

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent our Church Calendar. Light is growing, Darkness is receding! The term Gaudete is from the Latin and means, "Rejoice". That word appears in the entrance antiphon of Masses held on this day: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!* The Lord is nearing, there is much to rejoice about. For those of you who are parents, remember how it was when time for the baby to be born approached? Remember how though you knew it would change your life forever you simply couldn't wait? Well a Baby is coming that can change more than just our lives, He changes the entire world.

IN THE PINK (December 16th) The purple candles on the Advent Wreath are joined today by a pink one, since the Third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete" Sunday. In some places the purple vestments are also replaced by rose-coloured ones to heighten this sense of joyfulness. So why is there such emphasis on rejoicing today? We pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ and we sing "Gaudete", the first word of the old Latin opening song for today's celebration which means "rejoice": *Rejoice in the Lord always; once more I tell you, rejoice!* Let your tolerance be evident to all people, for the Lord is near



FAITH IN FOCUS: A PERFECT CHRISTMAS? By now you're probably fed up with all the adverts to get you to spend your money in order to have "the Christmas you and your family deserve". But is there such a thing as a perfect Christmas?

It might not have seemed so for Mary. She had every reason to dread that first Christmas. A young teenage girl, she now finds herself having a baby and is unmarried. What will her family say? How's she going to explain things to Joseph? And what about the neighbours? There'll be tongues wagging all over the place and she'll probably be living under a cloud for years to come. Only she and God would ever really understand. And she didn't understand much.

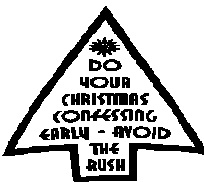
Joseph's probably wasn't looking forward to that first Christmas either. For him it didn't look too promising. People would point him out as the husband who'd been the last to know. They'd wonder why he didn't simply ditch Mary. And he probably had a nagging feeling that all these strange dreams were storing up trouble for the future.

Joseph and Mary are good examples of the untidiness of human existence, of how things rarely go according to plan. It's strange, isn't it, that God couldn't find some perfect parents for his only Son? He ends up with these two.

Maybe that's what Christmas is about. Perhaps one of its jobs is to remind us that into our "screwed up" planet, into the bleak complexity of our private lives, into a world where achievements never seem to match up to yearnings, into the higgledy-piggledy days of our existence...the infant God is born.

God could have chosen some ideal scenario into which to be born. But he chose one that was profoundly human instead. It was all so fragile: Mary had to trust the angel; Joseph had to trust Mary; God had to trust them both.

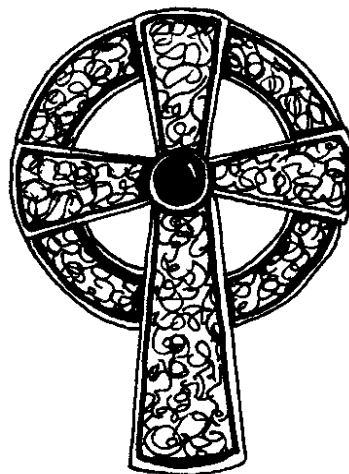
Christmas is almost upon us and we're surely not on top of things; in fact, we're probably dreading some. But if this week we were able to realise that the child Jesus offers to keep being born into the jumble of our human lives, no matter how untidy they are, then we would have experienced a great truth. And despite all the stress and strain we would have had a perfect Christmas into the bargain.



CONFESSION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS What does "Immediately" after mass mean? It means that immediately after mass Fr. Mike will go into the confessional room and attend to all who are waiting for confessions. As soon as the last one is attended he will leave. If 3 minutes later someone else turns up he will not stop what he is doing nor change his plans.
He will not return to the confessional.

Blues Mass The parishes of St. Bernadette's and St. John Vianney's invite you and your family to celebrate a special Christmas mass – the "**Blues Mass**", especially for you to remember, during this Christmas season, someone loved, special, important for you who has died. The death need not be recent but is not forgotten. Come and join us, to celebrate this special mass where we can allow ourselves to be "low" but be lifted up with hope and joy as we celebrate our belief in the Resurrection which begins with the birth of the God-child Jesus at Christmas.

