

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

Vatican City, 27 January 2015 (VIS) – The following is part 3 of 4 parts of the 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. We will print extracts from this during Lent. (Entire text is on parish website)

2. 'Where is your brother?' – Parishes and Communities

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors?

In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfilment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: 'I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls'.

We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart.

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

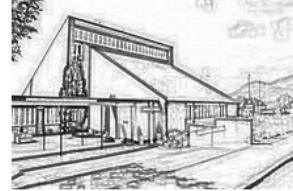
Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth. In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well. Similarly, all that our brothers and sisters possess is a gift for the Church and for all humanity.

Dear brothers and sisters, how greatly I desire that all those places where the Church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference! - (VIS)

HELP! Anybody that has hands on experience with Microsoft Outlook and willing to share their wisdom for 15 minutes? Please contact Fr. Mike.

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

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



**15th March 2015
4th Sunday of Lent**

**Parish Priest:
Fr. Mike Freyne MHM**

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

Priest in residence Alva

Fr. Martin Pletts

Email: fr.martinpletts@gmail.com



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

Parish Websites

www.catholic-church.org/stbernadettes & 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, Michael Ferguson, Lawrence Allan, Sarah Lownie, Veronica Day, Ursula Crichton, Peter Doyle, Sarah-Jane Connelly, Mary Elliot, Liz Buchan, Mary McGeehan, Brendan Murphy, Margaret Mc'Intyre, Elizabeth Docherty, Bridget Grey, Owen Cattigan, Veronica Clarke, Thomas Benie, Gerard Clarke, Bill Dunsmore, Peter James Clarke, Paul Kochanek, Janet Martin, Lorraine McClusky, Sandy Taylor, Mary McCartney, Greg Anderson, Theresa Flemming, Mona Pyat, Petra Dijk, Anne McNiven, Alma White, Kathleen McNeil, Tom Hislop, Dr. Michael Basquial, Maureen Joyce, and all those in the various nursing homes.

Remember those who have recently died.... Denise Lafferty, Kennedy Balfour, Margaret Whyte and Tanya Roberts.

and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time...
William Mc'Cluskey, John Hamilton and All deceased mothers

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 next Sunday for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)

Parish Collections

**St. Bernadette's
8th March £482.57**

**St. John Vianney's
8th March £422.98**

NEXT 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 15th March	Mass times as Normal - 4th Sunday of Lent. 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's. 4.30pm - Stations of The Cross, St. Bernadette's.
Monday 16th March	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's. 7.00pm - Just Faith Course, St. John Vianney's, Alva
Tuesday 17th March	No services in parish 10.00am - Mass, Nazareth House
Wednesday 18th March	8.15am - Mass, St. Modan's High School. 9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. , 7.00pm - ST JOHN OGILVIE DIOCESAN MASS, Cathedral, Dundee
Thursday 19th March	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. School Mass Feast of St. Joseph. 1.00pm - Mill Hill Lunch, Glasgow. 7.00pm - RCIA St. Mungo's, Alloa.
Friday 20th March	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's. 3.00pm - Stations of the Cross, St. John Vianney's 7.00pm - St. Bernadette's Themed Mass
Saturday 21st March	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's.
Sunday 22nd March	Mass times as Normal - 5th Sunday of Lent. 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's.

**Altar servers please indicate which liturgies you are available for during Holy Week.
Remember this is the most important week of the Church's year.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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
22nd March	Special collection for Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)
29th MARCH	PALM SUNDAY + 3rd APRIL GOOD FRIDAY + 5th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY
3rd April	Good Friday. Special collection for Holy Places
23rd April	Clacks Council Education Committee meeting 10 am
23rd April	7.15pm - PPC
T B A	CONFIRMATIONS - ST. BERNADETTE'S. 10.30am Bishop Stephen
7th June	CORPUS CRISTII, FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

**Knights of St. Columba Easter Raffle in aid of "Mary's Meals".
The prize is a hamper, value approx £80.
Tickets £1 each available during Lent after Sunday Masses.
Draw will be on Easter Sunday.**



**SCIAF Sunday is 15th March in Scotland but our speaker is only available on Sunday 22nd March so SCIAF Sunday FOR US has been changed to this day.
The special collection will be on the 22nd March. NEXT SUNDAY**

PRAY FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA

Here in Scotland, many of us make small sacrifices during Lent, like going without our favourite treats. Millions of people around the world don't have the luxury of that choice. Mothers around the world are struggling to provide for their families and give their children a better chance in life. Please give what you can to next weeks Special Collection and remember the women of Africa in your prayers.

THE DIFFERENCE YOUR DONATIONS WILL MAKE

We use 90p from every £1 you give us to help some of the world's poorest people free themselves from poverty and hunger - for good. Across Africa, we're working with the local Church to help poor farmers by: • Giving them seeds, tools and training to grow a greater variety of crops • Helping them adapt to the devastating impacts of climate change • Providing animals, like goats, chickens and pigs, and training in how to look after them • Helping communities dig ponds and reservoirs, build water pumps and store precious rainwater • Giving them loans so they can set up small businesses selling the food they grow You can help people like Mary to feed their children, send them to school and make sure that they grow up happy and healthy with a bright future ahead of them. **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.



Beat hunger with the WEE BOX

One in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight - and 70% of them will be women and girls.

Please give what you can to SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal This Lent and together we can make a difference.

Visit www.theweebox.org to find out more.



Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers.

WONDERFUL MOTHER

*God made a wonderful mother,
A mother who never grows old;
He made her smile of the sunshine,
And He moulded her heart of pure gold;
In her eyes He placed bright shining stars,
In her cheeks fair roses you see;
God made a wonderful mother,
And He gave that dear mother to me.*

~By Pat O'Reilly~

Today is Mother's Day, although a very commercial feast we cannot overlook the vocation and great gift of being a mother.

