

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELDERLY: THE CHURCH MUST SET AN EXAMPLE OF TO SOCIETY

Vatican City, 23 November 2013 (VIS) – Elderly persons have always been active in the life of the Church, which must set an example to society of how they are always important, indeed “indispensable” said Pope Francis, who this morning received in audience the participants in the 28th International Conference of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers (Health Care Pastoral). The meeting took place from 21 to 23 November in the New Synod Hall and examined the theme “The Church at the service of sick elderly people: care for people with neurodegenerative pathologies”.

The elderly “carry with them the memory and the wisdom of life, which they transmit to others, and participate fully in the Church’s mission. Let us remember that human life always maintains its value in the eyes of God, far beyond any discriminatory view”, emphasised Pope Francis. He went on to mention how the increase in life expectancy throughout the twentieth century has also led a growing number of people to be affected by neurodegenerative pathologies, which are frequently accompanied by a deterioration in cognitive capacities. The Holy Father reiterated the importance of a form of healthcare which “alongside the traditional biomedical model, is enriched by allowing space for dignity and freedom, far from the reclusion and silence that too often surrounds those in the healthcare environment” and, from this perspective, he spoke also of the importance of the religious and spiritual aspect, insisting on the need “to put into practice a particular pastoral approach to accompany the religious life of elderly people with serious degenerative pathologies, with different forms and content, so as not to interrupt the dialogue and relationship of their minds and hearts with God”. “Dear friends”, he concluded, addressing the elderly present, “you are not only the recipients of the evangelical message, but also, by virtue of your Baptism, its proclaimers in the fullest sense”.

### St. John Vianney centenary gift

The Diocese is giving a present of a statue of St. John Vianney to the parish for its centenary. Hopefully we will bring it to the parish over the Christmas period, if not after the New Year.

### St. Bernadette’s cross.

In the past it was easy to point people in direction of St. Bernadette’s – just look out for the big, tall trees. Unfortunately the trees were rotten inside and had to be cut down. From the road there is no visible sign there is a church. For a few years we have been analysing and doing projects for a large cross to be put on the wall facing the main road. We soon hope to raise a galvanised metal cross painted the colour of wood to be erected high on the church’s wall. This should easily give a witness and identify our building as a church. Thanks to the F & M team and the person responsible for the gift.

### Buying Christmas Presents On-line? Why not try [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

It’s a great way to raise money for our church or school just by shopping online. It’s so easy, you don’t pay anything extra and your nominated good cause gets a donation. There over 2700 partner retailers, ASDA, Sainsbury’s, Amazon, Expedia, Homebase, Tesco, John Lewis, Debenhams, Argos, M&S, Next and many, many more! For more information and to register go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

## Newsletter for the Parishes of St. Bernadette’s & St. John Vianney’s Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



**St. Bernadette’s**  
Baingle Brae  
Tullibody FK10 2SG  
01259 213274

**8th December 2013**  
**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Mike Freyne MHM**  
Tel: 01259 213274  
Email: [mafreyne@btinternet.com](mailto:mafreyne@btinternet.com)

**Sister Nora Carr U.J.**  
Parish Sister - Ursulines of Jesus  
St. John Vianney’s. Tel: 01259 760324



**St. John Vianney’s**  
16 East Stirling Street  
Alva FK12 5HR  
01259 760324

Parish Websites: [www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes](http://www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes)

& [www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys](http://www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys)

*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 haven’t yet met.**



**Please remember in your prayers those who are sick....** Dan Tierney, Jean Quinn, Mary Dryland, Christie Scott, Michae Ferguson, Mary McGeehan, Vera Kasciewicz, Brendan Murphy, Lawrence Allan, Sarah Lownie, Mary Elliot, Liz Buchan, Veronica Day, Georgina Anderson, Margaret Mc’Intyre, Alma White, Bridget Grey, Catherine Miller, Sandy Taylor, Owen Cattigan, Thomas Benie, Elizabeth Docherty, Veronica Clarke, Gerard Clarke, Peter James Clarke, Janet Martin, Ellen Mc’Parland, Paul Kochanek, Lorraine McClusky, Mary McCartney, Patrick Docherty, Mona Pyat, Peter Doyle and all those in the various nursing homes.

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

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

Brian Masterson and William Hutchinson.

### REGULAR MEETINGS

#### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Meet in St. Bernadette’s weekly, at 10.30am before Sunday mass and at St. John Vianney’s, on the last Sunday of the month after 9.30 morning mass.

#### KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA:

Meet at 8.00pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Hall at St. Mungo’s, Alloa.