ALL WELCOME at St. Bernadette's Church, Tullibody, on Tues 22nd December at 7.00pm



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

Website www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes or www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys or

GOOGLE US !!

St. Bernadette's
Baingle Brae
Tullibody
FK10 2SG
Tel: 01259 213274



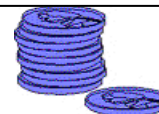
St. John Vianney's
16 East Stirling Street
Alva
FK12 5HR
Tel: 01259 213274

Sister Nora Carr U.J. & Sr. Margaret Maher U.J.
Parish Sisters - Ursulines of Jesus
St. John Vianney's
Tel: 01259 760324

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 welcomers at the back of the church.

Remember - there are no strangers here only new friends you just haven't yet met.

Parish Finance 2009 Collections



St. John Vianney's, Alva

6 December

£370.32

St. Bernadette's, Tullibody

6 December

£468.84

**Special Collection for
Fabric & Maintenance
THANKS TO ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTED**

£836.57



Please Remember in Your Prayers Those who are sick.....

Bishop Vincent Logan, Fr. Ian Mullen,
Pat Franchie, Bronia Schultza, Tom Glass,
Vera Kasciewicz, Mary McGeehan,
Josie Nichols, Veronica Clarke, Jan Moffat,
Mary Dryland, Jean McCann, Annie Fitzgerald,
Patrick Meehan, Annie Russell, William Norwood,
Robert McInnes, Jim Hislop, Lawrence Allan, Mary Elliot,
Mary Wilkie, Margaret Hamilton, James Cairns,
James Gallacher, John Reid Crichton, Winnie Lees,
Dan Tierney, Gerard Clarke, Jimmy McQueenie,
and Maeve Segrave
Remember those who have recently died.....
Pat Carlin

and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time..... Brian Masterson, James Smith, Mary Tobin, Hugh McDonald, Edward Tobin, John & Silvia Cooper, James Tobin, Cathy Davis, Colin Conner, Peter Witton, Thomas McKaveny (Junior) and Ken Oxford,



Christmas & Advent 2009

	ALL DURING THIS WEEK CONFESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY AFTER DAILY MASS. Next week Anointing of the Sick Mon21st & Wed23rd see below
Sunday 13 December 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C	Masses as normal. St.John Vianney's: St.Bernadette's School presentation at end of mass. 1 pm - St.John Vianney's - baptism 3.00pm - Memorial Ecumenical Service, St.Mungo's Parish Church
Mon 14th December	9.30am - Mass St.John Vianney's 5.00pm - Reception of body of Pat Carlin, St.John Vianney's, Alva.
Tues 15th December	9.30am - Funeral Mass for Pat Carlin, St.John Vianney's Alva following on to Falkirk Crematorium.
Wed 16th December	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's 7.00pm - Parishes' Christmas Mass of Thanksgiving followed by drinks & savouries for all parish Workers, St.John Vianney's hall.
Thurs 17th December	9.30am - In Church, St.Bernadette's end of school term mass. 10.45am - Celebration of Anointing of Sick, Orchard House 12.Noon - Deanery Meeting, Dunblane
Fri 18th December	9.30am - Mass, St.John Vianney's 2.00 pm - St.Bernadette's School nativity play. 7.00pm - Fabric & Maintenance Committee, Parish House
Sat 19th December	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's 11 am - St.John Vianney's - Baptism
Sunday 20 December 4th Sunday of Advent year C	Masses as normal 12.30pm - St Bernadette's, Baptism 4.00pm - St.John Vianney's Christmas liturgy of catechetical classes,
Mon 21st December	9.30am - St.John Vianney's Mass & Anointing of Sick 7.00pm - St.John Vianney's, Penitential Service
Tues 22nd December	7 pm St.Bernadette's: Christmas Blues Mass for widows, widowers, friends of our deceased, remembered in a special way at this time of Christmas
Wed 23rd December	9.30am - St.Bernadette's, Mass & Anointing of sick. 7.00pm - St.Bernadette's, Penitential Service.
Thurs 24th December Christmas Eve	8.00am - St.Bernadette's Confessions (last confession 8.30) 11.00am - Confessions & Mass, Glenochill Prison 9.30pm - St.Bernadette's Vigil Mass 11.30pm - Carols, St.John Vianney's 00.00 - St.John Vianney's Vigil mass
Friday 25th December Christmas Day	9.30am - Mass, St.John Vianney's 11.30am - Mass, St.Bernadette's NO EVENING MASS
Sat 26th December	9.30am - Mass, St.Bernadette's: NO CONFESSIONS
Sunday 27 December Feast of Holy Family	Masses as normal



