

## Roof of the Parish House

For more than a year now the roof of the parish house has been needing repair. When there is a strong wind the attics could be rented out as wind tunnels! Then the local kids thought it was fun to use the roof as a slide !! Many slates were broken, loose or missing. One had been replaced with felt. Last weekend we managed to do a small repair job that should prevent the house becoming Noah's Ark.

## Parish Web Site

The web page is still in its formative stages but a lot has been done. We are still lacking the history of St. John Vianney's, and need to complete St. Bernadette's. You can find the site at [www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys](http://www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys) or [www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes](http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes). Whichever url/address you enter, you will be taken to the same site as both churches are currently sharing the same site. Each time there is a newsletter it should be on the web.

## For Rent: St. John Vianney's Parish Hall

The hall is large, modern and airy, with a kitchen and toilet facilities. Its main aim is to facilitate our evangelisation which also includes building up community. Obviously, it has costs (cleaning material and cleaning people, electricity, insurance etc.) but it is available for a very reasonable rent for family celebrations and is ideal for a family celebration after a baptism or child's birthday party.

## Alva Notice Board

Please note the gates to St. John Vianney's are never locked and are normally wide open. The new notice board is now on the church wall and will be updated every week with recent information. This should provide a valuable service to visitors, those who mislay their parish newsletter and help us avoid a lot of phone calls to the parish. Many thanks to all those who collaborated.

# Thank you for Easter!

## First of May - Labour Day

Few remember the roots of First of May celebrations. Some believe it was invented by governments or is a day some companies offer a barbecue for their employees. Some countries parade their military might as if it was a sign of government power. Memories tend to be very short.



What stands out for me was the shipbuilding yard's midday siren announcing lunch time and instead of long queues heading for the canteen over 30% of the 7,000 work force headed to the main gate where a make shift altar had been placed on top of an old lorry (yard's owners would not allow us inside). Two priests and a group of men calling the work force to come together for 10 minutes to remember May Day and to pray. A day of prayer and to keep alive the memory of the first May Day in 1886 in Chicago (which was actually 4th May) where a 100 workers were murdered but that was to begin a journey that would slowly lead to respecting workers rights and an 8 hour working day. Something most of us are grateful for and take for granted but forget many died for.



## Sunday Mass Times

9.30 am, St. John Vianney's  
Alva

11.30 am, St. Bernadette's  
Tullibody

6.15 pm, St. John Vianney's  
Alva

# Newsletter for the Parishes of St. John Vianney's & St. Bernadette's

Easter Sunday  
26 April 2009

Diocese of Dunkeld  
Scottish Charity No. SC001180

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Parish Priest

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**St. Bernadette's**

Baingle Brae  
Tullibody  
FK10 2SG



**St. John Vianney's**

16 East Stirling Street  
Alva  
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**Sister Nora Carr U.J. & Sister Margaret**

Parish Sisters

St. John Vianney's

Tel: 01259 760 324

## Welcome

If you are a visitor to our Parish or have just moved into the area, then please feel very welcome. Introduce yourself to the Parish Priest or welcome at the back of the church and remember - there are no strangers here only new friends you just haven't yet met.



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

Those who are sick...

Chris Conway, Veronica Clarke, Mary Dryland, Annie Fitzgerald, Pat Franchie, B. Goldie, V. Kosciwz, Vera Mary, Frances Massimino, M. McGeehan, B. McGuinness, J. McCann, Patrick Meehan, Josie Nichols, B. Ray, Annie Russell and Bronia Schultz.

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

EBella Harley, Jeremiah Scott, Eddie Kennedy

## Parish Finances 2009 Collections

St. John Vianney's, Alva	
Easter Sunday	£682.06
Sunday 19 April	£397.94
St. Bernadette's, Tullibody	
Easter Sunday	£1148.76
Sunday 19 April	£293.14
<b>Good Friday Collection for Holy Places, St. John Vianney's &amp; St. Bernadette's</b>	<b>£171.85</b>

# This Week and Forth Coming Events

Sunday, 26 April	SMA Fathers will be making a mission appeal
Monday, 27 April	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Wednesday, 29 April	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Thursday, 30 April	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Friday, 1 May	9.30am - Mass St. John Vianney's, Alva
Saturday, 2 May	9.30am - Mass + Confessions, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Sunday, 3 May Good Shepherd Sunday	World Day of Prayer for Vocations Masses as normal 12.30pm - Baptism, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Monday, 4 May	9.30am - Mass + Confessions, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Wednesday, 6 May	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Thursday, 7 May	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's, Tullibody
Friday, 8 May	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Saturday, 9 May	9.30am - Morning Office And Communion No Mass or Confessions Fr. Mike Retreat For SVDPs Region Of Blairgowrie

**St. Vincent De Paul** meet every Sunday after the morning mass in Alva. The SVDP in St. Bernadette's meet before Sunday mass at 10.30 am.

**UCM** meets every Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in Alva.

**Knights of St. Columba** meet every first Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall at St. Mungo's, Alloa.

## Morning Office

At the present moment a small booklet is being prepared that will contain the Morning Office (of Week II). Most people found this very prayerful and offered more participation at the beginning of weekday mass. When for some reason there is no mass Morning Office may, under Fr. Mike's orientation, be said followed by holy communion.



## SMA Fathers

Properly called the Society of African Missions the Society has always been known as simply SMA. Found in 1856, SMA comprise of approximately 1,200 priests working for the spread of the Gospel throughout the whole continent of Africa. There are 250 young men preparing for priesthood in the SMA from Africa, Asia, Philippines, Europe and USA.

The Society was created to help establish the Church and a local clergy throughout Africa and it continues to do that to this day. Its members are to be found in those areas where the poorest and most vulnerable people are living.

From the outset the SMA has been involved in establishing schools, medical facilities and community resources. In this they try to minister to the "Whole Person", body soul and spirit. They are to be found in rural areas of Africa and in the great cities where there is great hardship. Our sister congregation – Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles was founded to join in this ministry. Today the priests of the Society work alongside local clergy, encouraging and supporting them where necessary. In short the Society aims to spread the Gospel of Jesus by Word, by Sacrament and in by action.

## Confirmation: A Very, Very Special Day

We tend to automatically associate the gift of the Holy Spirit with the day of Pentecost- that incredible day when the Spirit turned the lives of the Apostles upside down and marked the birth of the Church. No matter how wonderful and important that day was we can also say that Thursday was a very, very special day for 29 children of the three parishes of St. Bernadette's, St. John Vianney's and St. Mungos who were confirmed by Fr. Mike and Fr. Michael. With a packed church as witnesses we prayed that the children having received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, helped by their parents, sponsors and the whole Christian community, continue their journey as true witnesses and contribute to the growth of God's Kingdom.



We thank all those who contributed to make this day possible and we pray that the Holy Spirit equips us to love and serve better.

## Gift Aid

**Would you like to increase your weekly offering by 25% without it costing you a penny more? The government's Gift Aid scheme allows the church to claim back 25p tax on every pound you give in your weekly offering.**

First, you have to be a taxpayer and pay a sum of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to or greater than the amount being claimed back by the church. For example, if you give £5 every week, you would need to be paying at least £5.42 tax per month or £65 tax per year. The amount of tax for other amounts will be proportionately higher or lower.

Next, you have to make out a Gift Aid declaration in favour of the church. The Gift Aid coordinators are Charlie Conlan at St Bernadette's and Helen Parry at St John Vianney's. They will be able to give you a declaration form and answer any questions you have.

Lastly, if you make your offering by cash, you need to use Offertory envelopes. Alternatively, you can make your offering monthly by standing order into the church bank account. This is because the church has to maintain records to prove that the offerings were made. (Another advantage of using envelopes is that your offering will be returned to St Bernadette's or St John Vianney's irrespective of where you go to mass).