

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Parish of St. Mary's, Arisaig & St. Donnan's, Isle of Eigg  
Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Cumin's, Morar;  
St. Patrick's, Mallaig & St. Columba's, Isle of Canna

## BIRTHDAY MASSES:

*Ad multos annos!*

### Weekday Services (24<sup>th</sup> December – 29<sup>th</sup> December)

Monday Christmas Octave .....	Morar: 10.15 am
Tuesday Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Solemnity .....	Mallaig: 10.15 am
Wednesday St Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen .....	Arisaig: 10.15 am
Thursday .....	Mallaig: 10.15 am
Friday .....	no Mass
Saturday .....	Arisaig: 10.15 am

### Sunday Masses 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> December (The Holy Family - C)

Saturday (Vigil-Mass) 6:00 pm .....	Morar
Sunday 10:00 am .....	Arisaig
Sunday 11:30 am .....	Mallaig

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Devotions:

Morar: after Mass on Friday

### Sacrament of Reconciliation (unless announced otherwise):

1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 10:30 am .....	Arisaig
3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month 5:00 pm .....	Mallaig
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month 5:00 pm .....	Morar

Housebound visits this week .....

*no visits*

### COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:	
23.12 .....	TOTAL £483 (Gift Aid £279.70)
Arisaig:	
23.12 .....	tba

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: James MacDonald (Morar) 01.01; Angus MacDonald (Ardnafuaran) 27.12; Sandy MacDonald; Bella MacLellan (Seaview) 25.12. Vera Byrne (died recently).

*Eternal rest...*

## The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C) 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018

*R) They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!



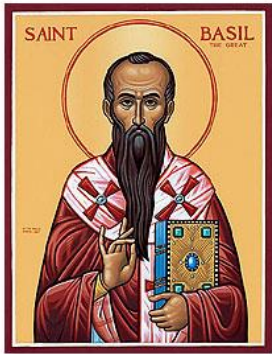
Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

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# Happy New Year!

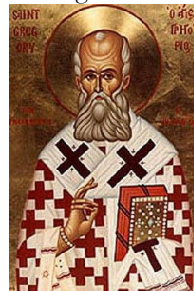
**May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace. Amen**



## Wednesday

### St Basil and St Gregory Nazianzen

Basil was born in 330 at Caesarea in Cappadocia, of a Christian family. A brilliant scholar and a virtuous man, he started by becoming a hermit but was made bishop of Caesarea in 370. He fought against the Arians and wrote many notable works, in particular the monastic rule that bears his name and which many monks in the East follow to this day. He was also generous to the poor. He died on 1 January 379.



Gregory was born in 330, near Nazianzus. He travelled widely in search of knowledge. He followed his friend Basil into the wilderness, but he too was ordained and later made a bishop. He was elected Bishop of Constantinople in 381 but because of the factional fighting within the Church he retired to Nazianzus, where he died on 25 January 389 or 390. He is known as "Gregory the Theologian" in honour of his learning and eloquence.

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Our Special Collection is at the Crib during Christmastide. On 7<sup>th</sup> January we will have a Special Collection for Justice and Peace. Letter from Bishop Nolan will be read out. On 21<sup>st</sup> January, we will have a Special Collection for Scottish Catholic Education Service. On 28<sup>th</sup> January, a Missionary from St. Patrick's Missionary Society will make a Mission Appeal.

**VISITORS:** We welcome all the Visitors to our area. Hope you have a nice and pleasant stay. If you like our Parishes, please follow our page on Facebook!

**MASS TIME CHANGE:** Please note the Mass time change on Tuesday.

**PERSONAL:** My Sister Malgorzata (Margaret) left during the week and returned safely home – no adventures this time! My parents will be staying with me for a few days and returning to Gdansk on Friday.

**FOOD BANK NEEDS OUR HELP:** Winter is upon us and the demand for assistance of this form is growing. A lot of people during the summer months depend on seasonal jobs to provide for themselves and their families, however, when winter comes, these jobs are unavailable, and houses need to be heated

children and vulnerable people fed. Therefore, I would like to ask you to help Fort William Food Bank. Sheila, working in the Coop, is helping to organise some form of stable connection between Arisaig/Morar/Mallaig and Fort William Food Bank. Please, consider buying a few extras and leaving them in the Coop for the most vulnerable ones.

**WINTER IS HERE:** The past few days has shown us that what we might face this year is a harsh winter. This will lead to higher heating bills for our churches. If you would like to make a donation for Heating and Lighting in Memory of your loved ones, please feel free to do so. I will include the names in our newsletter and of course the Parish Community will pray for our faithful departed. I am very grateful for your generosity.

**ORGANIST:** Our thanks once again to Joe McHenry, who travelled all the way from Glasgow to play at our Mases this Christmas! He has always been a wonderful friend to me and our Parishes.

**MONSIGNIOR GERARD MACKAY RIP:** Fr Gerry MacKay, priest of our diocese, who worked in Rome for many years has passed away. His funeral will take place in Rome.

**NEW YEAR CATHOLIC TRIVIA:** Having in mind Hogmanay parties, I did some investigation in regard of the aftermath of the parties and it turns out there is a patron saint of hangovers. Santa Bibiana is her name. Why such an obviously useful saint is virtually unknown is one of the great mysteries of our times. Other than the name, nothing is known for certain about this saint. However, we have the following account from a later tradition. In the year 363, Julian the Apostate made Apronianus Governor of Rome. St. Bibiana suffered in the persecution started by him. She was the daughter of Christians, Flavian, a Roman knight, and Dafrosa, his wife. Flavian was tortured and sent into exile, where he died of his wounds. Dafrosa was beheaded, and their two daughters, Bibiana and Demetria, were stripped of their possessions and left to suffer poverty. However, they remained in their house, spending their time in fasting and prayer. Apronianus, seeing that hunger and want had no effect upon them, summoned them. Demetria, after confessing her Faith, fell dead at the feet of the tyrant. St. Bibiana was reserved for greater sufferings. She was placed in the hands of a wicked woman called Rufina, who in vain endeavoured to seduce her. She used blows as well as persuasion, but the Christian virgin remained faithful. Enraged at the constancy of this saintly virgin, Apronianus ordered her to be tied to a pillar and beaten with scourges, laden with lead plummets, until she expired. The saint endured the torments with joy, and died under the blows inflicted by the hands of the executioner. It is said that upon her burial "mysterious and magical herbs" grew up around her grave and that it was these herbs that worked the miracles. A church was built over her grave in Rome. It is said that in the Middle Ages pilgrims to the holy site of Santa Bibiana would scrape dust from its columns and eat it which helped recover from hangover just as the original herbs did. My own advice however is this... moderation!

**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** There are a lot of people not well at the moment and require our constant prayers and support.

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear us for Your sick servants for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily health, they may give thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord.*

### ARISAIG PARISH:

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER:** Congratulations to Morag MacKenzie.

### MORAR PARISH:

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER:** Congratulations to Ann MacLean.

**CHURCH LOTTERY:** Have you bought your ticket today? It is a great way of showing support.



**HEATING&LIGHTING:** In Memory of Mairi MacLeod