

MARY'S MEALS - 27th & 28th September

BRING YOUR CLOTHES, TEXTILES, SHOES & BAGS ONLY TO THE HALLS AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S & ST. BERNADETTE'S. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR BAGS IN THE HALLS. BOTH HALLS WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER FROM 9.00am TO 5.00pm

AND SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER FROM 8.30am to 10.30am at St. John Vianney's AND 8.30am to 11.30am St. Bernadette's

In addition we need volunteers to be waiting and ready to help carry the bags from the hall to the collection van on Sundays at both parishes. Please put your names down on the list at the back of the church.

9.30 to 11am at St. John Vianney's & 10.30am to 12.30 at St. Bernadette's

Dear friend,

Thanks to your generosity, Mary's Meals is now reaching **923,572 hungry children** every school day. Knowing how far we've come, it's always a moving experience to return to Malawi, where we began feeding just a few hundred children in 2002.

During my recent visit, I was invited to speak to children at a youth club in Balaka. Each Saturday, these youngsters – from various schools receiving Mary's Meals – come together to sing, dance, play games and perform works of charity.

I asked the children about their lives and how the daily nutritious meal they receive benefits them. But they were more interested in asking me a question: "Will you join us in climbing Chaoni?"

The kids had begun helping children from an impoverished village on a nearby mountain top, and wanted me to make the two-hour climb with them. A week later, I found myself 3,000 feet up, welcomed by a thousand villagers. The village chief and head teacher presented us with school records, which painted an alarming picture.

School enrolments were dwindling and poverty and hunger were taking their toll, damaging the children's health and robbing them of an education. My young friends brought me here so this community could request Mary's Meals.

Given the nearest road was a two-hour hike beneath us, I asked the villagers how it would be possible. They replied – with the same love and commitment of many communities before them – that they would carry the food up the mountain.

Our Malawi team have since met with the community and if we can raise the money, we will start providing meals there in the coming months.

It was a beautiful thing to be led to those children and I pray that, before long, the people of Chaoni will receive the gift of Mary's Meals. I pray too that we will reach all of the schools on our waiting list, so **ONE MILLION CHILDREN** and beyond will be fed each day.

Thank you.



**Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow,
Mary's Meals Founder**



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

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



**14th September 2014
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Parish Priest:

Fr. Mike Freyne MHM

Tel: 01259 213274

Email: malfreyne@btinternet.com

Priest in residence Alva

Fr. Martin Pletts

Email: fr.martinpletts@gmail.com

Parish Websites

www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes & www.catholic-church.org/stjohnvianneys



St. John Vianney's
16 East Stirling Street
Alva FK12 5HR
01259 763774

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, Michael Ferguson, Vera Kasciewicz, Lawrence Allan, Sarah Lownie, Mary Elliot, Liz Buchan, Veronica Day, Alma White, Mary McGeehan, Brendan Murphy, Georgina Anderson, Margaret Mc'Intyre, Bridget Grey, Catherine Miller, Ellen Mc'Parland, Owen Cattigan, Elizabeth Docherty, Thomas Benie, Veronica Clarke, Gerard Clarke, Bill Dunsmore, Peter James Clarke, Janet Martin, Paul Kochanek, Lorraine McClusky, Sandy Taylor, Sarah-Jane Connelly, Mary McCartney, Peter Doyle, Greg Anderson, Mona Pyat, Petra Dijk, Anne McNiven, Theresa Flemming, Ursula Crichton, Kathleen McNeil and all those in the various nursing homes.

Remember those who have recently died..... Sr. Marita.

and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time... Owens Downs, Margaret Blyth, Marion Bell, Sharon Nowek, Rita Syme and Valerie Wallace

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.

Next Sunday 21st September there will be a Special collection for Ecclesiastical Students Fund

**Parish Collections
7th Sept 2014**

St. Bernadette's	£443.35
St. John Vianney's	£309.25

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**

Sunday 14th Sept	Mass times as Normal - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Monday 15th Sept	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - St. Bernadette's School Parents Council AGM
Tuesday 16th Sept	No services in parish. 10.00am - Mass, Nazareth House, Edinburgh.
Wednesday 17th Sept	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. We celebrate feast of St Ninian today as we have no masses on Tuesday
Thursday 18th Sept	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's THE SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM Remember to VOTE
Friday 19th Sept	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's
Saturday 20th Sept	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's.
Sunday 21st Sept	Mass times as Normal - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

21st Sept	Special collection for Ecclesiastical Student Fund
27th Sept	SVDP Annual Mass at Carfin Grotto. Rosary procession 1pm. Mass 2pm
27/28th Sept	Mary's Meals weekend
19th Oct	Mission Sunday collection for Propagation of the Faith

How can our faith help us in our reflection on the upcoming Independence Referendum?

What are our hopes and dreams for our nation, whatever the outcome of the vote? If you would like to take time to reflect on these questions, and support others to do the same, why not lead a Referendum reflection group? The aim of the groups is to assist parishioners in reflecting on the referendum through the prism of faith; in particular to consider what our hopes are for our nation, and what values we wish to foster whatever the outcome of the vote in September.

Materials are written by Miriam McHardy from The Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Link to material: <http://www.rcstaned.org.uk/files/pastoral/Justice.pdf>

More at: <http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/>

McLellan Commission

You will be aware that an external "Review of Safeguarding Protocols and Procedures" within the Catholic Church in Scotland was commissioned by the Bishops of Scotland with the cooperation of the religious congregations which are active here. It will review the suitability and robustness of our safeguarding procedures; it is known as the McLellan Commission.

The Commission is keen to hear from members of the Catholic Church and others in relation to the ways in which the Church works to safeguard its members from abuse and harm. If you have a view on this, whether positive or negative, the Commission would be very interested to hear from you.

If you would like to participate, a secure and confidential area has been established on the McLellan Commission website where you can get in touch. A confidential questionnaire on this part of the website is live until 30 September 2014.

The website can be found at: www.mclellancommission.co.uk

Alternatively, until 30 September 2014, you can write to:

Secretary

The McLellan Commission

Centrum House
38 Queen Street
Glasgow G1 3DX.

You can also email to: info@mclellancommission.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH REFERENDUM

My last assignment in Brazil was to be liberated from being a parish priest and to be free to coordinate in the Diocese "Faith and Politics" or "Citizenship". Basically to try and encourage and organise people and groups to put their faith into practise. I am sure that in our parishes we have various ideas, opinions and convictions about the coming Scottish Referendum. Hopefully this time of debate and reflection has not just created a new interest in politics but the importance of being an active citizen. *- Fr. Mike.*

Bishop Stephen has reminded us that it not the place of the Church to give directions on this very important issue but he does urge us all to do our "**civic duty to vote**". He also suggested we publish that statements issued by the two Scottish Provincial Bishops:

Archbishop Cushley of Edinburgh said: "I encourage you, in the light of Catholic social teaching, carefully to consider the issues and to do your civic duty on the day itself. No matter the result of the Referendum, I would hope that all Catholics will continue to engage positively in public discourse, and ensure that the Christian message and its values are better expressed and understood, to the benefit of the whole community. By doing so, our beloved land will be a more just, peaceful and prosperous place for all its citizens."

Archbishop Tartaglia of Glasgow commented: "The Scottish Independence Referendum is now just a short time away. Along with the Bishops of Scotland, who are deeply conscious of the importance of this referendum, I encourage and urge all those eligible to vote to do so with complete freedom of choice and in accordance with their prayerful judgment of what is best for the future. May God guide us and bless us in whatever choice we make in good conscience."