



# Galloway Diocese **NEWS**

Special  
Edition

Easter  
2024

# Galloway Diocese welcomes



# Bishop Frank Dougan

# Rt Rev Frank Dougan – a new Bishop for Galloway

A brief biography

On 22nd December 2023, Pope Francis nominated Father Frank Dougan as the new Bishop of Galloway.

Father Frank was born on 8th December 1972 and baptised in St Aidan's, Wishaw. After attending St Aidan's Primary, St Mary's College, Blairs and St Aidan's High School, Wishaw, he studied at the Scots College in Rome and at Glasgow University. He is a graduate in Law (LLB) and holds a Licentiate in Canon Law. He received priestly ordination on 27th June 2001 and was incardinated in the Diocese of Motherwell.

Father Frank served as assistant priest at Our Lady and St Anne's, Hamilton and as parish priest St Mark's, Rutherglen, St Anthony's, Rutherglen, St Anthony's and St Mark's and Our Lady of Lourdes. He was Vice-rector of the Scots College, Rome from 2006 to 2012, assistant Judicial Vicar, Scottish Inter-diocesan Tribunal and Judicial vicar for the Diocese of Motherwell from 2017.

Reacting to his appointment, Father Frank said; "I am humbled and more than a little bit nervous that Pope Francis has asked me to take on this office. I feel confident however that I will not be alone in spreading the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I will be joining with every single person in Galloway Diocese all of whom have a role to play, my role being just one of them. "With God's grace and the deep faith of the Church in Galloway we can continue to build on the solid foundations left by those who have come before us, stretching back to St Ninian who first planted the seeds of the Christian faith in Scotland here in Galloway."

## Coincidence?

*Father Frank's appointment is the third time that the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in East Kilbride has been appointed as Bishop of Galloway. In 1981, the late Bishop Maurice Taylor was parish priest there before his appointment as was Archbishop William Nolan.*

## The Apostolic Mandate

*Pope Francis nominates Father Francis Dougan to be the Bishop of Galloway*

# FRANCISCUS EPISCOPUS Servus Servorum Dei

dilecto filio **Francisco Dougan**, e clero dioecesis Matrisfontis ibique hactenus paroeciae Dominae Nostrae de Lourdes Curioni, Episcopo Candidae Casae seu Gallovidiano electo, salutem et Benedictionem. In Christo sorte vocati etiamque praedestinati secundum propositum Eius, qui omnia operatur secundum consilium voluntatis suae, ut simus in laudem gloriae Eius (cfr Eph 1, 11-12), dum divinae gratiae divitias cognoscimus in Nobis universalis Ecclesiae sollicitudine oneratis, honorum munera simulque potestatem regimini super sanctam populum Dei iis libenter tribuere solemus, qui vitae honestate et Christi mandatorum studio summo opere emicent. Quam pastoralis officii rationem considerantes, mentem Nostram ad spirituales res Candidae Casae seu Gallovidianae convertimus necessitates, quae vacans post translationem Venerabilis fratris **Willemi Nolan** ad archidioecesim Glasguensem, legitimum praestolatur dioecesis vitae Moderatorem. De te ergo, dilecte fili, cogitavimus, qui sacerdotibus humanisque dotibus ornatus videris, quae aptum te efficiunt haec ad munia sustinenda. Proinde, de consilio Dicasterii pro Episcopis Apostolica Nostra auctoritate, te Episcopum **Candidae Casae seu Gallovidianum** constituimus, debitis concessis iuribus congruisque impositis obligationibus huic adnexis officio. Ordinationem episcopalem ubi vis extra Urbem, servatis liturgicis normis, a quolibet catholico Episcopo suscipere poteris; tuum autem antea erit fidei professionem dare et iurandum fidelitatis erga Nos Successoresque Nostros, ad ecclesiasticae legis normas, praestare. Te dilecte fili, peculiari adhortamur affectu, ut, Beata Maria Virgine sanctaque Margarita, tuae Cathedralis ecclesiae patrona, intercedentibus, christi fidelibus tuis semper proxis, praesertim humilibus et pauperibus, qui, verbo et exemplo tuo commoti, veram in Deo salutis spem collocare valeant. Datum Romae, Laterani, die altero et vicesimo mensis Decembris, anno Domini bis millesimo vicesimo tertio, Pontificatus Nostri undecimo.

Franciscus

Ruini, Tit. Apost.

# A Message to the people of Galloway from Bishop Frank Dougan

**O**n receiving the invitation from Pope Francis to become the next bishop of Galloway, my first public response was the slight understatement that I was “more than a little bit nervous”. I hope you will forgive me if I admit that some of that nervousness remains.

However, I know that I am not on my own here. I have spent some time over the last few weeks travelling around the diocese and one thing is clear. While we talk about the great history of Galloway, the See of Ninian, it is not just a place with a noble past. The Gospel is being proclaimed here and now. The laity, religious and clergy of Galloway are faithful preachers of the Good News and, with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, carry on the mission of Ninian to be the face and voice of Christ in this part of the world.

There are always challenges and difficulties to face in every place, but we don't start with those. We start with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that are already in evidence. Do not underestimate yourselves or each other. Do not let the first words we speak about the Church here, and about each other,

be words of complaint. Celebrate the many graces that are already present, and that I have already begun to see, and with the Joy of the Gospel in our hearts we can continue to bring God's unconditional love to every person in this diocese and beyond.

I continue to be nervous, but I am also excited because of the great many of you who are already doing so much for the Lord. After all, with God on our side, who can be against us?

On a personal note, I am grateful for the faith I received from my family, especially my late parents Rachel and Peter. Very few of us receive our faith like Paul on the road to Damascus. Instead, it is gifted to us by those who bring us to Christ and who give their own witness to that faith. That began with my parents, and throughout my life and ministry I have seen so many examples of discipleship and love of God and neighbour that have had a profound influence on me.

I ask God's blessing on all those who have been with me on this journey.

## The Apostolic Mandate

*This is the translation of the Mandate which nominates the new bishop*

### **FRANCIS BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD,**

*to our beloved Son, Francis DOUGAN, of the clergy of the diocese of Motherwell and until now  
Parish Priest there of the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes,  
and chosen as the Bishop of Candida Casa or Galloway, health and Blessing.*

Called in Christ by providence, and also predestined, according to the plan of Him who does all things in conformity with the counsel of his will, that we might be for the praise of His glory (cf. Ephesians 1, 11-12); and while burdened as we are with solicitude for the whole Church, we know the riches of divine grace (and so) we are gladly accustomed to distribute the offices of honour and the power of governance over the holy people of God to those who excel for their honesty of life and dedication to the commandments of Christ. Reflecting on such reasons for the pastoral office, Our mind has turned to the spiritual needs of the See of Candida Casa or Galloway which, rendered vacant after the transfer of our Venerable Brother William Nolan to the Archdiocese of Glasgow, awaits a legitimate Moderator of its diocesan life.

