

DUNKELD NEWS

Diocesan Newsletter of the Bishop of Dunkeld

No. 22 December 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE - Parish and School News, First Communion Photos, New appointments, Obituaries...

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, Peace.



Waiting on God

We may have found ourselves in the uncomfortable position of waiting during the last year. Waiting for this global pandemic to end; waiting to see family and friends; waiting for all the simple pleasures and consolations of everyday life to return.

Like your Bishop, priests and deacons, waiting for the sacramental life of the Church to resume - we have all missed out on celebrating baptisms and weddings in all their fullness, on a scale and manner where family and friends can freely gather. Sacraments for our children have been delayed.

If one of us has lost a loved one, we have been waiting for the time when we can fully grieve and console, embrace and commiserate each other, anxious to cherish those who have lost loved ones in this strange time of separation and caution. What a strange, bewildering and disorientating time it has been in the time of Covid-19 in the Year of Our Lord 2020!

The word "Advent" is adopted from the latin "adventus" which means "coming or arrival", from the Greek, "Parousia."

In the New Testament, in the original Greek, "The Parousia" is the term used by the early Christians for the Second Coming of Christ. So, the Season of Advent participates in the Coming of Christ in three different but inseparable ways: the coming of the Christ Child, born in Bethlehem; the coming of Christ in our hearts, our conversion to a relationship with Jesus, who is the Christ or anointed one of God; and the Second Coming of Christ when he returns at the End of Time.

The first Advent is the celebration of the Birth of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Yet as our devotions to the crib scenes prove, and the Infancy narratives of the Gospels of Luke and Matthew both witness, we experience the humanity of Christ afresh, each Advent and Christmas, in our everyday lives, and across space and time, we savour with child-like wonder and simplicity, the great mystery of The Incarnation. For this reason, the crib scene awakens in all of us the tenderest of human emotions: compassion, protectiveness, awe at the humility of God taking on flesh in order to share in our humanity.

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Such memories of childhood and experience are essential to embracing our own humanity, and the life journey of children and grandchildren, relatives and friends, the very treasure of our communities and parishes.

The recurring and mysterious attraction of the Crib scene, a young Madonna and Child, accompanied by the silent and protective figure of Joseph, the Just Man;
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WISHING ALL OUR READERS - A HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dunkeld's new acolytes installed at the Cathedral



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

At St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, on the Second Sunday of Advent, Daniel Goodey and Chris McCrossan take one more step on the road to being ordained for the Permanent Diaconate - pictured here with Bishop Stephen Robson and their families

Non-singing Christmas Carol Service

**in
St Joseph's Church
Wilkie's Lane, Dundee**

**7pm, Wednesday 16th
December**

**Christmas Carols and Music
performed on the Organ
and Clarsach
by Kevin and Mary Veal**

**with Prayers, Readings
and a final Blessing**

**Livestream on YouTube
-see parish webpage for link
www.stj1.co.uk**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Canon Kevin Golden's Journey of Faith now online



Canon Kevin Golden is the Administrator at Dundee's St Andrew's Cathedral, with responsibilities too for Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry and St Thomas' Church, Arbroath He told Dunkeld News – that his popular series of talks, A Journey in Faith, seemed destined to fall victim to the

COVID-19 pandemic. However, such was the outcry, Canon Kevin decided that, in these very different times, different measures were required and so he has now recorded the series. The first of his four short talks went live on the diocesan website in time for the great Feast of Christ the King.

A journey through Advent

About time...



For many of us the cold, dark month of November has been warmed by the beautiful Catholic Tradition of Remembrance. We draw close to those we have loved and lost, and also remember with love and gratitude those who gave their lives in conflict and war over many times and places. We remember with thanksgiving the sacrifices of the fallen; and we pray earnestly for peace in our beautiful but wounded world.

Observing nature, we see that trees are increasingly bare. The nights are drawing in so that, by almost 4pm, it is dark, and even the mornings can seem grey and misty until almost 10am. There is a sense that Creation is preparing to sleep through the long winter months.

We turn up our collars, search out our warm boots and socks, and try to remember to put on scarves, hats and gloves, lest we be cold and miserable when journeying through our days.

The last Sunday of the Church's year falls between the 20th and 26th November. This year this wonderful Feast fell on the 22nd November 2020. It ushered in a beginning and an end, bringing our minds and hearts to reflect on God's final purpose and hopes for us.

Rather mysteriously, we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King on the brink of Advent which began the following Sunday. The wisdom of the Church's calendar reminds us that we do not bring God into Time, but that God is the Creator of Time, and Jesus, our Saviour and King, is The Lord of History.



In the mystery of The Incarnation, the eternal Word of God, is humbly hidden in the story of a new-born infant. The Word of God, made flesh, through whom the world was created, entered into time, the full-



by Mary O'Duffin

ness of time, and shared our human condition in order to recreate Time and humanity from within, making it holy and sacred and blessed.

The global pandemic has changed the way many of us see and use Time, this mysterious creation of The Lord. The challenge for us now is to see time as a gift and begin to live more fully within time, more intentionally, more gently, more gracefully; and in so doing transform our world.

For many years, I did not understand the significance and meaning of the Feast of Christ the King. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius VI after many tumultuous years in world history to remind us of the identity of Jesus, the true Lord of History.

Like a recently found, and unopened gift, tightly wrapped and precious, I am gradually beginning to discover the treasure that this feast day is all about Time, God's Sacred Time. Repeatedly in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we hear of the Lord God as the first and the last (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12)

This is echoed in the Book of Revelation where Christ is referred to as the Alpha and the Omega (the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, in which the New Testament is written down), or as we might say today, A-Z. (Revelation: 1:8; 1:17; 3:14 and 21:6)

This pattern is repeated for a reason. We may recognise the symbols from liturgical vestments or Church decoration. Why not look in your own Parish Church or mention it to your Parish priest?

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Scottish Catholic Grandparents Assoc.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY BLESSING AT ST. JOSEPH'S

13TH DECEMBER 2020
(3rd Sunday Advent)

In Rome for the past several decades, each year on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, children (and adults) bring their Baby Jesus figures from the crib in their homes to St. Peter's Square where Pope Francis blesses both the people and the figurines during the Angelus Prayer.

This year in our Parish we will celebrate "Bambinelli Sunday" at Mass on Sunday, 13th December. Children and adults are invited to bring their Baby Jesus figure from their home crib to Mass that morning to be blessed in the Church at the end of Mass. Following the blessing of the baby Jesus, take your "bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it, and place it on your Christmas Tree. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas Day, when together you place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib,

**** This year there will also be a special Online Blessing for those who cant make it to Church on the Sunday. ****

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The Feast of Christ the King invites us to enter into the dream of God for the world, following close by our deep experience of memory and remembrance in November, the Month of the Holy Souls and the Communion of Saints, living and dead.

Celebrating the Lord of Life, in Jesus Christ, the Lord of History, we place all our lived experiences into the flowing tide of His saving grace.

The mystery and meaning of life, is redeemed by the power and mercy of the Risen One who is the Way, the Truth and The Life. (John 14: 6,7)

If we can allow Jesus to enter into our everyday lives, and ask him to inspire and inform the pattern of how we love God and one another, perhaps the Kingdom of heaven can touch us here on earth?

Just as we read the Old Testament with

Christ in mind, perhaps this year, in this time of trials, and loss of freedom due to Covid-19, we can approach Advent and Christmas with the Feast of Christ the King in mind?

God has revealed his saving plan to all humanity through the consent of Mary, and the birth of Jesus, hidden by poverty and humility. If we can see our own life experience mirrored in this mystery; and observe closely the gift of life and freedom that is offered to us in our faith, this dark winter of 2020 will be brightened by stars of hope and joy that will guide us to The Lord of Life and a deeper experience of life in all its fullness with friends and family.

Maybe instead of marking time in these difficult days, we can rediscover the treasures of the Church's seasons and be enriched by them and in turn enrich others.

**Have a blessed Advent,
Christmas and Christmastide!**

Celebrating 10 years since her profession as a Benedictine Nun, Dundee's Sister Margaret keeps in touch with home



Sister Margaret (Morag) Ross, a former and active parishioner of St Joseph's in Dundee, is a Benedictine nun in St Cecilia's Abbey on the Isle of Wight. She celebrated the 10th anniversary of her final profession on Wednesday the 11th of November.

In the Abbey, Sister Margaret is in charge of the Department which makes altar breads for use during Mass. These are then sent to many parishes throughout the United Kingdom. She is also in charge of both the soap making and the candle making departments, the produce of which is then sold in the Abbey gift shop.

In her spare time she loves reading the Dunkeld News and the Scottish Catholic Observer which she receives regularly. In the little spare time she has left she also loves doing jigsaw puzzles.

Please take the time, if possible, to offer a prayer for her during this season of Advent as she continually prays, not only for the parishioners of St Joseph's but also, for the Bishop, priests and people of the Diocese of Dunkeld.

Bishops' Conference of Scotland sends - A message of hope



DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

As Christmas approaches, we, the Bishops of Scotland, wish to share with you some reflections on our present situation and offer reasons for hope, as we live through these difficult times. Firstly, we affirm the centrality of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father who became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is our Hope. He is our Salvation. He is our Guide.

