



*The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh is a Charity registered in Scotland - number SC008540*

**ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE EDINBURGH EH10 4BJ      TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2009**  
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**Archdiocesan Website:** [www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk)

**Archdiocesan Newsletter:** *available on Archdiocesan Website*

**Communicated directly to priests and religious of Archdiocese and Secretaries of Deanery Pastoral Councils by email from the Chancery of the Archdiocese. Enquiries please directly to the Chancery at 0131-623 8902. Please ensure that there is ongoing circulation of the contents of the Archdiocesan Newsletter either by email or by printed copies from the email for parishioners in general.**

## **LETTER FROM CARDINAL:**

As you know, this is the last edition of the **Archdiocesan Newsletter** in its present form. In future, the Newsletter, containing details of courses, activities and the work of our various agencies in the Archdiocese will be co-ordinated by Ms Patricia Carroll, our Episcopal Delegate for Pastoral Resources and her colleagues – with the publication being issued approximately every six weeks. Any material from our agencies or other organisations should be sent directly to: [Patricia.Carroll@staned.org.uk](mailto:Patricia.Carroll@staned.org.uk). Obviously, I myself will send my regular letter to the priests of the Archdiocese (the **Ad Clerum**), which will be sent out by myself from Archbishop's House. Note also that further news of Archdiocesan activities and some of my own particular messages are regularly updated on our Archdiocesan website: [www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk). Thus reports on my visits in November to both Kenya and El Salvador are on the Archdiocesan website.

Regarding my programme for 2010, I will initially spend some 10 days in Zambia and Malawi visiting SCIAF projects; and then, along with my brother Bishops, will be in Rome for our **Ad Limina** visit in February 2010, initially visiting Pope Benedict XVI and then the various dicasteries responsible for the overall apostolate of our Church.

I look forward to the regular **Lenten Station Masses** during the season of Lent – but also spending each day prior to the Lenten Station Mass with the priests of our various Deaneries for prayer and discussion about how we live our priesthood in our Archdiocese at this present time. Note that the **Chrism Mass**, for this Year of the Priest, will be celebrated on **Tuesday 30 March 2010** at 7.00 pm.

Obviously, further news about the **Pope's visit to Scotland** – believed to be in September 2010 – will be released through the media when final decisions have been made.

## 1. DEATHS:

### (1) Father James Henderson SJ:

Having asked for prayers for Father Jim in the last Archdiocesan Newsletter, I let you know that he died on the morning of 6 November 2009 at 1.00 am in the Marie Curie Hospice in Edinburgh. He was 69 years old and in September 2009 he celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Jesuit. The Superior at Lauriston, **Father Chris Boles SJ** wrote to our priests: "He had been in Edinburgh for six years and was very happy here. He enjoyed the Diocese very much, he enjoyed the gatherings of priests in the deanery and on other occasions. He was a great man in community, always encouraging and generous and we will miss him very much indeed".

I was able to be principal celebrant at Father Jim's funeral on Wednesday 11 November 2009 at Sacred Heart, Lauriston – and then his remains were buried in Mount Vernon. Please pray for the happy repose of his soul.

### (2) Monsignor James Brennan:

Monsignor Brennan, a retired priest of this Archdiocese, died on the morning of Thursday 26 November 2009 at his home in Kilkenny, following on a short illness. He was buried on Saturday 28 November 2009 - following on his long life of priestly service in our own Archdiocese, in Aberdeen, and in his retirement in Kilkenny.

Monsignor Brennan was ordained for the Archdiocese in 1945; he served in St Patrick's, Edinburgh and St Patrick's, Kilsyth before being appointed Spiritual Director in Blairs College, Aberdeen – followed by a short service as parish priest of St Mary's, Glenrothes – and then Rector of Blairs College. After this, he remained in the Diocese of Aberdeen at Fochabers as parish priest from 1974 until 1977 – when he was appointed to St Alexander's, Denny until 1988 as parish priest, then being transferred to St Mary's, Bo'ness until his retirement to Kilkenny in 1995. As indicated, he died peacefully in Kilkenny at 88 years of age. Again, I commend him to your prayers.

To enable more people in our Archdiocese to pay their final respects to him, there will be a 'Month's Mind Mass' celebrated in St Mary's, Bo'ness on **Friday 15 January 2010 at 7.30 pm**, with the date obviously not being too precise regarding 'one month', quite simply because of Christmas Masses and holidays.

## 2. APPOINTMENTS:

### (1) Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter:

As you will know, the Provost of our Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter, **Canon Tom Hanlon**, has retired as parish priest of St Anthony's, Polmont and, of course, from his Chapter responsibilities, but he continues to remain on in retirement in the presbytery at Polmont.