We have therefore thought of you, beloved Son, who are seen to be endowed with the human and priestly gifts which make you suitable to bear these responsibilities. Hence, on the advice of the Dicastery for Bishops, and by our Apostolic Authority, we have appointed you as Bishop of Candida Casa or Galloway, conceding you the required rights and imposing on you the corresponding duties attached to this office. In observance of the liturgical norms, you may receive episcopal ordination anywhere outside Rome by any Catholic Bishop; you must beforehand make the profession of faith and take the oath of fidelity to Us and Our Successors, in accordance with ecclesiastical law. With special affection, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Margaret, the patroness of your cathedral church, We encourage you, beloved Son, to be always there for your faithful, especially the humble and the poor who, moved by your word and example, may be able to place their true hope of salvation in God.

Given in Rome, at the Lateran, on the twenty second day of the month of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three, the eleventh of Our Pontificate.

**FRANCIS, PP.**

# Galloway welcomes Bishop Frank Dougan

*In this edition of the Galloway Diocese News we bring you all the news, photographs and reactions from the joyful ordination of Bishop Frank Dougan held on 9th March 2024 in St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan*



**The** Ordination to the Episcopate of the Right Reverend Francis Dougan as Bishop of Galloway by the Most Reverend Leo Cushley Metropolitan Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, took place in the Church of St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan on Saturday, 9th March, 2024 in the presence of His Excellency Archbishop Maury Buendía, the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop William Nolan, bishops from across Scotland and many priests, deacons and religious from Galloway and beyond. The new bishop was supported by the presence of his family and friends and a large congregation for all the parishes in the diocese. The event was also viewed by many hundreds as it was livestreamed on the Galloway Diocese YouTube channel.

## The Ordination



The Bishop-elect goes to the principal ordaining Bishop and kneels before him. Archbishop Cushley lays his hands upon his head, and the other Bishops do the same.

Archbishop Cushley anoints the head of the newly ordained Bishop, presents the Book of the Gospels to him, and places the ring on the ring finger of his right hand. The Archbishop then places the mitre on the newly ordained Bishop and presents him with the pastoral staff.



*The newly ordained Bishop Dougan is invited to be seated in the Bishop's chair.*



# What a beautiful liturgy!

*A very personal reflection on the ordination by Mary Buckley, of St Andrew's, Dumfries*

*From the opening words of 'Christ be our light' to the closing Ave of 'Immaculate Mary' the ordination of our new bishop was a celebration of pageantry, prayerfulness, humour, not a little emotion and – above all – joy.*

The beautiful church of St Peter in Chains shone; the pale yellow wall of the sanctuary glowed with the promise of spring and the white walls reflected and enhanced the vestments of the many priests and deacons of the dioceses of Galloway and beyond, as well as all the archbishops and bishops gathered for the event.

We were told that the hymns and readings had been chosen specially by Bishop Dougan and they certainly resonated with hope and promise. From Isaiah – 'whom shall I send?' 'Here I am Lord, send me.' 2 Corinthians – 'We are ambassadors of Christ' and John's Gospel which speaks of the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep.



The actual ordination is a simple but very profound act, although steeped in tradition and symbolism. The Bishop-elect lies prostrate during the Litany of the Saints, (and I was especially touched by when blessings were asked 'on this chosen man.' Bless and sanctify, and consecrate this chosen man ... ) Archbishop Cushley anoints Father Frank and he is presented as the ninth Bishop of Galloway – to prolonged and appreciative applause during which the Archbishop could be heard to say 'well done Frank'. And that summed up for me the whole ceremony. Religious, yes, beautiful, certainly, significant, without doubt. But for all its splendour, intimate, and most of all, personal.

interviewed and you may get the job. To be a bishop you are sent, chosen to be close to your people and your priests.' But he also remarked, to laughter, that your achievements are often only noticed when you are gone.

Bishop Frank processed through the church, blessing the congregation – something he returned to in his closing address. Again – humour and – dare I say – mischief – bubbled up. How many bishops start their first address to their people with 'hiya.' He likened the aforesaid procession, equipped as he was with mitre, crozier and,



vestments to learning to drive – and just when he had the hang of it his master of ceremonies mutters 'can you smile!' He told how his ring has been made using the residue of his late father's estate – 'so, thanks dad.' Then – 'I'd better thank mum, she'll be raging.' He described with great honesty and humility how he got the phone call and how the scriptures of the days encouraged him to say yes, and how much he was looking forward to meeting the people.



*We are very much looking forward to meeting you, Bishop Frank.*

*May God bless you in your ministry.*



Bishop Dougan with his family and his new diocesan priestly family



## A Memoir of a great day

*By Amélie Davidson, of St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock, and member of the Galloway Diocese News Editorial Team*

Attending the Ordination of Bishop Dougan was a profound and memorable experience, especially as it was my first experience of attending an Ordination Mass. The anticipation and excitement among parishioners was palpable, with people travelling from all corners of the diocese to witness this momentous occasion – including a lady sitting next to me who had travelled all the way from Whithorn, beginning her journey to Ardrossan at 7 am! The Mass was a spiritually enriching experience which deepened my appreciation for the sacraments and served as a reminder of the sacred calling to serve God with love. The congregation's singing filled the church and reflected the collective joy in welcoming our new Bishop. Following the Mass, the sense of celebration continued at the buffet reception hosted at St Matthew's Academy where parishioners and clergy came together to congratulate Bishop Dougan. The ordination of our new Bishop represents a time of hope and opportunity for our diocese. I am excited to see what lies ahead for the future of the Diocese of Galloway under the guidance of our new shepherd.





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# Reception to his Cathedral Church

## of the Right Reverend Francis Dougan as Bishop of Galloway, Saint Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, Sunday, 10th March, 2024



The reception to his Cathedral begins at the door when the bishop enters the church and kneels in prayer. He is presented by the Apostolic Nuncio to the Administrator of the Cathedral and a representative of the Chapter of Canons.

