

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

Weekday Services (4th February – 10th February)

Monday *St Agatha* Morar: 10.15 am
Tuesday *Sts Paul Miki and Companions* Mallaig: 5.00 pm
Wednesday Arisaig: 10.15 am
Thursday Mallaig: 10.15 am
Friday Morar: 10.15 am
Saturday *St Scholastica* Arisaig: 10.15 am

Sunday Masses 10th/11th February (Sixth Sunday of the Year - B)

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Devotions:

Morar: usually after Mass on Friday

Sacrament of Reconciliation (unless announced otherwise):

1st Saturday of the month 10:30 am Arisaig
3rd Saturday of the month 5:00 pm Mallaig
2nd, 4th, 5th Saturday of the month 5:00 pm Morar
Housebound visits this week Morar, Thursday

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:
28.01 £398 (Gift Aid £245.50)
Catholic Education £210
Arisaig:
28.01 £210 (Gift Aid £87.50)
Catholic Education £86.20

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: Duncan Dewar (died recently, Tickhill, Doncaster); John Buchan 30/01/1991; Duncan MacKellaig (Parkmhor) 3/2; Chrissie McKelvie (Mallaig) 2/2/97; Duncan McDonell (Bracara) 4/2; Isabel MacDonald (Kinsadel) 04/02/1981

Eternal rest...

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Fifth Sunday of the Year (B)

4th February 2018

*R) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!*



MONDAY - St Agatha

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service. That did not stop men from desiring her and making unwanted advances toward her. However, one of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage. To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom. Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel -- a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her. Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Savior, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture? this

evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers. After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled over naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

Agatha is believed to have passed into Heaven around the year 251.

She is commonly featured in religious art with shears, tongs, or breasts on a plate.

St. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses. She is also considered to be a powerful intercessor when people suffer from fires.

TUESDAY - Sts Paul Miki and Companions

He was born in Japan between 1564 and 1566. He joined the Society of Jesus and preached the gospel to the Japanese people with great success. When a persecution of the Catholics arose, he was arrested together with twenty-five others. Mocked and tortured, they were eventually taken to



Nagasaki on 5 February 1597, bound to crosses and speared.



FRIDAY - St Scholastica

She was born in Nursia in about 480, the twin sister of St Benedict. She was dedicated to God from an early age and followed her brother to Cassino, where she died in about 547.

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!

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Our next Special Collection will be in March for SCIAF.

DOG PROBLEMS: My apologies for changes in the past week. I know that there is no comparison of importance between the Eucharist and the dog but due to 'Kora's' digestive track problems, I had to go to the vet in Fort William. She went through a lot of scans and tests and it seems quite difficult to narrow down the problem. I am very worried about her. At the moment however, she seems to be recovering.

AVOCADO HAND: Avocados should carry warning labels following a rise in knife injuries from cutting into the fruit, a doctor has warned. Leading plastic surgeon Simon Eccles has said he treats about four patients a week at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for such wounds, with staff dubbing the injury "avocado hand".

I must say that I am not as sophisticated as that but what actually happened to me last week could be called "turnip hand". Preparing dinner, I suffered a serious but not life-threatening injury. Many thanks to Doctor Iain who "stitched me up".

SCIAF MATERIALS: Our Lenten Boxes have arrived and are available at the back of our Churches.

LENT 2018: Lent begins on 14 February, Ash Wednesday. Holy Thursday falls on 29 March this year.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: There is 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.

CONCERT: On 25th February at 4pm we will hold an Opera Concert at St. Mary's, Arisaig. Several artists (singers, along with a violinist, a cellist, a harpist and an organist) from the Scottish Opera will be performing the Faure Requiem to commemorate all of those who died in the First World War, choosing this date to particularly remember Mary McKinnon, who died on the Hospital Ship, The Glenart Castle on February 26th 1918. We want everyone to feel welcome, it is a free concert to which all are welcome. There will be a collection at the end, so that people who wish, can make a contribution toward St Mary's and the Community Council to support the Christmas Lunch for the elderly people of the village. Please spread the word as this is such a rare opportunity to have such famous and renowned artists doing something for our community.

I wish I could take credit for organising the concert but the idea came from Fiona MacDonald who invited over her friends. Fiona is related to Morag MacDonald (Ard-na-fuaran) to whom I am very grateful for giving that inspiration for this event.

ARISAIG PARISH:

PARISH COUNCIL: Please make a note for Monday, 19th February at 7pm.

ALEXANDER GILLIES RIP: Many thanks for your presence and support at the funeral. We raised £341 for the Parish. Many thanks.

NEW (OLD) KITCHEN: It is amazing how transformed and modernised our Kitchen has become. It still needs to be painted.

MORAR PARISH:

PARISH COUNCIL: Many thanks for your attendance. Minutes will be available in due course.

CONFIRMATIONS: This year will take place in Mallaig on 15th February at 6.30pm. I hope as many as possible come to support our children. There will be a tea/coffee at the West Highland Hotel afterwards. Bishop McGee is looking forward to it.