Following on consultation with the Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter, I have great pleasure in appointing **Canon James Rae**, parish priest of St John's, Portobello, as Provost of our Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter.

Taking Canon Hanlon's place in the Chapter itself is **Canon-elect John Creanor**, parish priest of Our Lady and St Andrew's, Galashiels.

Canon Rae will be installed as Provost, while Father Creanor will be installed as a Canon at the next Chapter Mass, which will be celebrated on **Tuesday 15 December 2009** in our Cathedral at 12.45 pm. All those who know these two Canons as well as, of course, others who wish to join in this Chapter Mass, are most welcome to our Cathedral.

### (2) Jesuit Appointments:

Following on the death of Father Jim Henderson SJ, **Father Peter Scally SJ** has been appointed as assistant priest to Sacred Heart Parish, Lauriston. Father Scally has already begun his apostolate with us – and I am sure will be able to help in various other ways as his background is in the media.

### (3) Dominican Appointments:

In December **Father Neil Ferguson OP** will move from Edinburgh with the intention being that he will be teaching in one of the Spanish Provinces of the Order from autumn 2010, going to London as part of the transition and preparation.

**Father Dermot Morrin OP** is appointed to the Chaplaincy at George Square to assist **Father Tim Calvert OP** to build up the community life. Father Dermot is an experienced priest and a member of the Provincial Council of the Dominicans. Following on his studies at Blackfriars, Oxford and his university theology degree at Oxford, he was ordained priest in 1997. He has since worked in St Dominic's Parish, London, being parish priest there from 2000 to 2008 and Prior of the community from 2003 – 2008. He has also been an Acting Dean in the Archdiocese of Westminster and sat on the Diocesan Council of Priests.

### (4) Youth Ministry Co-ordinator:

**Mrs Anne McEvoy** has been appointed to the above post, with the appointment being based on a six-month probation period.

Following on her initial studies, she gained a Bachelor of Education Degree at St Patrick's College, Dublin – and spent her early years as a primary teacher. On moving to Scotland, she latterly worked as a Children's Services Development Worker for Aberdeen City Council – and also has a Diploma in Religious Education and is a Parish Catechist. At the present time Anne is a parishioner at the Sacred Heart Parish, Penicuik.

We wish her every blessing as she begins her new apostolate in our Archdiocese.

## 3. PILGRIMAGES:

### (1) Lourdes:

Our annual Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from **Friday 9 July – Friday 16 July 2010**. Information will be sent out throughout our Archdiocese in due course from **Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd** and bookings for sick pilgrims should be made to: **Mrs Bernadette Barry**, 61 Hailes Gardens,

Edinburgh, EH13 0JN or **Dr Ken Ritchie**, preferably by email to: [drkritchie@aol.com](mailto:drkritchie@aol.com) or by telephone on (01383) 413 508. Helpers for the pilgrimage are asked to contact: **Mr Scott MacKenzie**, 17 Allan Park Gardens, Edinburgh, EH14 1LN; email: [edinburgh-lourdes@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:edinburgh-lourdes@tiscali.co.uk). With regard to the Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes, contact should be made with: **Mr David Bald** on 07816 761922 or [davidbald@hotmail.com](mailto:davidbald@hotmail.com) or **Catherine Randall** on 07961 526785 or [youthforlourdes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:youthforlourdes@hotmail.co.uk).

As usual I will be leading our **Archdiocesan holiday pilgrimage to Lourdes** for four days before going to Lourdes itself. This year it is hoped that the pilgrims will have the opportunity of visiting Rocamadour. Further details will be released in due course – but for immediate information, please contact Mr Joe Reddington on (01506) 433266.

### (2) Rome and Sorrento: September 2010:

Ms Anne Marie Cairns of Alba Tours, who is co-ordinating my own Silver Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome and Sorrento in thanksgiving for my 25 years as a Bishop, has written to all those who have already sent deposits for this pilgrimage. She indicates that if there is a 'clash' in September with the date of the Pope's visit to Scotland, then my own pilgrimage will take place on a re-scheduled date soon after that – which obviously has still to be decided. Anne Marie will be in touch with those who have booked on this pilgrimage – giving those booked the opportunity to move to the new dates or to get a full refund of the money they have paid to date, should the revised dates not be suitable for them.

