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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:

The major news item to convey to you all is to express my joy at the prospect of a visit to Britain by Pope Benedict XVI. News was initially 'leaked' when I was in New York at the Climate Change Summit at the United Nations. Consequently, we still await definite confirmation of the visit as also regarding the possibility that Pope Benedict XVI will be with us in Scotland.

I wish to let you know also that in a letter dated 10 September 2009, Pope Benedict XVI has appointed me as a member of the Presidential Committee of the Pontifical Council for the Family. This will again involve meetings in Rome – in addition to those concerning the present other two Pontifical Councils of which I am a member, namely the Pontifical Council for Social Communications and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

Meantime the '**Year of the Priest**', called for by Pope Benedict XVI, continues throughout the world. Please continue your own prayer for priests this year. Perhaps you will find the prayer calendar enclosed a useful aid to your prayer for a specific priest each day. This or other similar prayer cards are used in different parts of our diocese; and I also know of the initiative of the Union of Catholic Mothers for praying for a specific priest throughout this year.

I look forward to being with you in our Cathedral for the **celebration of the Feast of St Andrew** on Monday 30 November 2009. A concelebrated Mass at which I will be principal celebrant will be offered at 12.45 pm – with refreshments afterwards in the porch and a celebratory meal for our priests in the Cathedral Hall.

Note also the **annual dedication of the crib** in Edinburgh will take place on the first Sunday of Advent, Sunday 29 November 2009 at 4.30 pm. However the venue is being moved to St Andrew's Square Gardens due to the tram works in the Mound vicinity.

1. NEWS CONCERNING PRIESTS:

- (1) A retired priest, previously an Anglican priest, **Father Derek Powney**, has come to live in our Archdiocese along with his wife. Perhaps you will make contact with him if and when he is on supply in your parish.
- (2) **Father Tom Mullen**, the parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Dunfermline, has been made the 'Director of Landings' in our country.

Landings is a lay - led initiative in which Catholics who have been away from regular worship can find a way back to the Church within a small friendly group.

The course is designed to create a supportive environment in which people can rejoin the worshipping community and feel comfortable about coming back into an active participation in parish life in general, and particularly at Mass.

Landings groups have already been established in England; some also in this Archdiocese. The group would meet over a period of 8 - 10 weeks, and provides a 'landing place' or safe spot to 'touch down' where the returners will share faith journeys, prayer and discussions of Catholic Spirituality with ordinary Catholics who are trying to live their faith.

If any parish wishes more information about starting a Landings group please contact Margaret Johnston on 01383 728844. Margaret is the Co-ordinator for Scotland and would be delighted to help parishes who might be interested in establishing a Landings group.

- (3) **Father James Crampsey SJ**, the parish priest at Sacred Heart Parish, Lauriston, has been named as a member of the Inter-Faith Council in Scotland – having had much experience of inter-faith work in his previous parish in Southall, London.
- (4) **Father Laurence Brassill OSA**, who previously resided at St Joseph's,

Sighthill, while undertaking an apostolate with the Charismatic Renewal Movement, has moved to the Augustinian Community in Birmingham.

2. NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT:

A National Youth Event has been organised by Catholic Youth Service Scotland – which undertakes co-ordination of youth work in Scotland, at the request of the Bishops' Conference.

The event will take place from the evening of **Friday 13 November 2009 until after lunch on Saturday 14 November 2009**. The theme of the gathering is: 'We have set our hope on the living God' (1 Tim 4:10).

With this year's theme being 'Hope', it is hoped that many young people will gather from across Scotland in socialising, discussion, prayer, workshops and much more. The gathering is for 16 – 35 year olds, the cost is £43 (includes accommodation, dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch) at Gartmore House Activity Centre, near Stirling. If you are interested please contact Ms Patricia Carroll, who will give further information.

3. LITURGY COMMISSION – MUSIC ADVISORY GROUP:

The delayed music newsletter will be issued soon. Would anyone who still wants to receive the newsletter by post but has not yet 'opted-in' to the postal mailing list, please do so by contacting Dr Katherine Cameron, tel: (01324) 612034; email: Katherine.Cameron@forthinpraise.co.uk.

Forth in Praise Music will publish two new volumes next year: a book of easy organ arrangements of hymns, psalms and voluntaries in honour of Our Lady, and a new and useful index of hymns. Further details will be given in the newsletter and updates.

Starting soon on the Group's website (www.forthinpraise.co.uk) will be a blog especially for organists, which will replace the current organists' newsletter.

4. FROM THE RE OFFICE:

Prepare for Christmas: Luke's Christmas Story

A thoughtful look at the picture and message at the beginning of Luke's Gospel.

