

## FINAL COLLECTION DAY FOR OUR ADVENT PROJECT

Once again we will have an Advent Project where we will all work together with our neighbouring parishes. During Advent and on Christmas day there will be a collection bucket at the back of the church. It's an opportunity to give a little of ourselves to help others with greater needs.



**We ask parents to take this opportunity to explain Christmas, how lucky our children are receiving presents and that we thank God for our blessings and share with those in need.**

**Project 1.** We aim to finance the drilling of a well 50m deep to find water and train people to supply water to irrigate the land. **Cost of Project 1 is £2,900.**

**Project 2.** We aim to finance the building of a "baby facility" that one day will be part of an orphanage. **Cost of Project 2 is £3,000**

**Both are part of larger projects and are both critical and life saving.**

**More details at:** <http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes/groups.html>

Up to date information is posted on the large noticeboard at back of the church

**Parish total collected to date: £1,397.20** This includes a single donation of £500 this week

... Christ proclaims salvation, this great gift of God which is liberation from everything that oppresses [humankind] but which is above all liberation from sin and the evil one. - (Evangelii Nuntiandi 9)



A Catholic Social Teaching message from Pope Paul VI: "If you want Peace, work for Justice."

### GATHERING OF CATHOLIC PARENTS

The parent Involvement Working Group of the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) are organising an event for all interested Catholic parents with children currently at school. This Gathering for Catholic Parents will take place on **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2017** between **10.00am and 12 p.m. in St. Francis Xavier Church Hall, Taylor Avenue, Carfin.** During this event parents will have the chance to talk to each other about the matters which are important to them regarding Catholic education and to discuss ways in which they can contribute to the Mission of their Child's Catholic school. **Places for this event are free. but booking is essential.**

For further information & booking places contact SCES by email: [mail@sces.uk.com](mailto:mail@sces.uk.com) or by telephone: [0141 556 4727](tel:01415564727) or by completing the online form at [sces.org.uk](http://sces.org.uk)

### St. Bernadette's Primary School

#### Enrolments

We will be enrolling our new P1s on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. Please inform any friends and/or family who are considering sending their child to St. Bernadette's that they should phone the school on 01259 723973 to arrange a time to enrol on those dates. The child should be 5 or before 28.02.18. Proof of address, a birth certificate and baptism certificate (if the child is baptised) will be needed. It is easy to check whether or not St. Bernadette's is a child's catchment school on the Council website at:

<http://www.clacksweb.org.uk/mapping/schoolcatchment.php>

**All parents who live within the catchment, and wish their child to attend St. Bernadette's, should enrol directly with us.**

**There is no need to enrol with another school or to put in a placing request.**



After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him.'

(Matt 2:13)

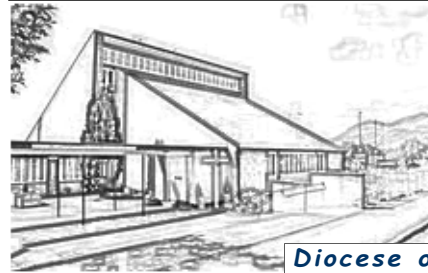


Shine a light of hope this Christmas

<http://www.acnuk.org/>

## St. Bernadette's - Parish Newsletter

25th December 2016 + Christmas Day



Diocese of Dunkeld Scottish Charity No. SC001810

**Parish Priest:**

**Fr. Mike Freyne MHM**

Email: [mafreyne@btinternet.com](mailto:mafreyne@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01259 213274

**Baingle Brae,  
Tullibody. FK10 2SG**

Parish Website <http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes/> Has all newsletters & notices, information from groups, history, links to schools and other catholic organisations and publications.

**MASS TIMES: Till end of January 2017**

**Saturday Vigil Mass, 5.30pm + Sunday Morning Mass, 11.30am**

**Morning Office & Holy Communion:**

**Monday, Wed, Thurs & Sat at 9.30am.**

**Friday & Tuesday - No Services**

# 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 newcomers 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 Mc'Intyre, Anne Mc'Niven, Margaret Tobin, Austen Todd, Sarah Jane Connelly, Margaret Foye, Kathleen Clarke & Family, (Veronica, Peter-James, Gerard, Bernard and Sean-Joseph), Susie Meehan, Brendan Murphy, Paul Kochanek, Margaret Byrne, Dave Kerr, Lynne Malkiewicz, Sheena Neil, Lisa Hertwig, Dr. Michael Basquill, Vera Freyne (Fr. Mike's mother) and all those in the various nursing homes.

**Remember those who have recently died...**

Dan Tierney and Rose Anne McLanachan

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

Bernard Hughes and Waverley Rawson.



### Parish Collections

18th December	Gift Aided	£376.60
	Non Gift Aided	£259.54

### REGULAR MEETINGS

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:** Meet every 2 weeks in Church hall at 10.30am before Sunday mass. Next meetings: January 2017

**KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA:** Meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in St. Mungo's Church Hall Alloa.

