

Bishop Andrew's Visits - Welcoming Parish Buffets

When Bishop Andrew comes to offer Mass in the parishes for the first time (the weekend of 5th Sunday of Lent - 5th/6th April) I would plan to have a buffet reception for him in both parishes as a means of welcoming him and also giving some of you the opportunity to get to meet him and chat with him. The only really practical way in which this can happen (given that he will be saying all of the usual weekend Masses) is if we have a buffet in St. James' church hall after the 7.00p.m. Mass on Saturday 5th April, and if we have a buffet in Our Lady's church hall after the 11.00a.m. Mass on Sunday 6th April. The parishes will purchase savoury food and drinks for the occasion but I would be extremely grateful if parishioners could bake and provide the 'sweet stuff'. If you can help in any way, setting up, tidying up, or baking, (or indeed with anything else) please put your name and a note of how you can help on the list at the back of the church. I would also encourage as many of you as possible to come along that weekend to welcome our new bishop. Many thanks in advance, God bless, Fr. Martin

Updated Calendar of Social Events for St. James', Kinross 2025/26

Following on from the meeting we had the other week, here are our proposals:

- Parish Social in the hall - (Pot Luck Supper & Music) - TBC but maybe after Easter 2025 (anytime from 21st April onwards)
- Visit to the Japanese Gardens - **Wednesday 21st May, 2025**, (make own way there) leaving after morning Mass on Wednesday and tea/coffee, approx.. time of departure from St. James' 11.30a.m. - get lunch there at the café. **It is recommended that individuals book tickets well in advance with the gardens to avoid disappointment.**
- Family Visit to Craigtoun Park - **Sunday 15th June, 2025**, coach organised from outside the church, depart 11.00/11.30a.m. and return 5.00p.m., packed lunch. **Please sign up on the sheet now at the back of the church.**
- Parish BBQ in the grounds of St. James' - **Sunday 17th August, 2025** - 2.00-5.00p.m.
- Day Trip away to Beamish Open Air Museum, County Durham - **Monday 15th September, 2025**, departing 8.00a.m. from St. James', returning 9.00p.m. approx. (need to put out list to get idea of numbers)
- St. Andrew's Day Get-Together - **Saturday 22nd November, 2025**, from 10.00a.m. to 12.30p.m., a coffee morning with sale of work - in the church hall.
- Christmas Buffet & Carols - **Friday 12th December, 2025**, 7.00 for 7.30p.m., in the church hall.
- Burns Supper - in the church hall at St. James', on **Friday 30th January, 2026**, 7.00 for 7.30p.m.

Help is needed with gardening and grass-cutting in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth. If you can help please sign the list in the porch in Our Lady's and also leave your contact details. Many thanks!

Help for Our Lady's Primary School, Perth

Our Lady's RCPS Shelter

Sometime ago, the children of Our Lady's Primary asked for a shelter for their playground to support their outdoor learning. We first started fundraising for this in 2019 and have managed to raise over £6342.66 so far as a school community. Unfortunately, we would need at least double this amount for the shelter to go ahead. We have applied to the Guildry, a parent is currently applying to the East Coast Local Community Benefit Fund and we will continue our own fundraising efforts. We are wondering if any of the Parish Community had any suggestions on funding our project or if anyone would be able to contribute to our efforts. Any help would be greatly appreciated! (Thanks to those who have already given some help).

Our Lady's Primary School in Perth would love to foster even stronger links with the parish communities of both churches and are hoping that some parishioners might like to share their skills and talents with our young people at school and promote a bit of 'inter-generational learning'. If you can share your skills with board games, stitching, sewing, knitting, or any other crafts they would be most grateful. You would be working, accompanied by a member of staff, with a small group of children passing on some of your own skills to them. Call the school on **01738 477570** if you can help. Thank you!

Thanks again to Our Lady's Fundraising Group for holding a Bingo Tea for parish funds. Well done to those who won, and thanks also to all who supported this event - the marvellous sum of £418.00 was raised!

Bishop Andrew will be visiting the parishes of Our Lady of Lourdes' and St. James' and saying all the Masses (which I will concelebrate with him) on the 5th Sunday of Lent, that is: **Saturday 5th April and Sunday 6th April**. He is systematically visiting parishes throughout his diocese.

