

VATICAN NEWS

Wonder, adoration, and the Synod

Pope Francis' words at the Mass for the feast of Corpus Domini indicate the source of every authentic ecclesial journey.

"If wonder and adoration are lacking, there is no road that leads to the Lord. Nor will there be the synod, nothing..." A phrase added off-the-cuff in the homily of the Mass for the feast of Corpus Domini says a lot about how the Pope sees the "process" to be launched for the next synod and for the synodal journeys already underway. And it says everything about the source of any authentic ecclesial journey.

Without wonder (which happens by grace and certainly not by imposition), and without adoration (which is also a consequence that cannot be taken for granted), the Church becomes worldly and ends up taking on political and ideological categories. And thus, the protagonist is no longer the One without whom we can do nothing, but instead the strategies, the tactics, the fireworks of com-

In a personal note pub-

lished in Civiltà Cattolica last September, Pope Francis made clear the judgment he had come to concerning a certain way of dealing with the long-standing question of the so-called "viri probati" and the proposal to ordain married men that emerged at the Synod on the Amazon. "There was a discussion... a rich discussion... a well-founded discussion, but no discernment, which is something different from arriving at a good and justified consensus or relative majority.

We must understand that the Synod is more than a parliament and in this specific case it could not escape this dynamic. On this subject it has been a rich, productive and even necessary parliament; but no more than that."

There, in the whole, in the community, the Spirit prefers to work and to bring newness. ... Today, if we listen to the Spirit, we will not be concerned with conservatives and progressives, traditionalists and innovators, right and left. When those become our criteria, then the Church has forgotten the Spirit. The Paraclete impels us to unity, to concord, to the harmony of diversity. He makes us see ourselves as parts

of the same body, brothers and sisters of one another. Let us look to the whole! The enemy wants diversity to become opposition and so he makes them become ideologies."

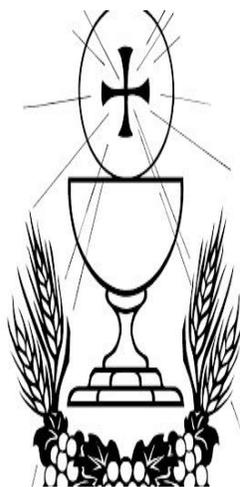
This concerns a distortion that is in some ways more serious than many other "wounds" and sins, because it empties and dries up from within the dynamics of ecclesial life, so that it is not listening to the Spirit, but our own plans, the efficiency of our structures and our plans for reform that come to the fore. This is a risk the Successor of Peter has long warned against, as he did again recently in his homily for Pentecost, when he recalled that, "The Paraclete affirms the primacy of the whole.

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If wonder and adoration are lacking; if listening to the Spirit and the primacy of the whole are lacking; there will be no synod, the Bishop of Rome said on Sunday. At best, there will be a good Parliament. —By Andrea Torielli

Wishing you and your loved ones a very happy Sunday.
Fr. Gregory Umunna



ST. STEPHEN'S R C CHURCH BLAIRGOWRIE

⇒ St Mary's Coupar Angus

⇒ St Luan's Alyth

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Yr B. 13/6/21

Parish website: <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>



Warm Welcome to all our Parishioners and visitors.

Whether you are visiting our parish or just moved into the area, please feel very welcome ... thanks.

Parish diary for the Week:

Sat. Vigil mass at St. Stephen's 6.30pm

Sun: Mass at St. Steph 9.30 am and 11.00 am.

Tue - Mass at St. Steph 10.00am

Wed - Mass at St. Steph 7.00pm

Thurs - Mass at St. Luan's 10.00am

Frid - Mass at St. Luan's 10.00am

Sat - Vigil mass at 6.30pm in St. Stephen's

Sun - 9.30 am and 11.00 am in St. Stephen's

Mass intentions for the week

⇒ For Duncan Campbell: Anniversary

⇒ For those grieving the loss of their loved ones

⇒ For E. Eliot who passed away on 4th of June

⇒ For Couples who struggle in marriage, for those separated & for their children & their welfare

⇒ **THIS SUNDAY: Day of life special collection. See p.3. Please support it.**

⇒ **ORDINATION support envelopes available at the entrance. ...Thanks!**

This Sunday, Jesus gives us two parables of the seeds to describe the reign of God... a lesson on humility and littleness. Fallen human nature tends to seek for recognition and appreciation. Hence, people aspire to become big, rich, famous, and powerful. But experience tells us that this is not always the way to true greatness and happiness. The Mustard seed is little but not powerless or insignificant !!!