**Please note there will be no newsletter next week. Next issue will be on 8th January 2017**

# PARISH DIARY

Saturday 24th December	NO MORNING MASS OR CONFESSIONS 7.00pm - CAROLS 7.30pm - CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS	
Sunday 25th December	CHRISTMAS DAY 11.30am - CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	
Monday 26th December	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion. Feast of St. Stephen	
Tues 27th Dec	NO SERVICES	
Wednesday 28th December	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion. Feast of The Holy Innocents	
Thurs 29th Dec	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion.	
Friday 30th Dec	NO SERVICES Feast of The Holy Family	
Saturday 31st December	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion. 5.30pm - Vigil Mass, St. Bernadette's	Octave of Christmas. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Sunday 1st January	11.30am - Morning Mass, St. Bernadette's	
Mon 2nd January	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion.	
Tues 3rd Jan	NO SERVICES	
Wed 4th Jan	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion.	
Thurs 7th Jan	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion.	
Friday 6th Jan.	NO SERVICES	
Saturday 7th January	9.30am - Morning Office & Holy Communion, St. Bernadette's 5.30pm - Vigil Mass, St. Bernadette's	Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday 8th January	Special Collection for Justice & Peace 11.30am - Morning Mass, St. Bernadette's	

**During Fr. Mike's absence till end of January Canon John will be on call for emergency sick calls & funerals (01259 212486). All other parish business is dealt by those responsible or by Peter (chairperson of PPC) or Ronnie (vice chair). Anything to do with Education will be dealt by Mons McCaffery.**

**\* Please note these arrangements and Diary may change as Fr Mike's mother has taken ill and he may have to cancel or change his travel arrangements.**

**Feed the Hungry** Please place non-perishable /tinned items etc.in the basket/ box at the back of the Church. Members of our SVDP & KSC will distribute the goods to the needy in our area and also support "The Gate" Foodbank Alloa.



The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Mrs. Tina Murphy. Thanks to all parishioners who supported the raffle, which raised £427 for Missio & Missio Scotland."

Lourdes Youth Project 100 club December winners: 1st M. McKay, 2nd Maureen Mc'Brearty



## Christmas thoughts



The TV adverts promise us this Christmas is going to be wonderful, joyful even magical. All you parents, and even grandparents will confirm that, with children, Christmas is wonderful and magical. But then, stop, and think of past Christmases. What have you learnt from reality? Is it slightly different from your dream reality?

There are tears and frustration because your child wants to open all the doors on the advent calendar in one day!

There are tantrums because your child wants to eat all the chocolates off the Christmas tree! You get fed up by constantly having to either; unbox toys; assemble toys; install batteries or; a combination of all three!

You end up cooking a massive Christmas lunch for three, that your little one won't be able to eat much of, and one that you won't feel like eating much of yourself, after six hours of preparation and cooking!

A lot of your time is spent trying to find somewhere to stash all the new toys and clothes! You are absolutely exhausted and ready to call it a night by 8pm on Christmas day! Remember? But it still is magical!

So often we turn Christmas into a fairy tale and miss some of its crucial messages about real life. Is it not true we tell the kids about a manger scene with angels hovering near by, strong, nicely bearded shepherds looking on with their cuddly sheep, meek animals sharing their warmth, a strong good looking Joseph, and a humble baby that seems invincible, a halo over Mary's head and a starry moon lit night?

So far from the reality of that first Christmas! Think about the reality: Mary, a teenage mum to be, is with Joseph who knows he is definitely not the father Joseph has to take his girlfriend Mary, who is 9 months pregnant, to walk 50 miles to Bethlehem, something to do with taxes created by the oppressive Romans.

Joseph fails to book ahead and they are homeless and end up in some kind of cave or shed where Mary goes into labour, without sedatives, nor help to give birth to her son, Jesus. His bed, if you can call it that is the prickly straw in an unsanitary, smelly, trough for animals. There's a crazy king Herod, a type of Middle Eastern dictator giving orders to kill all boys age 2 or younger and so they are soon going to be on the run, refugees to Egypt. That's the reality God choses to enter our humanity. You cannot get much closer to our real world. Conflicts, poverty, violence, oppressive politics, refugees, human stresses and difficulties, life just not working out the way we dream of.

We have the fairy tale Christmas and the real one... But life is like that... The dream and the reality... Boyhood dreams to be a doctor, a jet pilot, footballer and we are not; the perfect woman – she's not and we are not... Big happy family - and the disappointments and separations Wonderful opportunities - and things go wrong and life is a hard struggle.

But if God comes to us in the way he did then there is another reality: We are not alone; **God cares!** God is committed to us no matter what. He has been through it and knows what we are feeling. The God born in a humble stable in a real, harsh world and not a fairy tale offers us purpose and hope in life.

Let us take a moment this Christmas Day and pray that the child Jesus, born in a humble manger, can once again give birth, offering to a suffering, struggling people, a new hope - **We are not alone. He cares for us. The real Christmas can still really be magical.**

**A TRUALLY JOYFUL AND MAGICAL CHRISTMAS TO ALL!**

*Fr. Mike.*