

GENERAL ELECTION 2017: A LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND

This General Election presents us with an opportunity to reflect on Catholic social teaching.

As Christians, we have a civic and moral duty to engage with our democracy.

As Catholics, we believe that the primary goal of society should be the common good; that is the good of all people and of the whole person. Indeed, the common good is the very reason political authority exists.

This election provides an opportunity to reflect on the beauty and goodness of Church teaching and to keep that teaching at the forefront of our minds as we engage with candidates across all parties. During elections, a range of issues compete for your attention; we highlight some of them here in the hope that you will reflect on them and raise them with your candidates.

Human Life: Human life at every stage of development is precious and must be protected. Any laws which permit the wilful ending of life must always be rejected as reprehensible and unjust. We must create a culture of life where the most vulnerable are valued and their dignity respected. The undeniable value of human life, created in the image and likeness of God, is fundamental to the Catholic faith. We should remind our politicians that abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are always morally unacceptable.

Marriage and the Family: Society relies on the building block of the family to exist. The love of man and woman in marriage and their openness to new life is the very basic cell upon which society is built. The well-being of society depends on the flourishing and health of family life and those in authority should respond to this with policies that create economic and other advantages for families with children.

Poverty: Sadly, poverty continues to be a scourge for many at home and abroad. Too many people still struggle to make ends meet. This sad reality cannot and should not endure in our country in the twenty-first century. Our concerns should also extend to providing international assistance, while ensuring that aid is not used to support immoral practices such as those which compromise the basic right to life.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Immigration: The United Kingdom should be a place where the most vulnerable are welcomed and given the resources necessary to rebuild their lives. At the same time, we should provide for those people living in and around conflict zones, and commit to working towards the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Living in Europe: There are millions of EU citizens living in the UK and millions of UK citizens living across the EU. Mindful of the uncertainty affecting them, candidates should commit to working towards delivering stability and security for them in future. Our politicians should forge and renew international partnerships and establish rights for those who wish to work in the UK, in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

Freedom of Religion and Conscience: Millions of people worldwide are persecuted for their beliefs. People of faith, including Christians, should be able to freely practise their faith and bear witness to it in their lives, without fear of prejudice, intolerance, abuse or violence. Candidates should be committed to the right of people not to be forced to act against their conscience.

Nuclear Weapons and the Arms Trade: The use of any weapon that causes more than individual and proportionate harm to civilians is immoral and, thus, rejected by the Church. The use of weapons of mass destruction is a serious crime against God and against humanity. While states are entitled to possess the means required for legitimate defence, this must not become an excuse for an excessive accumulation of weaponry which becomes a considerable threat to stability and freedom.

Respectful Politics: Often, politicians are tempted to score points or resort to insults. We need politicians who are willing to change this and to take politics in a new direction, where dialogue is respectful, and where different points of view, including those of a religious nature, are tolerated.

As we cast our votes this election, let us bear in mind the words of Pope Francis when he said, "The greatness of any nation is revealed in its effective care of society's most vulnerable members." Our nation, our Parliament, and our Government will be judged on how it treats its poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

+ Philip Tartaglia, President, Archbishop of Glasgow
 + Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh
 + Joseph Toal, Vice-President, Bishop of Motherwell
 + Hugh Gilbert, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Aberdeen

+ Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld
 + John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley
 + William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway
 + Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles



St. Bernadette's RC Church Tullibody Parish Newsletter 4th June 2017 - Pentecost Sunday

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Baingle Brae, Tullibody. FK10 2SG

Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No. SC001810

MASS TIMES: Saturday Vigil 5.30pm. Sunday Mass 11.30am

Weekday Masses: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sat mornings at 9.30am.

Tuesday - No Services Friday Evening at 7.00pm



Parish Website: <http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes/>

For newsletters, notices, information from groups, history, links to schools, other catholic organisations and publications.

Welcome

Are you visiting our Parish or have you just moved into the area?

Please feel very welcome.....

Introduce yourself to the Parish Priest or welcomers at the back of the church.

