

Recent Parish Collections/Income (June, 2024):

Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth:

1st/2nd June	Plate Collection: £711.60	Direct to Bank: £72.69	Total: £784.29
8th/9th June	Plate Collection: £609.64	Direct to Bank: £72.69	Total: £682.33
15th/16th June	Plate Collection: £587.58	Direct to Bank: £72.69	Total: £660.27
22nd/23rd June	Plate Collection: £551.65	Direct to Bank: £72.69	Total: £624.34
29th/30th June	Plate Collection: £545.55	Direct to Bank: £72.69	Total: £618.24

Total Offertories for June: £3,369.47 Average Weekly Collection for June: £673.89

Day for Life Collection (15/16th June) - **£178.91**

Peter's Pence Collection (29th/30th June) - **£164.81**

Recent Income from Gift Aid:

Gift Aid Envelopes (in respect of tax years '23-'24): **£6,546.11**

Loose Plate: **£2,000.00**

Current Bank Balance (10/07/24): £40,490.91

St. James', Kinross:

1st/2nd June	Plate Collection: £305.00	Direct to Bank: £600.00	Total: £905.00
8th/9th June	Plate Collection: £355.00	Direct to Bank: £600.00	Total: £955.00
15th/16th June	Plate Collection: £334.27	Direct to Bank: £600.00	Total: £934.27
22nd/23rd June	Plate Collection: £290.09	Direct to Bank: £600.00	Total: £890.09
29th/30th June	Plate Collection: £285.60	Direct to Bank: £600.00	Total: £885.60

Total Offertories for June: £4,569.96 Average Weekly Collection for June: £913.99

Day for Life Collection (15/16th June) - **£159.57**

Peter's Pence Collection (29th/30th June) - **£241.04**

Building Fund (in) - **£35.00**

100 Club Subs (in) - **£351.00**

Recent Income from Gift Aid:

Gift Aid Envelopes (in respect of tax years '23-'24 (mainly), '22-'23, '21-'22) : **£7,553.09**

(i.e. - £7,399.28 + £86.39 + £67.42)

Loose Plate (Tax Year '23/'24): **£2,000.00**

Current Bank Balance (10/07/24): £29,070.68

Many thanks, as always, for your generous support of the parishes. The parishes depend entirely upon your financial contributions in order to function. If you are a tax payer you can add to your contributions by donating with Gift Aid - for every £1.00 you contribute the parish can claim an additional 25p from HMRC, which amounts to a significant contribution to the parish finances over the year at no extra cost to yourself - you simply need to fill in a straightforward and confidential Gift Aid Form. If you do not currently Gift Aid your donations please speak to Fr. Martin or to Gordon McGregor in Our Lady's, or Tom Traynor in St. James'. If you wish to pay directly into the bank the bank details are below, please use a reference with your name that will show on the parish bank statement to indicate your contribution. Our Lady of Lourdes' Bank Details: (Bank of Scotland) DIOCESE OF DUNKELD OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Account No. 14176562, Sort Code: 80-22-60 St. James' Bank Details: (Royal Bank of Scotland) ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE DUNKELD, Account No. 00255001, Sort Code: 83-23-47

Parish Newsletter

Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth

&

St. James', Kinross

In the Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld - Scottish Charity Number: SC001810

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B. - 14th July, 2024

&

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B. - 21st July, 2024

Lord Jesus, you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardians of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

We ask this in your holy name, Jesus. Amen.

Contact details:

Parish Priest - Fr. Martin Pletts

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Des Connors

Our Lady of Lourdes', 42 Struan Road, Perth PH1 2JP, Telephone: 01738 626979,

E-Mail: ourladyoflourdes@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

St. James', 5 High Street, Kinross KY13 8AW, Telephone: 01577 863329,

E-Mail: stjames@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Parish Mobile Number: 07540534480

Our Lady of Lourdes' Website: ourladyoflourdes@perth.church

St. James' Website: www.catholickinross.com

Office Hours for the Parish Secretary (Dianne Mitchell): Thursday 10.00a.m. to 12.00 noon

(Phone 01738 626979 only in order to speak to the Parish Secretary)

Parish Secretary's E-Mail addresses: ololadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk or stjamesadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator E-Mail for Our Lady's: ololpsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator E-Mail for St. James': stjamespsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

& Mobile Number (St. James'): 07720811055

Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency: www.scssa.org.uk

Telephone Number for the Diocesan Curial Offices: 01382 225453

Dunkeld Diocesan Website: www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk

Times of Holy Mass, Confessions, etc.

