

Our Lady of Lourdes, Perth

Parish Newsletter 16th August 2026

20th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME A



Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes,
dear Guests and Visitors.

This weekend, as we gather for the Eucharist, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**. Instead of the readings of the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, *the Church invites us to lift our eyes towards Mary and to contemplate what God has prepared for all who belong to Christ.*

The Assumption tells us that, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was taken **body and soul into the glory of heaven**. This is not only a privilege given to the Mother of Jesus; it is also a **sign of Christian hope for each one of us**. In Mary we see the fulfilment of the promise that death does not have the final word. Our destiny is not the grave, but life with God.

In the Gospel, Mary proclaims her *Magnificat*: “**My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**” Her song comes from a heart that has learned to trust God completely. Mary does not know every detail of the road ahead, but she knows the One who is leading her. Her whole life becomes a response of faith: *Let it be done to me according to your word.*

This message is particularly important in the middle of our ordinary lives. We carry responsibilities, worries and uncertainties. We experience moments of joy, but also illness, bereavement, disappointment and change. The Assumption reminds us to look beyond what is temporary. **We are a people travelling towards eternity.**

For us at **Our Lady of Lourdes**, this feast has a special resonance. The Mother whom we honour under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes is the same Mary whom the Church today contemplates in heavenly glory. And for both our parish communities, Mary continues to point us towards her Son: **“Do whatever he tells you.”**

May this Solemnity renew our hope and deepen our trust in God. Following Mary’s example, may we learn to say “yes” to God in the ordinary circumstances of each day, confident that the Lord who was faithful to Mary will also be faithful to us.

*Mary, assumed into heaven, pray for us.
Lead us always closer to your Son, Jesus Christ.*

THE MAGNIFICAT

Luke 1:46–55

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God,
my Saviour.*

*He looks on his servant
in her lowliness; henceforth all
ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for
me. Holy his name!*

*His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their
thrones and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good
things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised
to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

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Agency www.scssa.org.uk

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading *Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*
“A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.”

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 45(44)*
R10b “On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophire”

Second Reading *1 Cor 15:20-27*
“Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.”

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. *Mary has been taken up into heaven; the host of angels rejoice.*

Alleluia

Gospel *Luke 1:39-56*
“He who is mighty has done great things for me; he has exalted those of humble estate.”

THE MYSTERY OF MARY ASSUMED INTO HEAVEN

The Solemnity of the Assumption celebrates Mary being taken **body and soul into the glory of heaven** at the end of her earthly life.

The Church does not formally define whether Mary experienced death, although ancient Christian tradition commonly speaks of her **Dormition** – her peaceful passing from earthly life into the glory of her Son.

St John Paul II taught that Mary's sharing in death can be understood in the light of Christ himself, who passed through death to resurrection.

The Gospel gives us another important title for Mary. Elizabeth calls her **“the one who believed.”** Mary trusted the Word of God throughout her whole life – from the Annunciation, through the suffering of the Cross, to the completion of her earthly pilgrimage.

Her Assumption is therefore not only a celebration of Mary, but also a **sign of hope for us**. Where Mary has gone, we are called to follow. She continues to accompany the Church as Mother, helping us to remain faithful to Christ on our journey towards our eternal home.

Mary, Mother of the Lord and Woman of Faith, assumed into heaven, pray for us!



JUBILEE YEAR OF
**SAINT
FRANCIS**

1226 - 2026

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

Mary's Song, Our Song

On the Solemnity of the Assumption, the Church places on Mary's lips the beautiful words of the *Magnificat*:

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.”

These words also lead us into the heart of **Franciscan spirituality**. St Francis of Assisi had a profound love for the Blessed Virgin Mary because, in her humility and poverty of spirit, she allowed God to accomplish great things through her.

Mary does not place herself at the centre. She points entirely towards God: **“The Almighty**

works marvels for me. Holy his name!" Her greatness comes from receiving everything as a gift and responding with faith.

This is also the Franciscan way: to recognise that everything is grace, to praise God for his goodness, and to live with humility, gratitude and joy.

During this Franciscan Jubilee, Mary invites us to make her song our own. Even amid difficulties, we can learn to recognise God's presence and say with her:

My soul glorifies the Lord.

Mary, Woman of Faith and Queen assumed into heaven, teach us the humility, simplicity and joy of St Francis, and lead us always to your Son.

If you know someone in hospital who would like a visit from a priest for prayer, spiritual support, Holy Communion (*Viaticum: communion for dying*), Confession, or the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the Priest on call, at 07842 538056 ASAP.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

Congratulations to Bishop Andrew

10th of August marked the second anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Andrew McKenzie as Bishop of Dunkeld.

We congratulate Bishop Andrew and continue to pray that the Lord will bless him with wisdom, strength and joy in his ministry among us.