There are no strangers here just new friends you haven't yet met....

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick: Margaret McIntyre, Dave Kerr, Margaret Tobin, Sarah Jane Connelly, Lisa Hertwig, Dr. Michael Basquill, Margaret Foye, Susie Meehan, Brendan Murphy, Margaret Byrne, Lynne Malkiewicz, Toni Stolarek, (Kathleen Clarke & Family, Peter-James, Gerard and Shaun-Joseph), Cath McLaughlin, John Craig, Agnes and Theresa Conlan and all those in the various nursing homes.



Remember those who have recently died... Catherine Connor, Fr. Edward, Janet Craig and Bryan Coates



and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time....

Elizabeth Lawlor, John Lewsley, Madge Coyle, Bernard McKeown, and Charles Glendinning,

Please also remember in your prayers all those killed and injured in Manchester last week, also pray for their families & friends and all those involved in providing support for them in any way.



Parish Collections 28th May

Gift Aided	£406.90
Non Gift-Aided	£199.46
Special Collection	£295.84

REGULAR MEETINGS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Meet every 2 weeks in Church hall at 10.30am before Sunday mass. Next meetings: 18 June

KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA:

Meet on first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall at St. Mungo's Alloa.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

PENTECOST IS END OF PASCHALTIDE

The Paschal Candle is put out and only now lit at funeral services and baptisms.

PARISH DIARY

Saturday 3rd June	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's. 5.30pm - Vigil Mass, St. Bernadette's.	Pentecost Sunday
SUNDAY 4th June	11.30am - Morning Mass, St. Bernadette's.	
Monday 5th June	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 6.00pm - Fabric & Maintenance, parish house.	
Tues 6th June	10.30 am Mass, Nazareth House, Edinburgh. NO SERVICES IN PARISH	
Wednesday 7th June	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 10.00am First Communion Confessions 11.00am - PFC	
Thurs 8th June	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 1.30pm & 6.30pm - School Concert	
Friday 9th June	7.00pm - Evening Mass. Feast of St. Columba. At request of KSC the mass is dedicated to the victims of the recent Manchester bombing and all victims of terror. 7.45pm - Teachers Retirement Dinner	
Saturday 10th June	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's. 5.30pm - Vigil Mass, St. Bernadette's.	Trinity Sunday
SUNDAY 11th June	11.30am - Morning Mass, St. Bernadette's. FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS	

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8 June	10am - Clacks Full Council meeting.
11 June	First Holy Communions - 12 June 1st Communicants breakfast in Hall.
15 June	Corpus Christi
16 June	6.30pm - Parish Mass to celebrate 40 years anniversary of ordination Fr. Mike, concelebrated with Bishop Stephen and priests, followed by reception.
18 June	Mass celebrated by Fr. Brian (19 & 21 June 9.30am Morning Office & Holy Communion)
28 June	Wednesday Mass at 10.30am (not 9.30) Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen, school mass for retirement of Elizabeth Philliben and Anne Allen.
29 June	9.30am & 7.00pm Feast of Saints Peter and Paul – Holiday of Obligation
15 Sept	Friday. Wedding St. John Vianney's
23/24 Sept	Mary's Meals weekend
9/10 Oct	Priests' Council, Kinnoul, Perth
10/11/12 Oct	Biblical Course for priests, Perth

Diocesan Youth Mass:
The next Diocesan Youth Mass will be on
Sunday 25th June 2017
in the Cathedral.

Parish Website: <http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes/>

Feed the Hungry:

Please place non-perishable & tinned items etc. in the box/ basket at the back of the church.

Members of SVDP & KSC will distribute the goods to the needy in our area and also support "The Gate" Foodbank in Alloa.

"The Gate" Newsletter is in the parish website in "Links" page... In it there is a request for good quality school uniforms that can be passed on. (Accepting donations of uniforms [from 3-16yrs] from now to 23 July 2017.)

