THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS IN SCOTLAND

Newsletter - July 2026

Salvation

The Greatest Gift of Love

Let us take a moment to quiet our minds and open our hearts to the profound mystery of Christ's Most Precious Blood. As we reflect on His sacrifice, may our minds and souls be renewed with understanding and devotion. May His love inspire us to live with greater faith, gratitude, and reverence.

"Have you ever paused to ponder why the Blood of Jesus means so much to us?" We hear about it all the time in church, His Blood, the Eucharist, and yet, sometimes, it's hard to truly grasp what it all really means.

In 1949, Pope Pius XII officially approved the devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. However, the devotion predates this, rooted in the belief of early Christians that the Church was born from Christ's pierced side

Throughout history, Christians have recognised the profound significance of Jesus's sacrifice. His Body, His Blood, His Soul, and His Divinity are united in the expression of God's unmerited love and mercy. Jesus shed His blood for all, not merely as a symbol, but as a Mystery — a sacred act that reveals the depth of God's compassion and mercy. This divine sacrifice expresses the love of God that surpasses human understanding, inviting believers into a deeper communion with Him.

It is through this act of love that we discover hope; even amid darkness and confusion, forgiveness when we feel utterly unworthy, and the fresh start we so desperately need. His blood reminds us that salvation is a gift from God: costly, yes, but freely given.

It is not something we can earn through our own efforts; rather, it is a gracious gift offered to us out of God's infinite love. And in turn, we are called to respond with reverence, trust, and heartfelt gratitude.

Just take a moment and think about it! His blood unites us with God, making us holy, and setting us on a path to love and service. We're invited to remember this, in the Eucharist where Christ's presence in His blood is made real for us. It's not just a symbol; it's a precious gift, life-giving, healing, and restoring us from within. It gives us strength to face life's battles, to resist evil, and to walk in faith and grace.

Biologically, the primary function of blood is to maintain the body's internal stability, keeping it balanced and functioning properly. Blood works silently behind the scenes to ensure our health and adaptability to various challenges. There's something truly powerful in that, "Blood is the very essence of life itself."

In a deeper sense, Christ's blood is the life of our spirits, poured out for us so that we might have eternal life. That's the mystery that leaves us in awe, God's love so immense and overwhelming that it pours out in sacrifice, transforming us and offering hope beyond measure.

Jesus, deepen our devotion to your Most Precious Blood, making it a vital part of our journey of discovery, engraved deeply in our hearts. May we be fully captivated by the wonder of your sacrifice, and ignite a passionate fire within us, inspiring faith and a life forever transformed by your many Graces.

Sister Margaret Mary Fidow, CSN
(Vice President)

What's inside…

Salvation, The greatest gift of love
A story of grace that transforms every heart

Blessing of Carmelite Monastery
A sacred moment of prayer, renewal and presence

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Words that echo softly in the soul

Calling all Poets of faith
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CRS website update
Staying connected in a changing digital world

Called to Communion…
Working together in unity, hope and love.

Celebration and Blessing of Carmelite Monastery, Bathgate.

On Friday 19th June, after many months of converting and renovating our new property, we were delighted to welcome Archbishop Leo Cushley to our Monastery

We were also delighted to be officially, and very graciously, welcomed by the Archbishop to the Archdiocese of St. Andrew's and Edinburgh.

The presence of our Carmelite sisters from the rest of Scotland added to the joy.

Fr. Dermot Morrin OP, and our Parish Priest, Fr. Michael John Galbraith also attended.

Although small, we intend that the oratory will offer a space for anyone to spend time in prayer and/or join with the sisters for the liturgy of the hours and Mass when it is available.

We also have a guest area for quiet days or retreats.

Lines That Linger

My father was also a wandering Aramaen

(Poem by Sr Margaret McGrath)

My father and I are wanderers
flotsam on the sea of humanity, flowing across your borders.
I walk behind him in the mud, placing my feet in the imprints he leaves behind,
never looking back.

My father and I are strangers
weighed down by sodden blankets wet with heaven's tears
I walk beside him on the rails, holding his frozen hand,
searching the horizon.

My son and I are exiles
outcasts and strangers in a foreign land, your land
I carry him on my back, he weighs less than a breath,
weary, I walk on.