Fam. Rosary, adoration.

Every Wednesdays 6pm, and mass for the sick last Wednesdays of the month.

Mass with St. Step Primary School:

1st Fri & 3rd Fri. of the month; end of terms and core events masses.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

6.00pm every Saturday and 9am every Sunday.

Divine Mercy Devotion.

Tuesday after morning mass. Please join us.

Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Umunna MA, Ph.D.

Phone: 01250872171. Email: ststephen@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Address: 8, Bank Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6DE.

H/Teacher: St. Steph's P. S. Mr. Simon Mckell. Ph: 871950.

Parish Volunteers:

Catechists: Mrs Linda Forsyth. Catechism Classes for 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation every Monday 6.00pm in the Hall. Email: lady.linda@live.co.uk 01828632024.

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator: Mrs. Linda Forsyth. Email: lady.linda@live.co.uk 01828632024.

Parish Webmaster: Mr. Irek Kawalinski. irekkowalinski@gmail.com

Music Directors: Mr. Tom Buckham and Mrs. Gail McIntyre.

Responsible Person for Euch. Ministers: Mr. Alan Scott

Responsible Person for Lectors: Ms. Seonaid Johnston

Responsible Group- Parish Social Justice issues: SSSVP.

Church Flowers: Mrs Jean Scot

Grounds Flowers: Mrs Jennifer Fitzpatrick

Financial Adviser: Mr. Mike Coyle.

Responsible Person for Altar Servers: Mr. Rolly Colanese.

Hall Reservations: Contact no: 872171.

Hospital Chaplains: Please call: [N/wells 01382611282](tel:01382611282); [P.R.I. 01738259371](tel:01738259371).

*Please let the priest know if you are having a long stay at the hospital and would like a visit.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: Please make appointment with the Priest before any arrangement

Parish News

⇒ Prayers please:

Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Rolls, Ron Crisp, Eilidh MacInnes, Neil McDowall, Michael O'Malley, Pam McKenna, Mhari McRae.

⇒ Have you prayed your Rosary today?



⇒ Parish Finances

We know that the present difficult situation affects individuals and households in many ways. However, if you feel able to support the parish in whatever way you could via Standing Order, occasional or one-off payment. Details of Parish account number are:

⇒ Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland, 14 Allan Street, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AD

⇒ Sort code:- 83-1633
⇒ Account No:- 00240708
⇒ Account name:- Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld No3
⇒ Char TST St Stephens RC Church. Many thanks for supporting your parish.



Please submit all items for the parish bulletin by 6.00 p.m. on Thursday each week.
Email: peacegreg2002@yahoo.com Phone: 01250 872171

Up Coming Events:

- ⇒ First Holy Communion 4/7/21, 11.00am.
- ⇒ Thanksgiving Mass: Fr. Christopher Doig: 21/7/21. Everyone is invited. 7.00pm
- ⇒ Baptism of Sean Paul Boyle 24/7/21, 11.00am
- ⇒ Internment of Remains: Ella Nicolls. 28/7/21, 11.00am.
- ⇒ Baptism of Maureen Howden and Sean Donald 21/8/21, 11.00am.
- ⇒ Wedding of Anna & Antoine Larmarhe 11/9/21.
- ⇒ Wedding of Katie & Jordan Peteranna 23/9/21, 1.00pm.

Reflection: two parables to describe the kingdom of God

In today's gospel, Christ uses two parables to describe the kingdom of God. The kingdom he invites us to is a simple and peaceful one. It is open to all who seek it with a sincere heart. The easiest way to enter into it is by sowing a seed faith in Christ. This is the key.

