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St. David's Dalkeith

Parish Magazine

Spring 2015



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Parish Priest :
Monsignor Allan Chambers

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Mgr. Allan.

Once again I wish to thank the editorial committee who faithfully and, with not a little cajoling and prodding of the usual suspects, produce the parish magazine.

They have enormous enthusiasm and patience and do a quite remarkable job in bringing all the articles together; so to them, many thanks.

Also to those who sponsor us and have sponsored us, my sincere thanks and gratitude. If you are able please support them. Thanks

On March 13th this year Pope Francis announced there was to be an Extraordinary Year of Mercy for the Church, beginning December 8th this year and continuing through to November 20th next year.

What is important in this forthcoming year of Jubilee is the title chosen by the Pope - Mercy.

Pope Francis has continually stressed this idea in many talks he has given and in the many homilies he has preached since becoming Pope over two years ago.

Mercy is a word he uses a lot and, in so many actions of his papacy, it is something he does, as well.

I was thinking about this yesterday when the sad news came through of the death of Charles Kennedy

who was, up until the election, a Member of the Westminster Parliament for over thirty years.

Warm, moving and indeed loving tributes were paid to him right across the political divide. What struck me was the genuine sincerity of all who were interviewed and spoke about him.

Reference was also made to his, by now well known, issues with addiction to alcohol; something he himself admitted when he resigned his party's leadership some years ago.

In interviews yesterday much was made of his kindness, of his loyalty, and above all of his integrity, especially in opposing the initial war in Iraq.

Again, those interviewed wished only to comment on the death of a good, decent family man whose positive qualities far outshone any weakness he may have suffered from.

Is that not really how we would wish to be regarded? For being recalled for our own good actions, in spite of being more than aware of our own weaknesses?

In doing that, we do what Shakespeare described as the 'quality of mercy'.

It is this quality the Pope wants us to rediscover and exercise as we approach the start of the Year of Mercy this coming December.

Fr. Allan.



Deacon-Elect Peter.

There seems to be a recurring theme in these little notes which I am called upon to prepare for the parish magazine and it's the dulcet tones of Julian, our much revered and greatly admired editor-in-chief and his twice yearly intonation of the chant, "*your article's late again!*"

It hardly seems but a couple of weeks ago that I submitted the last one, but here I am again putting pen to paper to let you know how I'm getting on.

My formation for the permanent Diaconate has brought me along an amazing road to date. It has been by turns challenging, uplifting, humbling and humorous and it has certainly taught me to realise just how little I knew about myself and indeed my faith.

March 4th 2015 saw me reach yet another milestone on my journey, when I was instituted as Acolyte during the Edinburgh Deanery Mass. This is the last of the institutions for what were the old minor orders to be received before Ordination which, God willing, will be in the summer of 2016.

It should have been at our own Deanery Mass at St. Gabriel's, but I couldn't make it as I was in Malta for my wedding anniversary!



Malta was great, I'd sailed past it on a number of occasions in my Navy days but this was the first time that I had actually been ashore. Margaret and I stayed in Gzira, which is on the other side from the Grand Harbour and the capital, Valetta.

The walled city of Valetta was amazing and the

churches, as you can imagine, were beautiful. My "local church", just around the corner from my hotel, was dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Just your usual, wee parish church.



We did all the "touristy" stuff and had a great time away. Our anniversary is on St. Joseph's day and it was nice, as we toured round many of the churches on the island, to see so many statues and shrines dedicated to him.

I really have been "head down in the books" for the last few months, as both the number and difficulty of the assignments has increased exponentially since those heady days of 2011, when I submitted essay number 1!!

The amount of academic work required for diaconal formation is something which surprises many people, it certainly came as a surprise to me!! This is because my ministry upon ordination will be a practical one, which is that of service to you, the Church.

My pastoral placement here in St. David's has seen me prepare for that role, as I have become more and more deeply involved in the practical delivery of that service, in sacramental preparation, leading para liturgical services and taking Communion to the sick, but none of these actions require

"me" to be ordained as a minister in the Church.

My vocation, and I very humbly believe it as such, is to serve and to participate in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. The Church recognises that to do so and to do it well, my formation must be about who I am, as well as what I do.

She takes great pains, therefore, to ensure that, during my formation, a two way process of discernment takes place and that it is the Church, upon examination of all of those who have been involved in that formation process over the five year period, who will decide if my vocation is true.

This intellectual dimension to my formation is structured practically, with a particular focus on ecclesial service and the transmission of the faith. So intellectual formation has a critically important part to play in giving me the depth and breadth of knowledge to be able to teach faithfully and confidently in the future.

We also have a very strong element of spirituality in our formation. I am required to undertake personal spiritual direction on a regular basis along with guided inputs from the Redemptorist Fathers at Kinnoull in Perth and our own national spiritual director. This last year has seen all diaconal students, at our weekends and summer school, reflecting upon 'pastores dabobis' (I shall give you shepherds), an apostolic exhortation from St. John Paul II which focuses closely on priestly formation in the clergy.

We've also completed the move of our National Diaconal Training Centre from the monastery at Kinnoull in Perth to the National Catholic Pastoral

Institute of Further and Higher Education in Dundee.

My last note saw me "resting" after my summer job came to an end in October last year. I took a few months off and then jumped back into the world of paid part-time employment in January. I am now working for St. Joseph's Services as a housing support worker.

I work in the Bonnyrigg area and we support men and women with learning and physical disabilities to live independent lives in their own homes. Many of our service users are Catholic and came out into the community when St. Joseph's hospital in Rosewell closed down. I'm very lucky to have found a job so close to hand, which has a minimal impact on my formation and one which I really enjoy.

So, for me, the next few months will see me tackle essays on Christian Anthropology (body and soul) and Catholic bio-ethics along with a doctrinal theme on Mariology, a couple of reviews of Catholic resources and maybe just a bit of "light" revision for my exams at the end of June.

It all might sound a bit "busy" and it is! But I am thoroughly enjoying it. Please keep me in your prayers, as I pray for you.

Peter.

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Refugee Survival Trust.

The Refugee Survival Trust: Reflections on a Small Charity with a Big Mission.

While studying in Paris in 2012-13, I was fortunate enough to be introduced to three refugees from Syria. Hearing of their traumatic experiences first-hand consolidated my desire to support asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and abroad, as, although they hold potential to become a valuable part of society, it is clear that they are vulnerable. For instance, asylum seekers, who currently make up 0.05% of the Scottish population, are not able to access employment to support themselves (see the Scottish Refugee Council's website: www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/media/). The question arises as to what we can do to help mitigate such vulnerability.

The Refugee Survival Trust (RST) is a small charity whose mission is to do its best to see that asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland receive just and respectful treatment, as well as appropriate support. Its main activities are: providing asylum seekers and refugees with grants to prevent destitution and to facilitate education and employment; raising awareness of the challenges facing these individuals; and assisting in the development of asylum policy.

In my view, the charity punches above its weight. First, it has lofty principles, valuing the inherent dignity of each human being by extending an olive branch to those who are far from home and are often forced to rely on the help of others to survive. Second, it has a significant impact in Scotland. In the financial year 2013-14, it distributed 720 destitution grants which totalled an amazing £48,270 (please see the RST Annual Report 2013-14 for more details: www.rst.org.uk/reports/annual-reports/).

Considering that the RST team consists of only 2 full-time and 2 part-time staff members and a small pool of volunteers, its success really is evidence of the dedication of its supporters.

It was this 'small charity, big mission' aspect of RST which attracted me to support it. In May 2014, I was trained as a Talks Ambassador. The role of a Talks Ambassador is to deliver informative talks to interested audiences in order to increase engagement with asylum issues affecting Scotland, the UK, and other countries. Since then, I have presented and volunteered at several events, such as the 'Volunteering in a Fractured

Society' open discussion held in June 2014 at the Sacred Heart Church in Lauriston, which some of our parishioners attended.

Parishioners also generously donated over £80 at a coffee morning in September 2014 in St. David's Church hall. Roles and events such as these make best use of local collaboration to tackle a global issue.

There are many ways to support the work of RST. If you are interested in fundraising or attending an RST event, speak to me, and/or email either fundraising_volunteer@rst.org.uk or coordinator@rst.org.uk. If you would like to hear more about the work of RST, please sign-up to our e-newsletter at the website: www.rst.org.uk. Information on making a donation is also available on this site. If you have any questions, please just ask and I will happily help.

On a separate note, the Jesuit Refugee Service UK has recently published a prayer pack which is designed to help us reflect on the situation of refugees. The 'At Home Prayer Pack' is available to download from a link on this page:

www.jrsuk.net/resources/praying_with_refugees/.

Pope Francis' theme for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, on 18 January 2015, was "Church Without Frontiers, Mother to All". It is up to us to help realise this vision within our own communities.

Katharine.



News from the Schools.

St. David's Primary School

- Mundum Pro Christo Vincamus.



Enrolling your child at St. David's Primary School.

Enrolment for children in their pre-school year at Nursery takes place from November 2015 for those children starting school in August 2016.

Please contact the school on 0131 271 4675 to discuss your child's enrolment further. The school operates an open door policy and parents/carers are welcome to the school at any point.