ST.JOHN VIANNEY'S UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS Many thanks to all who attended our recent sale and/or gave donations. The sum of £200 was raised which will contribute to our annual donation to the Dunkeld Diocesan Ecclesiastical Students Fund.

FABRIC & MAINTENANCE

Really have been working this past week. The **trees** in St.Bernadette's were ruthlessly cut down. One was completely hollow inside, rotten completely, and it was with the Lord's protection the tree, and another, had not yet fallen down and caused serious damage. We are glad to say the firm did a few smaller tree cutting jobs for us and that St.Bernadette's school made use of the wood chips(as we are happy to say so did some of our neighbours) for a future playground project. The huge tree trunks were also hauled round to the school and the same project will make full advantage of them. The children were brought out of classes to see this enormous tractor bring the logs into their play area.

Also the **windows and roof** have been repaired at St.Bernadette's. Again our intervention proved timely and necessary as so much of the timber was rotten. The Joinery Firm besides installing everything with PVC to guarantee no more future problems, also insulated the panelling. So perhaps this will help in the interior warmth of the church.

If you look heavenward outside you will probably notice we took advantage of the scaffolding, and the bravery of some of our men, to **power wash** the tiles and clean it of bird droppings and moss.

Work has began at St. John Vianney's (perhaps terminated by the time you read this ?) of the new **vestment wardrobe and cupboards** space in the "corridor" sacristy. The **main doors** to the church should also have been repaired.

Blessed Are They Who Find Christmas ♦

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the age-old story of a babe born in Bethlehem. To them a little child will always mean hope and promise to a troubled world.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the Christmas star.

Their lives may ever reflect its beauty and light.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the joy of giving lovingly to others.

They shall share the gladness and joy of the shepherds and wise men of old.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the fragrant greens, the cheerful holly and soft flicker of candles. To them shall come bright memories of love and happiness.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the happy music of Christmas time.

They shall have a song of joy ever singing in their hearts.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the message of the Prince of Peace.

They will ever strive to help him bring peace on earth, goodwill to men

(author unknown). James T. Garrett, God's Gift, CSS Publishing Company



PARISHES OF ST. BERNADETTE'S & ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S Invitation God's Team

Life in the church does not just happen. People make it happen. Because of their role, Some people stand out. Others work quietly away, almost unnoticed. But all are important to make life so wonderful. Most are motivated by their faith in the Risen Jesus and do not expect thanks.

However, as a Parish we would like to express our appreciation and thank you for all you do to help make Jesus visible in our Parish community.

We would be honoured, as we celebrated the birth of Jesus this Christmas, with your presence at a Parish Mass of thanksgiving followed by refreshments and savouries.

CHRISTMAS MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR PARISH WORKERS

WEDNESDAY 16TH December 2009 at 7 Pm

At St.John Vianney's Church followed by refreshments in St.John Vianney's Parish Hall.

Our thanks for all your work throughout this year 2009

ST.BERNADETTE'S SCHOOL Has been very busy and we thank them for the presence and Christian witness they give in the community. Last Sunday they sung and gave their Christmas message to the 11.30 mass. During the week the smaller children gave a wonderful musical presentation for all the residents at Orchard House and this Sunday the school will be present at the 9.30 mass.

END OF TERM SCHOOL MASS is Thursday at 9.30am at St.Bernadette's Church. Parents and friends please come along and close the school year with your children at mass