We echo the words of St Paul “neither death nor life...nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”. It is only through the eyes of this “great hope” that we can look at ourselves and our world and not despair. He passed through death to the glory of the Resurrection.

He is our inspiration in this life and our hope of fulfilment in eternity. On 27th March 2020, Pope Francis led an emotional Extraordinary Urbi et Orbi in a wet and empty St Peter's Square, as Covid-19 swept the world. The Pope turned to prayer and pointed us to the Gospel story of the storm on the lake. Likening the world's experience of the Pandemic to the apostles' fear of being drowned in their storm-tossed boat, he said the virus has “exposed our vulnerability”. We were “feeling powerful and able to do everything”. Comforting ourselves with “false certainties” meant we had forgotten our endemic fragility. Now a great fear was washing over us, like the waves over the apostles.

While their fear like ours is natural, we are not alone. Jesus is with us in our boat. The Pope reminded us that God turns all things to good. As disciples living through this Pandemic, even though we are naturally anxious and unsure, we know that God is with us. We trust that His Spirit is active. “Lord, you are calling to us”, prayed the Pope, “calling us to faith – which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you.” We are led to ask: what is the Spirit saying to us at this time? As this question is in all our hearts, we Bishops, would like to share some of our own reflections at this difficult time.

Pope Francis, in his Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, wants to “contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity, brotherhood between all men and women”. For this to become reality we need “an openness to the Father of all” and “the love made possible by God's grace”. The Encyclical calls us to love

all who are vulnerable as brothers and sisters. In that light, we reflect firstly on reasons for hope, before considering particular groups whom the Pandemic has shown as vulnerable.

Part One - Reasons for Hope

Rediscovering Universal Human Dignity and wellsprings of goodness Pope Francis has reminded us that every crisis presents opportunities. We have well-founded reasons for hoping that the Pandemic has led society to a rediscovery of the dignity of every human person, especially the most vulnerable, along with a new appreciation of the goodness manifested by so many. A refreshingly simple human response to the Pandemic emerged across the world. Governments urged their citizens to make difficult and prolonged sacrifices for the sake of the most vulnerable and they willingly responded. In Scotland we were asked to stay at home to save the lives of the elderly and those with underlying health conditions while countless fellow citizens served on the frontline and in key services, putting their lives at risk, all for the sake of vulnerable strangers.

That genuine concern for the vulnerable was obvious and beautiful. Society willingly came to a consensus about protecting the vulnerable, at great personal cost to many, revealing how sacrificial love can shine out from human hearts. The Covid-19 crisis now offers us a unique opportunity to rebuild society by fostering these values. Care for the vulnerable has shaped every area of Scottish life and we encourage this development. The tragedy wrought by the Pandemic has awakened us to the value of all human life and we welcome this rare opportunity to commit ourselves to protecting and supporting all our people.

Previously, contemporary attitudes had begun to regard the more vulnerable in society as less meriting of life as if “some parts of our human family (could) be readily sacrificed for the sake of others considered worthy of a carefree existence.” We became used to a culture in which “persons are no longer seen as a paramount value to be cared for and respected, especially when they are poor and disabled; not yet useful, like the unborn, or ‘no longer needed’, like the elderly.”

This crisis has re-taught us the dignity of every human person and, on this rediscovered principle, our society can be rebuilt. Like the Good Samaritan, we can create a better society by recognising even the most vulnerable as our neighbour.

Greater Appreciation of Faith's Unique Contribution to Modern Scotland

Scotland's response to the Pandemic has seen a willingness to sacrifice even for the stranger. Self-sacrifice is at the root of the Gospel and is integral to Catholic Social Teaching. The Christian vision of each person as ‘called to be a child of God’ has long since made a notable contribution to building fraternity and defending justice in society. Cannot the love and compassion we have shown amid so much suffering and death in recent months now become a way of life, rather than an exception?

Cannot the Christian message of love of neighbour now become the vital principle of our culture? In working for such a world, the Church recognises she “has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity (as) a Church that serves, that leaves home and goes forth from its places of worship, goes forth from its sacristies, in order to accompany life, to sustain hope, to be the sign of unity... to build bridges, to break down walls, to sow seeds of reconciliation.”

During these difficult times the Church never ceased its worship of God, convinced of its spiritual support to our people in pointing them towards the Transcendent and helping them proclaim their faith in the Resurrection. The Church assisted local communities across Scotland in supporting the weak and the poor, the lonely and the anxious, and accompanying the dying and bereaved. With the resumption of public worship our people were again able to feel part of active communities, while prayer in common helped others to cope with their mental anguish. Faith inspired and mobilised people to do good and comforted many.

There has been a growing awareness of the social harm caused when public worship and pastoral ministry are not available. The importance of bringing much needed love, hope and comfort and the social capital delivered by a vibrant faith commitment is now more widely recognised.

Part Two - Towards a Better World

With the arrival of a vaccine and other developments, it is now possible to see beyond the pandemic. Yet its effects will be deep and long-lasting. There is more hardship to come.

For example, we have yet to see the worst ravages of unemployment or the damage done to the mental health of many. Now, though, we voice our reasons for hope if we build on what we have learnt from the Pandemic

Pastoral and Medical Care of the Sick and Vulnerable

The Church has always adopted a holistic approach to care of the sick, providing medical as well as pastoral and spiritual care to the weak. Today, it is the State who provides excellent medical care while the Church and other faiths provide spiritual and pastoral care. Chaplains ministering to the seriously sick and dying in hospitals ensure that the spiritual and pastoral needs of patients, their families and staff are met. Therefore, chaplains ought always to have access to those seeking their care.

Many in our society have reevaluated and recognise anew the unique and positive contribution which Faith Communities bring to many situations within modern Scotland, and not only alone, but also in collaboration with the State Sector and other groups.

The public outcry at reports that suggested our Care Sector, especially our care homes, was at risk, manifested a new sense of appreciation of our elderly brothers and sisters and a determination to ensure adequate support for the elderly at home or in residential care. This bore welcome witness to a keen social conscience that valued our senior citizens. We hope that parity of esteem for the Care Sector and the NHS would be a lasting positive legacy of this crisis. Similarly, we need to have satisfactory protocols for treating or withholding treatment from patients, especially where resources are strained.

The Church reaffirms that in facing such difficult dilemmas patients and their loved ones should always be fully informed and involved in decision-making processes that cherish all lives equally.

An economy for the Common Good

As unprecedented as the Pandemic so was the manner in which our Governments sought to provide economic support for workers and employers whose livelihoods were threatened. Resources were extended generously in a way that the majority of the country felt similarly protected and supported. Our society recognised the precious sense of solidarity and peace that can come when efforts are made to look out for the common good of all.

The lockdown forced a reevaluation of some low paid and undervalued jobs, where care workers, shop assistants, delivery drivers and others were hailed as key workers. This should not be forgotten and we trust that society will

reassess what is a just remuneration for these key jobs. We are saddened that many have lost their jobs, or face financial uncertainty, with many businesses struggling to exist. We hope that, as the Pandemic subsides, those positive developments acknowledged above will continue to underpin decision-making, especially for the poor, the unemployed and the marginalised.

A sense of integral human development

Recent generations have witnessed an ever narrower calculation of human progress in terms of gross domestic product and a measure of happiness ever more exclusively tied to material wealth as a result of relentless work, with leisure time largely consisting of mass consumer entertainment. The Pandemic has challenged this way of living. It has allowed space for cherishing family time and the environment of friendships and nature. The post-Pandemic recovery offers hope for a flourishing of more natural and humane lifestyles.

Vaccines – We gladly welcome the news of the approval of the first vaccines for the UK and we hope this will allow an early immunisation programme to protect our population and offer the prospect of some return to normal life. Contemporary society rightly pays attention to the ethical sourcing of commodities like food and clothing to ensure that the benefits to us do not come at a disproportionate cost.

As similar concerns have been raised about vaccines, we reassure our Catholic population that, in accordance with long-standing guidance from the Pontifical Academy for Life, it is ethical to take any of the C19 vaccines purchased by the UK at the present time, either because foetal cell lines have not been used in their development or because their sourcing is sufficiently remote. While we affirm the ethical acceptability of taking these vaccines, we do not support bio-technological processes that develop products from abortion or research using these cell-lines.

We hope that those with objections to such vaccines can be respected and offered alternatives, and we call upon companies to use only ethically sourced material. We encourage wider debate in society on progressively eradicating the misuse of human products in bio-technologies in the future. Similarly, we urge governments to work to ensure C19 vaccines are made available equitably across the world, according to human need and not economic status.

Recognising our Neighbours' Daily Suffering

Across all societies, local and global, people have for too long been suffering from isolation and loneliness, poverty and discrimina-

tion, abuse and mental anxieties, addictions and many other challenging circumstances, while the world seemed to pass by on the other side.

The recent restrictions have highlighted, and sometimes exacerbated, this personal pain but have perhaps opened our eyes to the plight of so many. Government agencies have their part to play, but the Pandemic has brought home to us the personal responsibility we all have to bear and lighten the burdens of our brothers and sisters. We hope that the Pandemic will have made us all more attentive to the suffering that routinely exists in our midst.