Hence, in the second parable, the mustard seed which is the smallest seed refers to our faith. 'If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed...nothing will be impossible for you' (Mt 17, 20). This includes, entering the kingdom of God. However, it is important to note that, the authenticity or genuineness of our faith must be tested (James 1:3; 1Peter 1:7).

Faith grows and when it does, it achieves great things. As it grows it leads us to Christ and consequently to his kingdom. Also, our faith draws others to Christ and to his church, the visible sign of God's kingdom on earth. As Christ says: 'The birds of the air come to take shelter under its branches.'

How does our faith draw others to Christ? When we demonstrate or bear a good testimony of our individual and collective faith, the result is great. Lives could be touched and transformed. A few persons might come to believe in God.

Also, a youth might present himself for a particular sacrament and service in the church. A young couple might decide to normalize their marriage in the church. Someone might decide to give up a very old and bad habit, while another might decide to forgive another.

These may seem to insignificant achievements, but the seed is growing. This consequently leads to the growth of the church, the visible sign of God's kingdom on earth. As our faith grows, the church, the body of Christ grows and more people are drawn into the comfort of God's kingdom.

—Fr Njoku Canice Chukwuemeka, CSSP

Mary's Meals Support Group

are running a craft day at Easter Balgersho Barn and Gardens, Coupar Angus from 11th – 13th June, 10 am to 4 pm each day. This will replace the annual coffee morning which once again has had to be postponed due to Covid. There will be an exhibition of art and textile crafts as well as our usual sale of cake and candy, plants, toys, bric-a-brac, jewellery, knitwear and books. There will also be a quiz game for the children, tombola and raffle. For further information call Margaret on 01258 875086.

LATEST EDITION OF DUNKELD NEWS

- ⇒ Lawside Building of the diocese closes as strategic review looks to the future
- ⇒ Substantial savings declared and new parish levy announced

For details please visit www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk

NEWS FROM EUROPE



2021 Day for Life message

Bishops of England and Wales: Protect life from conception to natural death

Bishop John Sherrington, English and Welsh Bishops' Conference head for life issues, highlights the fundamental dignity of the human person and respect owed to life in his 2021 Day for Life message.

The annual celebration of the Day for Life is dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning of human life at every stage and in every condition.

In a message released ahead of the annual observance, Bishop John Sherrington, lead Bishop for Life issues for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBEW), draws attention to the fragility of life and the reality of death brought to the fore by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the debate surrounding 'assisted suicide' and its legalization in the country.

This year, in England and Wales, the Day for Life will be celebrated on Sunday 20 under the theme, "Caring for the sick and dying." Covid-19 pandemic

Bishop Sherrington highlighted that the Day for Life, inaugurated by Pope St. John Paul II, "presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support

the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages.

Situating this in the context of the ongoing health crisis, the Bishop noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the fragility of life and the reality of death.

"In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19," he said.

However, in the face of such suffering and death, the Bishop points to the "extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying," as well as the sacrifices people made for the greater good during the pandemic.

These acts, he said, "are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life." Assisted Dying

"Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalization of 'assisted suicide' in our country," said Bishop Sherrington.

He recalled a current Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on the so-called "Assisted Dying" and expressed concern that it is "only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons." "It is not a question of 'if this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when?'" he said.

Bishop Sherrington stressed that the theme for the Day for Life this year focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. He also informed the faithful about online resources available to inform them about the threat to life and Catholic response about it.

Day for Life collection

Every year, a collection is done to raise funds to support efforts in promoting and protecting life from conception until its natural death. However, in 2020, there was no collection due to the pandemic and funds are very much depleted while "the threats to life have never been greater."

The proceeds from the annual Day of Life collection to be held in parishes in England Wales assist the work of organizations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach.

—By Vatican News staff writer

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"There is another strength that stands out in the fragility of the Eucharist: the strength to love those who make mistakes... betrayal is the worst suffering for one who loves. And what does Jesus do? He reacts to the evil with a greater good... When we receive the Eucharist, Jesus does the same with us: He knows us; He knows we are sinners; He knows we make many mistakes, but He does not give up on joining His life to ours. He knows that we need it, because the Eucharist is not the Bread of sinners. This is why He exhorts us: "Do not be afraid! Take and eat.""

Pope Francis