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

LETTER FROM CARDINAL:

I do hope that you all had a happy and relaxing holiday and were able to enjoy some spell of good weather wherever you were. As always, I enjoyed leading our Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – preceded this year by a pilgrimage to Rocamadour, a medieval shrine of Our Lady in France, and soon to be in Knock, Ireland at Our Lady's Shrine there, preaching on the final day of the National Pilgrimage.

I remind you of one special request for prayers at this time – during this Year for the Priest, requested by Pope Benedict XVI. I would ask you to pray for your priests daily at home and in church and to share in whatever way you can in events being organised at deanery and parochial level. On the first Wednesday of each month during this Year for the Priest, there is a Holy Hour in our Cathedral from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm to pray for priests – all are welcome. After the Holy Hour there will be supper available for any priests who choose to come – those who can come are asked to email the Cathedral: cathedralhouse@stmaryscathedral.co.uk.

During the remainder of this year my own ministry will take me outwith the Archdiocese on a number of occasions because of appointments which I hold or requests which I have been asked to fulfil. Consequently, I will be attending a meeting of the Presidents of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe in Paris in early October; the Canonisation of Blessed Jeanne Jugan, the Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Rome on Sunday 11 October 2009; and again in Rome for meetings of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications from 26 – 30 October 2009. I have been invited by SCIAF/CIDSE to attend deliberations of the United Nations in New York with regard to climate change from 20 – 23 September 2009; and during the first week of November 2009 I will be fulfilling an invitation from the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception in Kenya, whose people suffered much recently; and being in El Salvador from 16 – 20 November 2009 at the invitation of the Jesuits of the University of Central America, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the assassinations there.

Please keep me and my brother priests in your prayers during this Year for the Priest – as we all remember you and appreciate your apostolates with us and for us.

1. APPOINTMENTS:

(1) Bishop of the Forces:

On Saturday 25 July 2009, the appointment of **Monsignor Richard Moth**, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Southwark as Bishop of the Forces was announced. Bishop-Elect Moth succeeds **Bishop Tom Burns** in this appointment and on Bishop Tom's appointment as Bishop of Menevia, Wales. Obviously, because of his jurisdiction in the Military Ordinariate of the Forces, Bishop-Elect Moth attends certain meetings of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. We wish him well in his new appointment. I will attend the Episcopal Ordination of the new Bishop at Westminster Cathedral, London on Tuesday 29 September 2009.

(2) Archdiocesan Appointments:

Canon Thomas Hanlon, the Provost of our Metropolitan Cathedral Chapter and the parish priest of St Anthony's, Polmont, has indicated his intention to retire from the priesthood, following his lifetime of service, both in seminary apostolate as well as in parochial apostolate. I have accepted his resignation and, along with you all, wish him every blessing in his retirement – when he will reside in the presbytery of St Anthony's, Polmont, assisting when possible.

I have appointed **Monsignor Philip Kerr VG**, as parish priest of St Anthony's, Polmont, while remaining as parish priest of St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk – with his assistant priest, **Father Simon Hughes**, helping in this further apostolate.

The retirement and appointment take effect on **Monday 31 August/Tuesday 1 September 2009**.

Father Christopher Heenan, the parish priest of Our Lady and St Bridget's, West Calder and St Thomas's, Addiewell, has been appointed as chaplain to the Addiewell Prison, with his appointment taking place immediately. I thank him for agreeing to fulfil this further responsibility.

Father Peter Comensoli, who is continuing his ongoing studies in theology at the University of Edinburgh and, as you know, is from the Diocese of Wollongong in Australia, will no longer assist at Addiewell Prison, but has been appointed officiating chaplain to the Catholic soldiers at Redford Barracks, many of whom will be in transit to Afghanistan.

Father Scott Deeley, a priest of our Archdiocese, having completed his initial period of study of Italian and Latin in Rome, will commence in October 2009 his course of studies in Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome, while residing at Casa Santa Maria, near the University.

(3) Salvatorian Appointments:

Father Piotr Filas SDS, the Provincial Superior of the Salvatorians, has announced the appointment of **Father Tadeusz Jarosz SDS** from St Francis Xavier's, Falkirk to the religious house in Wisoki Kosciol in Poland. His place in Falkirk will be taken by **Father Tomasz Salaga SDA**. In recent years Father Salaga SDS has been pastor in Vilaj, Albania in the Archdiocese of Tirana.

(4) Augustinian Appointments:

Father David Middleton OSA, the Provincial of the Augustinians, has announced the appointment of **Father John Reid OSA**, at present parish priest in St Joseph's, Sighthill, to the Augustinian Community at St Mary's, Harborne, Birmingham.

Father George Stibbles OSA has been appointed Prior of the Augustinian Community at St Joseph's, Sighthill; **Father Gianni Notariani OSA** has been appointed Parish Priest. Both Father Stibbles and Father Notariani are currently members of the Augustinian Community at St Augustine's, Hammersmith, London. It is expected that they will take up their new appointments during the first week of September 2009.

(5) **Father Michael Akintolu:**

Father Michael Akintolu from Nigeria will be residing at Christ the King Presbytery in Grangemouth for the next two years while undertaking a course in building management at Falkirk Technical College.

(6) **Pontifical Scots College, Rome:**

The Croatian Sisters, who resided at and undertook care of the domestic arrangements at the Pontifical Scots College, Rome, have had to return to Croatia because of lack of vocations. I am happy to announce that the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, originally founded in Glasgow and who have now various houses in Scotland, as well as in Kenya and Nigeria, will establish a community at the Pontifical Scots College in Rome, fulfilling the responsibilities of the Croatian Sisters. We appreciate the sacrifices made previously by our Croatian Sisters – and we wish our Franciscan Sisters well in their new and challenging apostolate.

Obviously, at this time also, I thank **Father Paul Milarvie**, the previous Rector of the Pontifical Scots College, Rome, who, following on his term of office as Rector, has now returned to pastoral work in the Archdiocese of Glasgow; and we ask God's blessing on the ministry of **Father John Hughes**, previously Vice Rector at Scotus College, Glasgow, who has now assumed responsibility as the Rector of the Pontifical Scots College, Rome.

2. **REGULAR MEETINGS:**

As always, at this time of the year, I produce a list of the dates of the regular meetings in which I am involved – and this list is enclosed with this Archdiocesan Newsletter, with the dates of meetings from September 2009 to June 2010. Obviously, also there are meetings involving a considerable number of people involved in various ministries in our Archdiocese – particularly members of the Fabric and Planning and Finance Committees; as well as those involved in meetings of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. You are asked to note carefully from your own deaneries the meetings with Deanery Pastoral

Councils and, of course, at parish level, Parish Pastoral Councils.

From time to time, slight adjustments have to be made with regard to dates and times of meetings – particularly those involving myself when I am called to other meetings/pastoral visits in Rome and elsewhere.

3. **YEAR FOR PRIESTS:**

I remind you of this year from June 2009 until June 2010 having been named the 'Year for Priests' by Pope Benedict XVI.

I ask you to continue your own prayer for priests in your parishes and deaneries, as announced; and to join in any initiatives being announced at archdiocesan or national level.

I have been reminded by a correspondent, of the Community of Tyburn Nuns in Largs in the Diocese of Galloway. The convent at Largs also includes a guest house, museum, and cafe – with also Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00 am until 8.30 pm each day – and even later by arrangement.

As indicated at the beginning of this Newsletter, I remind you of the Holy Hour of Prayer for Priests on the first Wednesday of each month during this year in our Cathedral from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm – all are welcome there. I encourage you to take part in whatever initiatives are announced in your own parishes.

4. **SOCIAL CARE MATTERS:**

(1) **Adoption Society:**

Mrs Maureen McEvoy, Chairperson of St Andrew's Children's Society Ltd, has written that there are at any one time about 500 children in Scotland and 5000 children in the UK who cannot stay with their birth families and who need new families. St Andrew's Children's Society placed 40 children for adoption last year and supported over 30 children in foster families. The Society always needs to recruit new families to help the many children who wait and they would appreciate your consideration of the possibility of indeed helping in this way. For further information, please contact St Andrew's Children's Society Ltd at: 7 John's Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7EL (tel: 0131-454 3370).

(2) Hospital Visits:

As always, I have been asked to remind you to let your own parish clergy know if you are going to be in any hospital for any length of time. You are advised that if necessary you receive the Sacrament of the Sick and the other Sacraments before going into hospital for any serious operation.

A form of words indicating that you wish to see the Catholic Chaplain when you are in hospital is available in the current edition of our Archdiocesan Directory – and similar ‘Patient’s Cards’ are available in both English and in Polish from our Chancery Office at 0131-623 8902.

(3) Interpreters:

A request has come for volunteer interpreters, especially in the Romanian and Bulgarian languages to work alongside the experienced staff in the Council Offices in Edinburgh, to give them support with regard to people who are homeless or have addiction issues. Volunteers would be asked to accompany staff during three-hour street shifts or during one to one appointments. Street shift work involves walking around, talking to people who are begging or sleeping outside and offering them access to support. Volunteering is based at the Crisis Centre, 22 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh (near the Scottish Parliament). Further information can be obtained by contacting Biljana Kerr at 0131-557 6055; email: biljana@streetwork.org.uk.

(4) Volunteers in Parishes:

Last year, our Social Care Office worked with **Father Gerry Hand** to start a programme which would help parishes work with those able to give their time and expertise to build up the body of Christ in their parish. In May 2008 priests and lay people, nominated by their parish priest, were invited to Gillis Centre to meet with Barbara Wallace, who had led the Pastoral Team in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and who has extensive experience of working with volunteers – 18 priests and 70 lay people attended these meetings.

Then in September last year 50 people attended two 2 day workshops, rooted in prayer and scripture, presented by Barbara Wallace. The course participants were impressed by her Ministry Descriptions and Information Leaflets, for Welcomers, Readers, etc. Consequently, Barbara will be returning in the first weekend in September 2009 to run a workshop on Ministry Descriptions.

If you are interested in obtaining an invitation to come to Barbara’s workshop on **Saturday 5 September 2009 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm at Gillis Centre** then please contact Mrs Maureen McEvoy at Gillis Centre (0131-623 8915). There will also be an introductory evening for those who did not attend last year on **Thursday 27 August 2009 from 7.00 pm – 10.00 pm in Gillis Centre**. Again for further information please contact Mrs McEvoy at Gillis Centre as indicated.

(5) St Barnabas Society:

This Society exists to provide financial and pastoral help in case of need to former clergy, ministers and religious of other Churches who have been received into the Catholic Church, and to their families.

5. OTHER INFORMATION:

(1) Wesley Owen Books and Music:

‘Wesley Owen’ is a book and music shop at 119 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JN (0131-225 2229) and stocks a wide range of Bibles and Christian books on many subjects. They also have a wide range of greetings cards and gifts for many occasions – along with children’s books and teaching resources. They can also supply book stalls for churches and meetings – and indicate that they would welcome any visitors to their shop in George Street, Edinburgh.

(2) Catholic Social Teaching:

I have been forwarded a copy of ‘Your Kingdom Come’, the Archdiocese of Westminster’s autumn faithsharing and daily meditation resource. This resource is intended to help both groups and individuals explore various aspects

of Catholic Social Teaching through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Though the diocesan season runs from 11 October to 21 November (to avoid conflict with any Advent initiatives) it is written in such a way that it can be used at any time of the year. The booklets are available to parishes at 80p per copy (cover price £1). If you think this book would be of use in your faith sharing groups, justice and peace groups, or parishes, then contact Mark Nash at marknash@rcdow.org.uk for further information.

(3) Vocations:

Obviously, I repeat my invitation to you to continue your prayer for Vocations to Priesthood and the Religious Life. Gabriel Communications Limited have indicated that they are now producing a 'one off' publication entitled: 'Finding your true Vocation'. This magazine gives access and provides an introduction to historical and current information on a wide range of religious orders throughout the UK and Ireland and looks in detail at how various people have discerned and acted upon God's desire for them. The cost of the magazine is £3.50 plus £1.50 for postage and packaging – and can be obtained by contacting Andrea Black, Gabriel Communications Limited, 4th Floor, Landmark House, Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7JH.

