

**CHRISTMAS BLUES MASS** (PLEASE INFORM OTHERS ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE HAD A DEATH IN THE FAMILY OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS)

Merry Christmas, the joys of the Christmas, parties, greetings from the more than welcoming and noisy shops, smiles and greetings from unknown passer byes, are all part of this intense period of merriment. However, although celebrating Christmas with joy, for some, Christmas also brings the "blues"; memories and a sense of loss of a dear loved one now deceased; a husband or wife, mum or dad, brother or sister, child, old friend, a tragic accident. Such feelings should not be brushed aside and forgotten. They are important and are a part of who we are.

At this time we concentrate our energies around the happiness of others, especially children, and perhaps do not permit ourselves to celebrate what has affected our own lives so deeply. The parishes of St. Bernadette's and St. John Vianney's invites you and your family to celebrate a special Christmas mass – the "blues mass". A special Christmas mass especially for you to remember, during this Christmas season, someone loved, special, important for you who has died. The death need not be recent but is not forgotten. Come and join us, to celebrate this special mass where we can allow ourselves to be "low" but be lifted up with hope and joy as we celebrate our belief in the Resurrection which begins with the birth of the God-child Jesus at Christmas.

**PLACE; St. Bernadette's Church, Tullibody. DATE: Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> December TIME: 7 PM**

**Knights of Saint Columba**

On Behalf of the Knights of Saint Columba, I welcome this opportunity to thank all those parishioners and friends who have given us their support and encouragement over the past year. Due to this support and generosity we have been able to donate over **£2,766.90p**. This includes:

**Children's Rosary Appeal £25 Youth Lourdes Pilgrimage £541.90(600euro spending money)**

**Lourdes Fund £300**

**Cancer Research UK £700**

**C.H.A.S. £700**

**Fr. Mike's Brazil Fund £500**

Once again thanks to all who supported our functions and gave donations to same. We pray for your continued support in the future. *May God Bless You All - J. Bryce Grand Knight*

**DURING MOST OF THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

Funerals, and real emergency calls may be directed to Fr. Michael Milton at St. Mungo's Alloa while Fr. Mike is away. During his absence at all the normal mass times in St. John Vianney's and St. Bernadette's there will be Morning Office followed by Holy Communion. Any changes due to funerals will be announced from the pulpit on Sundays and a notice will be placed on both outdoor notice boards.

During January the Church and Parish House will be rewired and brought up to required electrical health and safety standards. This may involve some weekly services to be held in the hall but should not upset our Sunday Masses.

People who can help you if need be regarding:

Anything pastoral in St. John Vianney's see the Ursuline Sisters

Church and Sacristy at St. Bernadette's see Jim Tobin or Sam Morrison

Financial matters (they cannot write cheques !!!) Charlie Conlan & John Patton

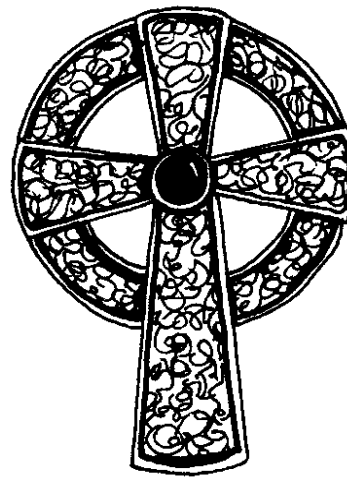
Newsletter and Notice Board see Peter Lamb.

Parish Office/Mail see Patricia Smith

Families in need see SVDP

*Fr. Mike*

**Please Note there will be no newsletter next week.  
The next issue will be 3rd January 2010**



**Sunday Mass Times**

9.30 am, St. John Vianney's  
Alva  
11.30 am, St. Bernadette's  
Tullibody  
6.15 pm, St. John Vianney's  
Alva

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

**GOOGLE US !!**

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

20+27 December 2009

Diocese of Dunkeld

Scottish Charity No. SC001180

**Fr. Mike Freyne MHM**

Parish Priest

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Baingle Brae

Tullibody

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**St. John Vianney's**

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Alva

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**Sister Nora Carr U.J. & Sr. Margaret Maher U.J**

Parish Sisters - Ursulines of Jesus

St. John Vianney's

Tel: 01259 760324

**Welcome** - If you are a visitor to our Parish or have just moved into the area, then please feel very welcome. Introduce yourself to the Parish Priest or welcomers at the back of the church.

**Remember** - there are no strangers here only new friends you just haven't yet met.

**Parish Finance  
2009 Collections**

St. John Vianney's	Alva
13 December	£413.78
St. Bernadette's,	Tullibody
13 December	£369.83



**Please Remember in Your Prayers**

**Those who are sick.....**

Bishop Vincent Logan, Fr. Ian Mullen, Pat Franchie, Bronia Schultza, Vera Kasciewicz, Mary McGeehan, Tom Glass, Josie Nichols, Veronica Clarke, Jan Moffat, Mary Dryland, Jean McCann, Annie Fitzgerald, Patrick Meehan, Annie Russell, William Norwood, Robert McInnes, Jim Hislop, Lawrence Allan, Mary Elliot, Mary Wilkie, James Cairns, Margaret Hamilton, James Gallacher, Gerard Clarke, Dan Tierney, Jimmy McQueenie, John Reid Crichton, and Maeve Segrave

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

Pat Carlin

**and those whose anniversaries of their death occur at this**

**time.....** James Smith, Mary Tobin, Edward Tobin, Hugh McDonald John & Silvia Cooper, James Tobin, Cathy Davies, Colin Conner, Peter Witton, Ken Oxford, Thomas McKaveney (Junior), Anne and James Patton and Bernard Hughes.



# Christmas Week 2009

## Confessions this week

Please note: again we have two penitential services this week:

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm St.John Vianney's, Penitential Service**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 7 pm St.Bernadette's, Penitential Service.**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> CHRISTMAS EVE 8.00am St.Bernadette's (last confession 8.30am).** Please, there have been numerous opportunities in the 10 days before Christmas for going to confession.

This last opportunity is really if you have been totally unable to take advantage of the other opportunities.

<b>Sunday 20 December 4th Sunday of Advent Year C</b>	<b>Masses as normal 12.30pm - St Bernadette's, Baptism 4.00pm - St.John Vianney's Christmas liturgy of catechetical classes,</b>
<b>Mon 21st December</b>	<b>9.30am - St.John Vianney's Mass &amp; Anointing of Sick 7.00pm - St.John Vianney's, Penitential Service</b>
<b>Tues 22 December</b>	<b>7 pm St.Bernadette's: Christmas Blues Mass for widows, widowers, friends of our deceased, remembered in a special way at this time of Christmas</b>
<b>Wed 23 December</b>	<b>9.30am - St.Bernadette's, Mass &amp; Anointing of sick. 7.00pm - St.Bernadette's, Penitential Service.</b>
<b>Thurs 24 December Christmas Eve</b>	<b>8.00am - St.Bernadette's Confessions (last confession 8.30) 9.30am - Confessions &amp; Mass, Glenochill Prison 9.30pm - St.Bernadette's Vigil Mass 11.30pm - Carols, St.John Vianney's 00.00 - St.John Vianney's Vigil mass</b>
<b>Friday 25th December Christmas Day</b>	<b>9.30am - Mass, St.John Vianney's 11.30am - Mass, St.Bernadette's NO EVENING MASS</b>
<b>Sat 26th December</b>	<b>9.30am - Mass, St.Bernadette's: NO CONFESSIONS</b>
<b>Sunday 27 Dec Feast of Holy Family</b>	<b>Masses as normal</b>
<b>Mon 28 December</b>	<b>9.30am - Morning Office + Holy Communion, St.John Vianney's (Holy Innocents)</b>
<b>Wed 30 December</b>	<b>9.30am - Morning Office + Holy Communion, St.Bernadette's</b>
<b>Thurs 31 December</b>	<b>9.30am - Morning Office + Holy Communion, St.Bernadette's</b>
<b>Fri 1st January 2010</b>	<b>9.30am - Morning Office + Holy Communion, St.John Vianney's (Mary Mother of God)</b>
<b>Sat 2nd January 2010</b>	<b>9.30am - Morning Office + Holy Communion, St.Bernadette's (No Confessions)</b>
<b>Sunday 3rd January 2010</b>	<b>Masses at all normal times celebrated by SMA Fathers</b>



## CELEBRATION

Christmas is a time for celebration. How do you celebrate? Do you rush around spending more money than you can really afford in order to buy food, decorations, presents and drink? Or do you take a tippie or two at the office party and remain in a daze until sometime around New Years Day?

Perhaps you're one of those who feel that their Christmas is incomplete if you haven't spent some time in church, listening to the readings about the birth of Christ and responding with well-loved carols and hymns?

Our ways of celebrating either anaesthetise us to reality or heighten our perception of it. So how did the characters in the gospels celebrate the very first Christmas? The shepherds celebrated by spreading the gossip of the Good News everywhere they went.

- The angels and the wise men celebrated the birth by being amazed.
- Mary celebrated by storing up all these wonderful things and treasuring them in her heart.

So this year why not listen to the good news of God identifying with our human condition on that first Christmas, then allow yourself to be utterly amazed by it, and finally, when you have stored it all up, ponder it seriously? If you do these three things then you really will have celebrated Christmas.



## HOLY FAMILY

"Nowadays the family requires special consideration and concrete policies aimed at promoting and protecting its essential nature, its development and its stability. Among other things, I am thinking of the serious problems associated with housing and employment. It must not be forgotten that in helping the family we also help to resolve other important problems, such as providing assistance to the sick and the elderly, stopping the spread of crime, and finding a remedy to drug use." **(Pope John Paul II)**

I don't care how poor a person is.  
If they have a family they are rich. **(Ellen Jordan)**



The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together. **(Erma Bombeck)**

## Mass of thanksgiving for all parish workers

Thanks to all those who participated in the mass and also helped in all the preparation.

It was both an excellent spiritual and fraternal evening.  
On new Years night all those who dedicate their time and energies to helping in our parishes will be remembered in a special mass Fr. Mike is celebrating with a similar group in Brazil.



## Finance Memo

It has been brought to our attention that it seemingly is or was a custom in Ireland and in some Scottish parishes, that the Christmas Collection is offered to the priests of the parish as a Christmas offering. We would like to guarantee that it has never been a custom here and that the Christmas collection does in fact belong to the parish.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL