednesday 22nd June

Apostleship of the Sea Meeting,  
Edinburgh

### Sunday 26th June

12 noon Parish Visit to  
Our Lady of Lourdes, Perth

### Wed. 29th June

Visit to Ss Peter & Paul's  
Primary School, Dundee



**'It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish'**

**Blessed Mother Teresa**

## Spotlight is on SPUC in Dundee

**Margaret Palmer, President of the Edinburgh Life Society, was one of the students who was able to attend the recent SPUC conference in Dundee**

Margaret thanked the Dundee Branch saying that this was the best pro-life conference she had attended. "I heard inspiring and emotional stories. Clare McCullough from Good Counsel Network shared with us how to speak to and affect change with abortion-minded women – it's all well and good to have a grasp on the philosophical arguments (which I know well), but showing a woman compassion and helping her to choose life for her child is an entirely different kind of conversation. Fiorella Nash gave an incredible talk on gender-selective abortion and its effects around the world. I always find her inspiring and engaging every time I hear her speak."

"SPUC Branches up and down Scotland are busy interviewing parliamentary candidates on their voting intentions on pro-life issues. "It's important that people have the information they need to cast a pro-life vote", said Josie. "In Dundee we try to let people know how far candidates are going to uphold the right to life for the most vulnerable members of our society".

"Dundee's SPUC held a hugely successful coffee morning at St Bride's in Monifieth on Saturday 2nd April. The group raised £590 and were very grateful to all the supporters who came along. A special thank you went to Fr Kevin for all his support of pro-life work. Chair person, Josie Cecil, said that the branch were delighted with the turnout. "With abortion law devolved to Scotland it's crucial that we keep the pro-life candle burning. This year we were able to sponsor eight Scottish Students to attend the SPUC International Youth Conference. These young people are our pro-life leaders of the future and we need to do everything we can to keep them up to date with the current debate".

Pro-Life work in the diocese was also celebrated by Bishop Stephen Robson with Mass in the Cathedral for the Jubilee Year of Mercy for pro-life intention.



## Dunkeld's Pro Life gathering calls for a 'progressive' Scotland

**Over 60 delegates attended Dundee's second Afternoon for Life – Building a Pro-Life Scotland – on 27th February at the St Ninian Institute. The occasion was jointly hosted by Bishop Stephen Robson and the Dundee branch of SPUC. It was organised in response to the devolving of abortion law to Scotland.**

Professor of Economics from Nottingham University Business School, David Paton, gave the first talk comparing the impact of sex education with abortion restricting laws. Professor Paton showed the data for England and Scotland both confirming that the current aims of teenage sexual health policies are failing. For many years now UK sexual health policies have tried to bring down rates of teenage pregnancy, abortion and STIs by pursuing sexual health programmes. These programmes include the promotion of abortion and contraception services and sex education that is more and more explicit and aimed at younger children. Professor Paton's work points out the lack of evidence that these policies make any positive impact on the rates that they're supposed to improve. Moreover, the evidence suggests that they encourage risk taking behaviour and actually increase abortion, pregnancy and STI rates among teenagers. Where restrictions in abortion laws have been made, for example in various states in the US, abortion and pregnancy rates and the rates of STIs have been seen to decrease.

Rev David Robertson, Moderator of the Free Church in Scotland, spoke about building a pro-life Scotland from a Christian perspective. Mr Robertson shared his

own experiences with people suffering after an abortion. Mr Robertson said that a progressive Scotland will be one that has progressed from an uncaring attitude to one where everyone is accepted and looked after. We've made real progress, he said, when the most vulnerable members of our society which include babies in the womb, are protected and loved. Mr Robertson said that Scotland should see the devolving of the abortion issue as an opportunity to put real progress into practice and become pro-life.

Looking after babies in the womb is the focus of Mary Doogan's life-long work, both as a mid-wife and in her studies of the damage done by abortion. Mary's talk highlighted the challenges facing health professionals in the NHS who don't want to be involved in abortion. spoke about the moral schizophrenia required to care for mothers experiencing late-term miscarriage and those having late-term abortions in the same ward. While doctors tend to have their own 'cut-off point' after which they won't perform abortions (say 14 or 16 weeks), Mary said that nurses and mid-wives are now facing a difficult legal position if they want to refuse to be involved in abortion provision.