This will be a good preparation for reflecting on Christmas and on a year of readings from this Gospel. A time to be stimulated by the Gospel and by others.

Suitable for all interested Christians and especially CREDL students (as a necessary part of the assignment for Course 1)

2.00 – 4.00 pm on Friday 4 December 2009 at the Gillis Centre.

Led by Jeff Bagnall (onetime Diocesan Adviser and teacher trainer)

Cost £5.00 (cheques should be made payable to the

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS AND EDINBURGH)

*To reserve a place, please contact Mrs Jennifer Myles, Secretary, R E Office Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Road, Edinburgh EH9 1BB by **Monday 23 November 2009***

Tel: 0131 623 8912 or email jennifer.myles@staned.org.uk

5. SOLIDARITY WITH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD:

Following on my own contact with Bishop Coutts, Bishop of Faisalabad in Pakistan, I had a letter from the Bishop indicating his appreciation of the prayerful, as well as financial support, of his suffering people.

He writes to me: “This is to acknowledge your kind letter of 10 August 2009 expressing sympathy and solidarity on your behalf and on behalf of the people of Scotland. The tragic events of 31 July and 1 August 2009 were terrifying and traumatic experiences for us”. He concludes his letter by writing:

“Pray for us as we begin the difficult process of peace building and working for the restoration of social harmony in a shattered

society. Many good Muslims are reaching out to us to help. Pray that God may bless and guide all those of good will to come forward to help us to nullify the words of the extremists”.

As we know, there are various ‘trouble spots’ throughout the world – let us not forget them in our prayers.

6. MISSIO SCOTLAND:

We are reminded by MISSIO Scotland that **Sunday 18 October 2009** is to be observed as World Mission Sunday. MISSIO Scotland will be arranging the distribution of Mission Sunday packs across the Archdiocese.

We hope to increase awareness of the importance of the Universal Fund, which is collected on Mission Sunday. This Pontifical Universal Fund subsidises every diocese in the mission world and is essential for the growth of the Church.

MISSIO Scotland also represents the Holy Father’s other mission charities: Missionary Children and Society of St Peter.

For further information please contact the MISSIO office on: tel: 01236 449774 or email: national.office@missioscotland.org.uk.

7. EDINBURGH 2010 PROJECT:

A report was prepared for our Bishops’ Conference by **Sister Elizabeth Moran** on developments in the process of the Edinburgh 2010 project. For your interest, I am enclosing a copy of this report in full.

In addition, I would encourage people in the Edinburgh area to attend the forthcoming ‘Towards 2010’ event at New College. Further information about Edinburgh 2010 can be found at <http://www.scot2010.org.uk> or <http://www.edinburgh2010.org>.

There will be various meetings to prepare local churches for the forthcoming world church conference which takes place from 2 – 6 June 2010 in Edinburgh – marking the centenary of the Mission Conference held in 1910 that many see as sparking the modern ecumenical movement.

8. AD LIMINA REPORTS:

I thank most sincerely all those involved in various aspects of the Church's work in our Archdiocese for speedily sending into me suitable entries regarding the work of their apostolates for inclusion into my Ad Limina Report for Rome – at the beginning of February 2010.

Obviously, this is an event to which the members of our Bishops' Conference look forward – in meeting Pope Benedict XVI on various occasions, as well as meeting with members of the various Congregations and Pontifical Councils acting in the name of the Pope on various aspects of the Church's apostolate.

9. OTHER ITEMS:

Publication of: ' Holy Cross Academy, Edinburgh, The Life and Times of a Catholic School, 1907 – 1969';

Holy Cross Academy, Edinburgh's Catholic senior secondary school, closed in 1969 but a successful centenary reunion in 2007 has led to a new history of the school, *Holy Cross Academy Edinburgh, The Life and Times of a Catholic School, 1907-1969*, by historian and former pupil Norah Carlin.

In it the story of the school has been brought to life from archives, printed sources and the memories of former pupils, of whom the oldest interviewed was 95. Notable former pupils include Cardinals Gordon Joseph Gray and Keith Patrick O'Brien, businessman Sir Tom Farmer, two retired British Ambassadors, and artists such as Eduardo Paolozzi and Richard Demarco. Long-forgotten episodes revealed by the author's research include the purchase of the school site by stealth from an unwilling seller in 1907 and the failure of Edinburgh's plans for evacuation in 1939.

