

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 (9th December – 15th December)

Monday Requiem Mass of Jackie MacLellan RIP	Mallaig: 12 noon
Tuesday	Mallaig: 5.00 pm
Wednesday	Arisaig: 10.15 am
Thursday St Lucy	Mallaig: 10.15 am
Friday St John of the Cross	Morar: 10.15 am
Saturday	Arisaig: 10.15 am

Sunday Masses 15th/16th December (Third Sunday of Advent - 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 st Saturday of the month 10:30 am	Arisaig
3 rd Saturday of the month 5:00 pm	Mallaig
2 nd , 4 th , 5 th Saturday of the month 5:00 pm	Morar

Housebound visits this week *no visits*

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:	
02.12	TOTAL £463 (Gift Aid £334)
Arisaig:	
25.11 Correction	TOTAL £275.10 (Gift Aid £138.20)
02.12	TOTAL £262.95 (Gift Aid £90.95)

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: Margaret Culley 09.12.1983; Joseph MacLeod 11.12.1953; Angie MacDonald (Arisaig) 22.11.2005; Susan MacLellan 13.12.2014.

Eternal rest...

Second Sunday of Advent (C)

9th December 2018

*R) What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2018



Thursday - St Lucy

Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith. Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life. After several prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, Lucy saw the saint in a dream. St. Agatha told Lucy her mother's illness would be cured through faith, which Lucy used to persuade her mother to give the dowry money to the poor and allow her to commit her life to God. While Lucy and her mother were grateful to God, the rejected bridegroom was deeply angered and betrayed Lucy's faith to the governor Paschasius. The governor attempted to force her into defilement at a brothel, but the guards who came to take her away were unable to move her, even after hitching her to a team of oxen. The guards heaped bundles of wood around her

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but it wouldn't burn so they finally resorted to their swords, and Lucy met her death. Though details of her life remain unknown, it is widely known that during her lifetime Christians were persecuted for their faith. They were forced to endure horrific torture and often met painful ends during Diocletian's reign. Though the details surrounding her death remain only as legends, it is all modern-day Christians can rely on.

Friday

St John of the Cross

He was born in Fontiveros, in Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Ávila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm. His works include two major mystical poems – he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.



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! We pray for good weather for all our visitors.

PERSONAL: When I read this newsletter, once I was finished, I was horrified! Money, money, money... the only subject that is so uncomfortable to talk about, but I actually support transparency and that is why I produced the numbers, especially after Bishop McGee's leaflet informing of Levy Increase. Please note that I am not an accountant and tried to list the most important totals from our budget. I am very grateful to the Finance Committees for keeping an eye on all the finances. They are a great help to the Parish and me personally in my office duties. Please do not hesitate to ask me or them any questions that you might have. It turned out to be quite a busy week and it looks like that it is going to get busier before Christmas!

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: This year, our visiting Confessor will be Fr Andrzej Harden, who currently serves as Administrator in Fort Augustus. He will be available for Confession at St. Patrick's in Mallaig between 6pm and 7 pm on 18th of December (Tuesday) and at St. Mary's in Arisaig on 19th December (Wednesday) between 10.30am and 11am.

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 few extras and leaving them in the Coop for the most vulnerable ones.

FR STAN GOT A RAISE! At the meeting of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland that took place from 5-7 November 2018, members of the Conference accepted the remuneration for Parish Priests and Assistant Priests from its current level of £2915 to £2988 for the period 1 January until 31 December 2019.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Our next Special Collection will be at the Crib during Christmastide.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: I know there is still a lot of time till Christmas but remember that just like last year, Christmas Cards will be available in Arisaig, Morar and Mallaig Stalls. It is a great opportunity to support your Parish as well as using Religious Cards for Christmas. There is a lot to choose from.

ADVENT PRAYER GROUP: Thank you to all who participated at our Prayer Group Meeting last Thursday. Our next meeting will take place in Arisaig Club Room (Parish Hall) on Thursday, **13th December at 6pm**. Please speak to me, if you would like to receive our 'homework' to read and pray over.

WINTER IS COMING: 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.

DEANERY MEETING: I will be attending a Deanery Meeting in Roy Bridge this Tuesday.

FR BARETT: Fr Andrew has requested three months leave from parish duties for personal reasons. Fr Peter Wilcox S.J. will take up residence at St Mun's this coming Friday until after Christmas. We continue to pray for our priests, especially in our local area and ask the Good Lord for New Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

HEALTH AND SAFETY: In the near future, you will start noticing new signs and lights at the entrances – this is to comply with Health and Safety Regulations. Two years ago, the diocese started carrying out surveys throughout the Halls and Churches. Based on the produced reports, we are to improve our compliance with the latest Regulations. The reports were individual for each building and had a lot of points on the checklist, some of which have already improved. However, as the new survey will be carried to see what has been achieved, we have to hurry with the work. I am very grateful to Anne MacDonald (Craighmor), who agreed to become a Health and Safety Advisor in both Parishes. Anne has already started, and I have given her complete freedom to organise the workforce to improve our rating. This is a massive load work on Anne's shoulders and I hope that you will be able to offer her assistance to finish the projects as soon as possible.

PILGRIMAGE 2019 – A lot of people have been asking me about the details of our New Pilgrimage in 2019. So here are some headlines: the dates are 17-24.09.2019, we will be flying out from Edinburgh Airport to Porto and travelling to places like Pontevedra, Santiago de Campostela, Fatima, Lisbon and many other places. There will be a time even to relax in a SPA! I will announce the details shortly and hope to keep the costs similar to our last Pilgrimage (pray for good exchange rate!). There are only 40 places available and I already have some volunteers!

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.

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: This Saturday, during Mass in Arisaig, I will administer the Sacrament of the Sick. We should ask ourselves a question: Do I believe that Christ the Divine Physician can bring me healing and relief? I would like to invite all Parishioners who feel that they need that Sacramental strength. I thought it would be good to include some information on the Theology of Prayer for the Sick from a document published by the Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith:

«People are called to joy. Nevertheless each day they experience many forms of suffering and pain.» (1) Therefore, the Lord, in his promises of redemption, announces the joy of the heart that comes from liberation from sufferings (cf. Is 30:29; 35:10; Bar 4:29). Indeed, he is the one «who delivers from every evil» (Wis 16:8). Among the different forms of suffering, those which accompany illness are continually present in human history. They are also the object of man's deep desire to be delivered from every evil.

In the Old Testament, «it is the experience of Israel that illness is mysteriously linked to sin and evil.» (2) Among the punishments threatened by God for the people's unfaithfulness, sickness has a prominent place (cf. Dt 28:21-22, 27-29, 35). The sick person who beseeches God for healing confesses to have been justly punished for his sins (cf. Ps 37; 40; 106:17-21).

Sickness, however, also strikes the just, and people wonder why. In the Book of Job, this question occupies many pages. «While it is true that suffering has meaning as punishment, when it is connected with a fault, it is not true that all suffering is a consequence of a fault and has the nature of a punishment. The figure of the just man Job is a special proof of this in the Old Testament... And if the Lord consents to test Job with suffering, he does it to demonstrate the latter's righteousness. The suffering has the character of a test.» (3)

Although sickness may have positive consequences as a demonstration of the faithfulness of the just person, and for repairing the justice that is violated by sin, and also because it may cause a sinner to reform and set out on the way of conversion, it remains, however, an evil. For this reason, the prophet announces the future times in which there will be no more disease and infirmity, and the course of life will no longer be broken by death (cf. Is 35:5-6; 65: 19-20).

It is in the New Testament, however, that the question of why illness also afflicts the just finds a complete answer. In the public activity of Jesus, his encounters with the sick are not isolated, but continual. He healed many through miracles, so that miraculous healings characterised his activity: «Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness» (Mt 9:35; cf. 4:23). These healings are signs of his messianic mission (cf. Lk 7:20-23). They manifest the victory of the kingdom of God over every kind of evil, and become the symbol of the restoration to health of the whole human person, body and soul. They serve to demonstrate that Jesus has the power to forgive

sins (cf. Mk 2:1-12); they are signs of the salvific goods, as is the healing of the paralytic of Bethsaida (cf. Jn 5:2-9, 19-21) and the man born blind (cf. Jn 9).