Conclusion – We hope these reflections resonate with our fellow-Christians, with people of other faiths and with all people of goodwill. Just as the nations of the world have been required to collaborate to respond effectively to the virus, so too in our own society we must work together for a better future as we rebuild after the Pandemic. As Christians we are preparing to celebrate Christmas.

This Feast points us to the “great hope” which underpins and purifies, measures and sustains the many varied hopes that keep us going day by day. This hope delivers us from the compulsion to be self-sufficient and the anguish that can follow when we fail. This hope is a person, whose hand is always stretched out towards us. It is Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. He loves us so much that, sin aside, he took on our whole human condition, including its fragility.

At Christmas, we worship him as a tiny child in the arms of his Virgin Mother. Many Renaissance paintings of the Nativity portray the stable in a ruinous condition, symbolising the state of the world. The message is that, even in a confused and chaotic world, there is now this Child. The seed of a better future has been sown. Through the power of Christmas it is sown in us too. It is sown as a seed, a love, an energy that promises eternal life with God and that graces us to do what is right and just, here and now, for each other, for the life of our society and especially for the most vulnerable within it.

Let us not be afraid. The Lord is with us and can calm every storm and bring light to the darkness.

With our prayers and blessings for Christmas and the coming year

+ HUGH GILBERT
+ PHILIP TARTAGLIA
+ LEO CUSHLEY
+ JOSEPH TOAL
+ STEPHEN ROBSON
+ JOHN KEENAN
+ WILLIAM NOLAN
+ BRIAN MCGEE

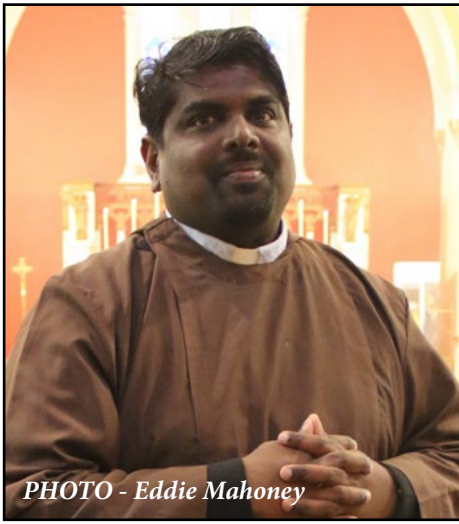


PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

A word of thanks from Fr Joseph James OFM Cap.

A person's real possession is his memory, and I am rich with beautiful memories from Scotland and from the parishes in the diocese of Dunkeld. I thank the Almighty God for giving me the opportunity to come to this beautiful country and to be a part of the diocese of Dunkeld. I am grateful to Bishop Stephen Robson for the invitation to his diocese and all the support he rendered to me throughout my stay. Bishop Robson was very generous and kind and encouraged me with his spiritual guidance and support.

When I first arrived in Scotland, at Glasgow airport, the immigration officer asked me my destination. When I replied, "Dundee", he answered me, "It is very cold out there, but people are very loving and warm". That was very true and I experienced it all through my stay in Arbroath, Monifieth and Carnoustie too. I take this opportunity to thank Canon Kevin Golden who welcomed me to the parishes of Monifieth, Carnoustie and Arbroath as his assistant. He was an excellent model for a good Parish Priest. His enthusiasm in pastoral work inspired me a lot and I tried to follow his model in my pastoral activities.

I too thank Fr Michael Carrie who was my Parish Administrator for a year. Fr Carrie was very supportive and a good friend. After completing my MSc in Psychology from the University of Liverpool, Bishop Robson appointed me as the Parish Administrator of St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church, Arbroath. I am grateful to Bishop Robson for trusting me and entrusting me this big responsibility. I am also grateful to all my beloved parishioners. Your love, care and concern made me comfortable to be with you as your priest. I never felt I was away from my home country. You made me so comfortable to feel like Scotland as my home country. I will always cherish the good memories I had from St Thomas, St Anne's and St Bride's.

Liturgical celebrations, faith journey classes, musical nights, curry nights, ceilidh, Christmas dinners are part of those memories. I will look back on my time with you all as a time of great grace and blessing. Please keep me in your prayers. You are there in my prayers.

Work begins as dry rot strikes at A-listed St Mary's, Lochee

During the COVID-19 lockdown, dry rot was discovered in St Mary's, Lochee. Work began immediately, to remove and replace part of a roof truss. Scaffolding has been part of the scenery in the church for the past months but hopefully the work will be completed in the coming weeks. The parish is braced to embark on an ambitious restoration project counteracting damp seeping through from the exterior stonework, and repairing damaged stonework. There is work too that needs done to the exterior fabric of the church and chapel house.

Parish priest, Fr Mark Cassidy, said, "it is also hoped that an upgrading of the parish halls will make this facility of greater use to the congregation and to the wider community in Lochee."



St Bernadette's church, Tullibody

The cross on the wall outside St Bernadette's church, Tullibody, was visibly 'blackened', stained by the angel's share coming from the Whisky barns in the area. Scaffolding was hired and volunteers sanded down the cross and gave it a few new coats of varnish."



St Mary's, Lochee

Dry rot

Along with many other parishes during lockdown, the parish grouping of St Mary's, Lochee, St Columba's and St Leonard and St Fergus' transferred their Sunday Mass on-line using Facebook to stream Mass from St Mary's.

The platform was also used for other initiatives to reach out to the parish community. Almost three hundred people from the three communities – and beyond - also signed up for the parish email list and have continued to receive daily reflections based on one of the readings from the day's liturgy. The three priests have been joined by three members of the congregations in preparing these reflections. One of the parishioners in St Leonard and St Fergus also volunteered to help establish a website for the parishes.

This can be accessed at www.stmarys-lochee.org.uk, www.stcolumbakirkton.org.uk or www.stleonardandstfergus.org.uk

Celebrations for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady were particularly special this year for the parish of the Immaculate Conception, Lochee as three Candidates were received into Full Communion with the Church.

Divya Aladi, Robert Law and Lyn McIntyre would have been received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, but that did not happen due to the Covid-19 Lockdown. The parishioners of St Mary's were delighted to welcome Divya, Robert and Lyn who have already become very familiar faces in the community.

As a wonderful postscript to the Reception of the Candidates, on 4th October, Divya's daughters were baptized in St Mary's during the 11.30am Mass. The prayers of the community go with Divya, her husband, Agneeth, and their daughters Wakeeta Agnes and Angela.

The First Holy Communions in St Mary's, Lochee postponed from May, were celebrated at an evening Mass on the Feast of the Archangels. The children, their immediate families and Mrs Curran, Headteacher along with a number of the staff from St Mary's PS joined in the prayers of the Mass. Though necessarily different from previous years, it was just as beautiful and prayerful a celebration as ever. (*see page 12*)



Clerical changes in Dunkeld Diocese

Bishop Stephen Robson has accepted the retirement of Mgr Martin Drysdale, and has made the following appointment:

Fr Louis Uwaezuoke from the diocese of Okigwe Nigeria, ordained in 2015, has been appointed to serve in the parishes of Our Lady, Star-of-the-Sea-Tayport and St Fillan Newport-on-Tay from the beginning of November. Fr Louis has been working for the past few years in the Archdiocese of Southwark and has kindly agreed to come to us.

Born on June 3, 1984, youngest son of Michael and Maria Uwaezuoke (both of blessed memory) in a family of six. Fr Louis attended Town School Umunumo Primary school. On September 13, 1996 he entered the minor seminary, St Peter's Seminary Ihitte (now St Thomas Aquinas) and completed his secondary school education at St Peter's Seminary, Okigwe, in 2002.

For his major seminary formation, he was sent to Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu Nigeria, where he studied both Philosophy and Theology. During his studies at Bigard, he gained some experience in journalism having served as editor for Thinker Magazine (their Philosophical Magazine) and Bigard Theological Studies (their Theological Journal). He graduated from Bigard in 2014.

To further prepare him for the priestly ministry, he was sent to do his Internship program at the Okigwe Diocesan Secretariat while awaiting diaconate and priestly ordinations. He gathered so much administrative and pastoral experiences from his services at the Secretariat.

New initiative for Vocations in Dunkeld

Under the direction of Fr Mark Cassidy, the Vocations office for the Diocese has started work to develop both a Facebook page and website to promote vocations to the Priesthood, the Consecrated Life and the Permanent Diaconate.

Fr Mark reports, "the Facebook page is up and running @priestsfordunkeld and can be accessed by searching in the usual way on Facebook for 'Priests for Dunkeld'.



For three years he served as an Assistant parish priest at St Theresa's Parish Umunakanu Owerre, Ehime Mbano LGA after his priestly ordination on September 26, 2015.

He was posted to St Patrick's Parish Ogor Ugiri, Mbano where he served for about eight months before the diocesan Bishop granted him leave to gain mission experience in the United Kingdom. He served as an assistant priest at English Martyrs parish in London, Southwark Archdiocese. He was accepted into the Dunkeld Diocese this month and now is serving at St Fillan's and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Newport-on-Tay and Tayport respectively.

