

## PARISH ADVENT PROJECT

Our aim is to fund 40 bikes (if possible) @ £60 each.

For St. Thomas the Apostle parish, Koloin, Uganda

Collection box for this project will be at the back of the church each Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day for those who wish to contribute. People are being very generous, many thanks and congratulations to all.

### UGANDA "BIKE" PROJECT

This the final week for our Uganda project has shown the generosity of people once again is amazing. At this stage it looks like we will reach our target. This remarkable achievement is due entirely to the generosity of you all. The final figure will be published once all of the money has been counted.

.....Once again many, many thanks to all who contributed.

### St. Bernadette's Primary School Enrolments for August 2015.

During the week beginning the 19th of January 2015, St. Bernadette's Primary will be enrolling children who have their fifth birthday before the 29th February 2016.



Parents should phone the school on 01259723973 to arrange an appointment to enrol. They will need their child's birth certificate, baptism certificate (if the child is baptised) and proof of address such as a council tax letter.

### Prayer: Aid to Church in Need

**A**lmighty and everlasting God we ask that you comfort the millions of Christians who are unjustly discriminated and persecuted against for simply believing in you and proclaiming your name.

**W**e ask especially this Christmas that your Holy Spirit be with our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East, bringing healing, relief and hope to them and their families.

**W**e know that Christians who live in the Middle East, the birth place of the Lord, are particularly vulnerable to attack during their special Christmas celebrations and so ask you to bless protect your people.

**H**eavenly Father, we also ask you to change the hearts of those who persecute and convert them to a life of love.

*Amen.*

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

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



**25th December 2014**

**Christmas Day**

*Parish Priest:*

**Fr. Mike Freyne MHM**

**Tel: 01259 213274**

Email: [malfreyne@btinternet.com](mailto:malfreyne@btinternet.com)

*Priest in residence Alva*

**Fr. Martin Pletts**

Email: [fr.martinpletts@gmail.com](mailto:fr.martinpletts@gmail.com)

**Parish Websites**

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



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

*Wishing our readers a Happy & Holy Christmas and best wishes for 2015*

*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, Lawrence Allan, Sarah Lownie, Mary Elliot, Liz Buchan, Veronica Day, Alma White, Ursula Crichton, 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, Greg Anderson, Mona Pyat, Petra Dijk, Anne McNiven, Peter Doyle, Theresa Flemming, Kathleen McNeil, Georgina Anderson, Dr. Michael Basquial, Maureen Joyce, May Reid, James Fern and all those in the various nursing homes.

**Remember those who have recently died....** May Reid.

**and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time...** Brian Masterson, Michael Dunion, Gloria Corringe, James & Anne Patton and Bernard Hughes.

**SVDP asks for prayers for all deceased and sick of the parish.**

**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS. ANY CHANGES TO MASS TIMES WILL BE POSTED ON NOTICE BOARDS AND/OR ANNOUNCED FROM PULPIT. NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER WILL BE ON SUNDAY 11th JANUARY 2015.**

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, SICK CALLS ETC. WHILE Fr. Mike IS AWAY PLEASE CONTACT Fr. Martin ON 01259 763774**

**Last day of Advent Project Collection box at back of church**

## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DIARY

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

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

 <b>Wednesday 24th December</b>	7.30pm - VIGIL MASS, ST. BERNADETTE'S 9.00 pm - St. John Vianney's, Carols 9.30pm - VIGIL MASS, ST JOHN VIANNEY'S	
<b>Thursday 25th December</b>	9.30am - CHRISTMAS MASS, ST. JOHN VIANNEY'S. 11.30am - CHRISTMAS MASS, ST. BERNADETTE'S. NO EVENING MASS	
<b>Friday 26th Dec</b>	9.30am - Mass, St John Vianney's. Feast of St. Stephen. 10.00am - Mass, Nazareth House, Edinburgh	
<b>Saturday 27th Dec</b>	9.30am - Mass, St Bernadette's.	
<b>Sunday 28th Dec</b>	Mass times as Normal - Feast of The Holy Family 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's.	
<b>Monday 29th Dec</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's.	
<b>Tuesday 30th Dec</b>	No services in parish.	
<b>Wed 31st Dec</b>	10.00am - Funeral Mass of Mary Reid, St. Bernadette's.	
<b>Thursday 1st January 2015</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's.	
<b>Friday 2nd January</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - Mass, St. Bernadette's.	
<b>Saturday 3rd January</b>	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's	
<b>Sunday 4th January</b>	Mass times as Normal - Feast of the Epiphany 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's.	
<b>Monday 5th January</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's.	
<b>Tuesday 6th January</b>	No services in parish.	
<b>Wed 7th January</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's.	
<b>Thursday 8th January</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 7.00pm - RCIA St. Mungo's, Alloa.	
<b>Friday 9th January</b>	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - Mass, St. Bernadette's.	
<b>Saturday 10th January</b>	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's	
<b>Sunday 11th January</b>	Mass times as Normal - Baptism of the Lord 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's.	

### Christmas.....

is probably the most awaited feast or holiday of the year – especially by children. It is a time for parties. Most people want to come together and celebrate. Often those that live, or work, far away make that special effort to be with family and friends.

Christmas draws people together. It is a time for sharing. We attempt to have an abundance of food. We exchange presents as a sign of friendship.

At the same time Christmas is very much exploited by commerce and the mass media. Before November had begun Christmas shopping propaganda was around. Advertising invades our homes with a multitude of expensive toys and gifts. Gone are the days when you eagerly awaited a second hand bike or a home made dolls house. This often leaves parents sad and unhappy. They cannot always live up to the expectations of their children. Christmas can sometimes be a time that creates sadness and frustration.

This is even more apparent if we look beyond our families and are sensitive to what is going on in the world. We cannot ignore:

- ⇒ There are over 7,000 orphans in the last few months only in Sierra Leone of parents who have died because of the Ebola virus.
- ⇒ The 10.5 million people living in refugee tents, no homes, exiled from their country because of conflicts, living in atrocious conditions with little hope for the immediate future
- ⇒ That while we shop for a bargain there exists an enormous work force of child labour and adults living and working as slaves in terms of salary and working conditions
- ⇒ Despite initial global signs of a recovery from a world economic crisis the gulf between rich and poor grows at an alarming rate as if we have learnt nothing.

But we long for a Christmas that is in fact **JOYFUL** and full of **HOPE** because a child, the Son of God, has been born. We want to reaffirm that the Son of God came to us, became one of us. God came to us! He participates in our lives and in our personal journey. At this time we want to shout aloud that his presence has to bring justice, peace and joy. We want to journey towards a life that offers more justice and sharing. Christmas, the birth of Jesus, fills us with a desire to proclaim;

**“LIFE IS GREAT”, life is worth living for.**

Christmas is to celebrate the mystery of God becoming man. It is accompanying the pregnancy of Mary. It is to stand before the newly born child and declare with amazement: **GOD IS WITH US!** Jesus' birth shouts that life is worth living, worth fighting for. With the birth of Jesus we cannot be indifferent. God comes to us as an innocent child and his crying breaks the silence of the night. That crying baby brings to us the human love of God.

This Christmas we want to “live and not be ashamed to be happy”. With the birth of Jesus, God made man, we announce to the world: This is life – it is wonderful – it is worth fighting for – it is worth living. We are not ashamed to be happy. May the Jesus child motivate us to be happy and share genuine happiness and joy with everyone.

A Joyful and happy Christmas to all! *Fz Mike*