### (3) Assisi:

Some few years ago I shared leadership of an ecumenical pilgrimage to Assisi with the Reverend Tom Cuthell, then Minister of St Cuthbert's Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The Reverend Tom has indicated that in 2010 he is organising another ecumenical pilgrimage – this time with Father Basil Clark, parish priest of Broxburn and Winchburgh, leading the pilgrimage with him. The dates of the pilgrimage are 28 August

2010 – 11 September 2010 – and will be based in Assisi itself for the full two weeks though bus excursions to places of interest associated with St Francis will be arranged. The pilgrims stay in the guest house of the Sisters of St Brigid in Assisi. For further information, please contact Reverend Tom Cuthell by phone on: 0131-476 3864 or email at: [tcuthell@gmail.com](mailto:tcuthell@gmail.com).

#### 4. YEAR OF THE PRIEST:

As well as diocesan events, I know that various parish events for the Year of the Priest have and are being organised.

The last two meetings of our Assembly of Priests spent some time studying: ‘The Ministerial Responsibilities of a Parish Priest’ – and following on this, a little leaflet, headed: ‘Year of the Priest – What is a Priest called to be and do?’ has been produced and circulated throughout the Archdiocese.

I thoroughly recommend this little leaflet which speaks of the apostolate of the priest in its various ways and, of course, mentions in a special way the priest’s commitment to personal spiritual growth and development.

Further copies of this leaflet for individuals or in bulk for parishes can be obtained from: Father Alex Davie, St Margaret’s, 149 Main Street, Davidson’s Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ; tel: 0131-476 0413; email: [parishpriest.d-mains@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:parishpriest.d-mains@blueyonder.co.uk).

The leaflet can also be downloaded from the Archdiocesan website.

I myself will be meeting with the priests of each of our deaneries at my home, St Bennet’s, throughout the day of each of the Lenten Station Masses for a time of prayer and discussion together on how we see the role of the priest in our own Archdiocese – prior to relaxing over a meal.

#### 5. VOCATIONS:

Please note the following telephone numbers regarding:

##### (a) Vocations to the Priesthood:

Father Alex Davie’s address and contact numbers, as above;

##### (b) Vocations to the Permanent Diaconate:

For further information concerning the Permanent Diaconate, please contact: Fr Paul Kelly, St Michael’s Presbytery, 53 Blackness Road, Linlithgow, EH49 7JA; tel: 01506 842145; email: [admin@stmichaelrc.saltire.org](mailto:admin@stmichaelrc.saltire.org).

#### 6. AD LIMINA VISIT:

I thank those priests and heads of agencies who submitted in excellent time their various reports to me, helping me prepare the Ad Limina report, which was submitted to our dicasteries in Rome through the Apostolic Nuncio some months ago. All have given me outstanding help and Cardinal Bertone, the Secretary of State of the Holy Father has gratefully acknowledged our reports.

I will be absent in Rome with my brother Bishops from Wednesday 3 until Wednesday 10 February 2010, initially meeting with our Holy Father and then meeting with representatives of the various dicasteries responsible for the apostolic work of our Church.

#### 7. COMMUNICATIONS:

##### (1) National Website :

The Catholic Church in our country has launched a new website which is designed to promote Catholic adult education in Scotland. It is provided as a free resource by the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland – and can be found at [www.BeingCatholic.org](http://www.BeingCatholic.org).

There are three main sections on the site: Praying our Faith. Learning our Faith and Sharing our Faith.

These are intended to help users to reflect, pray and learn and they provide:

- Scripture readings from the daily Mass;
- A three minute-on-line retreat;
- A thought for the day which can be downloaded to MP3 players;
- Blogs and podcasts

There are links to the Vatican Radio and the Vatican YouTube websites, as well as to various Scottish Catholic agencies, helping users to keep up to date with the latest news and views in the Catholic Church.

The site also provides information on the many courses and events provided in Scotland to help Catholic adults to grow in their faith. All this information and more is just a simple click away at: [www.BeingCatholic.org](http://www.BeingCatholic.org).

Posters and bookmarks advertising BeingCatholic.org are being distributed to all parishes in Scotland. For more information, contact: Michael McGrath, Director, Scottish Catholic Education Service on 0141-556 4727.

## **(2) Archdiocesan website:**

Please keep our own Archdiocesan website address at hand. The Archdiocese can be contacted at: [www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.archdiocese-edinburgh.org.uk). There is a link from the Archdiocesan website to my own website, which gives up to date news on my own activities, as well as reports of major speeches and sermons and reports from abroad.

## **8. ADVERTS:**

I have been asked to advertise the following publications:

### **(1) 'Take and Read The Gospels'.**

This is an excellent new series designed to help people explore the Bible more deeply. The ancient practice of Lectio Divina, prayerful reading of the Scriptures, has been taken up by many people. 'Take and Read' encourages that prayerful reading of the Gospels.

The series is published by Alive Publishing Ltd, Graphic House, 124 City Road, Stoke on Trent, ST4 2PH and is available at £9.99.

