

First of the Just Faith Course meetings is at 7.00pm on Monday 23rd February in St. John Vianney's, Alva

IF YOU WANT PEACE WORK FOR JUSTICE

<http://www.justiceandpeace.org.uk/>



A Catholic Social Teaching message from Pope Paul VI: "If you want Peace, work for Justice."



Pope's Message for Lent 2015: "Make your hearts firm"

The full text of the Holy Father Francis' message for Lent 2015, entitled "Make your hearts firm". The document was signed in the Vatican on 4 October 2014, the festivity of St. Francis of Assisi.
 - Vatican City, 27 January 2015 (VIS)

We will print extracts from this message during Lent

"Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a 'time of grace'. God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us'. He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure. Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I do not think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.

When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalisation of indifference. Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love. But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded. - (VIS)

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

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



22nd February 2015
1st Sunday of Lent

Parish Priest:
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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, Lawrence Allan, Sarah Lownie, Veronica Day, Ursula Crichton, Peter Doyle, Sarah-Jane Connelly, Mary Elliot, Liz Buchan, Mary McGeehan, Brendan Murphy, Margaret McIntyre, Elizabeth Docherty, Bridget Grey, Owen Cattigan, Veronica Clarke, Paul Kochanek, Thomas Benie, Gerard Clarke, Bill Dunsmore, Peter James Clarke, Greg Anderson, Janet Martin, Lorraine McClusky, Sandy Taylor, Mary McCartney, Mona Pyat, Petra Dijk, Anne McNiven, Alma White, Theresa Flemming, Kathleen McNeil, Dr. Michael Basquial, Maureen Joyce, Tanya Roberts and all those in the various nursing homes.

Remember those who have recently died.... Margaret Whyte

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

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.

Special collection today for Sick & Retired Priests Fund

Parish Collections

St. Bernadette's 8th February	£383.62
Education	£141.98
15th Feb	£537.02
St. John Vianney's 8th February	£412.40
Education	£210.55
15th Feb	£279.60

NEXT 2 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 22nd Feb	Mass times as Normal - 1st Sunday of Lent. Special collection for Sick & Retired Priests Fund 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Bernadette's.
Monday 23rd Feb	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's. 7.00pm - Just Faith Course, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Tues 24th Feb	No services in parish
Wednesday 25th Feb	8.15am - Mass, St. Modan's, Stirling. 9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's.
Thursday 26th Feb	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 10 am - 6pm - Priests Council, Dundee, 7.00pm - RCIA St. Mungo's, Alloa.
Friday 27th Feb	9.30am - Funeral mass of Margaret Whyte, St. Bernadette's 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - Mass, St. Bernadette's (Themed Mass)
Sat 28th Feb	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's.
Sunday 1st March	Mass times as Normal - 2nd Sunday of Lent. 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Bernadette's.
Monday 2nd March	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's. 7.00pm - Just Faith Course, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Tues 3rd March	No services in parish
Wednesday 4th March	8.15am - Mass, St. Modan's, Stirling. 9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 11am Bishop Stephen. Confirmation candidates, St. Bernadette's school
Thursday 5th March	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. 7.00pm - RCIA St. Mungo's, Alloa.
Friday 6th March	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's. 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - Mass, St. Bernadette's (Themed Mass)
Sat 7th March	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's.
Sunday 8th March	Mass times as Normal - 3rd Sunday of Lent. 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. Bernadette's.

Coffee Morning Sunday 1st March 2015, 10.30am.

St John Vianney's are intending to hold coffee mornings on the first Sunday of each month after 9.30 mass, these will continue as long as there is support. Any donations for baking stall much appreciated can be brought to Sunday mass. Please come along to support your parish.

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK NEXT ISSUE ON 8th MARCH

For the love of Mary...



Meet Mary Jackson from your WEE BOX

Hello.

My name is Mary Jackson and I'm 32 years old. I live in Chipolomba village in Malawi with my husband and four children.

Farming is very important to my family – without it we couldn't survive. Before, we were very poor. I would work in other people's fields to earn money for food, which meant I couldn't work in my own field. The children had to go to bed on empty stomachs. It was hard to keep them in schools when they were hungry and they often missed lessons. Growing my own crops was difficult - I couldn't rely on the rain falling to water them. Sometimes the rain was too heavy, sometimes it doesn't fall at all. Climate change has made growing crops harder.

The project funded by SCIAF gave us training in new ways of farming so we could grow more food. They gave me maize seeds, sweet potato, peas and peanuts. I was able to borrow money to set up a small business. I make fritters from potatoes and roast the peanuts to sell at the market so that I can make a little money.

My business is doing well. I was able to buy chickens so that my children have eggs to eat. I make manure with their droppings and I'm harvesting more food. Now I can give my children proper meals. When their shoes wear out, I can replace them. We can afford soap for washing. I bought a bike so the kids can get to school more easily.

Thank you for joining hands with SCIAF to assist us. You've made real changes in my life and in the community. The future is bright and there is hope for my children

More at : <http://www.sciaf.org.uk/the-wee-box/>



WEE BOX, TWICE AS BIG: Your WEE BOXES could make twice the difference this Lent. All donations SCIAF receives by 17th May will be DOUBLED by the UK Government.

Help SCIAF to crack climate change: Climate change makes life even harder for poor farmers already struggling to feed their families. For the love of Mary, we need to do something about it. Please fill in your campaign card and return it to SCIAF.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

9th March	7.00pm - Just Faith Course, St. John Vianney's, Alva
15th March	SCIAF Sunday
16th March	7.00pm - Just Faith Course, St. John Vianney's, Alva
21st March	11am - 12.30pm Possible meeting Eucharistic Ministers who visit Orchard House
29th MARCH PALM SUNDAY + 3rd APRIL GOOD FRIDAY + 5th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY	
23rd April	7.15pm - PPC
7th June	CORPUS CRISTII, FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS
14th June	CONFIRMATIONS - ST. BERNADETTE'S. 10.30am Bishop Stephen