My son and I are dreamers
we are not strangers
though we are different, we have hopes of a better time
is there a place for us?

We are every father and son
from Babylon to Bordeaux, from Israel to Ireland,
three thousand years wandering
on the face of the earth.

(first published in Glasgow: Justice/Just Is, 2019)

Calling All Poets of Faith

Share Your Poem.

Share Your Ministry Story.

Inspire Others.

Experienced God moving through your words?

Has poetry been part of your ministry?

We invite **poets, writers, and creatives** to share their *poetry and the stories behind them*—how your gift has touched lives, strengthened communities, or deepened your spiritual journey.

Let your voice be heard. Let your testimony flow.

Your words may be the encouragement someone else needs today.

KINNOULL MONASTERY

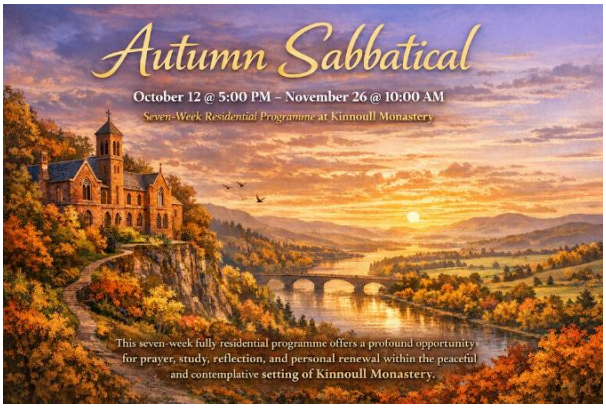
A place of beauty, tranquillity and history

Saint Mary's Monastery and Pastoral Centre, Kinnoull Perth continues to be a place of renewal, rest and relaxation for many people. We are always delighted to welcome priests, Sisters, Brothers and lay people for a few days during the week, in which they can renew their spirit and also rest.

We also have structured programmes and large groups coming for weekends.

Autumn Sabbatical

Our Autumn Sabbatical runs from **12th October to 26th November,** and participants are welcome for the whole sabbatical. or for an individual week from Sunday evening until Thursday afternoon. The input includes weeks on: Self-esteem and Healing, Transitions in life, Ethics and Moral Reasoning, Scripture, the mind of Pope Francis and Pope Leo with input on Laudato Si and other topics. Please feel free to make enquiries about attending the whole sabbatical, or one week or even more.



The Silent Advent Retreat

is another very popular event this year. The dates are from **Friday 11th December** until **Sunday 13th December.**

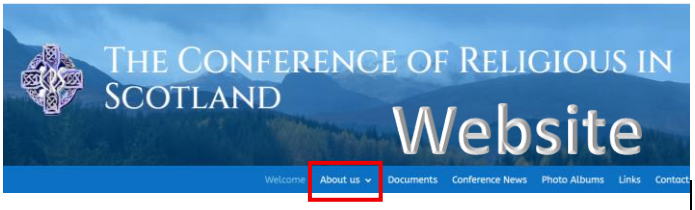
The community and staff look forward to welcoming anyone who wishes to come, or to bring a group, to enjoy our hospitality and our extensive grounds on the slopes of Kinnoull Hill. The City of Perth is only a mile away and is easily accessible

All enquiries to info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk Tel: (+44) 01738 624075.

Situated on the slopes of beautiful Kinnoull Hill, and a spiritual resource since 1866, our lovely Retreat and Conference Centre has 26 en-suite rooms, and 2 additional for people with special needs.

We have small oratories for prayer and other prayer spaces, as well as beautifully appointed lounge and communal areas. Our refectory serves good food prepared by professional chefs.

Our gardens and woods offer the opportunity for a deeper contact with nature as well as a space for walking and reflecting.



Do you remember back in December we mentioned that the website was getting a makeover?

A new page has now been created for **CRS members**. You can find it under the heading **About us.**

This new CRS members page has a brief introduction with a list of our members. *I invite you to go and have a look at it, especially the delegates*.
If you would like your name to be different from how it appears on the list, please talk to your delegate and to save any confusion could the **delegate** send me an email with any change.

We sometimes have a name we are better known by than our "official names".

I would like to create for each Congregation your own page that say's a little about who you are here in **Scotland**.

I need your collaboration. No matter how few or how many, your congregation is present in Scotland and that is important.

I have prepared a form which I will send it out to the delegates. So, delegates, over to you, talk have a conversation with your communities over a coffee and when you are ready, fill in the form via the computer or print it off and write it then return it to the CRS secretariat. I don't mind what means you use so feel free.

I would also like you to send in an image file (jpg or png) of your Congregation emblem/symbol. And if you have one, a photo of your first house in Scotland. (maybe in your archives). There are a couple of examples online you can look at.

(click on the names in blue)

If you could send me that link to your Official Congregation website so we can learn more about each other, our spirituality, our founders etc

Thank you in advance for your collaboration, I can't do it without you.

Sr Christine

Dear Conferences of Religious,

Please receive our warmest greetings from the **Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors**, along with an invitation to the 2nd Annual Encounter on the Prevention of Abuse in Consecrated Life.

This event will be held in **Rome on December 9, 10, and 11, 2026,** and will focus on the theme: "Called to Communion, Care, and Justice: Mutual Relationships for a Shared Mission".

The Encounter will build upon the conclusions of the Commission's **Third Annual Report** and will offer a valuable opportunity to continue the dialogue beyond the publication, broadening the reflection to include the participation of bishops, religious institutes, and safeguarding experts. Designed as a learning workshop focused on concrete results, it aims to bring together the dicasteries, institutes of consecrated life, bishops, and key ecclesial actors to identify:

- lessons confirmed by experience and the report's data.
- best practices worthy of promotion.
- operational recommendations to strengthen an authentic culture of protection and justice.

We would be very happy to have you join us at this year's Encounter; please find the promotional poster and program attached to this email. You can register via the following link:

Registration for the Workshop : Rellenar formulario

If you would like to receive the poster with QR code to register, email the CRS Secretariat

The program is on the next page

2nd Annual Encounter on the Prevention of Abuse in Consecrated Life

Communion, Care, and Justice

Mutual Relations for a Shared Mission

December 9–11, 2026 | Rome | Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

The 2nd Annual Encounter is a synodal learning workshop, based on the contents of the Third Annual Report on Ecclesial Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding, with the aim of strengthening mutual relationships as a constitutive dimension of protection. Participants include bishops (with special attention to those responsible for consecrated life in their dioceses), institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life, conferences and unions of major superiors, representatives of the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, safeguarding professionals, and ecclesial actors committed to prevention.

DAY 1 · Wednesday, December 9, 2026

Foundations: the Annual Report and mutual relations

Morning — **Opening and joint inaugural address**

Institutional greetings; protection rooted in the Gospel (Eastern Churches and the synodal perspective); presentation of the Third Annual Report; brief responses.

Morning — **Learning Workshop I — Mutual Relations and Safeguarding**

With representatives from the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia

Afternoon — **Roundtable — Mutual Relations for a Shared Mission**

Roundtables and parallel panels on best practices (General Chapters; Apostolic Visits; formation and diocesan collaboration).

DAY 2 · Thursday, December 10, 2026

Global alliances and canonical instruments

Morning — **UISG–CARA–PCTM Global White Paper and Learning Lab II**

Feedback session with representatives from the Dicasteries; roundtables on the local application of global learnings.

Afternoon — **Canon Law Sessions I and II**

Responsibilities and competencies in safeguarding cases related to consecrated life; procedures for reporting, accompaniment, information sharing, and appropriate response.

Afternoon — **Working groups and comments in plenary session**

Drafting of specific recommendations to be incorporated into the Shared Commitments on the third day.

DAY 3 · Friday, December 11, 2026

Synodal dialogue, audience with the Holy Father, and shared commitments

Morning — **Structured discussion and consolidation of the document**

Working session to compile the contributions from the previous two days, with the aim of jointly drafting the Shared Commitments document to be presented to the Holy Father.

11.30am — **Audience with the Holy Father**

To conclude the event, participants will be received in audience by His Holiness for the presentation of the document on Shared Commitments.

Afternoon — **Closing meeting, group photo, and final farewells**

Networking lunch and final blessing