Dear Bishop Andrew, On behalf of the parish communities of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary Magdalene's in Perth, I would like to offer you our warmest congratulations and prayerful good wishes on the anniversary of your Episcopal Ordination.

May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen you in your ministry as our Bishop, granting you wisdom, courage and joy in shepherding our Diocese. May Our Lady accompany you always with her maternal care. With gratitude for your ministry and the assurance of our prayers.

Ad multos annos, Bishop Andrew!

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

The **Annual Diocesan Vocations Mass** will take place on **Thursday 17 September at 6.00pm in St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee**. The Mass will be led by staff and pupils of St Paul's Academy. Everyone is warmly encouraged to come and pray for new vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

As we look ahead to the September Vocations Mass, let us make prayer for vocations part of our parish prayer. May the Lord inspire young people to listen generously to his call and give them courage to respond:

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."



PREPARING FOR OUR PARISH EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

**Come with an open heart.
Come with your questions.
Come ready to listen.
Come ready to rediscover
Jesus in the Eucharist.**

Our Eucharistic Revival is not simply another parish programme. It is an invitation to **return to the heart of our faith — Jesus Christ, truly present among us and giving himself to us in the Eucharist.**

As we prepare, we ask everyone to focus on three essential words:

ENCOUNTER

The Eucharist is first of all an encounter with **a Person — Jesus Christ**. We come not simply to learn something about the Eucharist, but to know more deeply the One who says: *"This is my Body."*

UNDERSTAND

Greater understanding can lead us to deeper faith. We want to rediscover **Who is present, what happens at Mass, why we adore the**

Blessed Sacrament, and what receiving Holy Communion means for our lives.

LIVE

The Eucharist does not end when we leave the church. We are sent to become what we receive — bringing Christ's **love, mercy, reconciliation and service** into our families, parish and wider community.

Encounter. Understand. Live.

These three words can guide us as we prepare for our Parish Eucharistic Revival.

**Lord Jesus, deepen our hunger for you,
open our hearts to your presence,
and make our parish truly Eucharistic.**

DISARM TECHNOLOGY, SERVE PEACE

Pope Leo XIV looks towards the 2027 World Day of Peace

The theme for the **60th World Day of Peace**, celebrated on 1 January 2027, is “**Disarm technology, serve peace. Politics as preventive responsibility.**”

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that while artificial intelligence and other technologies can serve humanity, they must never replace **human conscience, responsibility or respect for human dignity**. This is especially important in warfare, where decisions about human life cannot be left to machines or algorithms.

The message also challenges each of us to consider how we use technology: does it help us build relationships, seek truth and serve others, or contribute to division and isolation? Peace begins when we choose **responsibility over power, dialogue over hostility, and the human person over technology**.

Lord, teach us to use every human achievement in the service of life, dignity and peace.

ALPHA – THANK YOU AND WHAT’S NEXT

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part in, supported, or helped with our recent **Alpha Course at Our Lady of Lourdes**. It has been a real blessing and a wonderful experience of faith, friendship, hospitality and open conversation. We hope to build on this momentum by continuing Alpha in the future and developing a stronger culture of **welcome, personal invitation and reaching out beyond our parish community**. A short debrief will take place **after Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes on Tuesday 25 August**, when we will reflect on what went well, what we can improve, and consider future Alpha courses

at both **Our Lady of Lourdes and St Mary Magdalene’s**.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Alpha such a joyful and fruitful experience.

FUNERAL NOTICE

1. Please remember in your prayers **PIOTR WIERCIŃSKI**, who has died. We extend our prayerful sympathy to his wife, Alicja, and to all his family and friends. **The Reception of Remains** will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Perth, on Thursday 20th August at 5.00pm. **The Requiem Mass** will be celebrated on Friday 21st August at 10.30am, followed by the Committal at Perth Crematorium at 12.00 noon.



We extend our prayerful sympathy to Louis’s wife, Mary, and to all his family and friends at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

2. Please pray for the repose of the soul of **LOUIS JOSEPH SMITH**, who passed away at the Cornhill Macmillan Centre on 7th August 2026, aged 85 years. **Louis’s coffin will arrive at the church at 9.30am on Wednesday 26th August, with the Funeral Mass at 10.30am.**



The Committal will take place at Perth Crematorium at 12.00 noon.

We extend our prayerful sympathy to Louis’s wife, Mary, and to all his family and friends at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

3. Please pray for the repose of the soul of **GERARD MARTIN WELSH**, who passed away at Cornhill on 7th August 2026, aged 62 years. Gerard’s **Reception of Remains** will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church on Thursday 27th August at 5.00pm. **His Requiem Mass** will be celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church on Friday 28th August at 10.00am, followed by interment at Jeanfield Cemetery at 11.15am.



We extend our prayerful sympathy to Gerard’s family and friends at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

**Eternal rest grant unto Them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon Them.
May They rest in peace. Amen.**