

CONFIRMATIONS - Congratulations

Today at St. Bernadette's 6 of our children will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is an important moment in the life of our parishes and the children.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

To many this sacrament is a little confusing as the age you celebrate this sacrament depends very much on the Bishops' Conference of each country. In some parts of the world you receive this sacrament a growing child, other parts as a teenager. In Fr. Mike's last Diocese in Brazil the youth had a year's preparation course of 2 hours preparation a week. To enter the course you had to already be a practising catholic and by your way of living must have shown that you practised Christian values. This was generally understood to mean being active in a church organization or a community orientated group like a Trade Union or neighbourhood association.

Since the Early Church this sacrament has always been understood to be the second of three sacraments of INITIATION. Confirmation is seen as a deepening commitment of your baptism as through this sacrament the person is bound even more closely to the church and has the greater responsibility to be a witness of Christ by the way they live. The Christian has a deeper obligation to be missionary in spirit and spread the gospel by the way they live. The third stage of INITIATION is one's first Holy Communion when we become full members of Christ's Church.

Two strong symbols are important in the sacrament of Confirmation.



The LAYING ON OF HANDS and ANOINTING WITH HOLY OIL.

Both are signs of the power and transmission of the Holy Spirit. The normal minister of confirmation is our bishop but in many places this is delegated to the parish priest. This year Fr. Mike will administer the sacrament to our children. It is a very significant moment, not just in the religious lives of the children but in the life of the parish community.

We congratulate the children on another step in their spiritual growth and guarantee them our constant support especially during the next few intensive final weeks of preparation for their first holy communion.

As part of the children's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation the children had to write a letter to Fr. Mike asking to be confirmed and explaining why he should confirm them. Some will be placed at the back of the church.

ATTENTION MARRIAGES + BAPTISMS

Before Christmas we advised all couples who had asked to reserve a date for their wedding to make contact with Fr. Mike in the first week of February. We have since repeated the request and been unable to make contact with some couples who are leaving it almost too late to process their documents. Will people, also families for baptism, please make an appointment with Fr. Mike IMMEDIATELY.



The SCIAF collection boxes handed in during holy week have been counted. St. John Vianney's collected £971.55 and St. Bernadette's £200.00 Thanks to all who contributed

Newsletter for the Parishes of

St. Bernadette's & St. John Vianney's

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)

8th May 2011, Third Sunday of Easter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mike Freyne MHM

Tel: 01259 213 274

Email: mafreyne@hotmail.com

Sister Nora Carr U.J. & Sr. Margaret Maher U.J.

Parish Sisters - Ursulines of Jesus

St. John Vianney's

Tel: 01259 760324

St. Bernadette's

Baingle Brae

Tullibody FK10 2SG

Tel: 01259 213274



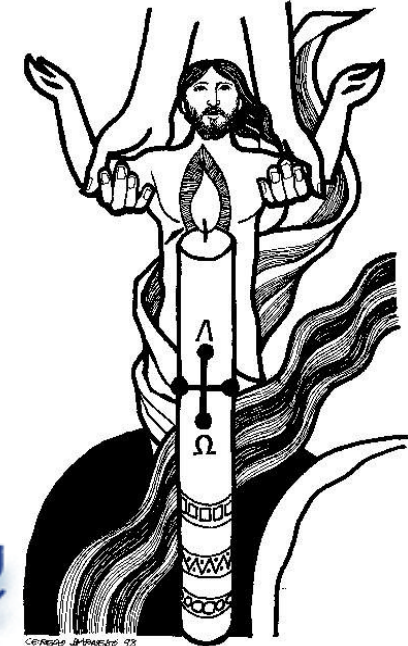
St. John Vianney's

16 East Stirling Street

Alva FK12 5HR

Tel: 01259 213274

Welcome



Are you visiting our Parish or have 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 just haven't yet met.

Parish Finance Collections



St. Bernadette's 24th April 2011	£920.07
1st May 2011	£385.09
St. John Vianney's 24th April 2011	£589.54
22nd April Good Friday	£198.50
1st May 2011	£441.16



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

Jean McCann, Dan Tierney, Josie Nicholl, Hugh Mangan, Lawrence Allan, Mary Wilkie, Vera Kasiewicz, Mary Dryland, Jackie Smith, Mary McGeehan, Mary Elliot, Jackie Davies, Hilda Borkowski, Betty Whitton, Alec Paterson, Sarah Lownie, Christie Scott, Sandy Taylor, Theresa Cook, Jean Quinn, Brendan Murphy, Violet Lindsey, Alma White, Georgina Fraser, Veronica Day, Mrs. Roy, Lidia Kochanek, Henry Lorimar, Catherine Miller, and all those in the various nursing homes.


Remember those who have recently died.....

John Gillespie.

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

Websites: www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes
& www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys or Google us !!!

MASS TIMES, DIARY AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Morning Masses : St. John Vianney's, 9.30am & St. Bernadette's, 11.30am		Sunday Evening Mass : St. John Vianney's, 6.15pm	
Sunday 8th May	Mass times as normal. Third Sunday of Easter		
Mon 9th May	9.30am - Mass , St. John Vianney's.		
Tues 10th May	No Masses in parish		
Wed 11th May	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's		
Thurs 12th May	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's 7.00pm Liturgy Committee		
Friday 13th May	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - Mass, Golden anniversary of parish in Dundee		
Sat 14th May	9.30am - Mass and Confessions, St. Bernadette's		
Sunday 15th May	Mass times as normal. Fourth Sunday of Easter World Day of Prayer for Vocations		
16th May	6.00pm - First Confessions, St John Vianney's, Alva		
27th May	School Kids residential 3 days - Highlands		
29th May	Mission Appeal by The Holy Ghost Fathers & Special Collection		
4th June	Wedding St. John Vianney's		
16th June	Education Mass, Cathedral, Dundee		
19th June	First Communions, St. Bernadette's		

PPC The Parish Pastoral Council met on Thursday 14th April. For information, notes from the meeting are posted on notice boards inside both churches. The next meeting is on Thursday 9th June



BINGO TEA

St. Bernadette's School is promoting a BINGO TEA on Thursday 12th May. Tickets are £1 per adult and 50p per Concession. Eyes down at 7pm. We are also looking for donations of home baking. Please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE Will meet at 7pm this Thursday, 12th, at St. John Vianney's. All those interested in liturgy and the main topic of reflection are welcome: Evaluation, negative and positive with a view to 2012 of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Evaluation and planning of House Masses. Summer Time.

REGULAR MEETINGS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Meet weekly in St. Bernadette's, at 10.30am before Sunday mass and at St. John Vianney's, on the last Sunday of each month after the Sunday 9.30 morning mass.

U.C.M.: Meets every Wednesday at 2.00pm in St. John Vianney's, Alva.

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

THE EASTER STORY - (WRITTEN BY A CHILD IN P2)

Lots of years ago Jesus got put in a cave then some of Jesus' friends came to roll the boulder away. When they rolled the boulder they looked inside the cave. There was nothing inside the cave. Jesus had risen from the dead. So Jesus' friends ran because they thought the guards would get them and lock them up. They were fed up. Then the guards saw that the boulder was away. So they looked inside. They saw a stranger inside the cave. The stranger told the guards that Jesus was risen from the dead. So the stranger went home and so did the guards. The guards thought that it was sad for the stranger to walk home in the dark. Then they all went to the guards house and they had a dinner. When the stranger halved the bread they realised it was Jesus.



**A new Bishop in Australia. - Congratulations.
Fr Peter Comisoli who celebrated mass here for Fr. Mike while he was on holiday is to be a new auxiliary bishop in Australia.**

COINS

Photos and explanation of where the "Brazil coins " were spent have been on display at the back of St. Bernadette's for the last few weeks and will now go to St. John Vianney's. Now that the SCIAF boxes are over those who wish can collect their loose change for this purpose. There are plenty of jars available and hand them in whenever you want.

CLOTHES

In Brazil normally the higher up the hillside you live nearly always reflects how poor you are. There are couple of hillsides where the kids are walking around on Sundays in designer clothes!! The children's clothes Fr. Mike takes out/sends to Brazil are given to about 8 children. Our second hand clothes are such good quality the kids only ware them on Sundays. Once they are outgrown they are handed on the next generation. So we now have about 5 sets of hand downs reaching from a few months to almost four years. Once again second hand children clothes (our summer clothes and mostly for girls) this year for 4 to 5 years old would be much appreciated. Beginning now.

Inter Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2012

The date of the inter Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes is confirmed as the **13th to the 20th of October 2012.**

The tour will be again by coach and include one night in Nevers.

The approximate cost of this tour is £610 per person including insurance.

Single room supplement will be extra.

The deposits (£70) have to be in by Sunday the 24th of June 2011.

All details can be found in the handout or by contacting George McLaughlin in the first instance. Contact details are as follows:

Home phone number: 01259 218485 Mobile Number: 07906752654

E-mail: george.mcl@virgin.net



New Fence at St. Bernadette's

Fabric & Maintenance have just received a donation of £400 towards the new fence. But there is an interesting piece of parish history behind the donation. When St. Bernadette's church was being built one of her parishoners was Eddie and Helen Kennedy. Eddie worked for the National Coal Board and managed to acquire a donation of a lorry load of the iron posts to hold up the fence and other materials. Since these posts have now been taken away to put up our new fence some members of the family thought it would be a fitting tribute to their parents to help putting up the new fence and sent us this donation. **Many thanks !**