Vocations Awareness Week:

Vocations Awareness Week will take place from Sunday 13 September to Saturday 19 September 2009.

You are invited to a Mass for Vocations in the convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Gilmore Place, Edinburgh on **Friday 18 September 2009 at 7.00 pm** – with the principal celebrant being **Father Alex Davie**, our Archdiocesan Director of Vocations.

Obviously, if anyone wishes to consider vocations to the priesthood or religious life then please discuss the matter as soon as possible with your own priest – or contact immediately our Archdiocesan Vocations Director, Father Alex Davie at St Margaret's, 149 Main Street, Davidsons Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ (tel: 0131-476 0413; email: parishpriest.d-ains@blueyonder.co.uk).

(4) Lifeline Pregnancy Counselling:

Celia O'Donnell, Volunteer Team Leader at Lifeline, has indicated that there will be a Fundraising Ceilidh on **Friday 2 October 2009** as part of a fundraising drive for Lifeline. Further information can be obtained from Celia at Lifeline, 24a Haddington Place, Edinburgh, EH7 4AF (tel: 0131-557 2060).

(5) Archdiocesan Music Group:

Dr Evelyn Stell, who energetically promotes our Music Group, is recovering from an operation at this present time and will appreciate the ongoing support of your prayers.

Consequently, the newsletter will be delayed and there will be no events this autumn. However the Music Group will soon begin planning next year's events so please get in contact if there is something in particular you would like them to arrange.

In order to cut down on unwanted mailings the spring Newsletter contained an opt-in leaflet form. If you currently receive the newsletter by post and haven't yet indicated that you wish to continue to, please contact Katherine Cameron - details below. The newsletter is also sent out by email along with regular updates. Again contact Katherine if you wish to receive the newsletter this way.

Contact: Katherine Cameron 01324 612034 or Katherine.Cameron@forthinpraise.co.uk

Website: www.forthinpraise.co.uk

(6) Post of Pastoral Assistant in St Paul's and St Mary's, Glenrothes:

The opportunity has arisen in the parish of St Paul's and St Mary's, Glenrothes for the post of Pastoral Assistant. This is offered as a Fixed Term contract of 12 hours a week, flexible. Salary £9 per hour OR £16,380 (pro rata).

The successful candidate will work to support and organize parishioners involved in the various ministries in the parish; offering pastoral support to the sick and bereaved; leading some prayer services in the churches, as well as being involved in some areas of adult formation.

Access to his/her own transport is essential. Applications including a CV should be addressed by 31st August 2009 to: OR For a full Job Description and Application Form please contact: Fr. G Hand, St Paul's Presbytery, Warout Road, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4ER.

6. DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

Any notifications or material for the next edition of the Archdiocesan Newsletter are to be with the Cardinal's secretary by **Friday 2 October 2009** for publication on **Tuesday 6 October 2009**.

As previously indicated, the Bishops of Scotland have been called to Rome for their Ad Limina visit at the beginning of February 2010. This is a time of 'pilgrimage' for them to meet with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to visit the major basilicas dedicated to St Peter and to St Paul, and to meet with the heads of the various dicasteries/departments in Rome to discuss with the Cardinal heads of department and the members of the departments the situation of our Church in Scotland and how we are continuing to fulfil our mission.

Twenty-three different reports have to be prepared over the next few months and sent to Rome in preparation for this visit – and I thank my own heads of departments and agencies who will be co-operating in preparing these reports. Obviously, a very considerable amount of work is involved. Please keep us all in your prayers as we continue to prepare for this important visit.

There is ongoing work at this present time on the roof of the north wing at Gillis Centre – quite simply because of the age of the building, but this project is being financially very well supported by Historic Scotland. In addition, work is being undertaken in the chapel at Gillis Centre involving a new heating system to help the preservation of the building – again being very well supported by outside agencies.

Consequently, I ask those visiting our Archdiocesan agencies or offices at Gillis Centre to realise that there might not always be the same availability for parking cars as is usual – and recourse might have to be made to local street parking.

May God indeed bless us all in our Archdiocese at this time, helping us to fulfil our responsibilities to God and to one another at home and abroad.

Yours sincerely in Christ

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