Fr Louis Uwaezuoke, is a native of Umueze-ama Umunumo, Ehime Mbano LGA, Imo State in Nigeria, loves reading, meditation and prayer, theological discussions, walking and football. He is jovial, has a listening ear, and is ready to learn. Apart from his Degrees in Philosophy and Theology, Fr Louis holds a Masters Degree in Philosophy from Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria and, *in pectore*, a Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry from Maryvale Institute, Birmingham.



"One of the first initiatives is to have priests giving short biographies showing the diversity of the clergy in the Diocese and the different ways that they reached their decision to offer themselves for training for the priesthood."

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Very Rev. Thomas Canon Shields
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The Presbytery, St Fillan's
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Tel 01764 653269

The Lord moves in mysterious ways Sacred Heart statue is saved

Throughout history, moving statues have tended to be reported at times of civil, political, or religious crisis, in which a breakdown of morale or the imminence of national disaster seemed beyond human aid, inviting divine intervention. In 1524, Italy was overrun by French armies and coping with floods, famine, and plague.

During this time, when Rome itself seemed threatened, a statue of the Virgin Mary at Brescia was reported to open and close its eyes and to move its hands, bringing them together and separating them in a gesture of sympathy. Thousands of witnesses attested to the phenomenon, and similar moving statues were reported in other towns. After the crisis, such miracles ceased.

At this moment of global pandemic, but much less mysteriously, a little piece of Dundee has found its way to the Fair City of Perth. The closure of Wellburn Care Home, in Dundee, has left this statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus sadly neglected. Situated in Lochee, Wellburn Convent had been home to the Little Sisters of the Poor for over 150 years – but shortly after the Sisters left the city – Dunkeld Diocese put the site on the market due to its high maintenance costs.

Canon Steven Mulholland, parish priest



The original plinth bore the inscription 'In your charity pray for the soul of Bridget Houghton' - readers are invited to get in touch if they knew Bridget or her family - and tells something about her life.

at St John the Baptist's RC Church, Perth, spotted the abandoned statue and offered a home for it in Perth. Now fully restored, he now invites his parishioners to increase their devotions to the Sacred Heart:

"When adoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we peer, as it were, into the heart of Jesus opened in death by the spear of the Roman soldier," said Canon Mulholland.

"Jesus' heart was indeed opened for us and before us – and thus God's own heart was opened. The liturgy interprets for us the language of Jesus' heart, which tells us above all that God is the shepherd of mankind."

"When we honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we express our gratitude for so many benefits obtained from it. The Heart of Jesus is our hope and our comfort in this world. It makes our lives sweeter and soothes our pains and sadnesses."

"The devotion to the Sacred Heart does not remove the cross from our souls but it gives us more strength to carry it. The devotion to the Sacred Heart does not suppress temptations in our lives but it gives us more courage to overcome them. This devotion forms us and makes our hearts conform to the Heart of Jesus. Thus, it brings humility and sweetness."

"A heart totally devoted to the Heart of Jesus is meek, humble, and sweet. When you go to a place where the Sacred Heart is honoured, you can really taste the peace of God, the sweetness of the place, the silence of prayer and you think: It is good to stay here."

"I know a place where people say: It is good to stay here. It is even so good that once you are in this place, you cannot leave it. I have never been there, but I know that this place is the place where the Sacred Heart sits enthroned now and forever. We call it heaven."



"Let us pray today to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and ask her to lead us toward the Heart of her Son. May she make us true devoted persons to the Sacred Heart. It would be the royal way which leads us toward heaven. Let us take it!"

Prayer to the Sacred Heart by St John Henry Newman

My God, my Saviour, I adore Thy Sacred Heart, for that heart is the seat and source of all Thy tenderest human affections for us sinners. It is the instrument and organ of Thy love. It did beat for us. It yearned over us. It ached for us, and for our salvation.

It was on fire through zeal, that the glory of God might be manifested in and by us. It is the channel through which has come to us all Thy overflowing human affection, all Thy Divine Charity towards us.

All Thy incomprehensible compassion for us, as God and Man, as our Creator and our Redeemer and Judge, has come to us, and comes, in one inseparably mingled stream, through that Sacred Heart. O most Sacred symbol and Sacrament of Love, divine and human, in its fulness, Thou didst save me by Thy divine strength, and Thy human affection, and then at length by that wonder-working blood, wherewith Thou didst overflow.

A Good and Faithful Servant

At the age of 99, Sr Mary Angela Rowley has died. Sister Mary Angela was a devoted and dedicated Sister of Mercy, delighting to carry out the Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy. She took her final vows in Lawside Convent in 1946, trained in Craigmackintosh as a primary teacher and taught in several Catholic schools in Dundee. Early

in her teaching career she was promoted to Assistant Head teacher, Early Education, including posts in St Mary's, Forebank, St Clement's Primary, St Mary's Infants School, Lochee and finally becoming Head Teacher in St Joseph's Primary School.

She was blessed with good health, and all during her long teaching career never missed a day in school. She loved teaching and was loved and respected by Staff and pupils alike.

As a devoted Sister in the spread of the Kingdom, she taught our Catholic Faith to children in some outlying parishes who did not have the advantage of a Catholic school. This included Forfar (see photo below) and Kirriemuir where she had a long and happy relationship with children and parents alike.

Sister Mary Angela was a very happy, fulfilled Sister with a great sense of humour. She loved entertainment, including music, especially Irish music, and sport. Saturday's were great days!! She relaxed cheering on Dundee United and Celtic!!



Her family were very important to her too. She kept in touch with her many nieces and nephews and was interested in all their children and occupations. They in turn were very attached to their devoted Auntie.

Dear Sister Mary Angela will be sadly missed by those of us who knew her and lived with her. We pray that she has heard those beautiful words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

After the Sisters of Mercy left their Convent at Lawside, she moved to Edinburgh before moving down south. Sister Mary Angela has now been buried alongside her sister in Dundee's Balgaly Cemetery.

'Till we meet again, dear Angela, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



Sr Mary Angela on her 90th Birthday



Sr Mary Angela (left) at the First Communion Day in (the old) St Fergus', Forfar

NEWS AND PICTURES FROM

2020 - First Holy Communion



Dillon McGraw, Our Lady's, Auchterarder



St John the Baptist's, Perth - Adam Wellbrook with Canon Mulholland



St John the Baptist's, Perth - Leon Garvie and Jorja Smith with Canon Mulholland



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

St Anne's, Carnoustie - with Mgr Aldo Angelosanto



PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney

Ss Peter & Paul's Dundee - with Deacon Charles Hendry and Mgr Ken McCaffrey



Pupils from St Mary's RC Primary celebrated their First Holy Communion in St Mary the Immaculate Conception Church, Lochee with Fr Mark Cassidy. The children were prepared for the Sacrament by Alicia Raeper.



Pupils from St Dominic's Primary School, with Canon Tom Shields, in St Fillan's, Crieff



First Communion at St Mary's, Forebank

Primary 5 children who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 7th November 2020 from Fr Michael Carrie at St Mary, Our Lady of Victories Church in Dundee.

All three children – Nikola Pierog, Reuben McLanders and Gracie Brown - are pupils at Our Lady's RC Primary School, Dundee, and they had been very much looking forward to this celebration, which was rescheduled from earlier this year.

Depute-headteacher, Mrs Paula Nicoll, said "Under the present restriction for numbers attending church services due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the children were joined by only their closest family and friends. The celebration was small and intimate but incredibly spiritual and special. We are very proud of them."

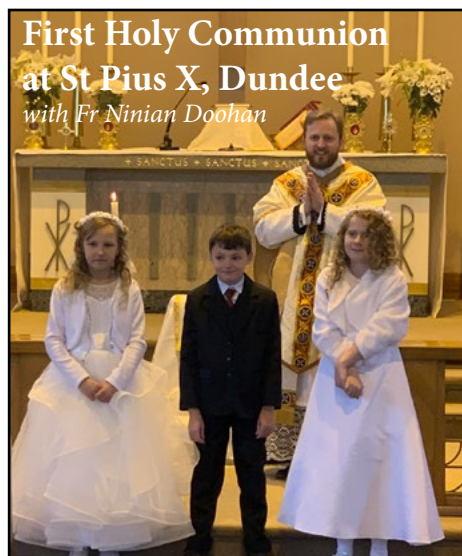
St Joseph's, Callendar

Amelie Iona Trotter received her first Holy Communion on Saturday 3rd October in St Fillan's Church, Killin (served from Callendar). Amelie's family thanked St Fillan's parish catechist, Mrs Elizabeth Hunter, for her instruction and preparation for Sacrament of the Eucharist. Parish priest, Fr Joseph Leszek added "we extend our congratulations to Amelie and her family on behalf of all the parishioners in Doune, Callander and Killin."



First Communion at St Bride's, Monifieth
with Mgr Aldo Angelosanto

PHOTO - Eddie Mahoney



First Holy Communion at St Pius X, Dundee
with Fr Ninian Doohan

101 reasons to celebrate at Kilgraston School

2009 - Prep school pupils planting new hedge



Learning their lessons well - 11yr old pupils visit the maturing hedgerow today

Kilgraston School, Perth, together with other Sacred Heart communities around the world, celebrate the Feast of Mater Admirabilis, which translates to “Mother Most Admirable” and is the title of a representation of Our Lady, as a young, girl wearing pink (there is a copy of this fresco in Kilgraston Chapel).