Parish Newsletter

**Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth &
St. James', Kinross**

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

Preparation for Baptism - Parish Lessons

Deacon Des is very kindly running the baptismal preparation meetings for both parishes. Therefore, anyone wishing to have a child baptised must now contact him on his e-mail address - desconnors@brcdt.org - in order to make the necessary arrangements for lessons. There will be set times for the baptismal lessons, they will be held once monthly, and attendance at one of these meetings is required for any seeking to have their children baptised in the parish. Even if parents have already approached me about Baptism for their children they must also contact Deacon Des and make arrangements for these lessons. God bless, Fr. Martin

Lenten Talks - Lenten Opportunities

It is my intention to give three Lenten talks in the church hall in St. James', Kinross. These will take place 7.00-8.00p.m. on Tuesday 25th March, Tuesday 1st April, and Tuesday 8th April. The topics for the talks are, respectively: *The Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell - a Catholic understanding... What every Catholic needs to know about doing penance...* and *A reflection on the Seven Last Words of Our Blessed Lord...* At each evening there will be tea and coffee provided, there will be a talk, and then there will be opportunity for group discussion. The meetings should last roughly one hour. I hope to see you there,

God bless, Fr. Martin

Contact details:

Parish Priest - Fr. Martin Pletts

Permanent Deacon - Rev. Des Connors (e-mail: desconnors@brcdt.org)

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: loladmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk or stjamesadmin@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators' E-Mail for Our Lady's (Marie Stuart & Dianne Mitchell):
lolpsc@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

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

& Mobile Number (St. James'): 03330 382386 (Option 5)

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (John Smith): safeguardingadvisor@dunkelldioocese.org.uk or tel. 01382 225453

Or www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk/safeguarding

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 in the usual timetable and extra devotions for Lent

Monday 17th March - Feast of St. Patrick - ***Holy Mass at 2.30p.m.*** in St. James', Kinross. Catechism Class in St. James' church hall from after school until 4.30p.m. ('Show and tell' with Catechism Class). Prayer Group in St. James', Kinross, from 7.30 - 9.15p.m.

Tuesday 18th March - Tuesday of the 2nd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Tea & Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass.

Wednesday 19th March - Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (White) - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Tea & Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass. (Church cleaning afterwards - new volunteers always welcome). Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions from 6.00-7.00p.m. in St. James', Kinross, concluding with Benediction at 6.50p.m.

Thursday 20th March - Thursday of the 2nd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions from 6.00-7.00p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth.

Friday 21st March - Friday of the 2nd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. **Meeting of the Social Events Group** at 2.00p.m. in St. James' church hall - all are welcome to attend.

Saturday 22nd March - Vigil Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C - Confessions in Our Lady's from 3.45-4.45p.m., followed by the Vigil Mass at 5.00p.m. Vigil Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession after Mass.

Sunday 23rd March - Mass of the 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C - Holy Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 9.00a.m., Holy Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, at 11.00a.m. Stations of the Cross at 3.00p.m. in St. James', Kinross, Stations of the Cross at 3.00p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth.

Monday 24th March - No Public Mass - Catechism Class in St. James' church hall from after school until 4.30p.m. Prayer Group in St. James', Kinross, from 7.30 - 9.15p.m. - meeting tonight in the church.

Tuesday 25th March - The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (White) - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth. Tea and Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass. **Lenten Talk by Fr. Martin at 7.00p.m. in the church hall, St. James', Kinross: The Four Last Things - Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell - a Catholic understanding.** All are encouraged to attend. There will be tea/coffee, a talk, and following discussion, and we hope to be finished by 8.00p.m. approximately.

Wednesday 26th March - Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Tea & Coffee in the church hall after Holy Mass. (Church cleaning afterwards - new volunteers always welcome). Deanery Penitential Service with individual Confessions and visiting priests (including a Polish speaking priest) in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, from 6.30-7.30p.m. - this is for all parishes in the deanery.

Thursday 27th March - Thursday of the 3rd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, Holy Mass at 10.00a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions from 6.00-7.00p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, concluding with Benediction at 6.50p.m.

Friday 28th March - Friday of the 3rd Week of Lent - Stations of the Cross at 9.30a.m. in St. James', Kinross, followed by Holy Mass at 10.00a.m.

Saturday 29th March - Vigil Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent - Year C (Laetare Sunday) - Confessions in Our Lady's from 3.45-4.45p.m., followed by the Vigil Mass at 5.00p.m. Vigil Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 7.00p.m. followed by an opportunity for Confession after Mass.

Sunday 30th March - Mass of the 4th Sunday of Lent - Year C (Laetare Sunday) - Holy Mass in St. James', Kinross, at 9.00a.m., Holy Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth, at 11.00a.m. Stations of the Cross at 3.00p.m. in St. James', Kinross, Stations of the Cross at 3.00p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes', Perth

Readings for the weekend of 15th / 16th March, 2025 - 2nd Sunday in Lent, Yr. C

A reading from the Book of Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

God enters into a covenant with Abram, the man of faith

Psalm 27(26)

Response: The LORD is my light and my salvation.

A reading from the 1st Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 3:17:4:1 (longer version)

Christ will configure us to His glorious body.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to Him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 9:28b-36

'As Jesus was praying, the appearance of His face was altered.'

Readings for the weekend of 22nd / 23rd March, 2025 - 3rd Sunday in Lent, Yr. C

A reading from the Book of Joshua 5:9a,10-12

The people of God entered the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Psalm 34(33)

Response: Taste and see that the LORD is good.

A reading from the 2nd Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 5:17-21

'God who through Christ reconciled us to Himself.'

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3,11-32

'Your brother was dead, and is alive.'

Please pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.