

Galloway Diocese NEWS

*Summer
Edition*

*June
2026*

Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit



Continues Across the Diocese

Bishop Frank writes

Praying, Listening, Waiting: The Spirit's Work in Galloway



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to the latest edition of Galloway News.

I would like to share with you a little experience in prayer I had recently. It was connected to a psalm that I have prayed many times in my life, Psalm 27. Specifically, since my first year in seminary, I have been touched by the words it ends with:

**Hope in the Lord,
Hold firm and take heart,
Hope in the Lord.**

These are words that have stayed with me over the years and have been a great source of comfort. However, for the first time a few weeks ago, I found myself praying that psalm but with a different translation, the one we now use in the readings at Mass. It now reads:

**Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and take heart
And wait for the Lord.**

At first, I was personally offended that something I had been so familiar with had been changed. But I stayed with it and, rather than be stuck in my huff at things not staying the way they had always been, I let the words seep into my heart, especially that word "wait". What a big difference there is in English between "hope" and "wait", and because of the unfamiliarity it made me stop and think. How often am I actually willing to wait for the Lord? How often instead am I tempted to run ahead with my ideas, my opinions, my plans?

The temptation is to do before reflecting, to want to be seen to be acting, to want to fix things, to answer every question straight away, to be impatient. That word "wait" jumped out at me and reminded me that I am called to go at God's pace not mine. It doesn't mean doing nothing, but it does mean avoiding the temptation to get ahead of the Lord before I know what he really wants.

This year I have invited us all to pray to the Holy Spirit, to pray for an openness to his gifts, to pray for discernment. There has been a wonderful response to this across the Diocese and I hope it continues.

But are we tempted to say something like, "that's the praying done, now let's get on with the real business"? After all, there is much to do in Galloway. There are serious challenges to be faced, big decisions to be made. And maybe some of you are impatient that I am not moving fast enough!

But maybe we do still need to wait. Maybe the Spirit is speaking to us, and we aren't quite hearing him out. Maybe we have to be careful to identify what are our certainties and what are God's, and that the two aren't always the same. Until we know where the Lord wants us to go, how can we plan to get there?

I have presented you with a question:

How does the Holy Spirit want the Diocese of Galloway to proclaim the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus in 2033?

Crucially, that question does not ask "How do I want this?" but "How does the Holy Spirit want this?". If we are going to hear him out, then we have to give him the time. He will answer in his way and in his time. And just maybe the Spirit will surprise. I wonder how well we are prepared to deal with what he might want, with the possibility he might take us in ways we do not want to go?

But even if we are a bit fearful of the road ahead, we remember that we journey together in the Lord and with each other. We just have to be patient: with ourselves, with each other and with God!

I would love to finish this off by telling you the plan, but I don't have one yet! I would love to be able to tell where we will be in 7 years' time, but I don't know that either. But I am not worried by that. Why? Because of how Psalm 27 begins:

**The Lord is my light and my salvation –
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life –
Of whom shall I be afraid.**

And anyway, as you read through this magazine you will see how many great things are already happening in Galloway, you will see great examples of faith in action, you will see the action of the Spirit and the love of Christ. The Lord is already with us, the Lord is already caring for us. We just have to notice and pray for discerning hearts so that we can go forward in faith.

**Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and take heart
And wait for the Lord.**

+Francis Dougan

Prayer for the Diocese of Galloway

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful and
kindle in us the fire of your love.**

**Send forth your Spirit
and we shall be created and you
shall renew the face of the earth.**

**O God,
who has taught the hearts of your
faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit;
grant that by the gift of the same
Spirit we may be always truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**

St. Ninian, Pray for us.

Adult Faith Formation in the Diocese

By Father William McFadden



Since the publication of the last Galloway News, the Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Team has been busy and productive. They have put together an Adult Faith Formation Resources Handout which has been sent to all Parish Priests and is also available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdg.org.uk. This handout is to encourage individuals and parish groups to make use of a variety of resources from a range of publications and media sources. It is hoped that any engagement with the subjects from the range and styles offered will prove to be helpful and stimulating.

A second initiative is in response to the reply usually received when parishioners are asked what they would like as part of any adult faith formation programme. "Something about the Scriptures" is the favourite answer. What is being proposed therefore is a revisiting of the very helpful and illuminating document produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland **"The Gift of Scripture."** Written to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Dei Verbum, the document of the Second Vatican Council that explained the place of the Scriptures in God's revelation, it offers a specific teaching document to invite people to "hear, understand and live God's word" today. The publication in a very clear and concise approach outlines the teaching of Dei Verbum, and explains how best the Scriptures might be used as a powerful means of encountering God.

The Team is proposing to offer resources to groups, either in person or online, which will present opportunities for reflection based on **"The Gift of Scripture."** These questions and points for consideration will hopefully lead to further and deeper sharing of learning and wisdom.

Taking time to pray with and to study the Scriptures is an integral part of the spiritual life of any disciple, and so choosing to engage with this diocesan initiative to deepen our understanding of the Scriptures is surely worth considering. Further information will be available after the summer when the project will be rolled out. In the meantime, a couple of quotations from Pope Francis might encourage anyone who is hesitant about taking part to come to a positive decision and to opt in when the invitation is made.

"The Bible is the best vaccine against closure and self-preservation. It is the Word of God, not ours, and it takes us away from being at the centre, preserving us from self-sufficiency and triumphalism, constantly calling us to come out of ourselves." (Address to the Catholic Biblical Federation 26th April 2019)

"...we must approach the Bible without ulterior motives, without exploiting it. The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore they should be welcomed and understood in that same Spirit, so that the encounter can occur." (Catechesis Wednesday Audience 27th January 2021)

It is our sincere wish that by revisiting **"The Gift of Scripture,"** a valuable contribution will be made to the pastoral and spiritual journey which the people of the diocese are being invited to embark upon in preparation for the Great jubilee Year of 2033. We cannot wait until then to decide how best to commemorate this significant anniversary and Holy Year. We must begin now.

Listening to the Holy Spirit in Galloway

By Louise Girvan

As we continue as a diocese in our Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit, we are invited to reflect not only on our personal faith, but also on the health of our communities and what the future might look like for the Church in Scotland. Prayer is never an escape from reality, it is a way of seeing reality more truthfully.

One truth that we cannot ignore is the growing strain on our priests and deacons. Many serve multiple parishes, travel long distances, and carry pastoral responsibilities that would once have been shared among several members of the clergy. Their faith and dedication is remarkable, but faith and dedication cannot sustain them indefinitely. Their ministry invites us to deepen our gratitude and to support them through prayer and through the shared life of our parishes.

The future of our parish life also depends on lay people coming forward, not simply to "help out", but to recognise that baptism gives each of us a role in the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit calls each of us to serve God

with our own unique gifts and talents. The Spirit equips ordinary people with extraordinary gifts, and these gifts are needed now more than ever.