The school may also have places for children in P1-7 for families moving into the area during the school year. Once again, please contact the school in the first instance to arrange a tour from our House Captains and to spend some time discussing your child's learning and next steps with the Head Teacher.

There are a number of ways you can contact us:

In person:

2c Lauder Road, Kippielaw, Dalkeith EH22 2PU

Telephone: 0131 271 4675

Email: stdavids.ps@midlothian.gov.uk

Website: <http://stdavidsps.mgfl.net>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stdavidsprimary>

Four seasons of Loose Part Play in a day!

The whole school took part in a Loose Part Play day in partnership with Gilmerton Playbox.

Loose Part Play provides the children with a wide variety of equipment to encourage them to play in a creative and imaginative way. This 'equipment' does not need to be purchased from a shop.

Children are amazingly creative and are able to use the most ordinary of objects, such as pots and pans, in a fun and enjoyable way.

'We got to play with lots of ordinary things like



cardboard, tarpaulin and drain pipes, but with these we built dens, cars and rockets!

Some of us even flew to the moon!

It was an amazing day and we were able to use and develop our communication, teamwork and problem solving skills!

We are trying to build our own bank of resources at the school so that every day can be a Loose Part Play Day! Please help us by donating any unwanted items. Here are a few examples: old guttering, cardboard boxes, pots and pans, old computer parts, bits of material, ropes, plastic boxes, bits of wood, balls and tyres.

Enjoy the photos of Primary 1 and Primary 5 playing together! We didn't even notice the snow!!



Primary 2.

This term we have been learning through a class novel study based on Mairi Hedderwick's Katie Morag story 'Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers'. Through our learning we were able to use our skills from different areas of the curriculum.



We have had lots of different discussions about the characters in the book, our favourite characters, our favourite part of the story and why. We have acted out different scenes from the story, created Katie Morag kilt designs during art and watched the BBC television's Katie Morag adaptation of the story. At the end of the topic we were able to perform an assembly in front of the whole school and Primary 2 parents.

Primary 3.

Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Last term Primary 3 were preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We all worked very hard to learn all about our relationship with God and how we can become lost from God when we do something wrong. But God is always there for us and we know, by saying sorry for the things we have done wrong, we can strengthen that relationship with Him.

On the 10th March Eve, Isla, Leigha, Natalia, Dominik, Nathaniel, Samuel and James made their Sacrament of Reconciliation and the rest of the class did a fantastic job of preparing and leading a beautiful service involving prayers, readings and hymns.



we dressed up as Romans and compared different aspects of a Roman's daily life with our lives now. This was lots of fun and it helped us to learn in a different way.



Primary 4.

Primary 4 have been continuing their sacramental preparation in class and at home. They will be making their First Holy Communion at St. David's Parish Church in June this year and have been working very hard. The children have been learning about the life of Jesus making meaningful connections in their own lives. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers while they continue on this important spiritual journey.

Romans in Scotland.

Last term our class theme was the Romans in Scotland. Through this theme we had the opportunity to develop many skills across different areas of the curriculum.

Within Social Studies we developed our skills in comparing different cultures and learning about how we learn about the past. We developed our Literacy and ICT skills by using the iPad to research and learn more about the past. We also developed our skills within art and design by using the visual elements to create clay soldiers and mosaics.

As part of this theme we had a Roman day where



Primary 6.

Primary 6 have been learning about their personal health and well-being. Specifically, they have learned about the benefits of physical activity particularly during walk to school week. Of course, they also celebrated 'Walk to School Week' by taking part in the Midlothian Inter-School Walk! They used their creative writing skills to create dramatisations, raps, songs and so much more.



They have even built their own time machine to compare people's attitudes to exercise in different eras! Now they are hosting competitions to encourage others to take part!!



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.



Primaries 5, 6 and 7 thoroughly enjoyed their learning during the previous term which culminated in a more than professional performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour

Dreamcoat! The performance inspired learning experiences and skill development across all areas of the curriculum.

We investigated the Biblical story of Joseph and developed our literacy skills in recounting information and sharing it in a variety of ways. We also developed our understanding of the audience's perception through drama as we choreographed and planned each scene. Importantly, we approached



our learning in a way that linked our school ethos as we chose to create props, scenery, and of course the Dreamcoat using Eco friendly materials!



Every child was fully involved and also helped to advertise, organise and manage the successful performance nights.

Thank you to everyone in our parish who was able to help us by donating materials, sharing expertise and by joining us at our shows!



Primary 7.

The pupils of Primary 7 have worked hard all year in order to prepare themselves for their important transition to High School. As a reward for all this hard work and dedication, we were lucky enough to get the chance to go to London at the beginning of June for a couple of days.

We researched all the amazing things we wanted to do and got really excited about going on the London Eye, seeing West End shows, going to Harry Potter World and taking on all the other well-known sights of the big city! We kept everybody updated on all the fantastic things we did through our twitter page:

<https://twitter.com/stdavidsprimary>.

Look for photos in the next magazine!



Visions, Values and Aims: Our Learning Journey. By Aidan Burns.

At the beginning of our journey, staff at St. David's had decided they wanted everyone to be involved in our school's Visions, Values and Aims, so after staff had decided what they wanted to see, they asked us to do the same! Staff thought our Visions, Values and Aims should be closely linked to our hearts because we should always feel and show love, our faith because faith underpins everything we do, and our bodies because it is important for us to thrive and be healthy.

I was part of a focus group made up of Primary 1 to Primary 7. We thought about the stuff that we liked in school and the stuff that was important for us to be the best we can be. We thought about what helps us to feel and show love, how we can live in faith, and what helps us to be healthy. This helped us come up with our own ideas for the Visions, Values and Aims as well as developing the ideas that the staff had come up with.



But this wasn't enough! Next we decided to set up some graffiti walls and feedback forms on Parents' Night to see what parents thought should be in our school Visions, Values and Aims.

After Parents' Night we combined all of our research and came up with our new school Vision, Values and

Aims. We thought the best way to show off our new Visions, Values and Aims was through our hearts our faith and our bodies.

Now that we have finalised our Visions, Values and Aims we want to share it with you.

Visions - HEART (how we feel and show love)
Healthy Experiences Alternative Reputation Trust

Values - FAITH
(how we use faith to underpin everything we do)
Faith All Include Try Happiness

Aims - BODY (how we thrive and be healthy)
Bright Opportunity Diversity You

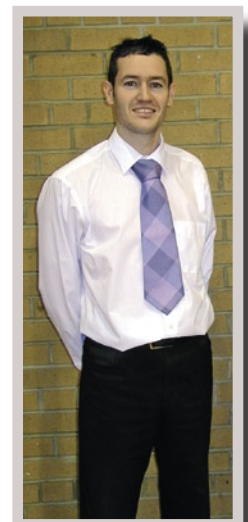
Congratulations Mrs. Jones!

This Autumn, our beloved Mrs. Jones, our school's administrative assistant, will receive a thank you at Westminster Abbey, London, in recognition of her significant contribution to Guiding. Mrs. Jones joined the 1st Crichton Brownies as a child in 1960 and now with over 44 years dedicated service she will join others from across the Guiding community for a celebration of thanks to these outstanding members of our communities. The service takes place in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 14th November 2015.

It is also fitting that in June this year, 1st Crichton Brownies celebrate their 90th anniversary with a celebration party in the Community Hall, Pathhead, and continue to go from strength to strength with over 50 members presently enrolled, a number of whom are part of our school and parish community. If you are interested in joining, please visit the 1st Crichton Brownies Facebook page. The Pack are based at the Sports Pavilion, Pathhead and meet every Friday evening.

We are all very proud of Mrs. Jones on this outstanding achievement. A commitment of 40 years as Brown Owl, having previously spent 4 years as Snowy Owl. Looking ahead, Mrs. Jones harbours aspirations of achieving 50 years service to Guiding in the year 2021. We all wish her every success and are sure she will achieve her goal!

Mr. Anthony Currie, Head Teacher, and the St. David's Primary School staff team.



St. David's High School.



Chaplaincy News.

At the beginning of this term we were very sorry to say goodbye to our chaplain, Canon McMullan, who has been coming to St. David's High School for many years now to celebrate Mass at lunchtimes on Wednesdays and who has also made a great effort to be here with us to celebrate important liturgical events throughout the years. We will miss him a great deal and we wish him every success and blessing in his new parish.

We were very pleased to welcome our new chaplain Fr. Basil Clark who has replaced Canon McMullan at Our Lady of Loretto and St Michael's Church, Musselburgh. He has made a very enthusiastic start to working here in St. David's High School. He has made a commitment to come into school every Wednesday to celebrate Mass. He has a very friendly, outgoing personality and already numbers of young people attending Mass has increased. These Masses have been well attended by staff and pupils this term and many of the young people have participated in these liturgies e.g. bidding prayers, readings, and music.

Each week there will be a Mass/Eucharistic service on Wednesdays at lunchtime. At times when Fr. Basil cannot make it into school due to other commitments, Anne Jabir and Nuala Keegan will lead short Eucharistic services. Fr. Basil is keen to meet pupils in the classroom situation or in small groups in the chaplaincy next term in order to build up a rapport with the pupils and share his ministry with us. This has been very well attended by staff and pupils this term and many of the young people have participated in these liturgies e.g. bidding prayers, readings, and music.

S5/6 "Chaps" have continued to meet this term and supported the Chaplaincy through their leadership. They have helped so far in the following ways on a regular basis and have offered their support in any way they can.

- Leading services and assemblies in school (prayers, readings, music).

- Creating a Fair-Trade group and hosting Fair-Trade coffee mornings.

- Preparing Charity assemblies.

- Helping to raise money for the Philippines St. Madeleine Sophie Foundation school in Montalban.

The Chaplaincy is open daily at break and lunchtimes –a large group have been in attendance this term. This is a very positive start to this term. Seniors support this by coming along and spending time with the younger pupils.

Celebration of the Eucharist for Primary 7 Pupils of St. David's High School Associated Schools Group.

The chaplaincy team at St. David's High School invited the Associated Schools Group Primary 7 pupils to visit on Friday 27th February and to take part in a Transition Mass concelebrated with our new chaplain Fr. Basil and Archbishop Leo Cushley.

The order of the Mass was discussed with Archbishop Leo in advance and it was decided that it should follow the theme of the day for Lent. Each Primary School was issued a copy of the liturgy and a power point was created for display. The St. David's High School Chaplaincy team shared hymns/readings and the Primary 7 pupils rehearsed these in their schools.

Each of the primary schools chose one of their pupils to read at this Mass.

First Reading: Loretto Primary School

Bidding Prayer 1 Sacred Heart Primary School

Bidding Prayer 2 St. Margaret's Primary School

Bidding Prayer 3 St. Matthew's Primary School

Bidding Prayer 4 St. Andrew's Primary School

Bidding Prayer 5 St. Luke's Primary School

Bidding Prayer 6 St. David's Primary School

Bidding prayer 7 St. Mary's Primary School

St. David's High School pupils volunteered to come along to the Mass to assist in any way they could. A group of about 20 pupils led the singing and we received very positive feedback from the Primaries after the event. The singing was beautiful and all of the pupils participated prayerfully and respectfully throughout. The music was lead by

Mr. Brown from our music department. All schools were met by senior pupils of St. David's High School and escorted to their seats in the main hall. After the Mass a small snack was provided and our senior pupils assisted with this.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our Associated Schools Group Primary 7 pupils to visit St. David's High School and they reported after the event that they felt very welcomed. Archbishop Leo spoke positively about the great opportunities for learning and personal growth to be found in St. David's High School, should they decide to join us in August. This event was an uplifting experience for all and there was a very strong sense of community and belonging.

St. David's High School Caritas Award candidates walk the extra mile!

This year at St. David's High School, taking part in the Caritas Award has been a very exciting and rewarding experience. St. David's High School has decided to enrol this group of volunteers for the Caritas Award, the Saltire Award and the new SQA Award- "Religion, Belief and Values Award" Level 5. These three awards are complementary to each other and completing the work for Caritas will also fulfil the requirements for the others.

Both awards are created so that pupils have to take on the majority of the responsibilities when it comes to organising their volunteer work in school and out of school. This helps to develop the four capacities that underpin the Curriculum for Excellence-

- **successful learners,**
- **confident individuals,**
- **responsible citizens,**
- **effective contributors.**

The students build up their confidence in the voluntary work they complete in this course and they also contribute in a very practical way to society as a whole.

During class time, they are introduced to the 4 Gathering points and the Papal Encyclical, Deus Caritas Est (God is Love). The teacher in charge provides support in the form of explanation and direction, but all reflections and written tasks are done by the students.

The hardest part, especially for those pupils who are not Catholic, is to find and organise the volunteering in and out of school. The Catholic

candidates normally find it easier to arrange this as, in school, they can become part of the very active Chaplaincy group or SVP group; and out of school, they are normally already active in their respective parishes, or organisations such as the soup kitchen run by St. Catherine's Convent.

The candidates who are not Catholic will often use their school volunteering time to help the Saltersgate pupils or our pupils with difficulties in different subjects, so that they too can achieve their best. Out of school, they are directed to volunteering centres in Midlothian, where they can look for opportunities that will benefit the communities, like charity shops, nursing homes, residential homes, etc.

This year we are happy to say that two of our Caritas Award candidates, Shannon McNaughton and Connor McCallion went far and



beyond their call of duty while doing their regular voluntary work assisting at the soup kitchen at St. Catherine's convent run by the Sisters of Mercy.

In addition to supporting this homeless project weekly, they helped to raise, of their own volition, the sum of £250 selling teas/coffees at their local parish - Loretto and St. Michael's, Musselburgh. They donated this money directly to Sr. Aelred from St. Catherine's convent to help support her work with the homeless.

Indeed, Shannon and Connor were living out their Gospel values by reaching out to support the homeless and caring for the marginalised in our society.

We, as a school, are very proud of their efforts and their strong commitment to supporting the poor in our society.

AM Macnamara, PT RE/ Chaplaincy Team
St. David's High School.

Parish Groups and News.

Philippines Visit January/February 2015.

The four weeks Graeme and I spent earlier this year in the Sacred Heart School in Montalban, Philippines, were very memorable. This was Graeme's first visit, but I know he has vowed it won't be his last. He proposes to go to the school again in June. Graeme made pizza and cakes with the pupils and spent time assisting in the classes with maths. I spent time helping in the nursery and with grade 2 pupils during their English lessons, and we both took part in teaching pupils of all ages the English language. We also organised a Scottish day for the youth, who are mainly former pupils, and volunteer every Sunday to work with, and cook for, all children who are not lucky enough to attend daily lessons at the school. For the youth we produced a powerpoint of Scotland and the Scottish way of life. The young people then made shortbread under Graeme's guidance, and we finished the day teaching them the Gay Gordons dance. They had a great day, and so did we.

All around the school there is evidence of the support which has been given from St. Luke's & St. Anne's Parish, St. David's Parish, and St. David's High School. The books in the library have mostly been donated from both parishes. The money raised from the various fund raising events has been used for school materials, and to pay for the boxes of clothes, flip-flops, soap, toothpaste & brushes, pens, pencils, paper, toys, etc. which are sent regularly to the school. A new oven for the school kitchen has been purchased and a new microwave. All these generous gestures have made a great difference to the lives of children who live in dire poverty. One of the greatest successes is the continuous support for the "Sponsor a Teacher" scheme. This allows Sister Yuka funding to pay the teachers' salaries which amounts to £1,200 (approx.) per annum for each teacher. The financial support also pays for food for the pupils, as for some of them, it may be the only meal they have that day. Graeme and I worked hard but enjoyed every minute. We had to take our turn, as everyone did, making the meals for staff.

Can I once again thank everyone in the parish for the wonderful support given to the children in Montalban, and to say that it has made a great difference to the children's school lives.

If any parishioner is interested in taking part in the "Sponsor" scheme please phone me (Iris Lawrie) for details (660 1555).

Iris.





Saint Madeleine Sophie Foundation (SMSF), Inc Montalban, Philippines. Last Quarter Report.

1. Visit of Pope Francis.

In the beginning of January, some of the staff of SMSF were given the opportunity to attend the Philippine Conference on New Evangelization (PCNE). This is a gathering of people from different walks of life. Its objectives were the following:

1. to help create an experience of God in the context of the challenges of the new millennium;
2. to strengthen bonds of communion as the Archdiocese of Manila and as Church in the Philippines;
3. to provide avenues of inspiration and directions imbued with the spirit of mission (new evangelization).

It was a several day gathering and on the last day we were given the chance to attend the Pope's meeting with youth. It was held in the oldest university in the Philippines – University of Santo Thomas (UST), Manila.



It was a rare opportunity which all of us are very grateful about. We were fortunate to see him in his mobile while going around the campus. There were prayers and after that Pope Francis shared a speech. He said in his speech *“let us learn how to weep, let us be courageous and be not afraid to cry, learn to receive with humility and learn how to love and be loved.”* Truly, these words inspired me not only as an individual but also as a teacher.

As a teacher, my task is to impart knowledge to the children but rarely realizing that I too can learn much from them. I was moved by his messages,

I was really touched! As a teacher, I deal not only with children but also with their parents. It's not always easy. Sometimes it becomes very challenging. However I will keep in my heart Pope Francis' messages and will find strength from them at all times. I am inspired by him to think well, do well and feel well. The Pope is so humble. He himself, his gestures, his smile when I saw him at UST, inspired me to keep on reaching out to people I am working with now, with humility, for as long as I can. I am inspired to continue in this field keeping a child-like heart in me. I felt really blessed that day!

2. Miss Iris and Mr. Graeme Sharkey in SMSF, Philippines.

We were delighted here in Saint Madeleine Sophie Foundation (SMSF) to begin our last quarter of the school year 2014 – 2015 because we got the opportunity to be reunited with a good friend – Miss Iris Lawrie. She even came with a good friend named Graeme Sharkey. All of us here were very glad about their stay. They shared many things to our children – action songs, stories, gifts and more. Most especially they share love and care to all of us – the children and the staff.

Some highlights of their stay were the following:

Daily Class.

They both spent quality time with our children. Miss Iris joined the lower elementary kids and helped them with their English and Math lessons. The children were very happy about her presence. They were inspired to speak to her in their English as well. Their smiles were incomparable. It shows in their faces how joyful they are to have Miss Iris back in SMSF.

On the other hand, Mr. Graeme concentrated in teaching the fourth graders. He taught them Math and English lessons. The children were very enthusiastic while he discussed the lessons with them. The children were very inspired about his way of teaching and the strategies he thought for them to solve some Math problems were very helpful.

Also, both Miss Iris and Mr. Graeme helped in the pre-school program SMSF – the Tahanan ng Mahal na Puso (Sacred Heart Home). They were very patient and loving to the children, which the children appreciated so much. We are so happy to have people like them who can share their warmth and affection to our children and communication is not even a question or concern. Our students have very limited capacity in expressing themselves in English language, but it did not hinder them to enjoy and cherish the presence of our visitors from Scotland.

Face Painting.

It was our first time to do this activity here in SMSF and we are grateful for the opportunity. Miss Iris and Mr. Graeme brought materials from Scotland. We allotted a day for the activity and we were surprised how the children could also express their creativity through face painting. Everyone had a great time including the staff.

Action Song.

Our children were very happy to learn new action songs from our Scottish friends. Each and every student, including the staff, gamely followed the instructions and were very happy to do it together. Truly, it was fun to sing and dance especially when you are joined by friends.

Baking

Pizza, cakes and icing. These were the things we learned how to make and bake through the help of Mr. Graeme. He patiently showed the children how to do it step by step. He is very friendly to the students. He is a good teacher for everybody. And because of this, every lesson is successful and every product was indeed delectable. It was so much fun!

Moments to treasure.

Miss Iris stayed in SMSF for three weeks. Every day was a moment to treasure, most especially for the children who enjoyed their company. Simple smiles, a loving caress, a helping hand, a friendly hi and many more – these were very significant for each and everyone of us here in SMSF. We were thankful that Miss Iris and Mr. Graeme shared it with us and we are grateful for that. From the bottom our hearts, thank you so much. May God continue to bless and guide you – Miss Iris and Mr. Graeme!

3. Thanks giving ceremony.

It has been a practice to close the school year with a closing program. It was a gathering to celebrate and be grateful for the graces received through out the year. It was also an opportunity to look back on how the year had been. Through the help of the staff and volunteers, every student shared their talents by singing, dancing, playing an instrument and more. Once again, Teacher Kyoko joined and helped us. Those who graduated from Pre-school and grade 6 were also acknowledged. Congratulations to all of you!

4. Summer Programs.

April to May is summer vacation for the children in the Philippines. To give the children enjoyable and meaningful summer vacation, it has been a practice to offer them workshops about

different subjects. This year the topics were:

- Music and movement;
- Science is Fun;
- Art and Nature;
- Computer Lesson.

It was fun for every student. They enjoyed the activities prepared by the facilitators for them.

Teacher Lizette.



Thoughts on Lourdes.



Lourdes is going to be an exciting new chapter in my life. I can't wait to meet fellow pilgrims and interesting people, from across the world, in addition to tending to the people in need, which gives me great pleasure in doing so. When Mgr. Allan asked my brother and I if we could go to Lourdes,

I felt very honoured and pleased that he would ask us to go. Overall I'm thrilled to be part of this pilgrimage. However I do feel overwrought but I do intend to take this experience head on. Also I am very thankful to the community, Mgr. Allan and Peter for supporting us along the way. Also it's great to see people who are going to Lourdes help make this great cause a success.

James Coleman.

I heard about Lourdes through my church, and as soon as I heard about it last year I immediately wanted to go. It sounded like a spectacular opportunity to go and do. I want to go because I've always wanted to see it, but I've only ever heard of what it looks like, I want to have the satisfaction of helping those who need help and I can't wait to see this mesmerising place for myself and to just have a lot of fun.

Jamie Munro.

I cannot wait to go to Lourdes again this year - it will be my third time as part of the pilgrimage. I'm



most looking forward to getting to know the new youth and catching up with all the regulars on the trip. As well as exploring the beautiful town with the pilgrims and going out for

drinks with everyone.

The thing I'm most anxious about, as always, is the intensity of the week. Every day is busy and filled with activities so it becomes pretty exhausting. The experience, though, is incredibly rewarding and a great thing to do for a week over the summer holidays. I'm very grateful for the chance to go again and to all the parishioners for continually supporting our fundraisers.

Lewis Lucchesi.