The background discussed includes the period of selective education in Scotland, the 1918 Education Act under which most Catholic schools in Scotland were transferred to the local authorities, and the raising of the educational and social profile of the Scottish Catholic community from the mid-twentieth century. The book also includes personal memoirs by eight former

pupils which throw vivid and sometimes critical light on the Holy Cross experience. The book can now be ordered online at www.newcutpress.co.uk, from bookshops, or by post from 1 Strathalmond Road, Edinburgh EH4 8AB. Cheques payable to Holy Cross FPA. Please send £15 plus postage (£3 UK, £4 Europe, £6 elsewhere) per copy.

10. CANONISATION OF BLESSED JEANNE JUGAN, FOUNDRRESS OF THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:

Along with Little Sisters of the Poor from different parts of Scotland, I led a pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Canonisation of Blessed Jeanne Jugan, the Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor on **Sunday 11 October 2009** by Pope Benedict XVI. Various thanksgiving celebrations took place in the major basilicas in Rome.

However, to join the Little Sisters and the residents in their joy, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston on **Sunday 22 November 2009 at 3.00 pm**.

I will be principal celebrant and preacher at this Mass – but priests, religious and people from across our Archdiocese are most cordially welcomed to join in this Thanksgiving Mass.

11. VOICE FOR LIFE:

'Voice for Life' is a new pro-life group at our Cathedral, formed as the people's Catholic Christian response to the very real-time human tragedies of Abortion, Euthanasia, and unethical scientific experimentation and therapies so prevalent in a secular society and with which we all struggle. As we turn to face such problems with prayer and compassion for all involved, we seek, through education and discussion of the causes, God's guidance in our response.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 3 November 2009** from 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm (approx). The meeting will begin with Mass and devotions at 6.00 pm in our Cathedral followed by a discussion at 7.15 pm in the Cathedral Parish centre (Refreshments provided).

This month's topic is the proposed Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill, which will come before the Scottish Parliament before Christmas and which simply cannot be ignored.

12. ECUMENISM:

The annual Day of Ecumenical Reflection, hosted and organised by the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission, is taking place this year on 14 November 2009 at the Gillis Centre in Edinburgh. This year's theme will focus on '**Music in the development and experience of Ecumenism**' and will be led by Monsignor Gerry Fitzpatrick, the renowned composer of liturgical music who is Director of the St Mungo Choir and Music in the Glasgow Archdiocese as well as being a member of the Glasgow Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission and Glasgow Churches Together.

The Day of Ecumenical Reflection will begin with lunch at 12.00 noon. Intending participants are asked to bring a packed lunch as in previous years. Tea and coffee will be served at Gillis. The first session will then begin at 1.00 pm. The day will end with a Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving at 4.30 pm. There is a suggested donation of £6.

Further information can be had from Paddy Ferry, 1 Burnside, Maybury Drive, Edinburgh EH12 8UD. Tel. 013- 554 8216.

13. LAURISTON JESUIT CENTRE:
Lauriston Jesuit Centre is advertising an upcoming series of talks entitled: '**Evolution and Faith**'. The talks will take place on six Monday evenings, from 26 October 2009 to 30 November 2009, starting at 7.30 pm. Admission is free.

As you know, 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species', which broke new ground in understanding evolution. These talks will attempt to show that evolution, as it is currently understood, is not only compatible with a belief in a loving creator God, its acceptance is vital if we are to reach a better understanding of God's activity in the world.

The presenter of the series is **Professor Brian Kilbey**, recently retired from the University of Edinburgh.

For further information, please contact **Father Chris Boles SJ** at the Lauriston Jesuit Centre (tel: 0131-477 5795; email: cboles@lauriston.org.uk).

14. 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 27 November 2009** for publication on **Tuesday 1 December 2009**.

Archdiocesan Newsletter:

As you may remember, the Archdiocesan Newsletter was a 'baby' of mine shortly after my appointment as Archbishop. I realised then that much of the information which I was sending to priests in their Ad Clerum could also be shared with the lay faithful of our Archdiocese. Consequently, I started these two publications, which appear approximately six times per year.

However, at both the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and then at the Assembly of Priests, both of which took place during the month of September, I discussed the possibilities of further regular communications letting everyone know of activities taking place through the help of our Archdiocesan pastoral agencies. Consequently, Ms Patricia Carroll, our Episcopal Delegate for Pastoral Resources, and her colleagues have undertaken to publish a newsletter each month, gathering together all of the information which they receive concerning our agencies and their activities. This will remove from me and from my staff here at St Bennet's, the responsibility of typing this sort of Archdiocesan Newsletter which you are reading now.

The Ad Clerum (a letter to the priests) will still be published here at St Bennet's – but all and any information concerning activities in your parishes and your dioceses, especially regarding your organisations, can be sent to Ms Patricia Carroll for publication in each monthly edition of the Archdiocesan Newsletter. Material should be sent directly to: Patricia.Carroll@staned.org.uk.

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