The Apostolic Nuncio greets the people and bids the Apostolic Mandate to be shown and read. Thereafter, Bishop Dougan is led to his Cathedra by His Excellency Archbishop Maury Buendía, bringing the two years of *sede vacante* to an end.



Some members of the diocesan clergy, religious, members of the faithful, and representatives of other Christian denominations were invited to go to the new Bishop and offer a sign of welcome and reverence.



In a moving, inspirational and often humorous sermon, the bishop mentioned how he had – as a child – attended Mass at Saint Margaret's during family holidays to Ayr. "We sat near the front (but not at the front), but I never thought I would be sitting there" he said nodding to Cathedra. He mentioned that he had been ordained 18 years after first discerning a vocation to the priesthood – but only a couple of months has passed since being appointed bishop-elect.

He has taken as his motto (from Isaiah) 'Quench not the wavering flame' and encouraged all of us, clergy and people alike, to keep the flame of faith alive in ourselves and in others of faith.



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# ORGAN RECITALS 2024

THE RESTORED 1903 HARRISON & HARRISON PIPE ORGAN

**TUESDAY 19 MARCH – 12 NOON**  
**CIARAN WALKER**  
**ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, INVERESK**

**TUESDAY 18 JUNE – 12 NOON**  
**ALESSANDRO BIANCHI**  
**ST EDWARD'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LUGANO, SWITZERLAND**

**TUESDAY 16 JULY – 12 NOON**  
**HANS UWE HIELSCHER**  
**WIESBADEN MARKTKIRCHE LUTHERAN CATHEDRAL, GERMANY**

**TUESDAY 20 AUGUST – 12 NOON**  
**ROBIN BELL**  
**ST LEONARD'S SCHOOL, ST ANDREWS**

**TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – 12 NOON**  
**DR JOHN KITCHEN MBE**  
**EDINBURGH CITY ORGANIST**

**TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER – 12 NOON**  
**CHRIS BRAGG**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS**

**TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER – 12 NOON**  
**WILLIAM R. HUTCHESON**  
**FREELANCE ORGANIST, PAISLEY**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**RETIRAL COLLECTION**



**ST JOSEPH'S RC CHURCH**  
**Hill Street, Kilmarnock, KA3 1HB**

Telephone: 01563 521832

Email: [kilmarnock.stjoseph@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:kilmarnock.stjoseph@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)

Web: [www.rckilmarnock.org.uk](http://www.rckilmarnock.org.uk)

Facebook: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

St Joseph's is a parish of the RC Diocese of Galloway. Charity number SC010576

## The Easter vigil

“The great gift of Easter is hope” *Cardinal Basil Hume*

*Jim likes the Easter Vigil because its structure and length reflect the awe and wonder we must have at the Resurrection of Christ.*

The Vigil Mass begins in darkness, after the sun sets, with all the lights out in the Church. Outside, a new “blazing fire” is lit and blessed which symbolises the Light of Christ that dispels all darkness. From that fire, the Easter candle and other candles held by the faithful are lit, and the new light illuminates the church.

The procession into the church with the candles is



followed by the singing of the ancient hymn the *Exsultet*. That hymn, (dating from the 5th Century) is the Church’s announcement of the Resurrection of Christ and is filled with profound theology, presented with youthful excitement and amazement. The lengthy Liturgy of the Word

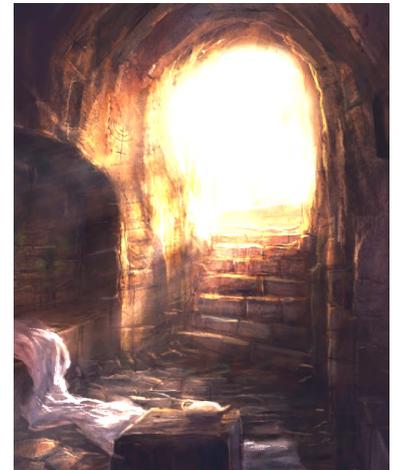
follows, recounting the history of God’s people and also presaging God’s plan of salvation. This plan achieves perfection by bringing together two aspects; an unblemished lamb is the acceptable sacrifice (Leviticus); and a father’s sacrifice of his son. Abraham our father in faith was willing to sacrifice his son. Jesus was pointed out by John the Baptist as “the Lamb of God.” Lamb of God and Son of God– the perfect redemptive sacrifice.

Why is so much solemnity given to this celebration? Because Easter is worth it! Nothing ever has been and nothing ever will be more glorious than the triumph of the Son of God over sin and death. Easter must fill us with awe and wonder: because of his death and Resurrection our lives are changed forever. Among the many lessons we all can learn from the Easter Vigil is that God’s glorious plan of salvation unfolds over time and then culminates with glory beyond imagination. At times in life, we can become impatient. We tend to want what we want when we want it. But the lesson of the Holy

Scriptures is that God’s plan is not only perfect but is also fulfilled only in accord with God’s timing. This is His perfect wisdom. It’s a wisdom that we cannot always comprehend. In the end, if we embrace the perfect plan of God in our lives, we will share in the Resurrection of Christ. Nothing could ever be better than this. There is nothing that this world can offer us that even comes close to the glorious reward of sharing in the Resurrection of Christ.

This is the night when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. This is the night he passed from the dark confinement of a tomb on the edge of Jerusalem into the radiant expanse of an unfettered and glorified life. Ours was the humanity he took from Mary. Ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows.

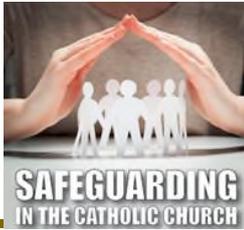
So, this night is my Passover; our Passover, our passage. ‘Let us pass over in the Passover of Christ’, says St Augustine, ‘lest we pass away with this passing world’. We have already, tonight, passed from outside to the inside, from a car-park to a church, from darkness to light, the light of the Paschal candle being passed to each of us. We have just passed – with all those readings – from the Old Testament to the New: from Genesis’ ‘in the beginning’ to the new and greater beginning of an ‘empty tomb.’ Although the readings from the three synoptic Gospels, proclaimed in turn at the Vigil Mass as well as John’s Easter Sunday Gospel, have differing accounts of how the news of the Resurrection of Jesus was given to Mary Magdalene (and other women disciples in the synoptics), they all teach, clearly and unequivocally that **Jesus rose from the dead.**



M<sup>sgr</sup> Peter Magee visits the children of St Mary’s Primary School, Largs, to discuss the Fruits of the Holy Spirit with them as they prepared to receive the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation in February.

### Signs of God in St Mary’s Primary





# Safeguarding In Galloway Diocese

*audits on Safeguarding audits are coming up and we are looking for men to volunteer*

*By Tony Fisher, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser*

*contact him on 01292 266750 / 07542 947989 or by email [safeguarding.adviser@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adviser@gallowaydiocese.org.uk).*

The formal ordination of Bishop Francis Dougan took place on Saturday 9th March 2024 at a wonderful liturgy held at St Peter in Chains in Ardrossan and the bishop took formal possession of St Margaret's Cathedral in Ayr on Sunday 10th May 2024. We welcome our new bishop and offer him our congratulations and best wishes as he joins us in the Diocese of Galloway. We look forward to working with Bishop Frank as we continue to strengthen our safeguarding position and we are confident that with his guidance, we will maintain and develop the systems and practices that protect the vulnerable in the Diocese of Galloway.

We are now moving on to that time of the year again when we carry out our audits on Safeguarding in the diocese. This year we are doing a pilot with the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles and, as a result, the audit will take on a slightly different look and should be less labour intensive than in previous years whilst still giving us the required information that we need to take safeguarding forward.

The audits will be undertaken by the parish priests who will be assisted by their respective parish Safeguarding Coordinators and the initial audits themselves will be carried out in four parishes – St Margaret's, Ayr, St John's, Stevenston, St Teresa's, Dumfries and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Kilmarnock in the weeks just after Easter.

In terms of our Safeguarding recruitment this year, we are highlighting a need to try and have some more men join the ranks of the Safeguarding Community. We are looking to have some men as standby parish Safeguarding Coordinators so that we can have access to both male and female volunteers throughout the Diocese – these will not be full time posts and as such there will be a limited demand on the time of anyone

who may be interested in fulfilling this ministry. Contact the Diocesan Office for more information.

We would also like to welcome another few volunteers who have joined our safeguarding community in various ministries across the diocese and this leaves us only a couple of parishes which do not have their own Parish Safeguarding Coordinators.

Our colleagues at the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency have produced some up to date resources including:

- ◆ Standards of Conduct bookmark
- ◆ Responding to Disclosures booklet
- ◆ Responding to Disclosures concertina leaflet
- ◆ Social media leaflet
- ◆ Standards of Conduct for clergy and Religious concertina leaflet

Our parish priests have all received updated Safeguarding posters to be put up in their respective churches and the church halls. Copies of the resources can also be found in our churches.



## Season of Lent at St Winning's Primary School

St Winning's Primary School prepared for Lent with all classes participating in a variety of activities.

Our Primary 4 pupils learned how they can implement 40 days of kindness. Inspired by the words of Pope Francis this Jubilee Year, they have promised to carry out everyday actions that might help someone or bring them happiness.

Our Primary 5 pupils learned about the importance of Lent in the Catholic calendar. As a class we decided instead of giving something up, that we could give something to people. As part of our class topic, we have been carrying out a lot of outdoor learning, learning about plants and the importance that plants have to the environment and to nature. The children decided to incorporate our learning into a gift for staff within our school, we made seed bombs out of recycled paper, then put them onto cards which the children designed and gifted to the staff within the school. The children wanted to deliver the message that seeds are a sign of new life and new beginnings, which we believe is the most important message of Lent.



# Spotlight on Education

## East Ayrshire Schools

*In this edition we hear from St Joseph's Academy, Mount Carmel Primary, and St Andrew's Primary, Kilmarnock, St Patrick's Primary, and St Xavier's Primary, Patna and St Sophia's Primary, Galston*

### *Saint Joseph's Academy, Kilmarnock*

*It's a busy time here at St Joseph's Academy!*

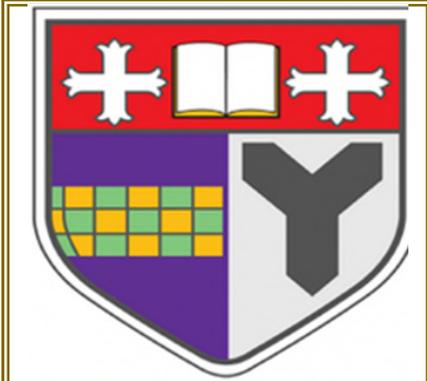
At the time of writing, we are halfway through the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday saw three beautiful liturgies take place in St Matthew's church and in the classroom our fundraising for SCIAF's "Wee Box" campaign began. There have been events throughout the school year that have sought to support SCIAF's 'Talented Fundraiser' but now in Lent we focus our prayer, fasting and almsgiving in a particular way to help those who need it most.



We continue to enjoy regular opportunities to come together as a school community to practice our faith through our weekly Mass and rosary groups as well as our monthly "Prayer and Pancakes" mornings – which are as great as they sound! We remain blessed with fantastic support from our chaplains. Recently, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary have been in to help S1 and S2 pupils focus on Laudato Si' and how our faith calls us to be active in caring for God's creation. When (if!) the weather improves, we hope to have opportunities for active learning about our planet in and around the school grounds. We have also recently welcomed a "NET Ministries" team from the United States to the school. They will support pupils over the course of the month, working alongside chaplains and teachers to nurture the faith of pupils and deepen their experience of Christ's love.

Before Easter, we are also looking forward to having our school chaplains' visit to prepare S1 classes to celebrate class Masses together. This will be a chance for them to come together as a class community to discover the beauty of the liturgy and grow as a community. Lastly, we are excitedly preparing for a full-school celebration of Mass for the feast of St Joseph, our school patron. It's sure to be one of the events of the school year. Lastly, our Caritas classes continue to serve God in their school and parish communities as they reach the end of their time of volunteering. We wish you all a very blessed Easter and ask that you keep our school community in your prayers.

*he NET Ministries Team with pupils from St Joseph's Academy at the beginning of their Mission Month in school*



God our Father, creator of the world,  
you sent your son Jesus to be one of  
us and to show us how to live in the  
way of love.  
Inspire us with the Holy Spirit who  
lives in our hearts.  
St. Joseph, guide our families and us  
on the path of life.  
Support us by the example of  
our house patron saints.  
Help us to live out our school values  
by following your example of love  
every day of our lives.  
St Joseph, pray for us.