### Parish Collections

St. Bernadette’s 1st December	£433.82
St. John Vianney’s 1st December	£331.05

### St. Modan’s High School Advent Mass

Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in St. Modan’s school chapel at 8.20am. All welcome. (Fr. Mike celebrates the mass each Wednesday)

## THIS WEEKS DIARY

**Sunday Morning Masses:**  
**St. John Vianney's, 9.30am**  
**& St. Bernadette's, 11.30am**

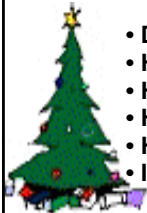
**Sunday Evening Mass:**  
**St. John Vianney's, 6.15pm**

The feast of IMMACULATE CONCEPTION will be celebrated tomorrow, Monday as 8th Dec is 2nd Sunday of Advent

<b>Sunday</b> 8th December	Masses times as Normal - 2nd Sunday of Advent
<b>Monday</b> 9th December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 9.30am - Mass, St John Vianney's
	Celebration of children's First Confessions 1.30pm - St. Bernadette's school & 5.00pm - St. John Vianney's
<b>Tuesday</b> 10th December	7.00pm at St Mungo's - St. Modan's school concert including children from St. Bernadette's and St. Mungo's schools.
	No services in parishes. 10.00am - Mass, Nazareth House. 7.00pm - Lourdes Youth meeting, Parish House
<b>Wednesday</b> 11th December	8.20am - Mass, St. Modan's High School 9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 4.30pm - Advent House Mass
<b>Thursday</b> 12th December	9.30am - Mass, St Bernadette's. (School Mass) 4.00pm - Advent House Mass
<b>Friday</b> 13th December	9.30am - Mass, St John Vianney's.
<b>Saturday</b> 14th December	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St Bernadette's.
<b>Sunday</b> 15th December	Mass times as Normal - 3rd Sunday of Advent 4.30pm - Adoration & Reflection for Christmas, St. Bernadette's

**EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT AND REFLECTION** during Advent. This will take the form of a simple EXPOSITION, Gospel readings and prayers with short reflections focusing very much on Mary. This should last no longer than 30 minutes and the parish simply offers the opportunity for those who wish to have a few quite moments with some modern prayers and short reflections to prepare for Christmas. If people turn up and are enriched – wonderful. If no one turns up – the parish gave people the opportunity.

### ADVENT - Are You Ready for Christmas?



- Do you have all of your shopping done?
- Have you finished wrapping all your gifts?
- Have you put up your Christmas tree and all the decorations?
- Have you sent your Christmas cards?
- Have you finished baking all of the Christmas goodies?
- Is your house clean and ready for visitors?



**"Are you ready for Christ?"**

## Advent & Christmas Diary

On days/dates not listed Mass times etc. are at normal weekday times

<b>Sunday</b> 15th December	3rd Sunday of Advent Presentation of Sacrament of Reconciliation certificates.
<b>Mon 16th Dec</b>	10.30am - Orchard House – school mass/ Anointing of Sick
<b>Tues 17th Dec</b>	10.00am - Nazareth House, Edinburgh - Mass
<b>Wed 18th Dec</b>	8.20am - Mass, St. Modan's High School
<b>Thurs 19th Dec</b>	9.30am - St. Bernadette's School mass 7.00pm - Penitential Service, St Bernadette's
<b>Friday 20th Dec</b>	7.00pm - Penitential Service, St. John Vianney's
<b>Sunday</b> 22nd December	4th Sunday of Advent
<b>Mon 23rd Dec</b>	7.00pm - Blues mass, St. Bernadette's
<b>Tuesday</b> 24th December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	10.00am - Nazareth House, Edinburgh? 7.30pm - Vigil Mass, St. Bernadette's 9.30 pm – Vigil Mass, St John Vianney's
<b>Wednesday</b> 25th December <b>Christmas Day</b>	9.30 am - Mass, St. John Vianney's 11.30 am - Mass, St. Bernadette's No evening mass
<b>Thurs 26th Dec</b>	9.30am - St. Bernadette's, Mass
<b>Friday 27th Dec</b>	9.30am - St. John Vianney's, Mass
<b>Sat 28th Dec</b>	9.30am - St. Bernadette's, Mass.



### CONFESSIONS DURING ADVENT

**Saturday 7th Dec** - Confessions as usual after morning mass, St. Bernadette's  
**Monday 9th Dec** - 1.30pm - Sacrament of reconciliation, School  
**Monday 9th Dec** - 5.00pm - Sacrament of Reconciliation - St. John Vianney's  
**Saturday 14th Dec** - Confessions as usual after morning mass, St. Bernadette's  
**Thursday 19th Dec** - 7.00pm - Penitential Service, St Bernadette's  
**Friday 20th Dec** - 7.00pm - Penitential Service, St. John Vianney's  
**Saturday 21st Dec** - Confessions as usual after morning mass, St. Bernadette's.

Confession will also be held before weekday masses on 16th, 19th 20th December from 8.30am till 9.20am and on 18th Dec 9.00am till 9.20am as Fr. Mike says mass at St. Modan's school at 8.20am each Wednesday in Advent.

**Remember, there will be no confessions during January in our parishes.**

### VISITING OF THE SICK FOR CHRISTMAS

During the first 3 weeks of Advent all the housebound sick will be visited by Fr. Mike and offered the possibility of anointing of sick, confession and holy communion. To make sure no one is left out because of the many Christmas engagements, if you know of any sick not yet visited by our Eucharistic Ministers or members of the parish and they would like a visit please inform Fr. Mike immediately with written name and address and if possible telephone number of the sick person.