In 1844, a generation after the Society of the Sacred Heart was founded, Pauline Perdrau, a young novice, took it upon herself to produce a fresco of the Virgin Mary on a wall in a recreational area of the convent, Trinità dei Monti in Rome. As a child, Pauline had a favourite pink dress, so she chose to paint Mary as a young woman in a rose-coloured dress rather than a matronly Madonna in blue. The lily at Mary’s side represented her purity; the distaff and spindle, her love of work; a book, her dedication to study. Unfortunately, although Pauline put herself wholeheartedly into her task, her inexperience with the technique of fresco did not produce the beautiful soft painting for which she had hoped. The too vivid colours had to be hidden behind a drape. Pope Pius IX, upon visiting the convent, requested that the curtain be removed.

Seeing the fresco of our Lady, its colours inexplicably softened, the Holy Father exclaimed, “Mater Admirabilis!” (Latin for “Mother Most Admirable”) Miracles soon began with the cure of a missionary priest who had completely lost the power of speech. Permission was given to offer



Mass before the miraculous picture and to celebrate the feast of Mater Admirabilis on 20th October.

Ninety years ago, Kilgraston was officially opened on the Feast of Mater Admirabilis and it is both the ninety years of Kilgraston and the Feast of Mater Admirabilis that the school celebrated in a special service last month.

The school’s chaplain, Mr Paul Allaker, said, “The world will have changed much in the time between the founding of the Society of the Sacred Heart and the founding of Kilgraston, just as it has changed so much in the last 90 years. Despite this, there has been one unchanging constant in the life of the Society and Kilgraston – the person and event of Jesus Christ, to whose Sacred Heart we adore and commend ourselves.”

Eleven years ago, the world was a very different place. This fact was clearly illustrated to pupils at the Kilgraston School when they gathered to witness the rapid development of a hedge planted by previous pupils in 2009.

“We wanted to show the current crop of pupils how quickly nature grew if you give it a chance,” said Dana Cooper, Junior Years teacher. “We thought it would be demonstrated particularly well if we showed our present day eleven year olds what nature can do in the same period.”

These photographs clearly highlighted the contrast during the intervening years. Miss Cooper added: “Our pupils are particularly interested in natural habitats for indigenous wildlife, which we have an abundance of here at school, but they are also keen to create artificial habitats and, additionally, are currently building a ‘bug hotel’ out of palettes and recycled materials. The hedge, consisting of hawthorn, common lime, hazel and the guelder rose, stretches along the boundary of the campus for nearly 80 metres.

“The variety in the hedge provides food and shelter in the chillier months for bugs, birds and mammals, including our many red squirrels, who find a home and snacks in the Kilgraston hedge,” said Olivia who is also the same age as the hedge. “The flowers that come before the rosehips are also important for pollinators, such as butterflies and bees.”

Edith, also aged 11, added: “We have been learning how the hedge provides wildlife with a natural larder,” she continued, “birds such as thrushes, blackbirds and fieldfares love the rose hips, while bees enjoy nectar from the hawthorn and robins, red squirrels and rabbits enjoy the berries.”

The death has been announced of Sister Barbara Farquharson, in Edinburgh, after a long illness on 27th November 2020. Sister Farquharson taught Religious Education at Kilgraston for many years and was Headmistress between 1987 and 1993. She set up the Orchard Retreat Centre at Kilgraston Walled Garden where she lived before her retirement to Dalkeith.

Sympathies go to Sister Farquharson's family and the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart. May she rest in peace.



A warm welcome from the children at St Andrew's Primary School, Dundee for chaplain Fr Alexander Obiorah

St Joseph's fund raises for Poppy Scotland - as they remember to pray for All Souls



Primary 5 from St Joseph's RC Primary School, Dundee, have been very busy over the past few weeks organising and planning a Poppy Enterprise to raise money for Poppy Scotland.

Thanks to P5 teacher, Mr Reece McCabe who sent us this report from his class - "During the month of November, we were learning the importance of Remembrance and showing our respect for those who perished fighting during various conflicts

around the world. Taking on this responsibility allowed us to develop a variety of important skills needed for later life learning."

"We thrived on the responsibility of selling, manufacturing and delivering poppies around the school and coming up with various activities and competitions to get the whole school involved."

"One of our favourite ideas was the poppy display at the entrance of our school's

campus where we asked all the classes to create individual poppies for us to add to our display."

"Once we collated all of the poppies, we created the competition "Guess How Many Poppies are on the Display". The winner of which received a large jar of sweets."

"The display turned out better than we could have ever imagined. Both dramatic and evocative, it showcases the wide range of talent and abilities across our school and highlights our sense of community."

"We used the tradition of Remembrance to raise the profile of thinking about All Souls, the Christian celebration that traditionally takes place on November 2nd. This allowed us to develop our knowledge and make connections between religious and historic traditions."

"This, for us, further highlighted the importance of Remembrance and the crucial need to recognise the sacrifices being made by those who fought and are still fighting for their countries."

St Paul's Academy's young scientists get top billing

At St Paul's Academy, Dundee, 'Who let the brachycephalic dogs out?' was the intriguing title which Harry Colville gave to his Science Baccalaureate project in his final year at St Paul's. Harry's work was then picked up by "Mentor" the only national print magazine dedicated to applying healthcare students and published. Harry is now at University studying Veterinary Sciences.



The Environmental Risks of Abandoned Mine Wastes

The aim of this research project is to investigate the influences of toxic elements in the Tyndrum lead/zinc mine site and to consider the ecological risks that may be present to the surrounding countryside.

This project is about how abandoned mines all over Scotland have a negative effect on the environment, researching how elements from these mine wastes take role in harming the wildlife's biodiversity and us too. These were all researched online and come to a conclusion that certain elements are more harmful to the environment than others.

Element	Mean (mg/L)	Max (mg/L)	Min (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)
Arsenic	0.07	0.13	0.03	0.10
Cadmium	0.13	0.25	0.08	0.18
Copper	1.48	2.09	0.98	2.30
Lead	3.91	8.08	0.40	7.67
Zinc	16.87	27.22	10.52	16.7

Biological Risk Assessment

The overall number of the ecological risk model RI from the results was 18,714 demonstrating a very high ecological risk according to Hakanson (1980).

Element	Mean (mg/L)	Toxic Response Factor	Ecological Risk Index	Description	Total Risk Index
Arsenic	0.07	10	14	Low	18,714 Very High
Cadmium	0.13	30	8,310	Very High	
Copper	1.48	5	7,440	High	
Lead	3.91	5	1,955	High	
Zinc	16.87	1	1,520	High	

Conclusions

- Lead was shown to be the most toxic element.
- Copper was correlated with dissolved organic carbon.
- Cadmium, zinc and arsenic had no obvious relationships.

Supervisor: Andrew Innes

Brachycephalic is a term used to describe dogs with a relatively shortened nose and a flat face. These dogs are either bred to have this feature or suffer from some sort of deformation at birth. Commonly known brachycephalic breeds include French Bulldogs, Pugs, and Chihuahuas as well as other breeds such as Pekingese, Lhasa Apso, Mastiffs, Chow Chows, English Toy Spaniels and many more (Figure 1). Brachycephalic animals are not only in the canine world but are also in the feline world. There are several brachycephalic breeds of cats, the most common being the Persian, the exotic shorthair cat and the Himalayan cat. In the past few years there has been a sudden rise in the popularity of brachycephalic dogs as a pet. Whilst seeing practice in a veterinary clinic, it is apparent how popular brachycephalic breeds have become, most commonly French Bulldogs, followed by Pugs. Over the past ten years the ownership of French Bulldogs and Pugs has risen by 296.4% according to The Kennel Club and for the first time in almost thirty years the Labrador isn't the most common breed of dog as a pet, overtaken by the French Bulldog. There are numerous theories proposed as to why there has been a boom in popularity of brachycephalic pets. It has been suggested that a brachycephalic face lends itself to a psychological, unconditional instinct in us humans to love and care for these dogs due to their similarity to human babies with big eyes, small squished faces and a curious and playful nature. These breeds are highly popular within the celebrity community as these breeds can typically be rather expensive and people like to flaunt their wealth, as well as being popular with big clothing companies such as Primark who often have Pug or other brachycephalic breed themed clothing due to their overall adorableness, which only boosts sales.

During the summer months S6 pupil Anieli Reszczynska teamed up with the Nuffield Foundation work with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) to work on sustainable environmental remediation of abandoned lead mining sites. Anieli was looking in particular at lead / zinc mines near Tyndrum. With Covid-19 lockdown still in effect most of the work was carried out online but with the help of her supervisor, Andrew Innes, she managed to give an excellent presentation poster (see left).

St Modan's 'pen power' helps parishes keep together



Fr Mike Freyne, parish priest at St Bernadette's, Tullibody, reports: "Pupils at St Modan's Catholic Secondary in Stirling have been doing the Caritas Award have been working with St Bernadette's parish and the SVDP. They have written letters to housebound and shielding people in the parish. Parishioners have loved this contact and helps them not feel so isolated. It is wonderful to see the children wanting to be so involved and helpful during this pandemic."

Catholic Education Week

16th-30th November 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year around this time, we celebrate Catholic Education Week. During this week we:

- celebrate the God-given talents and achievements of our young people;
- acknowledge the hard work and faith witness of the staff in our schools;
- mark the unique contribution that Catholic Education makes to our families, our parishes and to wider Scottish society; and reflect on the mission of the Catholic school for the future.

This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week is Jesus Christ: the Way, the Truth and the Life. This theme reflects the vision and aim of Catholic education that Catholic schools, centred on the person of Jesus Christ, help and accompany young people to discover and to follow the Christian vocation to live responsibly with and for others in accordance with the message of Christ and so to build up and transform society for the better.

This is a message to which our young people readily respond, as can be seen by the high levels of participation in the Pope Francis Faith award and the Caritas programme.

This has been a strange year for our schools. Few of us will remember in our lifetimes a period so characterised by uncertainty, disruption and even fear. Everything that formed the fabric and pattern of our lives has felt the impact of the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Families have been unable to meet and support one another at the time when that support was most needed. People have been unable to share the joy of family celebrations, and have been denied the opportunity to come together to mourn. Our young people were separated from their friends and teachers, and their learning and exams were interrupted. Our churches have also suffered, with parish communities unable to gather for many weeks. Even now, our numbers are limited, and we long to see a time when everyone will be able to join together again and sing our hymns of praise.

It is precisely in times such as these that we search for direction and certainty, and



the theme of this year's Catholic Education Week reminds us where it can be found. In recognising Jesus as the Way, we need no longer worry about which direction we take, and where that will lead; in following Jesus' teaching and example, we will inevitably come to the Father. At a time where it can be difficult to discern what is genuine, we find in Jesus a Truth to which we can hold firm. It is in living in relationship with God that we find the fullness of life for which God created us, and the promise of eternal life.

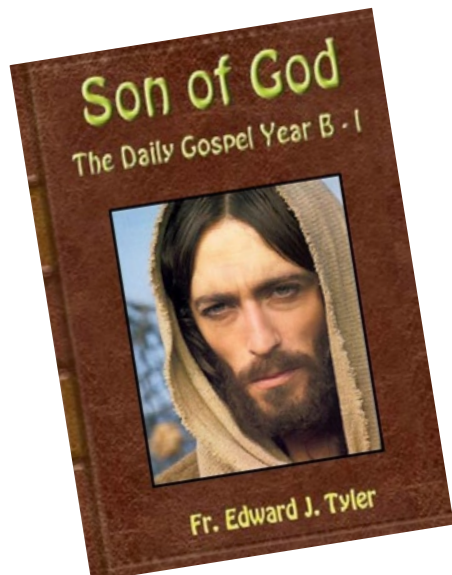
The Charter for Catholic Schools, which outlines ten characteristics of a Catholic school, proposes a rich vision of Catholic education that emphasises the Church's mission to transform society through the love, service and justice we find in the life of Jesus, and reminds our pupils and teachers that they are a part of the Church in action. These characteristics do not happen by accident. Acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life is intrinsic to Catholic education and, along with liturgy, prayer and learning, is a central and defining mark of the Catholic school as an educational community of faith.

I encourage you then to give thanks for Catholic Education and to pray for its ongoing success. I ask you to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service and all that it does on behalf of our Church, our young people and our families to promote the positive contribution of Catholic schools in Scotland. I encourage you all to speak out positively on behalf Catholic Education, sharing the good news that Catholic schools remain good for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ,
+ Philip Tartaglia
President of the Scottish Catholic Education Commission



Free download



Families at St Fergus, Forfar and St Anthony's, Kirriemuir are being offered an e-book for their computer/tablet/phone:

Entitled - Son of God - the book follows the lectionary's daily Gospels for Year B. Fr Tobias Okorro said, "The new Liturgical Year began on the First Sunday of Advent and this e-book may be downloaded free of charge. It offers the Gospel for every day of the coming Liturgical Year followed by a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel."

"The e-book may be passed on for downloading to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the approval of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, given when he was Bishop of Parramatta."

Downloads are available from www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

Reconciliation Service at St Joseph's, Dundee

A Reconciliation Service will take place in St Joseph's, Dundee, on Tuesday 15th December. Fr Gregory Murphy explained to parishioners, "Regrettably, the usual Advent Penitential Service for the city, usually held in the one church, cannot take place this year."

"In its place there will be a Service of Reconciliation in St Joseph's, Wilkies Lane, at 7pm, on Tuesday 15th December. It will take the form of a collective examination of conscience, scripture reading, prayer and General Absolution."

"Bishop Robson has made available the faculty of granting general absolution in these extra-ordinary circumstances following the penitentiary degree."

Montrose and Brechin parishes reach out to Ampleforth monk for inspiration with the Faith

Parishioners at St Margaret's, Montrose and St Ninian's, Brechin have been joining in a series of Continuing Faith Development talks, online, using ZOOM.

The series was started three years ago by Fr Jim High and meets on the last Thursday of every month (except December).

Fr Jim told Dunkeld News, "In the online series we've just completed our first project, an introduction to the New Testament, with the help of a highly readable commentary from the scripture scholar and monk of Ampleforth, Fr Henry Wansborough."

"We've decided to make our next project much shorter, and we looked at the possible options during our November meeting."

"Ideas for discussion so far include Pope Francis's encyclica. *Laudato si'* - '*On care for our common home*', Jesus' use of parables in



Fr Henry Wansborough

the Gospels, and the faith-testing experiences of key figures from the Old Testament such as Abraham, David, Job and Jonah.

Kinross online prayers go global

St James' Prayer Group, Kinross have continued meeting during lockdown - using video conferencing. The idea for a virtual meeting began when Maria Bartlett and Nancy Green had been using Zoom to pray the Rosary. Over time their numbers grew until now, every Monday, they are joined by others from across the United Kingdom and, across the Atlantic, in the United States of America.

The group are part of the St James' Prayer Group and they share encouraging and inspiring posts from their meetings.

Maria told Dunkeld News, "It was at the suggestion of Fr Martin, who encouraged us to share our talks, that we have also been uploading them on YouTube."

"This has created a great interest and we have a number of people who now ask for the talks when we haven't done them. There are a few people in their 80s who now live alone and they get great consolation listening to these talks, as they don't feel alone when they see us and it inspires their faith."

The group have also contact Bishop Stephen and the Diocesan Religious Education Advisor, Mary O'Duffin, offering to

do some broadcasting for the Diocese - including talks, Rosaries and reflections on the Rosary.

Here are a few samples:-

THE RHYTHM OF GOD

St James' Prayer Group
https://youtu.be/11_CXQvFR18

THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

<https://youtu.be/h9pMQ9Y0VqU>

TESTING TIMES

https://youtu.be/v5_reiD_XUo

Pat Dowey is in this one!

We are both now praying the Rosary Live for Shalom World TV every week, for the next for three months on their brand new SW Prayer Channel (Global).

THE PARALLELS OF THE BIBLE

<https://youtu.be/Jr7oJFIcPqQ>

ROSARY TO OUR LADY

- THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

https://youtu.be/9ur_Q3oqiH4

REFLECTION ON ROSARY

- THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

<https://youtu.be/-npPvF8miCo>

Perthshire parish braves the elements to allow capacity attendances at Mass



Since the churches unlocked their doors in July, the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, in Auchterarder, have opted to celebrate Mass outdoors. Their small Church can only accommodate eight family places whilst maintaining social distancing restrictions.

Parishioner, David Homewood, said, "Every Sunday and Wednesday, Mass has been celebrated outside in the elements come wind, rain or sunshine."

"Even the four 'umbrella' Masses have not deterred attendance, which on average, ranges from over twenty on Wednesdays and between 45 and 50 on a Sunday."

"Until recently, Fr Rogi Thomas has been resident in Auchterarder during a break from his work at the Scots College in Rome. He was able to cover for Mgr Basil O'Sullivan whilst he was recuperating from an injury. Thankfully, Mgr Basil is now back with us and braving the elements alongside his flock."

"If the Scotch mist appears, then the Mass is said from inside the house. The mic



Happy Birthday - Fr Samuel Alabi



Our Lady of Sorrow's, Fintry, Dundee, knows how to spoil their parish priest. Fr Sam Alabi thought he might have a quiet celebration to mark his 40th birthday - but his parishioners had other plans. It was no big lockdown-breaking party - but rather a cake - topped out with a thistle and a clerical collar! Fr Sam's smile says it all!

PHOTO - Mary Arcari

and amplifier are set up, and the laity praise God from a green and pleasant spot in the garden."

"From the start of November, the parishioners moved back into their church, which has been a further good test for the organisers since as a rota system will need to be established to allow three Masses per week, with a fortnightly cycle in which families can be called forward to attend."

PHOTOS courtesy Allan Perera-Liyanage





Silent vigil to remember the 9 million deaths since the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act

SPUC Dundee branch (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) held the 17th consecutive annual silent vigil to commemorate the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act on 22nd October in Dundee City Centre.

“It was a smaller event than usual due to the current restriction on public gatherings. We chose not to advertise the event more widely this year but didn’t want to let the anniversary pass by unmarked,” said Clare McGraw, SPUC Dundee branch secretary and organiser of the event.

“So just under 30 people attended to witness to the 9 million children who have

been killed in the UK since the Act was passed.”

SPUC is a grassroots campaigning organisation defending the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death. The group held placards with the phone number of a help-line for post-abortion counselling. Dundee’s new pro-life centre (Dundee Pregnancy and Parenthood Support), endorsed by Bishop Stephen, also assists local women in crisis pregnancies with practical and emotional support.

SPUC are currently campaigning against the Scottish Government’s DIY abortion scheme which provides for abortion drugs

to be taken at home without medical supervision.

Michael Robinson, SPUC Director of Communications said,

“As we feared from the beginning, DIY abortion has proved impossible to regulate. Abortion pills already carry risks, including risks to the mother’s life, even if the first pill is taken in the clinic. In the case of DIY abortion, pills have been taken at home long after the recommended point in pregnancy. A mystery shopper exercise found that abortion providers have been sending out pills to women without even basic checks.”



Diocese of Dunkeld Catholic Chaplains to Ninewells, Royal Victoria Hospitals and Roxburghe House

Direct Line 07821 624124

Patients with foreknowledge of their admission to hospital should endeavour to seek the Sacrament of the Sick from their Parish Priest beforehand

Please be aware that it is necessary to make an express request (using this number or via the staff) for a hospital visit, as admission lists are no longer passed on to the chaplain

NHS Tayside Switchboard 01382 660111

Use this number to request an emergency alert to be sent to the hospital pager of the priest on call
www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/hospital

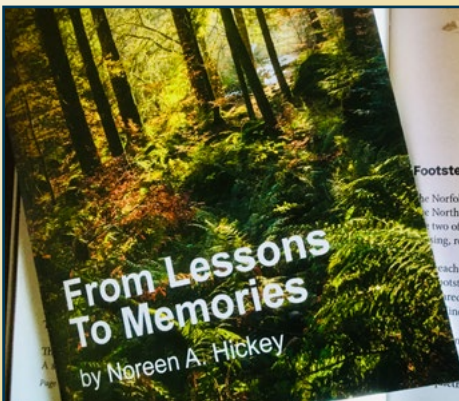


Whilst Dunkeld awaits an opportunity to honour the life and work of Mgr Charles Hendry, one former parishioner paid her own very personal tribute in verse.

Noreen Hickey hails from Paisley but has worked in Perth for over 30 years, best known at first as Miss Hickey among the children of St John's RC Primary School, but then, latterly to pupils of all ages, from primary, through secondary and in college, as a private tutor whose services in English and Maths are always in high demand. Since leaving the classroom, Miss Hickey has travelled the world with her lessons, earning herself the name the flying tutor; commuted each week to London and worked locally in the Fair City.

Helping her pupils to explore a depth of meaning in the written works of famous authors, Miss Hickey never before imagined that, one day, it would be in her own writing that she would uncover the poetic muse.

"The time seemed right," said Noreen, "to share some of my amazing adventures. Telling tales out of school! But I really wanted to publish a 'feel good' book in response to the worries of lockdown."



Perthshire poet finds muse that brings feel good factor

From the variety of poems within its 48 pages, it is clear Miss Hickey has many a tale to tell. Her book takes us through all that, entertaining us with her many exploits in a light-hearted way, taking our minds off the present hard times. Illustrated by local photographer, the images are inspired by the verse take us from the peaks of the Rocky Mountains, through the streets of Kensington and the skyscrapers of Monte Carlo and back home to Perthshire and the Big Tree County.

Dedicating her book to the memory of her former parish priest, the late Monsignor Hendry, Noreen pays tribute to the priest whose work in the Perth spanned over 60 years, and from whom she drew much inspiration.

"He enjoyed stories of my travels and would often chuckle at the situations I found myself in. With his 'old school' learning, he had a great eye for punctuation and spelling."

Noreen's book, 'From Lessons to Memories' costs £5 (+£1.60 post & packing) with a donation going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Email - flyingtutor@oakford-media.co.uk or text to - 07922 090655

Gerry's book is an hilarious stocking filler

Dundee's Claire Fulton, recently at work with Aid to the Church in Need, tells us of a book written by her husband, Gerry, to raise funds for Mary's Meals. With special appeal for Dundonians, it is written almost entirely in authentic Dundee dialect and is a humorous account of the City of Dundee becoming an independent republic!

As a taster - "On Friday 19th September in 2014 the result of the historic referendum on Scottish Independence was announced but was not the result the City of Dundee had voted for. Step forward, Tam Scobie, erstwhile Lord Provost of Dundee. For Tam, a proud Dundonian, if the people of Dundee vote for independence then that's exactly what they should get. "Wha needs Aiberdeen an' a' they places?" he boldly asserts. "We can dae it wirsels!"

Originally written on the back of a fag packet this fully revised and updated work tells the epic tale of Tam Scobie and his fellow councillors as they strive against the odds to bring independence to 'YES' city.

All proceeds from the book sales will be donated to Mary's Meals, the global movement which sets up school feeding projects in some of the world's poorest communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Price £10 (including postage) - it can be obtained via the following link: <https://therepublicofdundee.godaddysites.com/>

What Does an Angel Look Like?

What does an Angel look like?

It all depends you see.

Is it a winged apparition

who looks after you and me?

Or could we simply see them daily,

in human guise, so good and true,

not realising their value,

with the things they say and do?

So when God, in all His wisdom,

deployed an Angel to this Earth,

to work for souls,

and help spread His Word,

well, Father Hendry came to Perth.

With his red curly hair

and feisty stance,

he was distinctive, of course.

And when asked on occasion how he was,

he replied: 'Champion... the wonder horse!'

For years he tirelessly gave his all,

unselfish in his being:

He prayed; he laughed; he cared so much

about every situation he was seeing.

He loved his people, one and all.

No 'ifs', 'buts' or 'depending'.

His Faith he shared, with everyone,

its strength was never-ending.

But Angels have to rest, you know,

and when Father's work was done,

he was called back to his Heavenly home

to be with brother Gerry, Dad and Mum.

His legacy in life has meant,

we've been enriched in many ways

our spiritual journey still goes on,

and for his Witness we now praise.

So, what does an Angel look like?

Are we any clearer now?

Yes, for we've been blessed and still are too,

as we can see the why and how.

Father showed us why we must go forward,

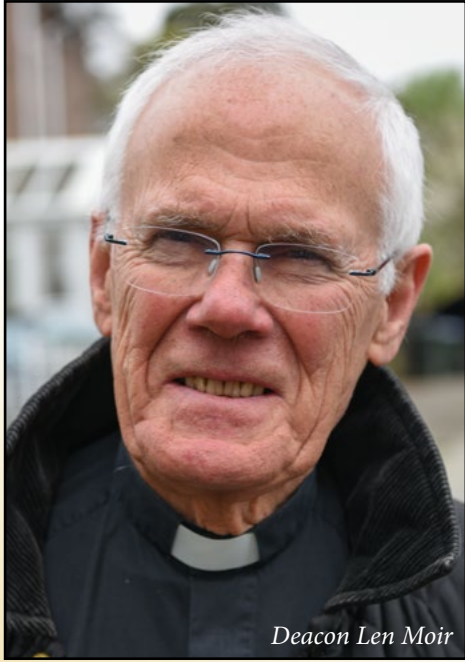
keeping Faith so true.

and how our daily prayers and actions,

are the main things we must do.

by Noreen Hickey

Deacon Len rejects the idea of a 'digital' Christmas 'Keeping the Stable Door Open'



Deacon Len Moir

Although church doors have now reopened, there are restricted spaces available, and many parishioners have been unable to return to Mass. Some may even feel that their parish is losing touch with them. Following the success of his first lockdown book, now in its fourth print run, Deacon Len Moir has added an Advent and Christmas sequel - called 'Keeping the Stable Door Open'.

Deacon Len said, "I am writing in attempt to understand present events. Headlines have just declared that we should expect a 'digital' Christmas... what ever that may mean! Many branches of the media are also encouraging people to utter nonsensical opinions... I hope I'm not adding to that! And many may feel in a really

bad way. This book goes on a gentle trawl through scripture to see what we can catch for life's voyage. There is plenty at this time that we might want to complain about, but let us try and calmly navigate through some of the storms, real or imaginary, and see where the compass points of faith are directing us."

"Hopefully this book is based on common sense and on explanation of the Christian faith. It is open equally to those of that faith and to those of any faith and to those of none. At the end of the day, we are all connected by our humanity and our shared responsibility for the natural world around us. We have also witnessed many heroic acts of support shown by friends and neighbours and indeed by the NHS workers, care home workers and all who have continued to provide the important services which are necessary at this time."

"Overall, everything we think and do during Advent leads us to the open stable door. We are totally free to enter in awe and expectation, giving heart and mind a chance to pause and reflect on the birth both of Jesus and of ourselves. Paul is right... it is a matter of joy, prayer and gratitude. The choice of entering is ours."