As we pray for renewal, we are invited to look with fresh eyes at the people around us. There may be those who, for a variety of reasons, find it difficult to feel at home in a parish community or feel themselves on the edges. In this Year of Prayer, we are encouraged to be more attentive to one another, to notice who might be missing, who might be waiting for a welcome, and to let the Holy Spirit guide us towards deeper listening and renewed trust.

The Holy Spirit is not calling us to despair over shortages or struggles, but to a renewal rooted in honesty, compassion, and shared responsibility. Responding with open hearts ensures that this Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit becomes a time of renewal, welcome, and shared strength for our diocese.

Faith and Science

By Father Joe Boland

One of the gifts I received on the occasion of my 80th birthday last year, from a couple who knew I was interested in the subject, was a book about Quantum Physics. It is something which has fascinated me for a while now and I just loved the title: *Why Nobody Understands Quantum Physics and Everyone Needs to Know Something About It*. I certainly don't understand it. But everything it points to moves me deeply and opens up a whole new way of thinking about God and the world. Many people today still think, or have been encouraged to think, that science and religion are forever in conflict with each other. As if 'religion' were for weak-minded people who believe in superstition and magic rather than the insights of modern science. And the Churches have not always helped in this regard, something we will come back to later. But science itself is changing.

We have moved over recent years from a world where science thought it knew everything to one where it is having to come to terms with the fact that it knows very little in the grand scheme of things. Hardly a week goes past without stories in the media of discoveries which are forcing us to reconsider things we previously thought were givens, indisputable and undisputed facts about the world we live in. Central to this, of course, are the mind-blowing things about the Cosmos being revealed to us by the James Webb telescope. But even more astonishing are the things we are discovering about the Quantum world. About how, at the very deepest level of reality currently accessible to us, rules of physics which up to now we thought were fixed and immutable, and which are fundamental to the way we think of and relate to the world around us, don't apply. Particles that are in more than one place at a time; quantum entanglement; the Observer Effect whereby things don't take on a definite shape until they are observed; And so on. At this deep level of reality human logic as we know it ceases to mean anything, leaving us struggling to find language to express or explain the 'weird' truths about reality revealing themselves to us. But the wonderful thing about it all is the possibilities it opens up for us.

St Thomas Aquinas – it is always good to quote him if you want to cut off critics at the pass – reminds us that, if something is true, it can only be of God. And so, if things we have always thought turn out to be inconsistent with

the truth, then we must be prepared to modify them. Faced with the many challenges facing people of faith today, science is not our enemy. It is our friend. There can be no conflict between the great mysteries of faith and the mind-blowing insights of the Quantum World. The truths of faith remain the same in themselves, but the words, concepts, metaphors and images we use to express them, can and sometimes must change, as our understanding of the world around us develops and changes. Pope Francis famously said that the world today is living through, not an era of change, but a change of era. The traditional ways of expressing the things we believe have, in many cases, passed their sell-by-date. Modern science is opening up to us truths about ourselves, God and the Cosmos which have the capacity to stir in people today a new sense of the wonder and amazement at the wonders of creation which have underpinned religion from the beginning of time. Quantum Physics is, I suggest, the best friend we have as we struggle to make the great truths of our faith relevant again to a world which is increasingly hungry for something that makes sense to it.

But the Church historically does not have a good record on this. Galileo (1564 –1642) is seen by many as the father of modern science, and look what happened to him. If the truths of Quantum Physics challenge some of the things we believe about the world around us, it was no different in Galileo's time. The idea that the earth revolved around the sun and not vice-versa, one of the implications being that we humans are not, as we thought we were, the centre of the universe, was deeply disturbing for the people of the time. Their whole understanding of God, Incarnation, Redemption seemed to be undermined by what Galileo was saying. But he was right and it took the Church centuries to officially admit this. It was in 1992 that Pope John Paul did this and described that the Church's condemnation of Galileo in the 17th Century as 'A Tragic Mutual Incomprehension'. In the 16th Century, after Columbus 'discovered' the New World, many in the Church in Europe questioned where the 'natives' were human beings created by God and saved by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. And then, in the 19th Century, we had Charles Darwin and the controversy over Evolution. As happened in Galileo's day, Church people could just not come to terms with what Darwin was saying. It

seemed to challenge everything they believed about the Bible and what it said about creation in the Book of Genesis. Even today in some places around the world Christians are still tying themselves in knots over this. But Darwin was right. And again in the 19th Century, we have Pope Pius IX's Syllabus of Errors, a list of 80 condemnations of virtually everything that was going on in the world at the time, including democracy. At its heart it was a rejection of modernity itself, and in particular of the French Revolution, the Enlightenment and all they represented. And the roots of this are still with us today. Behind the controversy surrounding the Latin Mass, in its most extremes forms, lies the same fundamental rejection of all that is modern, leading its 'true believers' to question the validity of the Second Vatican Council and Popes right back as far as Pius IX.

So, when it comes to embracing new ideas and ways of thinking we have always had a problem. But I end with two quotes. The first is the opening words of one of the most important documents of Vatican II, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern world (*Gaudium et Spes*) and a verse from the first page of the book with which I began this article.

The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the man and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. United in Christ they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man and woman. That is why this community realises that it is truly linked with humankind and its history by the deepest of bonds.

*The atoms and their hidden reign,
Unseen by the eye, unknown by the brain.
Our dreams fall short, they cannot hold,
A vision that no mind can mould.
Quantum, a spark in recent years,
Met our thought uncertain and unclear.
Yet now we see, as both align:
A deeper glance
Rewrites the line.
It breaks the truth we thought we knew,
revealing world beyond our view*

Requiescat in pace

Canon Patrick McSorley

Reflection by Father Gerald Donnelly

In the middle of the North Channel as you sail across you see perfectly Ireland and Scotland and the Galloway coast. It was a crossing Pat knew well and made many times throughout his life, looking at his homeland and his new land. The balance between family home and life as priest in Galloway, a balance between where he was Patsy to his family and friends and to where he was Pat to everyone in the Diocese.

On the 21st of December 1988 Pam Am flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie. Instinctively Pat raced over from Dumfries to be there, he was joined also by Fr Joe Holmes. It was that reaction to be where he was needed and doing the Lord's work and bringing Christ to those in need, that was his motivation throughout his life. Pat trained at All Hallows seminary in Dublin. It was a seminary specifically for those who would leave Ireland and serve all over the world. Pat's own brother Gerald served as a priest in California and Pat came to Galloway, I think it was the climate that was the clincher. Even before that Pat was seconded to Dunkeld Diocese for two years before serving in St Joseph's Kilmarnock and then became the first Parish Priest of the new Matthew's parish also in Kilmarnock. He then went to St Teresa's Dumfries where I served as a curate with Pat and from there to St Quivox Prestwick. Pat served for over ten years in each of these three parishes. Pat retired to Troon but continued to help and be of assistance and support to the surrounding parishes.

Each one of us is called to respond to the gospel whatever our vocation or ministry. Our gospel passage today tells us that this event happened on "The first day of the week", this is an Easter Gospel and we are an Easter people Sunday by Sunday we celebrate the resurrection as priest presiding at Mass and as all the faithful baptised into Christ.