### **(2) 'Roman Catholic Hierarchy in England, Wales and Scotland' by C J Larsen:**

This publication from John F Neale Liturgical Publications gives a biographical history, cataloguing the significant events of all Roman Catholic Diocesan Bishops who have been in

office since the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England and Wales in 1850 – with further chapters relating to the Diocesan Bishops of Scotland since the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in Scotland in 1878. This work is a comprehensive reference guide to nearly 300 men who have given their lives as Bishops in the service of the diocesan Catholic Church.

## **9. EXCHANGE AND MART:**

Following on the necessary instalment of new heating in Gillis Chapel with the grateful help from Heritage Scotland, the benches are no longer able to be used because of their size. Consequently, the Trustees of the Archdiocese, in association with the Gillis Management Committee, have decided to replace the benches with stacking chairs. This will not only add to the comfort of praying in the chapel – but also ensure that the chapel can then be used for various other functions, eg lectures, conferences etc – leaving space in the interior for a display section equivalent to a small museum.

Consequently, the previous benches are now surplus to requirements. If they can be of use in any of your parishes they could be purchased reasonably cheaply – and I ask members of parish fabric and planning and finance committees to liaise with their parish priests if they wish to obtain further information from the Archdiocesan Offices, contacting Mr Richard Hamblett at 0131-623 8900.

## **10. VOICE FOR LIFE - THE NEW CATHEDRAL PRO-LIFE GROUP:**

**Tuesday 5 January 2010 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm (approx)** will begin with Mass & devotions at 6.00 pm in the Cathedral followed at 7.15 pm by a DVD on Our Lady of Guadalupe Protectress of the Unborn, in the Cathedral Parish Centre (refreshments provided). You will be most welcome to join us for all or any part of the evening.

**Tuesday 2 February 2010** Mass & devotions at 6.00 pm in the Cathedral.

**Tuesday 9 February 2010 7.30pm.**  
**'Should assisted suicide be legalised in**

**Scotland?’ Talk by Dr Calum MacKellar** in the Cathedral Parish Centre.

Dr Calum MacKellar is the Director of Research at the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics which encourages the engagement of Scottish society in the field of medical ethics. Having worked with the Bioethics Division of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg he also has extensive experience of international bioethics.

## 11. ENGAGEMENTS:

My list of engagements over the next few months is enclosed with the Archdiocesan Newsletter.

(1) Please note the poster for the ‘Mass for the Holy Innocents’ on Monday 28 December 2009. This year the Mass will be celebrated in St John Vianney’s Church, Gilmerton, Edinburgh, with myself as principal celebrant and **Father Jock Dalrymple** as the preacher. The Mass begins at 12 noon – a poster is available for display at the back of your church.

(2) I will be visiting the convents with residential homes after Christmas and New Year – and look forward to celebrating with our religious the World Day for Religious on **Tuesday 2 February 2010**. A letter giving

further details will follow to our religious communities.

(3) Please note the various events concerned with the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**.

The Rite of Election takes place on the First Sunday of Lent, **Sunday 21 February 2010** at 3.00 pm in our Cathedral – with Easter Sunday this year being **Sunday 4 April 2010**.

(4) Please note also the **Lenten Station Masses** which take place throughout the season of Lent in the various areas of our Archdiocese. I ask you to make every effort to attend and celebrate the Lenten Station Masses in your own area – giving support also to those preparing for the final events on the RCIA Programme on Easter Sunday.

A handbook, entitled ‘Preparing for the Rite of Election 2010’ is available from our Episcopal Delegate for Pastoral Resources, Ms Patricia Carroll, to help RCIA groups throughout the Archdiocese to prepare for the celebration of the Rite of Election, which takes place in our Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent at 3.00 pm, as indicated.

Please contact Ms Carroll at [Patricia.Carroll@standed.org.uk](mailto:Patricia.Carroll@standed.org.uk) if you wish further information about this booklet – or else obtain it directly from the website of Ms Carroll.

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I remind you that our **Archdiocesan Directory for 2010** is now on sale in our parishes containing the usual wealth of information. The Directory has become indispensable at this present time – containing as it does Sunday Mass times and information concerning other services in our parishes – many of which now have to ‘share’ a parish priest. Further copies of the Archdiocesan Directory can be obtained at price £2.00 each from our Archdiocesan Offices. Please contact Mr George Lavery at Gillis Centre, 100 Strathern Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1BB; tel: 0131-623 8900; email: [George.Lavery@standed.org.uk](mailto:George.Lavery@standed.org.uk).

*I wish you all and all of your family and friends a very happy and relaxing Christmas time with every blessing also for the year which lies ahead.*

+ **Keith Patrick Cardinal O’Brien**  
Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh