

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Cumin, Morar  
St. Mary's, Arisaig – Our Lady of the Angels, Mingarry  
St. Columba's, Isle of Canna – St. Donnan's, Isle of Eigg  
St. Patrick's, Mallaig - St. Agnes, Glenuig

### Weekday Services (4<sup>th</sup> December – 9<sup>th</sup> December)

Monday ..... Morar: 10.15 am  
Bishop McGee's visit to Mingarry ..... Mingarry: 5.15 pm  
Tuesday ..... Mallaig: 5.00 pm  
Wednesday ..... Arisaig: 10.15 am  
Thursday *St Ambrose* ..... Mallaig: 10:15 am  
Friday *The Immaculate Conception of the BVM* ..... Morar: 10.15 am  
Saturday ..... Arisaig: 10.15 am

### Sunday Masses 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - B)

Saturday (Vigil-Mass) 6:00 pm ..... Morar  
Sunday 10:00 am ..... Arisaig  
Sunday 11:30 am ..... Mallaig  
Sunday 2:00 pm ..... Mingarry

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Devotions:

Morar: Friday after Mass

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 4.30 pm – Bishop McGee .....Mingarry  
Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 5.00 pm ..... Morar  
Any other time upon request

Housebound visits this week ..... Arisaig

**ANNIVERSARIES/MM:** Elizabeth Morrison (died recently); Morag Lawday (died recently); Mary MacDonald (died recently); Graeme Gillies 3/12/2006; John Gillies 2/12/77; Mary Margaret MacKellaig 8/12/1918; Margaret Culley 9/12/1983;

*Eternal rest...*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (B)

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017

*R) Lord of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help. Alleluia!*



### Thursday - St Ambrose

He was born in Trier (now in Germany) between 337 and 340, to a Roman family: his father was praetorian prefect of Gaul. Ambrose was educated at Rome and embarked on the standard cursus honorum of Roman advocates and administrators, at Sirmium, the capital of Illyria. In about 372 he was made prefect of Liguria and Emilia, whose capital was Milan.

In 374 the bishopric of Milan fell vacant and when Ambrose tried to pacify the conflict between the Catholics and Arians over the appointment of a new bishop, the people turned on him and demanded that he become the bishop himself. He was a layman and not yet baptized (at this time it was common for baptism to be delayed and for people to remain for years as catechumens), but that was no defence. Coerced by the people and by the emperor, he was baptized, ordained, and installed as bishop within a week, on 7 December 374. He immediately gave his money to the poor and his land to the Church and set about learning theology. He had the advantage of knowing Greek, which few people did at that time, and so he was able to read the Eastern theologians and philosophers as well as those of the West. He was assiduous in carrying out his office, acting with charity to all: a true shepherd and teacher of the faithful. He was unimpressed by status and when the Emperor Theodosius ordered the massacre of 7,000 people in Thessalonica, Ambrose forced him to do public penance. He defended the rights of the Church and attacked the Arian heresy with learning, firmness and gentleness. He also wrote a number of hymns which are still in use today. He died on Holy Saturday, 4 April 397.



## Saturday – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary was conceived without *original sin*, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered “Yes” to the request, conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of the incarnate God. The doctrine was almost universally

believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Because it is so old, it is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are very different.

**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!

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Available at the back of the Churches.

**MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS:** many thanks to all who attended the practice last Saturday. There will be a 20-minute run-through, for anyone who was unable to be there, after Mass in Mallaig on **Sunday 10th December**. The final rehearsal will be on **Tuesday 19th** in Arisaig at 7pm.

**IMPORTANT! PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND:** Please speak to me asap if you wish to secure your space as we have reached the bus capacity. There is also a deadline for the deposit which is now £200 by 5<sup>th</sup> December. Cheques payable to ‘RCDAI Morar Mission’. Details provided in a wee leaflet.

**FR WYNNE:** Some of you might have heard that Fr Tom has not been well in the last few weeks. He was in Hospital in Aberdeen with some kidney problems. Since then he has been transferred back to Raigmore Hospital where I visited him last Saturday (today). Despite some discomfort he is as happy as ever and very grateful for all our prayers and best wishes. He hopes to return home to Fort William in the coming week.