Pat responded to this Easter gospel allowing the word of God to burn within him. Pat recognised Christ at the breaking of bread, presiding at the Eucharist. Quietly and profoundly by his own life and example he told his story. The two disciples are transformed from sorrow to joy and run back to Jerusalem. Pat conveyed that same joy.

THE GRAIL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do
Your work. I give you my feet to go Your
way. I give you my eyes to see as You
do. I give you my tongue to speak Your
words. I give you my mind that You may
think in me. I give you my spirit that
You may pray in me. Above all, I give
you my heart that You may love in me
Your Father and all mankind. I give you
my whole self that You may grow in me,
so that it is You, Lord Jesus, who live
and work and pray in me.



We give thanks to God for he life he gave to Pat. We thank God for Patsy, a brother, an uncle and great uncle. We give thanks for his talents and gifts, he was a great sportsman, playing senior Gaelic football for Tyrone in his youth as well as a lifelong love of golf and football. As a presbyterate we give thanks to God for Pat as a brother priest. We pray for the repose of his soul.

I was with Pat in St Teresa's Dumfries from April 1995 till February 1997 when Pat left for St Quivox Prestwick. I remember those times fondly and think of those days. I remember one day during the Euros 1996 Pat couldn't believe that I had managed to get to the Scotland v Holland match in Birmingham having taken a notion to try and go. (A ticket materialised at Southwaite services!). There is a Spanish saying about the people of Galicia in North west Spain which says "If you met them on a staircase you wouldn't know if they were going up or down, and they wouldn't tell you either." Pat could be a bit like that. You could meet him in schools or hospitals having said nothing about his plans for the day at Mass or in the house. He was dedicated, hardworking in ministry and loved by his parishioner and fellow clergy.

Patsy spent the last four years back home in Ireland among family and with his own brother Dan and its to his eternal home we commend him.



Canon Patrick McSorley pictured in St Quivox, Prestwick

Princess Royal Attends HMS Dasher Memorial Service in Ardrossan

By George McGrattan

On the afternoon of Saturday 27 March 1943, the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Dasher was sailing in the Clyde Estuary between Ardrossan and Arran. At 4.40 pm, there was an enormous explosion. Within eight minutes, the ship sank. Of the 528 men on board, 379 were killed by the blast or were drowned.

On 27 March 1993, exactly 50 years after the tragedy, a memorial stone and plaque were unveiled at a service in the Sunken Garden on South Beach across from the Church of Saint Peter in Chains in Ardrossan.



A year later, on 16 July 1994, another plaque was unveiled on a wall at Saint Peter's. At the left in the photo below is the late Father Michael Lynch, then Parish Priest. In the centre is John Steele, researcher and author on the Dasher. The other man is Bob Dotchin, a survivor of the sinking.

Most years since 1993, memorial services, organised by the Royal British Legion Saltcoats, Ardrossan and Stevenston branch, have been held in the Sunken Garden, some conducted by local Church of Scotland ministers. Since 2006, the services have been led by Saint Peter's Parish Priest Canon Matt McManus, even after his retirement in 2017.

This year's commemoration took place on 29 March. Again, it was conducted by Canon Matt, Bishop Frank Dougan and Father Duncan McVicar, current Parish Priest of Saint Peter's, were also present. The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, accompanied by her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, was guest of honour. She took the salute and laid a wreath on behalf of King Charles.



Behind Canon Matt McManus at the microphone are Bishop Frank Dougan and Father Duncan McVicar. In the foreground at the left are the Princess Royal and her husband, Tim Laurence.

As has become customary, the service was followed by refreshments in Saint Peter's Parish Centre where the Princess met privately with families of the Dasher crew, presenting some with Arctic Star medals.

Although 379 men lost their lives, most of the bodies have not been found. Thirteen are buried in Ardrossan Cemetery, seven in Greenock and four in Brodick.

Some rest in other coastal cemeteries and four of the deceased were returned to their home towns for burial.

In his book 'They Were Never Told – The Tragedy Of HMS Dasher', John Steele reported that many bodies were washed up at the North Shore in Ardrossan. The area was closed to the public and patrolled by Royal Navy personnel. Survivors were instructed not to speak about the event. Wartime secrecy meant there were reporting restrictions to prevent damaging morale.

A then secret Admiralty document dated 6 April 1943 stated that 'Bodies are being washed up, identified, buried etc on the coast'. Despite John Steele's research and requests, the Ministry of Defence has not shared any information it may have on where the bodies might be buried.

In October 2012, North Ayrshire Council commissioned an archaeological investigation on unmarked ground near the Dasher graves in Ardrossan Cemetery. The intention was to consider if this was the site of a possible mass grave. The conclusion was that 'no deposits or features pertaining to a mass burial were encountered'.

Consequently, the resting places of some of the Dasher crew remain unknown. What is known, however, is that, by playing its part in the annual HMS Dasher memorial services, Saint Peter's Church is committed to remembering those who gave their lives for their country. May those who died rest in peace – wherever their graves may be.



Princess Anne was the focus of attention in Saint Peter's Parish Centre.



The St Andrew's Deanery Pastoral Council met in the parish hall in Kirkcudbright on Saturday 16th May 2026. The parishes represented included: Annan, Lockerbie & Moffat, St Andrew's Dumfries, St Teresa's Dumfries, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart, Whithorn & Wigtown, and Stranraer. After a time of prayer those gathered reflected on the following questions: (1) What does your parish mean to you? What does the deanery mean to you? What does the diocese mean to you? (2) How does your parish bring you and others closer to Christ? How might your parish improve in bringing you and others closer to Christ? (3) What should the priorities be for your parish and for the diocese as we prepare for the Jubilee Year of 2033; (4) What should a Diocesan Pastoral Council look like and what should its focus be? There was a very good atmosphere of "Listening in the Spirit" in seeking to discern answers to these questions, and a report of the day has been forwarded to Bishop Frank for his consideration and reflection. All in all, it was a very good example of Synodality in practice, and participants were encouraged to go back to their own parish communities and report on what had emerged as a result of spending time together as a deanery group.



St Andrew's Deanery Pastoral Council

Adult Faith Formation at St Quivox, Prestwick

By Miriam Taylor

The Scripture group was formed as a result of a Parish meeting. Back in 2022 a list of groups within the parish were listed on the wall and there was space to add groups which people wanted.

The scripture group met and it was decided that we would look at the Gospel for the coming Sunday. I send a message on our group detailing what the Gospel will be. Then another quick reminder of the meeting.

The format of the meeting: we start with a prayer, then the reading of the Gospel. After the reading we have a few minutes silence. I usually start with looking at some notes I have made. The general format is a sharing of what the gospel has said to us. We sometimes look at background and how it fulfils the Old Testament promises. At the end of the meeting we close with a prayer for peace.

The discussion that takes place is varied from meeting to meeting. What is evident is that we grow in our faith by the sharing we do in the group. We can share doubts, prayer life, wonder, confusion and a gamut of other topics within one meeting. It is truly amazing!

There are around twelve members in the group, Most of us have retired, a couple still work and most also have families. The numbers vary from meeting to meeting. People dip in and out. When they can attend they come.

I asked the group to give me a sentence of what they got out of the group. Here are some of the responses:

"A space to gather in a small group for prayer and reflection and deepen my understanding of scripture."

"A gentle place to listen to and talk about the following Sunday Gospel. It's a nice way to pray together on the word."

"A lovely safeplace to share our feelings about scripture and to learn from others."

"I'm fascinated by the way we all read the same passage but can interpret it so differently. That makes me examine my beliefs and question my own interpretation."

"As a newbie I agree with the above, it provides an opportunity to re-evaluate one's own interpretation and consider other's insights."

"I love Scripture offers a safe and calm space to explore the Bible and discuss how each of us interprets the passages, giving fresh insight into our own understanding and perspective. I've learnt a lot since joining."

Visit to St Mary's, New Abbey St Joseph's, Kilmarnock

By Margaret McGrath

For several years now, St Joseph's Church Kilmarnock has been running trips for parishioners to places of local and religious significance.

This year, to start off the season, we decided to travel to the ever popular New Abby, a small village just south of Dumfries.

On arrival, local parishioners welcomed us to the beautiful 19th century church of St Mary's. Unfortunately it is no longer used as a working church since closure in 2013, however we were privileged to have Mass there celebrated by Fr Kevin Rennie who was accompanying us. We are so grateful to Jo and Nick Kemp who look after the church and allowed us access.

We then made our way to the local tea shop where we discovered that two of our number were missing. It transpired they had taken a wrong turning in the church and couldn't find the way out! They were speedily reunited with the group and revived by an excellent afternoon tea. After this there was the opportunity to explore the remains of Sweetheart Abbey, a 13th Century Cistercian Abbey founded by Lady Dervorgilla in memory of her husband. Others took a walk through the village to the New Abbey Corn Mill.

Our journey home was broken by a stop at St Teresa's church in Dumfries as several people expressed a desire to see it. They were not disappointed.

Following this successful outing the parish committee has several more planned for the coming months including a trip to Aberfoyle and an excursion on the PS Waverley. We are grateful to all the volunteer drivers who make these trips possible.



St Joseph's minibus trip pictured in St Marys, New Abbey

A Night at the Movies St Teresa's, Dumfries

By Theresa Lawson



Able led by our musical director/producer, Elizabeth Blount, who had spent the previous few months choosing songs and backing tracks and cajoling and haranguing her cast to learn their words and learn to sing and "dance" at the same time, we performed 40 songs used in various films. Songs ranged from "Smile" (Modern Times) and "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" (Way out West) to "These Boots Are Made for Walking" (Austin Powers) and "My Heart Will Go On" (Titanic). Over £750 was raised for church funds. We have been asked if we will be having another concert soon – our reply is a quote from another of the songs performed on the night "Que Será Será ..."

At 6.59 pm on Saturday 9th June, 11 nervous members of St Teresa's Church choir were standing by the side of the stage in the church hall wondering why they had agreed to take part in a concert, however with a paying audience already seated the show had to go on and with laughter, applause and community singing in all the right places nerves were soon forgotten! To quote from the opening number "Movies were Movies" "no-one pretended that what we were doing was art" but nevertheless it was a fantastic bravura performance from the ensemble with several standout memorable moments.



**Galloway
Lourdes Hospitalité
70th Anniversary Mass**

**Sunday 21st June 2026
3.30pm**



**St Winin's
St Winnings Lane
Kilwinning
KA13 6EP**



Followed by refreshments in the hall

1956 - 2026

**Galloway Diocese
Dates for the Diary**

Sunday 21 June

Lourdes Hospitalité 70th Anniversary Mass
St Winning's, Kilwinning

Sunday 30 August

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Whithorn
Mass 4pm at St Ninian's Cave

**Food Tasting
St Mary's, Saltcoats
By Canon Martin Poland**

St Mary's, Saltcoats, had a food tasting session in the hall on Sunday 3rd May where members of congregation from different countries provided a typical national dish for people to sample. Dishes were provided from Ghana, Philippines, South Korea, Scotland, Mexico, Columbia and Italy and were well received by a full hall. It was agreed that we will repeat this once a year when hopefully other nationalities (eg Vietnam) can also take part.

Galloway Diocese News

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Safeguarding in Galloway Diocese

Tony Fisher is Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser



Safeguarding Annual Conference

The Annual Safeguarding Conference will take place on 7th November 2026 at the Science and Innovation Centre in the Strathclyde University Campus in Glasgow.

Joining details for volunteers will follow soon and please remember that the Diocese will fund your place at the Conference if you wish to attend.

Further details of the keynote speakers and of the breakout sessions will be circulated in the near future.

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator (PSC) Training

All of the Parish Safeguarding Coordinator's in Galloway will be invited to participate in a newly developed Training Session aimed specifically at updating the PSC's in Galloway.

Dates and venues are being discussed and all PSC's will be individually invited to attend one of the sessions this year.

Those attending should also know that the Training will also be CPD Accredited by the CPD Certification Service.

Please note that you should have completed the Induction Training before you sign up to attend the PSC Training.

Thank You

On behalf of the Safeguarding Team, our continued thanks go to those who have continued to contribute to the Galloway Safeguarding service as well as to those who have moved on from their voluntary roles in Galloway.

We would also like to welcome those who have joined the expanding group of volunteers in the Diocese of Galloway and we look forward to hearing about your experiences in the ministries that you have chosen to help and develop.

Cardinal Winning Lecture 2026: The Beauty of Catholic Schools and Why It Matters

By Amélie Davidson

The University of Glasgow recently hosted the annual Cardinal Winning Lecture, a prestigious event celebrating the significance of Catholic education in Scotland and beyond. The lecture brought together educators, clergy, students, and supporters of Catholic schooling, offering reflection and inspiration on the vital role Catholic schools play in forming young people in faith, intellect, and character. Established to honour the legacy of Cardinal Thomas Winning, the lecture has, over the years, become a highlight for those committed to Catholic education, highlighting contemporary challenges, research, and best practice in schools across Scotland.

The day began with Mass in the University's Memorial Chapel, a tradition that anchors the lecture in the spiritual life of the Church. The principal celebrant, Bishop Keenan, joined by Bishop Dougan, invited attendees to reflect on the integration of faith and learning - a theme that would resonate throughout the day.

Following Mass, guests gathered in the Humanity Lecture Theatre for the keynote address, delivered by Dr Jem Sullivan, Associate Professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Dr Sullivan's lecture, entitled "Why the Way of Beauty Matters in Catholic Education," explored the transformative power of beauty - in art, human relationships, and faith experiences - as a cornerstone of Catholic education. She highlighted how Catholic schools foster the development of the whole person, nurturing not only academic excellence but also moral, spiritual, and personal growth. By engaging students with beauty in its many forms, schools invite learners to encounter truth and goodness, deepening their understanding of both themselves and God. Dr Sullivan emphasised that this approach helps students cultivate empathy, discernment, and a sense of wonder - qualities essential for both personal development and meaningful contribution to society.

Reflecting on the modern age of social media and artificial intelligence, Dr Sullivan also noted the unique challenges young people face today. Catholic schools, she argued, provide guidance and values to help students navigate these new digital landscapes, encouraging them to make thoughtful and ethical choices.

At the conclusion of the lecture, the two recipients of the Turnbull Scholarship in Catholic Education Research received their certificates including Mr Brown, Principal Teacher of Religious Education at St Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock.

For many in the Diocese and beyond, the Cardinal Winning Lecture offered both inspiration and encouragement to continue supporting Catholic education as a place where young people encounter truth, goodness, and beauty in ways that shape their lives and communities. The day concluded with conversation, prayer, and fellowship, bringing together teachers, clergy, students, and supporters from across Scotland, and leaving all present inspired and renewed in their commitment to the enduring mission of Catholic schools to shape young people's lives, character, and faith.



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Reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

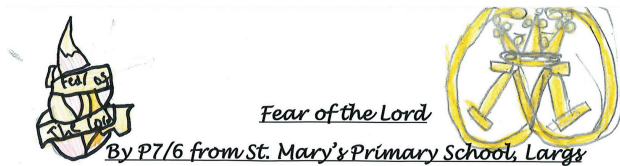


As we continue our Diocesan Year of Prayer schools across our Diocese have been reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is the first of two parts in which they write about the gifts and their reflections on them.

The Fear of the Lord

by St Mary's Primary School, Largs

During their reflections on the gift of the 'Fear of the Lord', primary seven and six pupils decided to compose a poem which explores what the gift is, and how it helps them in their lives.



By P7/6 from St. Mary's Primary School, Largs



A wonderful gift from the Holy Spirit,

Fear of the Lord we inherit.

Bestowed on us without merit,

But to be led to Heaven, we must earn it.



As we stand there in the night,

Watching the glimmering glow of starlight,

God's beautiful Creation, done just right,

Gaze in awe at this great sight!



The sunset burns with fire red,
Towards good choices, we are led.

And if we should sin instead,

An apology must be said.



Keep God in your heart and mind,

Love others and be kind,

With strong faith and hope intertwined,

God's greatest love, you will find!



Once you say your goodbyes,

You will be met with God's eyes.

Keep your eyes on the prize,

So your soul can arise!



Piety

by St Bridget's Primary School, Kilbirnie

Piety is one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and it helps us grow closer to God. We think this gift means loving God like a Father and treating other people with kindness and respect because we are all part of God's family. Piety helps us to live out our faith every day, not only when we are in church or school, but also at home and with our friends.

We have used the gift of piety in different ways during our Pope Francis Faith Award journey. For example, we have prayed together in class and helped people when they were feeling lonely or upset. Some of us showed piety by helping younger pupils in the playground, listening to our friends when they needed support or helping our families at home without complaining. We also tried to care for God's world by recycling and keeping our school tidy.

We believe piety helps us become more like Jesus because it encourages us to be loving, caring and thoughtful. By using this gift every day, we can strengthen our relationship with God and make a positive difference to the people around us.

Fortitude

by St Teresa's Primary School, Dumfries

Fortitude is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Fortitude is being courageous and doing what's right even when it's not a popular choice. It can be hard to do the right thing, to stand up for what is right and face challenges in life. Fortitude helps us to have hope and build resilience. This could be when we join a new club or try a new activity, it might feel a bit scary to start but fortitude helps us have the courage to continue. When we learn something new, like riding a bike, we must use perseverance to keep trying and trying again, eventually it makes it worth it. Fortitude also helps us to build a relationship with God. In our lives, the gift of fortitude can be seen as small acts of bravery. Standing up for others even when it means having to go against the crowd. It looks like forgiving others with grace. It might look like when we notice a classmate who is feeling left out of activities and we invite them to join a game or sit with them at lunch. This shows compassion and the courage to stand up for inclusion.

by Fallon and Wojciech (P7)



RC Diocese of Galloway

Youth Office

Gather · Pray · Discuss · Socialise



@rcdgyouth

youth.rcdg.org.uk



Easter Youth Gathering

On Saturday 18th April, sixty-five young people from across the Diocese took part in the Galloway Youth Easter Gathering. The buses picked up from Ayr, Saltcoats, Kilmarnock and Cumnock, before heading on to St Teresa's Church in Dumfries.

This was the first large event open to P5 pupils as they move towards P6, with pupils invited to get involved ahead of the summer - and with many responding with great enthusiasm. The larger Diocesan Days take place four times per year, bringing together the four regions - North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, and Dumfries and Galloway - which meet monthly. The larger events are intended to give young people a better idea of the scale of the Diocese while being part of something larger specifically for their age group.

The Youth Office's Junior Leaders - third year pupils from each cluster - supported by the Junior Leader Mentors - Junior Leaders from last year - led the games and activities for the day.



In the morning, young people spent time playing a wide variety of different fun and engaging games intended to help them mix with each other and to make new friends from across the Diocese. Games included regulars from the monthly Youth Evenings: Steal the WiFi, Protect the President, and Musical Chairs, as well as the Junior Leaders trying some new ones and variations on older games.



The Easter Youth Gathering was one of the first bigger events I went to. The bus was really fun because I got to sit with my friends and meet new people. We all laughed and played games on the way. We got to Dumfries quite quickly and I really enjoyed the games. We got to have our own name tags and then split to two groups. I really enjoyed musical chairs, steal the wifi and protect the president. At lunch there was a lot of good food from the barbeque and the sun came out which was great. Later we played more fun games and went to the church. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed the whole day and making new friends. It was my first bigger event other than the youth evenings and I can't wait for the next one.

- Gosia (P6)

While intended to be fun and enjoyable, and fostering friendships among the young people - with many looking forward to the big events to see their friends from across the Diocese - a hugely important aspect of these events is faith development and formation. The Youth Office supports young people at the Diocesan Days through times of prayer, and through talks. Where possible, these talks are written and delivered by the Junior Leaders. In this way, the Junior Leaders are encouraged to actively reflect on their own faith, understanding, and relationship with Christ and to share this with the young people present. This peer-sharing Faith witness has proved to be extremely effective in engaging with the young people taking part in these events.



As part of the Diocesan Year of Prayer, the Easter Youth Gathering focussed on the theme of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The first talk of the day focussed on what the seven gifts are, and how we're called to use them in our lives. The second talk, later in the afternoon, reflected on practical examples of how some of the Junior Leader Mentors have used and use the gifts in their lives.



In his homily for the Mass, Fr Kevin developed the theme of the gifts of the Holy Spirit further by encouraging the young people to be truly open to Christ and to use the gifts of the Spirit in their own lives. He highlighted how so often it's possible to be so busy that Christ's call gets drowned out in life and to hear it, it's important to make time for prayer. He reminded the young people that sometimes God can challenge them, and sometimes they can be nervous or afraid, but that if they open their hearts to Jesus, even just a little bit, then he will enter into their lives and transform them in his love. If they do this, then they can live as his disciples, his friends, today.

After Mass the young people enjoyed a fantastic lunch prepared by volunteers from St Teresa's which included: pizza, burgers, crisps, sweets, and delicious homebaking donated by parishioners. Everyone had a fantastic lunch and thoroughly enjoyed the food. Parishioners were also supported by Caritas pupils from St Joseph's College who gave up their Saturday to help serve and assist with the day in a range of ancillary roles.



After lunch, the games and activities continued with the Junior Leaders taking the lead while their Mentors studied for their S4 exams which were coming up shortly after the day. A particular favourite of the day was 'Protect the President' - a take on dodgeball, except with the team defending a specific person on their team who was unknown to the other team.



The Youth Office expresses their thanks to everyone who was involved in the day:

- Their **Adult Leaders** who travelled with the group and from Dumfries who gave up their time to supervise and support the day.
- The **Junior Leaders and Mentors** who led the games, activities, and talks.
- Mrs Grant and the **St Joseph's Academy Junior Choir** who led the music ministry for Mass.
- The **Volunteer Parishioners** who came along to cook the lunch and to help clear up afterwards, as well as those who donated baking.
- The **Caritas pupils** from St Joseph's College who came along to help out with and support the day.
- **All of the young people** who came along and made the day such a success!

Join us for the
Summer Youth Gathering
 Saturday 15th August, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm
 St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock
 Sign up online: youth.rcdg.org.uk

Spring Social



The Diocesan Young Adults group enjoyed an afternoon of Laser Quest and bowling at LA Bowl in Ayr on Saturday 25th April. Building on the sense of community which they have grown through their monthly evenings in St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, and their Camino pilgrimage last year, the group enjoyed spending the afternoon together and relaxing - although the competition in both games was fierce! They look forward to returning to LA Bowl for future socials, and to welcoming more Young Adults along to join the group.

Are you a Young Adult in S5 to age 30? Why not join our Diocesan Young Adults in person at St Joseph's, Kilmarnock, or online for their monthly evenings - or for their next social. The group meets on the first Sunday of the month from 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm in St Joseph's. For more information, or to join online, go to: youth.rcdg.org.uk.



Join us for the
Young Adults' Summer BBQ
Saturday 8th August, 6.45 pm (After the Vigil Mass)
St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock
Sign up online: youth.rcdg.org.uk

SUMMER

WITH GALLOWAY YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

25TH JULY 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM	  FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION DAY
8TH AUGUST AFTER 6.00 PM VIGIL MASS	 YOUNG ADULTS' (S5-30) SUMMER BBQ 
15TH AUGUST 11.00 AM - 4.00 PM	  SUMMER YOUTH GATHERING
ALL ABOVE TAKE PLACE AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, KILMARNOCK	
30TH AUGUST ALL DAY	 WHITHORN YOUTH PILGRIMAGE 
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DETAILS AND TO REGISTER - SEE YOU THERE!	



2027 Galloway's Seoul

"Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)

7th - 11th August 2027

Gowanbank SU Centre (Outside Darvel)

Join us for World Youth Day 2027 as Seoul comes to Galloway!

Every two to three years, young Catholics from around the world gather to mark World Youth Day. In recent years, the event has taken place in Madrid, Krakow, Rio de Janeiro, and most recently in Lisbon. Next year, it will take place in Seoul, South Korea.

Having explored the possibility of travelling to South Korea, we have found that it would be too expensive and therefore exclude many of our young people from being able to participate, so instead, we'll be bringing Seoul to Galloway as we follow the event from Gowanbank SU Centre, near Darvel, where we also host our annual Advent Retreat.

What happens at World Youth Day?

World Youth Day includes a variety of different events, following a pattern similar to the below:

- Day 1 - Opening Mass
- Day 2 - Catechesis & Mass
- Day 3 - Catechesis, Mass & Opening Ceremony with the Pope
- Day 4 - Catechesis, Mass & Stations of the Cross with the Pope
- Day 5 - Prayer Vigil with the Pope
- Day 6 - Missioning (Closing) Mass

Galloway's Seoul will run from Saturday 7th to Wednesday 11th August 2027 and replicate many of these elements, following some of them online, and celebrating them ourselves.

We'll also be including a wide range of outdoor activities each day, including: tree climbing, canoeing, hill walking, archery, nature trails, and more.

The programme blends the World Youth Day programme with our own on site programme to provide a balance of faith and activities, to support young people in fostering friendships with one another, and growing in faith and knowledge of God.

What is Catechesis? The Catechesis sessions at World Youth Day are an opportunity to learn and grow in faith. A different person each day speaks on a topic around the theme of World Youth Day - for 2027, courage and strength in Christ - before Mass is celebrated.

What is Gowanbank like?

Young people will be accommodated in shared en-suite rooms with up to 6 others. If necessary for capacity, some young people may also be accommodated in large outdoor tents shared with three others (*these tents have bunkbeds and amenities available, there would also be two leaders accommodated in a neighbouring tent - the young people would not be camping in the traditional sense*). All rooms are single gender and assigned according to age and friend groups to keep friends together.

All meals are included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner, as well as snacks at breaktimes between activities or talks, we will ensure that food is available to meet any dietary requirements.

The facilities at Gowanbank are extensive for the young people to use when not on specific activities, including a Games Room, TV Room, Silent Disco, and lots of space both within the house and grounds for outdoor activities such as football.

Who can take part?

The event is open to any young people currently in P5-S4 (P7-S6 in August 2027). The cost for the whole week, which includes all food, accommodation and activities is £400.00 per person, however we will work with and support young people over the coming year in doing fundraising in their local area to reduce this cost as far as possible. If finance is a concern, we also have grants and bursaries available, we are also able to provide support if you have more than one child wishing to take part. **There is no requirement to be Catholic to take part.**

How can I register?

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or visit our website: youth.rcdg.org.uk.



**2027 GALLOWAY'S
SEOUL**

**EXPERIENCE
WORLD YOUTH DAY
IN GALLOWAY IN 2027**



**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**

SCAN FOR DETAILS

Week includes:	
Outdoor Activities (Canoeing, Paddleboarding, Tree Climbing, Archery Tag and more!)	Participant's Pack (With lots of goodies and souvenirs!)
Talks, Prayer, and Mass All Meals & Accommodation	Following events from Seoul online and recreating others at home.

**7TH - 11TH AUGUST 2027 - GOWANBANK SU CENTRE
P7-S6 (IN SCHOOL YEAR 2027/2028) - £400 PER PERSON**

At the time of registration, there is nothing to pay, with the first payment of £75 due in September.
For full details, scan the QR code or email youth@rcdg.org.uk.

@ youth@rcdg.org.uk    Diocese of Galloway Youth - @rcdg youth



Brief Summary of Scottish Catholic History

*By Father Michael Briody,
Motherwell Diocese*

In November 2024, Pope Francis wrote that the study of Church History is about keeping 'the flame of collective memory alive, so that the faithful can navigate the present with a clearer sense of perspective, rooted in the Church's lived experience across the centuries'. In the Jubilee Year 2025, Father Michael Briody of the Scottish Catholic Heritage Commission invites us to look back over the story of the Faith in our country.