*Please note changes to the regular schedule

(Priests' Support Group meeting Monday to Wednesday inclusive)

Monday 15th July

Memorial of St. Bonaventure (W)

St. James' Parish:

*Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

*Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

No Children's Catechism Class until further notice

Prayer Group Meeting in the Church at 7.30p.m.

Tuesday 16th July

Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (W)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

*Holy Hour 10.00 - 11.00a.m. - Deacon Des

Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Mass - all are welcome

Wednesday 17th July

Wednesday of 15th Week of the Year (G)

St. James' Parish:

*Holy Hour 10.00 - 11.00a.m. - Deacon Des

Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Mass - all are welcome

Thursday 18th July

Votive Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist (W)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Friday 19th July

Votive Mass of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus (R)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Saturday 20th July

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Vigil Mass of the 16th Sunday of the Year - B. (G)

Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m.

Holy Mass at 5.00p.m.

and attend Mass regularly for the rest of your life".

What to make of such prodigies? The cynic would dismiss them as so much fantasy and fairy tales. Never mind the evidence. The open minded unbeliever would shrug and say, "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio than our science can dream of." I guess we don't have any answers. The believer accepts the miracles as a great gift and realizes the anomalies like the fact that Charbel's remains did eventually decompose are part of the greater mystery of it all.

Me? I'd rather be guilty of believing too much than too little. When I get to see the Lord face to face I'd rather confess to being gullible than cynical. With Therese I want to say, "I will have it all!" Reality is rubbery. Things are not what they seem. The physical world is not so concrete as we think it is, and stories like the miracles of St Charbel remind us that there are far greater powers at work in the world than our puny plans can ever imagine. St Charbel Makhoul, pray for us. *From an article by Fr. Dwight Longenecker*

Please remember in your daily prayers to ask the Good Lord to send us many holy priestly vocations.

We're looking for donations for the Raffle that will take place at the BBQ in Our Lady's in August. If you're able to gift anything that will help to raise funds for the parish it will be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Liz Judge for further information. Donations can be handed in at any of the Masses. Thank you!

St. Charbel Makhlouf - Feast Day: Wednesday 24th July

One of the great gifts I experienced when we returned from England to the USA was the great diversity in the American Catholic Church. I had never been a Catholic in the United States so I had to learn about the Catholic history. So I met the saints: St John Neumann, St Elizabeth Ann Seton, the Jesuit martyrs and more.

Another part of that diversity was the presence of the Eastern Rite churches. We have a Maronite congregation in Greenville and their priest, Fr Bart Leon has become a good friend. He introduced me to the Maronite liturgy and I learned about two of their modern saints – St Rafka and St Charbel Makhlouf whose feast day is today.

St Charbel was born Youssef Antoun Makhlouf in Lebanon in 1828. His father was a mule driver who died when Youssef was only three. Two of the boy's uncles were hermits and Youssef wanted to follow their example. As a boy he tended the family's flock of sheep and goats and would spend the day praying at a small grotto where he had installed an icon of the Blessed Virgin.

He became a monk and took the name Charbel after a second century martyr. He made his final profession as a monk in 1853 and in 1875 he was given permission to live as a hermit. He spent the next twenty three years living the solitary life. He died on Christmas Eve 1898 and was interred in the monastery chapel the next day.

That's when the miracles started:

One story claims: "A few months after his death, a bright light was seen surrounding his tomb and the superiors opened it to find his body still intact. After that day, a blood-like liquid flowed from his body. Experts and doctors were unable to give medical explanations for the incorruptibility and flexibility." In the years 1950 and 1952, his tomb was opened and his body supposedly still had the appearance of a living one. The official site mentions: In this century his grave has been opened four times, the last time being in 1955, and each time "it has been noticed that his bleeding body still has its flexibility as if it were alive"; no mentioning of later openings. The Catholic Tradition website says: Father Joseph Mahfouz, the postulator of the cause, certified that in 1965 the body of Saint Charbel was still preserved intact with no alteration. In 1976 he again witnessed the opening of the grave; this time the body was completely decomposed. Only the skeleton remained.

The incorruptibility of his body is one of the best attested in modern times along with that of St Bernadette. As usual with these cases, the incorruptibility is not the only thing that is inexplicable. In Charbel's case the miracle was accompanied by supernatural lights and a miraculous blood-like fragrant oil that flowed from the corpse which had healing qualities.

A large number of miracles have been attributed to Saint Charbel since his death in 1898—many of them very recent. Some say the number is as high as 26,000 accounts of healing. One of the most astounding is that of Nohad El Shami, a 55-year-old woman who was healed from a partial paralysis.

She witnesses that on the night of January 22, 1993, she saw in her dream two Maronite monks standing next to her bed. One of them put his hands on her neck and operated on her, relieving her from her pain while the other held a pillow behind her back. When she woke she discovered two wounds in her neck, one on each side. She was completely healed and recovered her ability to walk. She believed that it was Saint Charbel who healed her but did not recognize the other monk. Next night, she again saw Saint Charbel in her dream. He said to her: "I did the surgery to let people see and return to faith. I ask you to visit the hermitage on the 22nd of every month,

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass at 7.00p.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

Sunday 21st July

16th Sunday of the Year - B. (G)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass at 9.00a.m.

Our Lady's Parish:

Holy Mass at 11.00a.m.

Readings for 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B (14th & 15th July)

A reading from the Prophet Amos 7:12-15

'Go, shepherd, and prophesy to my people Israel'

Psalm 84(85)

Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-14 (long version)

God chose us in Christ before the world was made.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;

You have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 6:7-13

'Take nothing with you'

Dates for your Diary - Parish Social Events:

Parish BBQ in Our Lady of Lourdes' on Sunday 18th August (time to be confirmed)

Parish BBQ in St. James' on Sunday 25th August at 2.00p.m.

Join the Gardening Team!

If you can spare 30 minutes (or more) a week to help with church gardening, it would be very much appreciated. Our gardening season at Our Lady of Lourdes' runs from April until the end of October. No gardening experience is necessary; you won't be left to your own devices. Volunteers should be aged 16+. If you think you could help out or would like more information, please speak to Liz or Alan or give your name & number to Fr Martin. Thank you.

Monday 22nd July

No public Mass

St. James' Parish:

No Children's Catechism Class until further notice

Prayer Group Meeting in the Church at 7.30p.m.

Tuesday 23rd July

Feast of St. Bridget of Sweden (W)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Mass - all are welcome

Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions 6.00-7.00p.m.

Wednesday 24th July

Optional Memorial of St. Charbel Makhlouf (W)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Tea/Coffee in the church hall after Mass - all are welcome

Thursday 25th July

Feast of St. James, Apostle (R)

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

St. James' Parish:

Solemnity of St. James, Apostle - Patron Saint of the Parish

Holy Mass at 7.00p.m.

Parish Social Event in the church hall after Holy Mass - all very welcome

Friday 26th July

Memorial of Ss. Joachim & Anne: parents of Our Lady (W)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Rosary at 9.30a.m.

Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Saturday 27th July

Our Lady of Lourdes' Parish:

Vigil Mass of the 17th Sunday of the Year - B. (G)

Confessions 4.00 - 4.45p.m.

Holy Mass at 5.00p.m.

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass at 7.00p.m.

Confessions after Holy Mass

Sunday 28th July

17th Sunday of the Year - B. (G)

St. James' Parish:

Holy Mass at 9.00a.m.

Our Lady's Parish:

Holy Mass at 11.00a.m.

Readings for 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B (20th & 21st July)

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 23:1-6

I will gather together the remnant of my flock and raise up shepherds for them.

Psalm 22(23)

Response: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18

Christ Jesus is the peace between us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,

I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 6:30-34

They were like sheep without a shepherd.

Thank you to all helpers and volunteers in both parishes - your contribution to parish life is invaluable and very greatly appreciated. God bless you all, Fr. Martin

Our Lady's 100 Club Results for June:

	£50	80	Bruce Law
	£10	21	Mary Cargill
	£10	98	Gordon McGregor
	£10	58	Neil McMurray
	£10	41	Margaret Dobie
Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all members of the 100 Club for your support!	£10	70	Bill Kilmartin
	£500	93	Alice Young