MAY APPEAL: We urgently need stock items, such as; Rice Pudding, Tinned Fruit, Meat Paste, Tinned ham, Corned beef, Tinned veg (carrots, peas, sweetcorn), packets of custard powder, pasta & sauce, savoury rice, Noodles, cheese sauce mix, Instant potatoes, Weetabix, Variety Cereal Pack, Jam, Coffee & Tea, Squash

PENTECOST - Happy birthday church - once again!

We are all growing old and maturing and often the Church is pushed aside as being too old, out of touch and just plain too ancient for this modern world. Yet who is the Church? Whose birthday is it?

When Jesus on the cross handed over his Spirit to the Father this same Spirit was later given to the Apostles and then to us at our baptism. This same Holy Spirit who made Jesus during his life reach out to those on the extreme margins of society, the most excluded and rejected and offer them a new chance, new life it is the same Spirit given to us.

Just as that Spirit exploded into a joy in the apostles and was expressed in the courageous announcing of the Good News in a world that too thought it could not get in any worse or change – the church was born. Celebrate the Church's birth is not just to remember a moment in the past but celebrate how that same Holy Spirit is alive, influencing people everywhere to reach out again to those excluded and forgotten and tell them they are important, wanted.

Today is a day to thank the Father for sending the Spirit that transformed the lives of the apostles and has changed the lives of countless people throughout the ages. It is a day to open ourselves, we who are the Church of today, and let that same life changing Spirit transform us to announce what is Good News

Let this Pentecost be an opportunity to become aware that God is working through each and everyone one of us if we allow him. Just as the Spirit surprised the world, then let him surprise us now. The apostles could never have believed what an effect they would have had on the world. We the Church may think we can do little in this fast moving, seemingly ungodly world but this Pentecost Sunday let the Spirit surprise us beyond our very own imaginations.... **Happy birthday!**



Congratulations to Fran & Tina Murphy who celebrated 50 years of married life recently in Rome

FR MIKE'S 40TH PRIESTLY CELEBRATION.

On the 17th June Fr. Mike celebrates 40 years of his ordination to the priesthood. On Friday the 16th we will have a special mass of thanksgiving at 6.30pm. This will be concelebrated with Bishop Stephen and about 22 priests. The first two rows will be occupied by Fr. Mike's family, nieces and nephews and some friends. At Fr. Mike's request our celebrations will be very low key, no speeches and the emphasis will be on the liturgy. However, afterwards we will go up to the Civic Centre, Tullibody for refreshments. The car park is expected to be full and there will be a bus load of foreign students arriving about that time (nothing to do with our celebrations!) It may be good to park early at the Civic Centre or try and leave the car at home allowing visitors and priests from far away to use the car park.

RETIREMENT MASS FOR LIZ PHILLEBEN & MRS ANNE ALLEN

The mass will be just before the end of term on Wednesday 28th June celebrated by Bishop Stephen and all the priests who served in St. John Vianney's and St. Bernadette's while both were teaching at St. Bernadette's.

PRESENT OF VESTMENT

The parish at Christ mas had bought a special frontal altar cloth and lecterns cover for First Communions and feasts of the Eucharist. These were bought in Brazil. There is an accompanying chasuble for a priest which we have also bought as a present from the parish for Fr. Mike. This he will use at the First Communion mass and at his 40th Thanksgiving Celebration mass.

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

WINDOWS: Weekday mass during the next few weeks may suddenly be transferred to the hall as a firm is renewing the glass and window frames at the front of the church.

KNEELERS: By now the rubber stoppers under the kneelers should have been replaced. It has meant a lot of work to replace over 500 stoppers and we have had to be creative in doing so, if you notice any problem please inform someone on our team.



NEXT SUNDAY - FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

First benches will be reserved for first communicants. The church is expected to be full so please arrive early. Remember many people do not normally come to St. Bernadette's so let us give them, as always, a warm welcome.

The church is expected to be full. You may decide to come to the Vigil Mass.



"I encourage everyone to engage in constructive forms of communication that reject prejudice towards others and foster hope and trust today." - (POPE FRANCIS @Pontifex)