The life on earth of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the central event of human history. "The Word who is Life: this is our subject"(1 John 1:1). Anything before was leading up to it; nothing after will compare "until he comes again" at his Second Coming. Church History is about how well we have followed The Lord, and also how badly, down through the centuries.

The Gospels tell us about the Lord's Birth, his teaching and his miracles, his Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection, and his Ascension into Heaven. The Book of The Acts of the Apostles records the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost and how they were willingly propelled out across the face of the known earth to bring the message of Christ to the furthest corners. Saint Peter eventually settled in Rome where he was martyred for the Faith about 65 AD. He was hurriedly buried on the Vatican Hill where today Saint Peter's Basilica stands over the resting place of his bones. He was the 'Rock' on which Our Lord built the Church (Matthew 16:18), on which it could lean and depend, and his successors, the Popes down through the centuries, have inherited that role, including our present Holy Father, Pope Francis. We Scots Catholics have always been known for, and have always prided ourselves on, our loyalty to the Pope in every age.



St Ninian depicted in St Quivox, Prestwick

None of the Apostles reached Scotland. The Christian Faith was brought by people for whom we have no names. The first name we have in our story is Saint Ninian of Galloway who belonged to a Christian family and went to Rome 'to find out more about the Tradition' in the time-honoured phrase. He was consecrated Bishop for Scotland in Rome in 394 by Pope Saint Siricius. He made his base at Whithorn. Saint Mungo, first Bishop of Glasgow, was born in 518, and Saint Columba came from Donegal in 563. These are the three great pioneers of our Scottish Catholic story. Earlier centuries are shrouded in the mists of history and historians will dispute over dates. The above are the traditional ones. A succession of holy men and women built on the early foundations until Scottish monarchs themselves began to take a lead. Saint Margaret, (1045-93), Queen of Scots, married to King Malcolm Canmore in 1070, strengthened the links between Scotland and Rome and encouraged the monastic orders to come to Scotland. Her policies were continued by her sons, especially Saint David, King of Scots, and many of his successors until Mary Queen of Scots (1542-87). Our land is dotted with evocative monastic ruins such as at Melrose, a Cistercian foundation. The orders of canons and friars also came to Scotland and the latter are still remembered in street names like Whitefriars (Carmelites), Blackfriars (Dominicans), Greyfriars (Franciscans). A Scottish 'export' from those days was Blessed John Duns Scotus (1266-1308), a Franciscan friar, who taught in the universities of Oxford, Paris and Cologne. Known as 'Doctor Subtilis', he is recognised as one of the foremost thinkers of the late Middle Ages. He was a strong supporter of the popular devotion to Our Lady's Immaculate Conception long before it was formally defined as a doctrine of the Church in 1854.

On 30 April 1175, Bishop Jocelin acquired for Glasgow from Pope Alexander III the title *Specialis Filia Romanae Ecclesiae* (Special Daughter of the Roman Church). Later, this title was extended to the whole of Scotland and reiterated 800 years later by Pope Saint John Paul II on his visit in 1982, at the biggest gathering of Scots in our nation's history, when 300,000 celebrated Mass with him at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow.

The Declaration of Arbroath, in 1320, which declared Saint Andrew to be Scotland's long-standing patron, appealed to the Pope to recognise Scotland as a separate nation. Several popes confirmed Scottish Nationhood in the years that followed. The Vatican is one of the few international bodies today which respects the distinctiveness of Scotland, recognising, for example, that our Bishops' Conference is separate from England and Wales.

The Reformation Parliament of 1560 marked the most serious rupture in the story of Scotland. It forbade the celebration of Mass in Scotland; priests were not allowed to be in the country at all; parents were forbidden to pass on the Faith to their children; pilgrimages to holy places were banned. A whole way of life that had united the country was swept aside almost overnight and those who wished to remain faithful to the Mass and the Pope continued to practise their faith secretly, running the risk of severe penalties. Still, the Southern Hebrides, the

Western Highlands and Galloway were places where people held on tenaciously to the Faith through 250 years of persecution. The Enzie, a small area in the north-east, provided a disproportionately high number of priests to serve the Church over generations including the influx of Irish immigrants in the 1800s.

One figure standing out from that time is Saint John Ogilvie, Jesuit priest and martyr, who was put to death in Glasgow in 1615 for upholding the authority of the Pope to lead us in matters of Faith. He had been trained on the continent of Europe. Several colleges were set up there, in Rome, Spain, France and Bavaria to provide priests for Scotland. Still today we have two seminaries abroad: the Pontifical Scots College, Rome, and the Royal Scots College, Salamanca. In time, with considerable courage, colleges were established secretly in Scotland, in remote locations and under primitive conditions, Loch Morar in the Western Highlands and Scalán in the Braes of Glenlivet being the best known. Both suffered at the hands of government soldiers after the Jacobite uprisings of the 1700s. Our support for these held us back several decades in re-gaining our freedoms. Important names at this time were Bishops Thomas Nicolson, Hugh MacDonald, George Hay and John Geddes (who met and corresponded with Robert Burns). They were known, with others, as the Vicars Apostolic. Another feature of those times was a small but resilient Catholic aristocracy whose houses, like Traquair near Innerleithen, supported local Catholics and were refuges for priests travelling from one isolated Catholic community to another. In freer times some of them financed the building of new churches.

Eventually we regained most of our freedoms in the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829. Gradually the Church began to grow again. It was strengthened by immigration from Ireland, and added to this figure were large numbers from Italy, Poland, Lithuania, the Ukraine, India, parts of Africa and other countries, including the last few years, as well as movement within Scotland from the country to the towns and cities. Six dioceses were set up in 1878, the first act of Pope Leo XIII and, with huge expansion between the two World Wars, two further dioceses, Motherwell and Paisley, were erected in 1947.

Education has been a recurring theme throughout the centuries. In the 15th century, the Church established the universities of St Andrews (1413), Glasgow (1451) and Aberdeen (1495). In the days of persecution, it was always difficult to finance teachers and resources. In the 1800s, religious orders of men and women started Catholic schools, often coupled with combatting poverty. They were helped in this by groups run by ordinary Catholics such as the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, founded in Paris in 1833 and established in Edinburgh in 1845.

In 1872, the government obliged parents to send their children to school, but these were places where the Presbyterian faith would be taught, so Catholic parents wanted schools of their own. Central Government subsidised these, but local government would only support their own schools, so Catholic schools suffered a lack of resources and the loss of teachers who could not bring up their own families on the meagre wages. There were teachers who felt it was their vocation to remain unmarried to support the Catholic schools. By means of the Education Act of 1918, some people in government who had the spirit of being public servants, recognised that this was unjust, and arranged to have the Catholic schools brought into the state system while genuinely providing safeguards for the continued teaching of the Catholic Faith within them. This points to one aspect of our story we should never forget – how we were often helped from the most unlikely of quarters as people of other faiths helped us with land, property and finance, out of a sense of decency and a desire to create a more harmonious society.

The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) introduced major changes in the life of the Catholic community:

- The Mass began to be celebrated in our own language, not Latin, and a greater participation in it was encouraged by all present, with a renewed love for Sacred Scripture
- A new word appeared: Ecumenism. Catholics were encouraged to forgive the past, and to forge new and strong ties with the members of other Christian Churches.
- Similar relations were to be fostered with believers of other religions.
- A fresher image of the Church was presented as the People of God on pilgrimage together to Heaven through this life, supporting one another, and playing an active part in the wider society whose 'joys and hopes, fears and anxieties' are often ours too, in this way building up the Kingdom of Christ on this earth.
- All of these new approaches would help us to answer another call from the Council, for each of us to pursue holiness of life, so that we might become, each of us, 'the saints of the 21st century', as Pope Benedict encouraged our young people during his visit in 2010.

If Saints Ninian, Mungo and Columba walked into any of our churches today during the celebration of Mass, they might have difficulty with some of the outward forms and the language, but within seconds they would know we were celebrating the same Mass with the same beliefs that they had brought us centuries ago.



Opening of the Second Vatican Council in 1962

The Quietest Baby Clinic in the World?

By Claire Cook, SCIAF

My 'babies' Jamie and Katie are now 25 and 22 but I remember their early days like it was yesterday. Now working for SCIAF, my mind often wanders back to those days, particularly when my work relates to children in the countries we serve.



Claire with baby Katie

When they were very young they would get weighed regularly at the 'baby clinic' where my sister Jacqueline worked as a health visitor - and every week I would bounce out the door, proud as punch that they had gained weight and I had made that happen. I would head straight to my parents' house for lunch and to share my news.

I also remember their 'Red Books' and Jamie being on the 97th centile for his height. "This boy will be over 6-foot-tall one day" they said. Well he's only 5' 10" but I did my best!

Fast forward those 25 years and I have the privilege to work for SCIAF. My colleague Jonathan has just returned from Malawi, which is facing a food crisis, and is giving the staff an update on his trip.

He tells us of a baby clinic in Nsanje and what strikes me is he says it was eerily quiet. That's not how baby clinics should sound. They should be bustling, loud places with healthy babies screaming out their lungs for their next feed, and mothers chatting away.

And right there and then I am transported back and left thinking how fortunate my journey into motherhood was. These babies are too weak to scream and the mums too weak to breastfeed their babies. Some little ones are barely clinging to life.

The mums patiently wait for their child to be weighed and measured. A tape is wrapped around their tiny arms to gauge how far the malnourishment has progressed. Measure green and they are deemed safe for now. Yellow means they are on the brink. Red? Read means danger but brings hope too.

For those with the frailest babies measuring in the red zone, the hope comes in the form of a fortified corn soya blend (CSB). I suppose it's a bit like a 'Super Cereal' due to its rich nutritional value - a mixture of corn, soya and Vitamin Premix which comes in a powder form.

CSB remains a cornerstone of emergency nutrition programming. Because maize is Malawi's staple food, CSB is culturally familiar and easily prepared as porridge, making it especially suitable for young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and other vulnerable groups during the lean season.

To carry out this life-saving work, SCIAF received funding from the Scottish Government Humanitarian Emergency Response Fund, known as HEF. Scotland has a long and

proud friendship with Malawi, spanning right back to the days of David Livingstone - they even named one of their main cities after the man from Blantyre.

So, when you next visit the baby clinic, or hold your grandchild, or get a smile from a baby on the bus, please think of these babies in Malawi, say a prayer and consider supporting SCIAF's life-saving work at www.sciaf.org.uk/donate



Baby Jamie

A Gift to Share By Roderick McCafferty

Roderick McCafferty of St Winin's Parish, Kilwinning has been writing poems on aspects of the human condition and our salvation through Jesus Christ for decades. He has participated in various poetry conventions and recitals all over the world in that time. 'A Gift to Share' is his gift to our Summer Edition.

I wonder what you do for fun?
What makes your life better as you rest or you run?

What makes your life sunny? What makes you complete?
What makes you contented awake or asleep?

What does make you laugh? What does make you smile?
What touches your soul and leaves you beguiled?

Bright sunshine, birds singing and leaves on the trees?
The moonlight or snowflakes a warm summer breeze?

The laughter of children, the joy as they play?
The lazy contentment of a warm summers' day?

I'm sure you all need these like I need them too.
'Cos hope springs eternal for me and for you.

It's a gift that we share and can give to each other.
From brother to sister and sister to brother.

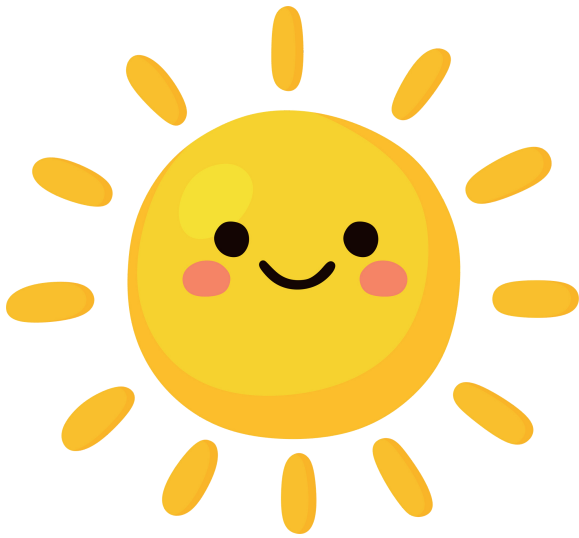
Each day is so precious and welcomed by all.
It's a God given gift so you never feel small

And what of these gifts? Do the poor share them too?
And what if they don't? Then what can you do?

Share your talents and love, put an ending to strife.
You'll discover your value and the meaning of life!



Galloway Diocese Children's Liturgy



Draw a big sun in the middle of your page.

In each sun ray, write or draw one way you can shine Jesus;
light this summer (e.g. being kind, helping at home, sharing,
praying, saying thank you).

Colour your sun brightly!

At the bottom write:
"Let your light shine before others." (Matthew 5:16)

Talk about one of your "light rays" with someone at home
and try to do it this week!

If you want to send a photo of your sun to gdnews@rcdg.org.uk
you might be featured in the next edition!!!!

Summer is a special time to enjoy God's wonderful creation. As we rest from school, we can note His presence in the sunshine, the beauty of nature, and the time we spend with family and friends. Let us remember to thank God for His gifts and ask Him to guide and protect us throughout the summer months. May we also try to share kindness, bring joy to others, and keep Jesus close in all we do.



Dear Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of summer.
Thank you for sunshine, for the time with
family and friends,
and for all the moments of rest and joy.
Help us to see You in the beauty of creation-
in the blue sky, the warm breeze, and the
laughter we share.
Guide us to be kind, to share generously,
and to remember You wherever we go.
Be with all children and families this
summer,
and keep us safe in Your loving care.

Amen