A son of the manse, Len was born in Aberdeen but, with his father's appointment to St Leonard-in-the-Fields in Perth, the family moved to the Fair City during World War II. Len returned to Aberdeen to study Psychology, English and Law before entering teaching, working in primary education in Dundee for 40 years. After serving



as headteacher at Whitfield Primary School he was appointed as an Advisor in Primary Education. Following the death of his wife, and his retirement from teaching, Len undertook a period of training and was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 2014

It was while working in the parish of St John the Baptist's, Perth, that Len developed a popular series of Faith Sharing pamphlets for use with house groups and in school communities.

His love of scripture is rooted in his early days in the church services conducted by his father. He is continuing his learning, primarily in Ignatian Spirituality, and he has completed all the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius, at St Beuno's College, in North Wales.

As a mountaineer and a long-distance runner, Len is all too aware of the impact that the current restrictions are having on people's lives. Over the years, as a mountaineer, he has bagged all Scotland's Munros, as well as running several marathons along the way.

In normal times Len continues walking and meets regularly with friends that he has known since school. As a keen musician, Len is a long serving member of the Dundee Cecilian Choir with whom he has taken part in many music tours. He sorely misses all of these activities together with the ability to make regular visits to the sick and housebound.

The 40-page publication is richly illustrated, featuring some of the beautiful stained glass found in the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry.

Deacon Len's book, priced £5, is available for online ordering at www.dunkeld-diocese.co.uk/shop or by email to dunkeldnews@dunkelddiocese.co.uk / or call 07806 789791.

You may wish to arrange a convenient collection point - otherwise please allow an extra £1.50 for post and packing.



Changes are planned at Scots College, Rome

The Scottish Bishops have undertaken a detailed review of Seminary Provision in recent months. A significant consideration in the review has been the affordability of upgrading the existing Pontifical Scots College in Rome to the standards required.

The Bishops have accepted that the costs of this work are beyond the resources of the Conference. Considering the building's distance from the centre of Rome, they have concluded that the sale of the building on the Via Cassia and relocation to a more central location is the best option for the formation needs of the community and for



future provision.

Alternative suitable and affordable premises are being considered as a matter of priority. Subject to permission from the Holy See, it is expected that the existing build-

ing will be put on the market early in 2021. This will only be the fourth occasion in its history that the community of the Pontifical Scots College has relocated, since it was founded on 5 December 1600.

A devoted mum and granny - Kathy Walls

Cathy Walls (née Coffils), a long-time resident of Dunkeld diocese, died on August 24 at her home in Portobello.

Fr Jim Walls writes - Mum originally hailed from Glasgow where she was born in 1928; and her 92 years saw her leave her mark in the city, Dundee, New York, Monifieth and finally in Portobello.

The eldest of 3 other sisters, Dina, Margaret and May, and of a baby brother John, Cathy, originally baptised into the Church of Scotland, found the Catholic church early in life through her late friend Nora Connor and the Legion of Mary in St Teresa's Possil Park. Her caring side and devotion to others shone early in life as she worked in a hostel (run by the Legion) for, as she described them, fallen women, where she would go out into the streets and pubs of Glasgow in the 1940s and 50s to help bring them to safety through what would now be described as supported accommodation.

Her devotion to the church grew as she moved to Dundee taking up the post of housekeeper at St Vincent's church - it was there her culinary shortcomings were soon recognised - she made great soup but lousy chips according to one member of the clergy.

She left Dundee to discover the world but after a short spell working in New York as a housekeeper she returned to the city and to a blossoming romance with the man that stoked the boilers at St Vincent's - her soon-to-be husband, Jim Walls (my dad).

Marrying later in life they quickly had their hands full with 3 young boisterous boys and busy jobs in the Post Office and in nursing.

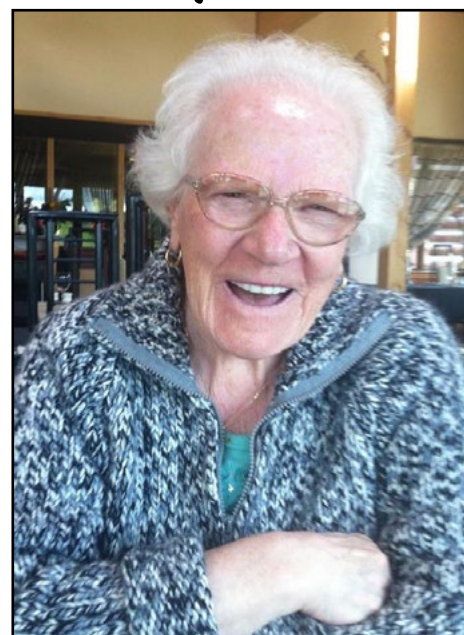
Cathy managed to retire three times - the first from her job of many years as an auxiliary nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital - a place where she had many fond memories and forged many close and lasting friendships. During this time she was an active member of St Matthew's parish in Whitfield helping to run the OAP club and occasionally dressing up as Santa for the Christmas Fayre.

Retiring from the hospital led to jobs cleaning at the Scottish homes offices in Fintry and finally in Asda - always driven, she would often, even as late as this year, say that she wished she could still have a "wee job".

Cathy's greatest endeavour came as she cared for Jim at home for 10 years until he passed away with dementia. Tireless in her care, she taught her three sons, Jim (*later to be Fr Jim Walls*), Gerrard and Stephen, what real compassion and love truly meant.

Following his death, she moved to her beloved Monifieth where she lived for 12 years having been made very welcome in St Bride's parish

Her favourite place on earth was Lourdes. She went on pilgrimage many times and was still talking about perhaps being able to go next year.



Cathy was a devoted mum and granny - survived by her sons, daughter-in-laws Adele and Alison and grandchildren Lucy, Isobel and Euan. She is also survived by her namesake sister-in-law Cathy Walls, and younger sister Dina Preston.

Cathy was a genuine character renowned for speaking her mind, and having a natural wit that made her popular wherever she landed. She is greatly missed by her friends and family leaving a huge hole where her personality used to reside, although we are taking comfort from our faith that mum passed on to us, that she is now living in love with God surrounded by all those she held dear on this earth. Please continue to pray for mum, as she no doubt will be interceding in a powerful manner for us.

Can you find room in your heart this Advent for this mysterious love?

Continued from page 1

....the Holy Family. This intimate scene of the First Christmas is witnessed, in art and sculpture, by an Ox and Ass, sometimes understood as representing the Jewish People and The Gentiles, in harmony and quiet: called to worship together the Son of God, The Word made Flesh.

Later the presence and adoration of Shepherds, echoes the Royal Line of David, the Shepherd Boy and King, unexpectedly chosen by God to work in his saving plan, despite his frailties. These Shepherds are Outsiders, often blamed as mischief-makers and villains, due to their need to sleep on the hillside, guarding their flocks; and being ritually unclean, unable to worship in the temple. Yet they are the first to hear the dizzying chorus of Angels, proclaiming The Gloria, sung in our Eucharistic liturgies in every Church Season, apart from Lent, to show the joy of heaven and earth embracing.

The Coming of the Magi, casts a slightly darker shadow, for in the midst of the brilliance of their Majesty, kneeling before The Infant King, there is the threat of Herod's malice, and the shadow of the Coming Passion reflected in the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

The Gold represents for us the Kingship of Jesus, celebrated most recently in the wonderful feast of Christ the King, at the closing celebration of the Church's Liturgical Year. The Frankincense represents prayer and petition, perhaps also alluding to the heartfelt and anguished prayer of Jesus in The Garden of Gethsemane. And finally, the Myrrh, a costly ointment used as a final act of love, echoing The Tomb. As we grow older we realise that the heady proph-



ecies of The Messiah, Emmanuel also have their counterpoint in the prophecy of The Suffering Servant.

The crib scene is a wonderful beginning; but just as we do not read the opening chapter of a novel, we cannot embrace Advent and Christmas without recognising the Mission and identity of Jesus, who will grow up in a human family, like us in all things but sin, to take up his astonishing Galilean Ministry, where his humanity and divinity is revealed; and leading us to the Last Supper, the great Gift of the Eucharist; that is a prelude to the Passion death and Resurrection, and a consolation to us all in times of trial and suffering.

In grasping the mysterious rescue plan of God in the Incarnation, we are challenged to make room for the arrival of Jesus in our innermost hearts. Encouraged to risk love, trusting in God, and hoping and believing in God's care for us, we open our hearts to Jesus, who wishes only to unite our hearts to the Heart of God.

Can you find room in your heart this Advent for this mysterious love?

Despite the disruptions to our regular Church attendance. Can you make time to Watch and Pray? Can you wait on God during this Holy Season of preparation and longing? Perhaps, notice the graces in your life, and resolve to be immersed more fully in your prayer life, your parish life and your family life when the opportunity arises.

In this way, living and loving, sharing our sorrows and our celebrations, we as Church; Bishop, priests, deacons and people, will gaze with astonishment at the radiant face of the Christ-child especially in this time of health emergency, you can thank God for this Christmas and wait joyfully and faithfully for the Parousia, the Second Coming of Christ at the End of Time.



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Email your stories and photos

Photos need to be high resolution .jpg
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CALL or TEXT 07806 789791

...have a blessed Advent and Christmas!