Lourdes is an amazing place that never ceases to amaze me. One of my fondest memories of Lourdes is when I first took part in the torchlight procession with the Archdiocese, and I saw hundreds people carrying their torches through the procession. Upon seeing this spectacular sight I couldn't help but feel inspired, as I saw people from different countries and different walks of life who were brought together by this one very spiritual place.

Liam de Haan.

When Mgr. Allan asked James and myself if we wanted to go to Lourdes as part of the parish pilgrimage, I was so happy and felt so blessed to have the chance to take part in this wonderful opportunity. There has also been a great atmosphere when it comes to the fundraising as they have been great successes and it is excellent to see all those in the pilgrimage have a big part in running and planning the events. It's also great to see the huge support from Mgr. Allan, Peter and all others who have turned up to the fund raisers, as they are the ones who have made them all huge successes.

Michael Coleman.



Lourdes Fundraising.

The fundraising for Lourdes has been a chance to have some great fun. Are you in any of the photos?



YFL
2015



Parishioner Photos.

Iain & Mary Allan celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary this year.



James & Daniela Coleman celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary this year.

**We wish both couples
many more happy anniversaries!**



St. David's Cycle Club.

We have been running a cycle club for some years now. Membership is free to parishioners and their friends/neighbours.

A ride is run at 2.00 p.m. on the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month from March to November - weather permitting. Although sunshine is booked for each ride, snow, rain and very strong winds can cause the ride to be cancelled or rescheduled.

Our rides are aimed at having fun in families with short distances, safe routes (mostly away from traffic), easy hills if any and snacks along the way.

Ride leaders are covered by our CTC Affiliated Club insurance.

Come and join us if you have not ridden with us yet.

Julian.

St. David's Web Site.

<http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk/>

Our web site can be accessed with your web browser using the address above. The site is currently designed to work with a computer.

Have a look if you have never accessed it. The site has been up and running for a number of years now, is updated weekly through the year and holds a variety of static and changing information.

The changing information is things like the weekly bulletin, the week's Mass times and intentions, rotas for various functions, diary dates in the future.

The static information is things like the map for finding the church, parish magazines from Autumn 2006 to current day, a portfolio of splendid photos of the church (mostly the interior).

The next challenge is to re-engineer the site to be responsive - which means making it easy to use with a tablet or mobile phone. A start has been made but it is early days yet for this to be completed and rolled out.

If you have ideas for new content, or other ways of presenting the current content, then please contact me after Mass on a Sunday.

Julian.

Looking Forward.

July :-

- Friday 3rd **Schools summer holidays start.**
- Sunday 5th **Fr. Pat's Teas & Coffees.**
Fun Ride 39, 2.00 p.m. ride the Dalkeith/Penicuik cycleway.
- Friday 10th **Lourdes Pilgrimage departs.**
- Sunday 12th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Friday 17th **Lourdes Pilgrimage returns.**
- Sunday 19th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Sunday 26th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Thu. 30th **10 - 12 CRUSE meets in the hall.**

August :-

- Sunday 2nd Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
Fun Ride 40, 3.00 p.m. ride the Glentress Green Route.
- Sunday 9th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Sunday 16th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Wed. 19th **Schools autumn term starts for pupils.**
- Sunday 23rd Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Thu. 27th **10 - 12 CRUSE meets in the hall.**
- Sunday 30th **Church Rose Garden Teas & Coffees.**

September :-

Start collecting articles for the Autumn magazine!

- Sunday 6th **Bacon Rolls for Lourdes.**
Fun Ride 41, 2.00 p.m. ride the Dalkeith/Penicuik cycleway.
- Sunday 13th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Sunday 20th Pro-Life Teas & Coffees.
- Thu. 24th **10 - 12 CRUSE meets in the hall.**
- Sunday 27th Pro-Life Teas & Coffees.

October :-

- Sunday 4th **Bacon Rolls for Lourdes.**
Fun Ride 42, 3.00 p.m. ride the Innerleithen/Peebles cycleway.
- Sunday 11th Good Cause Teas & Coffees available.
- Sunday 18th Pro-Life Teas & Coffees.
- Sunday 25th Pro-Life Teas & Coffees.
- Thu. 29th **10 - 12 CRUSE meets in the hall.**

This is our 18th Parish Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it.

All our Parish Magazines can be read on our website <http://www.stdavidsdalkeith.co.uk/>

If you have any ideas for the Magazine, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please pass your feedback and ideas for the next edition, to Patricia, Winifred, Brian or Julian.

If you are interested in being a Sponsor for our next Parish Magazine,

please contact Brian on 0131-663-0556.

Children's Page.
Christmas 2014 Nativity Play photos...

