

Pope Francis on Friday 13 March announced that he is convoking a jubilee year to be called the **Holy Year of Mercy**.

The pope also said he wants the church to live the upcoming holy year "in the light" of Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke: *"Be merciful, just as your father is merciful."*

A jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. The Catholic church has called jubilee years every 25 or 50 years since the year 1300 and has also called special jubilee years from time to time, known as extraordinary jubilee years.

Francis on Friday said the new jubilee would begin on this year's Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated Dec. 8. It will close on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King.

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

The following is the final part 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 have printed extracts from this during Lent. (Entire text is on parish website)

3. 'Make your hearts firm!' – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer! The '24 Hours for the Lord' initiative, which I hope will be observed on 13-14 March throughout the Church, also at the diocesan level, is meant to be a sign of this need for prayer.

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organisations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family. Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realises its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: 'Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum': Make our hearts like yours (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalisation of indifference.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me.

May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you".

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

Diocese of Dunkeld (Scottish Charity No. SC001810)



22nd March 2015
5th Sunday of Lent

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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.... Alexander Thomson.

and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this time... Joan Cannon, Agnes McGowan, Joan Boyle, William Mc'Cluskey and John Hamilton

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
15th March **£404.35**

St. John Vianney's
15th March **£418.00**

SCIAF Speaker at all masses.
Special collection TODAY

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 22nd March	Mass times as Normal - 5th Sunday of Lent. 12.30 meeting for Lourdes/Youth project in parish house. 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's. 4.00pm - Stations of The Cross, St. Bernadette's. (children lead) 6.00pm - Romero Lecture; Jesuit Center, Lauriston, Edinburgh
Monday 23rd March	9.30am - Mass, St. John Vianney's.
Tuesday 24th March	No services in parish 10.00am - Mass, Nazareth House
Wednesday 25th March	8.15am - Mass, St. Modan's High School. 9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. , 6.30pm - Meeting at school for St. Bernadette's school parents.
Thursday 26th March	9.30am - Mass, St. Bernadette's. School Mass 7.00pm - RCIA St. Mungo's, Alloa. Bingo Tea – St. Bernadette's school
Friday 27th 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 28th March	9.30am - Mass & Confessions, St. Bernadette's.
Sunday 29th March	Mass times as Normal - Palm Sunday <u>Masses begin in hall or outside with a short procession into the church.</u> 3.00pm - Adoration & Prayers, Blessed Sacrament, St. John Vianney's. 4.30pm - Stations of The Cross, St. Bernadette's.

**This Sunday at St. Bernadette's the school children will lead the Stations of the Cross
Please come along to support and pray.**

**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.**

**Every day before mass at 9.00am to 9.20am there will be
the opportunity for individual confessions.**

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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
7th June	CORPUS CRISTII, FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS
14th June	CONFIRMATIONS - ST. BERNADETTES.

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

We will have a Sandy Lonie from SCIAF to speak at all masses today.
There is the special collection at the end of mass for SCIAF.

PRAY FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA

Please give what you can to the Special Collection and remember the women of Africa in your prayers.



Daily life is difficult enough for people living in developing countries. Natural disasters and conflict can rip away what little security they feel. Millions of people can be left hungry, homeless and in desperate need. When disaster strikes, SCIAF moves quickly to respond through the Caritas network and our trusted local partners to help people who have been affected. We make a commitment to help communities back on to their feet, staying for the long term and aiding their recovery through development.

It is vitally important for aid agencies like SCIAF to give feedback on the huge difference donations make. The £1.1 million donated to SCIAF's emergency drought appeal helped 183,000 people across Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and South Sudan.

The money raised during emergencies can help fund emergency cash payments, food and water to the most vulnerable, cash for work for the able-bodied to build up community resources like better wells, and replacing lost livestock and distributing drought-resistant seeds to poor farmers to increase their resilience in the future.

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.



EASTER LILLIES

Late to order. If you want to buy an Easter lily for the Easter Sunday masses to remember your deceased in the mass of the resurrection we need to know at the latest next Sunday (Palm Sunday). If you want to participate please remember lilies are extremely expensive and even with Tina arranging a good deal we expect at least they will cost £3 each. People are also expected to give a donation towards the mass stipend. Please put name and donation in an envelope and leave in the sacristy at St. Bernadette's, for St. John Vianney's we will announce if there is going to be a similar arrangement.

Coffee Morning St. John Vianney's + Easter Sunday 5th April 2015 10.30

**Our next coffee morning is on Easter Sunday; please make time after
mass for a coffee, scone and a chat with your fellow parishioners.
All donations of baking welcome for the cake stall.**

**The Knights of St. Columba are holding an Irish Social Night in St. Mungo's Church
Hall on Friday 10th April. Tickets priced £7. See noticeboard for more details.**