

St. Bernadette's Tullibody Parish Newsletter

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4th Sunday of Advent

Please note:

Father has asked me to produce a "Parish Diary" for the whole of January in this edition. There will be the usual Christmas Day message from Father on 25th December. May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best Festive break, Richard

Sat	20th Dec	8.45-9.15a m 9.30am 5.30pm	Confessions Mass Vigil Mass		
Sun	21st Dec	8.30am 11.30am 4.30pm	Mass Mass Advent Service before the Blessed Sacrament		4th Sunday of Advent
Mon	22nd Dec	9.30am 7pm	Mass with Anointing of the Sick Penitential Service		
Wed	24th Dec	7.30pm 8pm	Carols Vigil Mass		Christmas Eve
Thurs	25th Dec	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass		Christmas Day
Fri	26th Dec	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion		Feast of St. Stephen
Sat	27th Dec	9.30am 5.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion Vigil Mass		Feast of the Holy Family
Sun	28th Dec	8.30am 9.30am	Mass Mass		
Mon	29th Dec	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion		
Wed	31st Dec	9.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion		
Thurs	1st Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion		Mary, Holy Mother of God
Sat	3rd Jan	9.30am 5.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion Vigil Mass		
Sun	4th Jan	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass		Epiphany of the Lord

Mon, Wed, Thurs	5th, 7th, 8th Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion
Sat	10th Jan	9.30am 5.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion Vigil Mass
Sun	11th Jan	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass The Baptism of the Lord
Mon, Wed, Thurs	12th, 14th, 15th Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion
Sat	17th Jan	9.30am 5.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion Vigil Mass
Sun	18th Jan	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon, Wed, Thurs	19th, 21st, 22nd Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion
Sat	24th Jan	9.30am 5.30pm	Morning Office & Holy Communion Vigil Mass
Sun	25th Jan	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon, Wed	26th, 28th Jan	9.30am	Morning Office & Holy Communion
Thurs	29th Jan	9.30am	Mass
Sat	31st Jan	9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	1st Feb	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer Requests

Those who are sick ~ Jones, Msgr. Basil O'Sullivan, Seamus Freyne, Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Heather Stewart, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Bishop Stephen, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, Peter Caproni, Laura Laing, Susan Duvall, Brian Robertson, Melissa Brown, Margo Tobin, John Lawlor and Lisa Mcilwrath, Father Frank Smith MHM, Fr. Malcom Hutchinson, Margaret Smith, Kath Massanopoli, John Grogan.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~ Dennis Hallanan, John Neil, John Mangan, Peter Doyle, Paddy Docherty, Moira Scott, Margaret Carr, Dan Jolly, Kate Sprengel, Claire McNaught, Margaret Tobin.

St Bernadette's Parent Council are holding a Ceilidh on Saturday 24th January between 6-9pm at Cochrane Hall in Alva to raise money for the school fund and outdoor play equipment.

Family tickets are £25 (two adults plus children)
Adult tickets are £10

If you would like to join us, please email stbernadettespc@gmail.com and we will arrange your tickets.



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love

December 21, 2025

Isaiah 7:10–14; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–24

As we reflect on Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, we are reminded that the coming of Christ is the greatest revelation of God's love for humanity. Emmanuel—God with us—is love made flesh, entering our fragile world to heal, redeem and restore. This love is not sentimental or fleeting; it is steadfast, sacrificial and transformative, calling us to embody the same love in our daily lives.

Isaiah's prophecy offers hope in the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. This promise is God's assurance that divine presence accompanies humanity in its darkest moments. In a world torn by war and conflict, from the devastation in Gaza and Israel, to the humanitarian crises in Sudan, Ukraine and other conflict zones, the words of Isaiah speak profoundly: God has not abandoned us. The vast and unconditional love of God is felt and witnessed as God walks with victims of violence, weary refugees seeking safety, migrant families crossing borders in search of peace, and all who feel forgotten by the world's indifference.

Mary and Joseph responded faithfully to God's call, even amid confusion, fear and uncertainty. Their obedience reminds us that hope, joy and peace are born through love, which is manifested in trust and surrender, not control. God's love is much like the blanket that the infant Jesus was swaddled in, allowing us to feel his warmth, comfort and security. Like Mary and Joseph, we are invited to cooperate with God's mysterious plan, to become bearers of light and compassion in our fractured world. Each of us has a unique mission to radiate the love of Emmanuel through acts of hope, peace, justice and solidarity, especially toward those displaced or wounded by human cruelty and neglect. St. Paul reminds us that we are called to holiness, to live in the grace and peace that come from belonging to Christ. This belonging must move us to concrete love. As we approach Christmas, may we open our hearts to the displaced, the grieving, the impoverished and the forgotten. May our prayer this Advent be that God's peace will reign where violence now speaks loudest; that Emmanuel's presence may comfort those on the move; and that we ourselves may be instruments of reconciliation, hope and love.

Let us then welcome the Christ-child not only in our celebrations but in our choices, to love, to forgive, to act justly, and to believe that even in chaos, God is still with us, and God's love is ever present.

Sister Freda Ayine Anontee, CSC

Advent Reflections ~ <https://www.cscsisters.org/advent/>

Reflections on love, renewal and the spirit of Advent



BY **BISHOP ANDREW MCKENZIE**

Welcome to the Advent edition of the *Dunkeld News*.

I was delighted with the feedback we received for our first edition, with the smiling face of our Holy Father on the front page. My thanks to all the team for their hard work producing it.

As we enter a holy season of the year preparing for Christ to be born among us and renewed in our hearts, we reflect in these pages on Pope Leo's first exhortation *Dilexi Te*, in which the Holy Father reteaches St Francis' lesson that a preferential love for the poor can renew both the Church and society.

Pope Leo urges us to recognise the growing numbers of people living in poverty, its structural roots and calls for action addressing the deeper causes of poverty and a change in social attitudes toward wealth and dignity.

He highlights the value of small gestures of solidarity and recalls St Francis as a model of renewal.

As we always pray and work for those less fortunate than ourselves during Advent, this is a good time to delve deeper into *Dilexi Te*.

A summary of the Pope's exhortation is on Page 19.

Our children are a focus of the gift of life at Christmas. We have a centre pull-out of Advent prayers and puzzles for your children and grandchildren to help them pray and celebrate the coming of the Christ child and his message of love and hope.

As we enter a New Year, I would like to read your news and hear your voices in the *Dunkeld News*.

Please do not hesitate to contact our team if you have something you would like to share. This is our paper, together.

My thanks to all my brother priests and laity for your hard work in our parishes and schools.

You will find news of this in these pages.

For all the unmarked works of love, care and service, I hold you all in my prayers and wish you a happy and holy Christmas.

+ *Andrew*