## Mount Carmel Primary School

*This year Primary 4 have had a very special mission, as 'Missio Champions'*

Primary 4 organised a 'Day of Colour' to raise money and awareness of the work of Missio Scotland as well as highlighting the significance of the Mission Rosary during the Month of Mission. The children encouraged the other classes and adults to think about *their* mission and *their* own journey of faith.

Whilst learning about the lives of the missionary saints, the children became aware that they had a very special mission, to tell people about the Good News, to spread joy and to lead by example. With this special mission in mind, the class made beautiful cards and letters for the parishioners of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Christmas time, and enjoyed several visits to Crossgates Care Home where they spread the joy of being a friend of Jesus through crafts, games, songs and lots of laughter with their new friends.

The children enjoyed putting their artistic talents to use for the Missio Christmas Card Competition and were delighted to have a winner from within the class. They recorded a special Christmas message, including learning a carol in Makaton, which they joyfully shared with the school community. The children continued their 'Missio Champions' journey throughout Lent and are particularly excited about using their drama skills to share the story of St Teresa of Calcutta with the school community.



## St Patrick's Primary School

*Putting Catholic identity continues at the forefront of all learning and teaching*

Our values based ethos and culture highlights how we bring Catholic teachings alive in everyday life.

Following their visit in October 2023, the East Ayrshire Quality Assurance team report stated that our 'whole school culture, values and ethos are very positive. The relational approach and inclusive practice implemented universally is evidenced by strong relationships between peers and adults.' This is testament to the interactions that continuously reflect that all of us are created in the image of God and are treated with dignity and respect at all times.

There is an emphasis placed on service and working together to protect our common home. We currently work with The Harmony Project and apply principles found in nature to our learning. Using the parable of the talents as a stimulus, our P7 learners participated in SCIAF's 'talented fundraisers' initiative, organising a talent show to allow others in the school to share their God given talents at the same time as raising money to support the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. We have continued to support the work of SCIAF through our Lenten campaign, something St Patrick's has been doing for over 30 years!

We are supported by Father Philip Kitchen who is a regular visitor to our school and is very much a huge part of the St Patrick's family. We plan our year to ensure that as a whole school we visit all three parishes that we serve throughout the year. We have pupils who serve in the ministries of their own parishes and during Catholic Education Week staff and pupils represent the school at all parishes. We are extremely proud of our Faith and the Faith Friends we have in school and in our parishes.

## St Xavier's Primary School

*A journey of faith*

The theme for Catholic Education Week for 2023/2024 is 'Pilgrims of Faith.' A group of pupils from St Xavier's Primary School did a presentation at St Francis Xavier's Church in November. The children talked about what makes our school special, the importance of Catholic Education, our journey of faith and how we live according to the teachings of Christ. The children decorated the Church with beautiful art work and made displays showing how we can demonstrate our faith in God.

This Lent we have raised money for SCIAF. Our Pupil Council decided to have 'Fundraising Fridays' and other activities to raise money, including a special tuck shop, a raffle and Guess the Name of the Bunny and we took part in the Big Lent Walk to raise awareness of global inequality.

Our primary 7 group have recently completed their Pope Francis Faith Award journey, having explored all Seven Gifts of the Spirit. It has offered our young people the chance to explore their faith both in school and at home. They were given the opportunity to lead prayer stations for the other pupils in the school; teaching younger pupils how to pray the rosary, the importance of praying for others around the world, and asking God for forgiveness.



## Spotlight on Education

### *Saint Sophia's Primary School* *We continue to try to embrace our motto of 'Faith, Hope and Love'*

At our weekly get-togethers we reflect on the messages of Pope Francis and the articles from the Global Compact: "To welcome: to educate and be educated on the need for acceptance and, in particular, openness to the most vulnerable and marginalised" (Article 5). We put our faith in action by our prayers both daily and at our monthly School Masses. Our whole school community comes together and the pupils love using their talents as sacristans, altar servers, readers, singers, and technicians. Enrolled in the Pope Francis Faith Award, our Primary 6 and 7 children demonstrate how they work hard to use the 'Gifts of the Spirit' to support others in the local community.



Our children take on many leadership roles and have their voices heard through the Pupil Council, The Learning Leaders Group, the Eco committee and the Rights Respecting School Group. "To listen to the voices of children and young people in order to build a future of justice, peace and a dignified life for every person" (Article 2).

We show love and give hope by using our literacy and art skills designing and making cards and letters for the sick and housebound and for our parishioners. We have produced some beautiful artwork for Catholic Education Week and the World Day of Prayer. We use our creativity and enterprising skills to plan and organise a whole host of fundraisers for SCIAF and MISSIO. Each class has a MISSIO wheel as part of their Sacred Space and this encourages us to be generous with our prayers and our money to help support children across the world. During Lent we had our 'Wee Boxes', so that

when we do without, we can put that money towards helping others.

A small group of our senior learners continue leading our 'FOJ Club' or the 'Friends of Jesus'. They prepare, organise and run our Advent and Lent prayer groups and keep us focused as Mission Children. They are busy organising fund raising events for SCIAF focusing on supporting communities in Rwanda.

Our young people are the future Church and our school continues to link with the parish to plan and organise a monthly young person's Mass where young people take on all the duties and responsibilities usually carried out by adults. Children preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Holy Communion, take on extra special responsibilities. They are doing a great job!

### *Saint Andrew's Primary School* *committed to putting our Catholic faith into action*

This year, at St Andrew's Primary, the children have been getting involved in leadership opportunities. They meet every second Friday to plan and implement positive change within the school and the community. Many of our groups contribute towards developing the Catholic Ethos of our school.

The 'Mini Vinnies' have been considering how they can contribute and serve their community. Before Christmas, they visited St Matthew's Church and helped serve tea and coffee after Mass to the parishioners. The 'Mini Vinnies' are the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society. They enjoyed this experience so much that they now plan to make this a regular event, visiting St Joseph's Church and St Matthew's on alternate months. The children have also been learning about the life of St Vincent de Paul and reflecting upon how we can follow his example of helping those in need.

The Climate Change group have been considering ways in which we, as a school, can contribute in small ways to help look after the planet we live on. An example of this was the Christmas jumper swap shop that the children organised. Having learned about the dangers that 'fast fashion' brings to our climate, the children decided to organise a stall at the Christmas Fayre, accepting donations and rehoming some funky Christmas jumpers (and a funky photo!)





## Working Together for Excellence at Saint Anthony's Primary School

Working Together for Excellence, our school motto, is witnessed in all that we do at St Anthony's, Saltcoats.



In order to cultivate the skills our children require for the future, we collaborate with a wide range of partners; at the forefront of this is our relationship with Saint Mary's, Star of the Sea parish community where we are wonderfully supported by Canon Martin Poland whose spiritual guidance, support and prominent presence has a wide-ranging impact on the school community. Together, we support the Sacramental preparation of our children through information events, a pre-Communion Mass, regular visits from Canon Martin himself, visits to the Church and Sacramental after-school club, which enhance the learning and teaching, both at home and in school. Members of our families are invited, alongside other parishioners, to join in the celebration of Feast Day Masses, Holy Days of Obligation and Remembrance Services.

We work collaboratively with Canon Martin to prepare our children for Easter and Christmas through daily Lenten and Advent services. The Church community provides us with Day By Day workbooks which supplement our children's learning.

## Saint Margaret's to Saint Magnus

**Chris Colvin and friend Katie are planning a 435 Mile Sponsored Cycle Ride to support the SCIAF Emergency Appeal for the Holy Land.**



Since visiting the Holy Land for the first time in 2017, I have returned almost every year to visit the West Bank and Israel. During this time, I have got to know the people and the peaceful culture of the Palestinian people.

On 7th October 2023 my heart sank, both for the people of Israel directly affected by the horrendous attack and for the innocent Palestinians of both Gaza and the West Bank. Gaza is one of the most densely populated areas in the world and its residents are currently experiencing significant fear and suffering. They have no way to leave Gaza, and are running out of food, water, and safe shelter so a good friend Katie and I decided to try and do something to help the situation.

It is of course a very small gesture but we are both hopeful that people across our diocese can get on board with our sponsored cycle and not only to donate, but also to pray – most importantly for the people of Gaza, The West Bank and Israel, but also for both Katie and myself – that we can actually complete this challenge (without incident or accident!)

The route will be cycled over six days, starting from St Margaret's Cathedral in Ayr on Friday 21st June and arriving in St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall, Orkney, on Wednesday 26th June. The total route travelled will be around 435 Miles or 700 Kilometres. Our training has started in earnest and over the next few months we will be improving our distance, in order to ensure we can cope with our longest section (95 miles on Day 1) and our toughest and steepest sections north of Inverness.

### How can you donate?

We have set up a fundraising page on both Facebook and Just Giving, and you can go directly to these pages via [www.ayrtoorkney.co.uk](http://www.ayrtoorkney.co.uk) We would be grateful if you could support our efforts and donate to this fundraising effort to support to those most in need.

*Both Katie and I would like to thank you in advance for your support and for your prayers.*

### the SCIAF Emergency Appeal

*SCIAF have launched an emergency appeal for the ongoing and escalating conflict in the Holy Land, particularly the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which is causing unimaginable fear and suffering. Through its global network, SCIAF is working with local organisations to assess need and act as soon as they are able.*



Father David Borland would like to thank all those who sent him some sponsorship money for his Advent Challenge in aid of the charity "Friends of the Holy Land" – walking the equivalent distance of Nazareth to Bethlehem during the Season of Advent. The Challenge was successfully completed on December 23rd 2023 and the magnificent sum of £5,490.00 was raised for FHL. Special thanks need to be given to numerous parishioners of the parishes in Ayr who joined Father David every Saturday morning to walk the daily five mile route – despite the weather!



## Prayer and the Journey of Faith

*Bishop Elect Martin Chambers reflects that the journey with an adult who is thinking of becoming a Catholic has an impact on the faith of the whole of the RCIA team and is one of the most fulfilling and prayerful experiences of becoming a priest.*

**A**t this stage, you are about to conclude your journey through the season of Lent, where you heard the call of faith to *'repent and believe the Good News'*. In this season it is tradition to undertake various extra prayers (like the Stations of the Cross) and different activities (like collecting for SCIAF). I hope these prayerful activities have helped you in your journey of faith to *'repent and believe'* that little bit more.

Lent is also the time when parishes across the diocese have set their minds on Holy Week and the arrangements for the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is the season when parishes start preparing the Holy Week liturgies (readings and music) so that all parishioners can grow in faith a little bit more.

On top of that, in many parishes around the diocese there is the added excitement of preparing adult parishioners to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. For me, this process of preparing adults through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) has always been one of the most fulfilling and prayerful experiences of being a priest. To journey with an adult who is thinking of becoming a Catholic has always been for me a deepening of my own faith. I find myself saying *"those adults are renewing their faith in God; I need to renew my own faith!"* And I think it is the same for anyone on the RCIA team. So often the adults

preparing for the Sacraments will tell the RCIA team that they thought becoming a Catholic was only about remembering technical details of the faith, like how many apostles there are and how many commandments we stand by. Then they see, in the process of this journey into the Church, that becoming a Catholic is, yes, about the head and what we remember about our faith. However, it is also – and perhaps more centrally – about the heart and realising that our journey into faith is also about the love we have deep in our hearts for Jesus, and the love that Jesus has in his heart for each one of us. The adults preparing for the Sacraments tell me year after year that being part of a faith community and finding Jesus walking with them in their daily lives is the inspiration in prayer that will sustain them long after they have received the Sacraments.

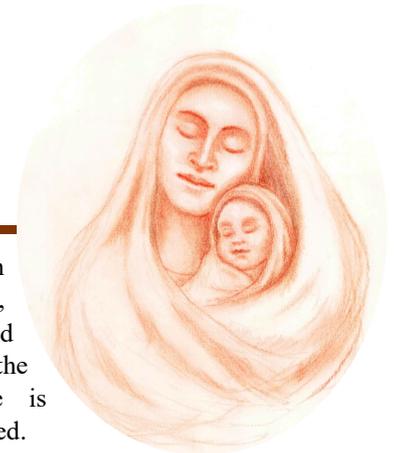
One of the Scripture passages that has helped me greatly to understand this journey of faith is *'The Road to Emmaus'* found in Luke 24:13-35. It is the story of the two disciples walking to Emmaus just after Christ has risen from the tomb. They start off downcast talking between themselves but, in the middle of their journey, Jesus himself comes to walk with them, though at first they do not realise it is Jesus. Suddenly, with Jesus at their side and sharing their story, their hearts are transformed – from being downcast they become disciples of hope who want to share their story with the emerging Christian community. Jesus journeyed with them and their lives were changed. ➡



*A beautiful celebration of Mass with the Rite of Election in St. Margaret's Cathedral, Ayr, on the First Sunday of Lent. 12 Catechumens and 11 Candidates from across the whole Diocese of Galloway took this joyful step on their faith journey.*

# Galloway's pro-life initiative

*In September 2023, The Marriage, Family and Life Office headed by Bishop Keenan discerned that it would be of great benefit for each diocese to have a pro-life initiative that would seek to grow a pro-life culture at grass roots level in our parishes.*



Galloway's pro-life initiative was launched with a weekly online Advent Rosary, which was supported by, among other members of the clergy, Bishop Elect Martin Chambers. With great foresight, he spoke of a new era that heralded the proclamation of the Good News of the Kingdom with justice, peace, hope and love. We wish him well as he brings the same message to Dunkeld.

Following the Advent Rosary, some time has been spent with the pro-life representatives from other dioceses, and from the Marriage, Family and Life Office, to discern a path forward. The first concrete step will be to define what "pro-life" means for us here in the Diocese of Galloway. With so much excellent work being done by, for example, the Justice and Peace Commission, it will be important to determine specifically what issues we want to focus on. This will be a task for Bishop Dougan to decide!

Then comes the work of creating a plan for what we would like to achieve in three months, six months, a year and further into the future. Perhaps within three months, every parish in the diocese will have a designated contact person for pro-life activities; or maybe within a year, we will be able to hold a weekend retreat for Catholic parents to learn how to promote pro-life values in our homes. Conversations with Caritas students and their teachers, and Eucharistic Ministers, who bring Holy Communion to the housebound have generated

ideas for concrete ways in which we can, as a diocese, reach into schools and homes to reinforce the message that every life is precious, valuable and valued.

On invitation, visits are taking place to parishes and one such visit, to St Mary's Star of the Sea in Largs, resulted in some artwork being gifted to Galloway's pro-life work by artist Pauline Gallagher, who was inspired to create a beautifully peaceful image of the Virgin Mother and Child while spending time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Christmas.

It has been inspirational to visit parishes where pro-life work has been quietly taking place for, in some cases, many years. With so much experience to learn from and an obvious willingness around the diocese to talk about the most pressing issues that people in our parishes and families are facing, together we can create a more vibrant culture of life in Galloway Diocese.

If you would like to learn more about the work being planned, if you would like to share experiences, or if you would like to volunteer as a parish contact, please email Helena at [prolife@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:prolife@gallowaydiocese.org.uk).

## **Journey of Faith**

The reason why the passage has always helped me in my own journey of faith and is helpful for adults being received into the Church is that it centres around 'a journey', a concept we can all understand – the journey of life and the journey of faith. We call all reflect on our own journey. How many times do we find ourselves – in life and in faith – downcast and weighed down by the burdens of the journey! How often do we spend our time telling our friends and family about our woes! It is only when we still ourselves in prayer and take quiet time, when we pick up the Bible and read the Scripture of the day that we realise, in faith, that Jesus has always been at our side. Like the disciples in the Emmaus story, we didn't recognise that it was Jesus at our side! And, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we want Jesus to stay with us forever.

So I would encourage you as you conclude this season of Lent to reflect a little bit more on your own 'Journey of Faith'. Look back over your life. See the highs and the lows. Recognise the moments of despair and anxiety as well as the moments of hope and love. Then look again at those events with the eyes of prayer and of faith. Realise that Jesus Christ has been

walking with you. Every day! It is once you see Jesus at your side that you can look forward to the future with hope knowing that Jesus Christ will not abandon you, will always be faithful to you.

Yes, it will be important for you to ask, along with the adults learning this Lent about their faith, some questions of the head: why did we put ashes on our heads on Ash Wednesday?; why did we contribute to charity during Lent?; why did some parishioners have their feet washed on Holy Thursday?; why was it important to reverence the Cross on Good Friday?; and why did we gather around a brazier at the Easter Vigil to celebrate the Liturgy of Light? However, it's also important to recognise what is happening to your heart and the movement of faith that lets you see that you are journeying with Jesus. With the Christ who never abandons you at all in life. I invite you at the end of this season of Lent to see Jesus at your side, to hear him calling you and to respond with a full heart.

Then, along with the adults who receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil, each one of you can respond, as did the disciples on the Road to Emmaus, "did not our hearts burn with us as he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"



# The Teaching of Pope Francis

by Father William McFadden

*In his Lenten message Pope Francis urged to pause “in prayer” and to pause “in the presence of a wounded brother or sister,” an invitation that remains relevant beyond Lent*

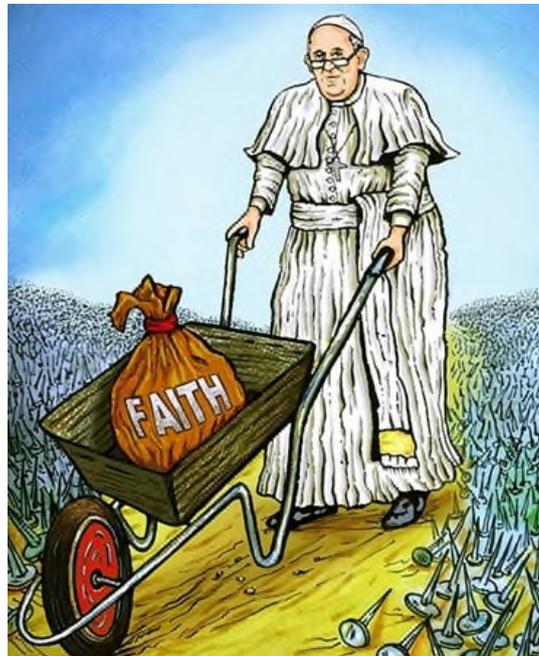
Each Lent Pope Francis publishes a Message to encourage us to enter into this special season with renewed enthusiasm and hope. Even though we are no longer in the time of Lent, it is still useful to reflect on the Message for 2024 as it offers us some significant teaching, even as we now celebrate Easter. This year, his teaching had the title: **“Through the desert God leads us to freedom,”** and it was inspired by the passage from the Book of Exodus: “I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20: 1-17). In inviting us to remember the journey of the People of Israel from slavery to freedom, Pope Francis wants us to see the spiritual journey not as something abstract or theoretical, but as one leading to a genuine experience of freedom and liberation. For Francis, Lent is a “season of grace, a time of conversion,” where the experience of being in the Lenten desert can become for us “a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery.” Like the people of the Exodus, we are often tempted to go back to what was familiar, even if that means going back into a situation of slavery and dependence, but that must be resisted.

In the Message, the Pope called on us **“to pause”** – to pause “in prayer” and to pause “in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.” This invitation to stop what we are doing remains relevant beyond Lent. He explained that it is “the contemplative dimension” of Lent, taking time away from activities and from distractions, that can help us to find God and so “release new energies.” These energies will inspire us to be “more sensitive to one another,” and will motivate us to question “the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon.” In particular, he invites “every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles.” Surely, an exhortation that cannot stop with Lent.

The Pope specifically says that the three traditional Lenten observances of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, “are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying.” By undertaking each particular devotional discipline, we can encounter God’s invitation to greater trust, and so be led forward from our enslavement to freedom. Again, astute recommendations not limited to Lent.

The Pope adds in a particularly powerful phrase that we are to have the **“courage of conversion.”** He says: “Keep seeking and be ready to take risks... let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this.”

The message itself was presented just before Lent by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. This is the Vatican department that supports and highlights the connection between various aspects of our social, economic and political lives. That Pope Francis linked his Message for Lent with the theme of human development shows the weight he gives to the importance of our human and societal relationships in our over-all spiritual journey.



This year, for the first time, the presentation of the Message was accompanied by images, with the artist commissioned offering different images based on Francis’ text throughout the six weeks of Lent. With this first image, he presented the desert strewn with nails, where the nails represent the obstacles of all that imprison us. Pope Francis is passing through these obstacles unhindered pushing a barrow containing a huge bag of faith. We too are challenged to journey forward in Lent, in Eastertide, and indeed throughout the entire liturgical year with renewed faith, avoiding the things that hinder us in our spiritual progress. Pope Francis’ example and his Lenten Message for this year are there to

offer us continued, perceptive, and practical guidance.

## Galloway Diocese News

*Deadline for the summer edition  
18th May 2024*

*Email: [gdnews@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:gdnews@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)  
[www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk)*

The Galloway Diocese News,  
Candida Casa, 8 Corsehill Road,  
Ayr, KA7 2ST.

*RC Diocese of Galloway, charity number  
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# A Final Word from the Administrator

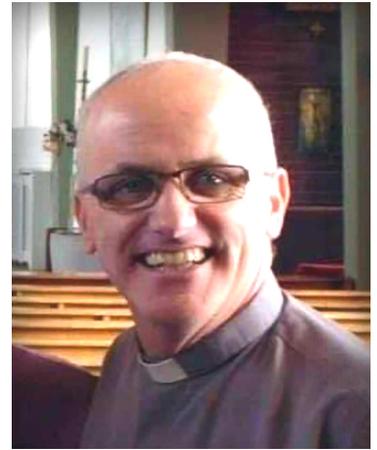
*Father William McFadden pays tribute to all who supported him and the diocese in the last two years as he hands over with hope to Bishop Frank.*

I love the story of the piano teacher who would always get her pupils to practice the ending of a piece far more often than the beginning or the middle. When asked why this was so, she replied that people would always remember the end. She said: “You can make a mistake in the beginning, or in the middle, but as long as the ending is glorious, then people will remember that.”

As I come to the end of my time as Diocesan Administrator, I cannot promise a glorious ending, but I can look to the future, and pledge my support and commitment to Bishop Frank as he takes on his new role in pastoral leadership, administration and governance. It is with a sense of hope that I look forward to him building on the work of previous shepherds of the diocese, and to guiding us with wisdom, insight and boldness. A bishop in the 21st century certainly needs these three qualities, and it is my deepest desire that these will indeed be present and obvious in his ministry in the years to come.

In bringing the two years of *Sede Vacante* to an end, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have supported me during this time. In particular, my heartfelt gratitude to the Consultors of the Diocese who met with me monthly to ensure the smooth running of things; to the office staff in Candida Casa for always responding to whatever request was placed before them and for their flexibility in meeting the various demands which they were called upon to face; to the diocesan laity and clergy, including the Diocesan

Trustees, for maintaining stability in parish life as we tried to continue to respond to the needs of the faithful in the absence of a bishop; and to the parishioners of my own parish communities who coped admirably with the fact that their parish priest was not always available for parish work when the work of the diocese or that associated with the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland had to take priority.



It is also with a sense of pride that I offer Bishop Elect Martin Chambers my congratulations and best wishes as he moves forward into his new episcopal ministry. Martin has been a wonderful priest for Galloway Diocese, a deeply spiritual witness of faith and love, and a man rooted in an authentic sense of mission for the local and universal Church. The Diocese of Dunkeld has “won a watch” there, and Galloway’s loss is indeed their gain!

Once again, my appreciation to all who have supported me during these months as Diocesan Administrator, and I think that I can say with confidence that the future will indeed be “glorious.”

## Diocese of Galloway Youth Ministry

Find us on Facebook Galloway Youth Ministry Office – Email: [youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@gallowaydiocese.org.uk)



The national Catholic Education Forum took place recently in Stirling University hosted by the Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES). Babs Mowat and Elizabeth Turbet along with Father Jim Hayes attended to represent our diocesan Education Strategy Group. They are pictured here with the Director of SCES, Barbara Coupar.



The next diocesan Youth Evening takes place in St Matthew’s Church Hall, Grassyards Road, Kilmarnock (KA3 7SH) on Sunday 14th April beginning with Mass at 6 pm ending at 8.30pm. It is free and open to all young people and their friends from aged P7 upwards. The diocesan youth team look forward to seeing you then.



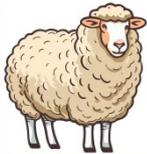


# Galloway Diocese Children's Liturgy



Bishops wear a special hat called a mitre. Sometimes, you might see them holding a crozier which looks a bit like a fancy walking stick. The crozier is a symbol for a shepherd's crook, which is a stick used by shepherds to guide their sheep. Bishops are like a shepherd,

and we are his sheep.



What do you think this means?

Make a card to congratulate  
the new Bishop of the  
Diocese of Galloway!

## What is a Bishop?

A Bishop is a very important leader in the Church. They are like the captain of a team, but for the Church! Bishops help to guide and take care of all the people in their church community.

They teach people about the Bible and help people to understand what it means to be kind. An Ordination Ceremony is a special Mass when a priest becomes a Bishop.



Dear God,

Bless Bishop Dougan with wisdom and love.

May he teach us to follow in Jesus' way.

Give him strength and courage to serve with care,

And let your light shine through him everywhere.

Amen.