Clare McGraw of the Dundee SPUC Branch gave a brief presentation on local work and invited delegates to get more involved in building a pro-life Dundee. "I was really buzzing when I got home" said one lady who had brought two teenage daughters along. The young delegates said how much they wanted to help pro-life work especially after hearing Mary Doogan's story.

# Golden wedding at St Bride's



Mary and James Stewart received a papal blessing to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. The couple are parishioners of St Bride's, Monifieth and they were presented with the blessing by their parish priest Canon Kevin Golden. They were married 50 years ago in Pope Pius X, Drumchapel, Glasgow by Fr Lafferty. Also present were Fr Michael Carrie (left) and Fr Joseph James (right).

# Support for Wellburn from St Mary's Primary pupils



Primary 7 pupils from St Mary's Primary in Dundee have raised money for Wellburn, the Diocesan Care Home caring for Dundee's sick and elderly. The girls made art and craft items to sell after the school's panto. The girls did everything themselves, coming up with the idea, making all the items, advertising the event and running the stall, with no help from staff in the school.

The children said, "Last year we organised an art sale to raise money for the Little Sisters of the Poor and we raised £42. This year we wanted to raise a bit more to help Wellburn to give the residents a memorable and special Christmas."

"We made all the items ourselves; we

*The picture shows (back row from left) Jenna Downie, Kaitlyn Fitzsimmons, (front row from left) Keira McVicar, Olivia Auld, Maria Hapca, from Primary 7, St Mary's Primary, Dundee*

decorated baubles, magnets, made reindeer food, candle burner wax, Hama Bead decorations, cakes and treats. We are delighted to have raised £100, doubling our initial target of £50."

The school is immensely proud of the pupils for showing such initiative and giving of their time and talents to raise money to help others at the special time of year. The Primary 6 and Primary 7 classes also went carol singing at Wellburn and St Clement's Care Home, and collected items of food to make up food parcels for St Mary's Church soup kitchen.

## 75 YEARS AGO

### Gift of sanctuary lamp made by Polish soldiers



On 3rd May 1941 there were celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the Polish Constitution, and also of Our Lady, Queen of Poland, in St John the Baptist's Church in Perth.

There was a ceremonial dedication and transfer of the a sanctuary lamp to St John's. The sanctuary lamp was made by craftsmen of the Polish Army. An example of wrought work in brass and bronze. It was surmounted by a crown supported originally by two bands of finely wrought Polish eagles. Suspended from the base is a ball which bears the inscription "Polonia Semper Fidelis". It was made by the tank company of the 1st Corps Recce Group, based in Perth.

In a letter addressed to General Kukiel, Commander of I Corps, the Bishop of Dunkeld, John Toner, thanked the soldiers of the Recce Gp for this beautiful gift that is an expression of love and devotion to the religion of the Polish nation.

The Bishop expressed his admiration and appreciation for such a beautiful, artistic work and gave his pastoral blessing for Polish soldiers in the whole diocese.

In response, General Kukiel sent a letter to the Bishop of Dunkeld stating that the Poles are grateful for the Bishop's words of appreciation and express their deep gratitude for the blessings given to them.



**Our Lady of Sorrows, Dundee, First Communion Day 2016**

## Kilgraston take centre stage at the Vatican

It was a very busy half term at Kilgraston School and after many months of rehearsing the Kilgraston Choir travelled to Italy for a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Eighty girls and ten staff travelled to Rome, accompanied by over one hundred

parents to perform for Mass at the Vatican. Director of Music, Mr Andrew McGarva said, "St Peter's Basilica is an amazing venue to be able to perform in and the girls had been rehearsing throughout the term in preparation for this unique event. It was an inspirational venue and a very special musical occasion."

Whilst in Rome the choir was also hosted by the Royal Order of Malta at the Aven-tine Chapel where they were given a private tour of the Chapel and Gardens followed by delicious cakes. They also had the privilege of performing at the Sacred Heart School

in Rome, situated at the top of the Spanish Steps and were able to view the original Mater Admirabilis painting, which is located in every Sacred Heart School across the world.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed a tour of Rome, the Colosseum and spent many hours admiring the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel.

The trip was a wonderful experience for the pupils, staff and parents, which will be remembered for many years to come.