**WINTER IS COMING:** The past few days has shown us that what we might face this year is a harsh winter. That 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.

**RBS CLOSURE:** It is with great sadness that I learnt of the Branches’ Closure. Living in the Rough Bounds has its difficulties but to find out that a service that has been provided for years is to be taken away is most upsetting, not even to mention the lost jobs. I pray that the modern civilisation would never lose the understanding of the word ‘service’ and never replace it with ‘profit’.

**CITIZENSHIP:** I received word from Home Office that my application has been successful. I will have to attend a Citizenship Ceremony in Fort William to be formally acknowledged as a British Citizen.

### ARISAIG PARISH:

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** This year our visiting Confessor will be Fr Donald MacKinnon. He will hear confessions at St. Mary’s, Arisaig on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 11am.

**MORAG LAWDAY RIP:** I got word last week, that Morag had passed away. She was a sister to late Alec MacEachen (Seagull). Morag’s Funeral Mass will take place on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. We offer our prayers for Morag and her family.

**MIMA GILLIES RIP:** Many thanks for your generosity at the Funeral. We raised £271.05.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Many thanks for your presence and contributions. The minutes will be available at the back of the church.

**NEW CHAPEL HOUSE WINDOWS:** I posted a letter to the Diocese to ask for approval to replace the Windows. The meeting of the Committees will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

### MORAR PARISH:

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** This year our visiting Confessor will be Fr Donald MacKinnon. He will hear confessions at St. Patrick’s, Mallaig on 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

**ELIZABETH MORRISON RIP:** The burial will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> December at 11am at the Old Morar Graveyard.

**MORAR VESTMENTS:** I was contacted last week by the Museum. Our vestments will make their way back on 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

**MALLAIG DINNER:** I have already received an invitation to the Fisherman’s Mission Christmas Meal. I am very much looking forward to it and very grateful to be included!

**BISHOP’S VISIT:** Bishop McGee enjoyed his visit to Morar and Mallaig. He had plenty of activities to do during the day. After his visit he even had a cow named after him – Brianna. Details on Facebook.

**ADJUSTED ROTA:** There is an adjusted Cleaning Rota available.

### MINGARRY PARISH:

**LAST DECISIONS:** It seems that one of my last decisions to make regarding the Parish will be to update the upstairs bathroom in the Chapel House. Some unexpected external funding has become available that has allowed me to update the main bathroom upstairs. There will be a pump installed to have the right water pressure for the shower. I apologise for not consulting with you beforehand but as the expense will not be out of the Parish and had to be made fast, I decided myself. However, the plumbers discovered that the hot water cylinder is in terrible condition and is leaking at the moment. Floor under the tank is wet and unsafe. Plumber and joiner are going to patch it all up, as was done before, but there is no guarantee on how long the repair will last. As the tank is connected to the fire downstairs it might be a significant expense that will have to be addressed at some point. I am sure that you will be able to assist the new priest with that while he enjoys his new bathroom.

**APPOINTMENTS:** As my time as a Parish Priest is coming to an end and I want to give some freedom to the new Parish Priest therefore I hereby dissolve the Parish Council. It will be up to the new Parish Priest to form a new Council if he wishes to do so. I hereby appoint Frances MacLean, Alice Gillies and Richard Stead to form a Finance Committee to assist the new Parish Priest. These changes are taking effect as of 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

**BISHOP’S VISIT:** Bishop McGee will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of the Angels at **5.15 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> December**. We will have a Parish meeting after Mass in the Church Hall. I would like to ask you to prepare teas/coffees for the Bishop. During the day Bishop will visit some of the Parishioners. He will be hearing Confessions at **4.30pm** in Mingarry.

**SONGS OF ADVENT:** Sun 10th Dec 7pm - Peninsula Carols – An ecumenical Advent Celebration looking forward to Christmas – Strontian Village Hall. There will be a retiring collection for Mary’s Meals.

### COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:	26.11	.....£345 (Gift Aid £213.70)
Arisaig:	26.11	.....£244.60 (GA £114.75)
Mingarry:	26.11	.....£187.50 (Gift Aid £115)