The first preaching of the Gospel, as recounted in the New Testament, was accompanied by numerous miraculous healings that corroborated the power of the Gospel proclamation. This had been the promise of the Risen Jesus, and the first Christian communities witnessed its realization in their midst: «These signs will accompany those who believe: ...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover» (Mk 16:17-18). The preaching of Philip in Samaria was accompanied by miraculous healings: «Philip went down to a city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralysed and crippled people were cured» (Acts 8:5-7). Saint Paul describes his own proclamation of the Gospel as characterized by signs and wonders worked by the power of the Holy Spirit: «For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to lead the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit» (Rom 15:18-19; cf. 1 Thes 1:5; 1 Cor 2:4-5). It would not be without foundation to suppose that these signs and wonders, manifestations of the power of God that accompanied the preaching of the Gospel, were constituted in large part by miraculous healings. Such wonders were not limited to St. Paul's ministry, but were also occurring among the faithful: «Does then the one who supplies the Spirit to you and works mighty deeds among you do so from works of the law or from faith in what you have heard preached?» (Gal 3:5).

The messianic victory over sickness, as over other human sufferings, does not happen only by its elimination through miraculous healing, but also through the voluntary and innocent suffering of Christ in his passion, which gives every person the ability to unite himself to the sufferings of the Lord. In fact, «Christ himself, though without sin, suffered in his passion pains and torments of every type, and made his own the sorrows of all men: thus he brought to fulfilment what had been written of him by the prophet Isaiah (cf. Is 53:4-5). (4)» But there is more: «In the cross of Christ not only is the redemption accomplished through suffering, but also human suffering itself has been redeemed... In bringing about the redemption through suffering, Christ has also raised human suffering to the level of the redemption. Thus each man in his suffering can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ.» (5)

The Church welcomes the sick not only as the recipients of her loving care, but also by recognizing that they are called «to live their human and Christian vocation and to participate in the growth of the kingdom of God in a new and more valuable manner. The words of the Apostle Paul ought to become their approach to life or, better yet, cast an illumination to permit them to see the meaning of grace in their very situation: 'In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church' (Col 1:24). Precisely in arriving at this realization, the Apostle is raised up in joy: 'I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake' (Col 1:24). (6)» It is a paschal joy, fruit of the Holy Spirit, and, like Saint Paul, «in the same way many of the sick can become bearers of the 'joy inspired by the Holy Spirit in much affliction' (1 Thess 1:6) and be witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.» (7)

ARISAIG PARISH:

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Many thanks for your participation in the Parish Council. We made some decisions on the Kilmory Graveyard Extension (details in the PC Minutes). Out of 25 single plots, 15 will be available for pre-booking. I will announce in the Newsletter the deadline and leave Application Forms at the back of the Church in January. A Panel of 3 will review the applications and inform the applicants of the outcome. Please note that there are some requirements that have to be fulfilled (details in the Minutes).

CHRISTMAS HAMPER: Anne Bernadette MacMillan has prepared a Christmas Hamper this year. The tickets are available at the back of the Church. Please consider buying a ticket

for your friends and in this way support the Parish. Many thanks for preparing this wonderful prize!

NEW DIOCESAN LEVY: Last year, within a 12-month period, we paid in to the Diocese £3276 (not including Special Collections). This year, starting in December, we have to pay £5508. This is an increase of £2232. This is the set amount that we will have to pay, no matter how much our weekly Collection is going to be.

INTERNET CABLE IN THE CHURCH: My thanks to David Smith for his help in connecting the internet to the Church. He did a very good job and it will allow further improvements in the Church in the coming years.

THANKS FOR THE RESCUE: My thanks to Alistair Neil MacKay who came to my rescue in fixing the heating in the Church. The Boiler is now very old (1979?) and sensitive to any changes. One of the reasons why I wanted internet in the Church was to allow me to install an internet-controlled Thermostat for the Church. During the process, I accidentally blew a fuse in the boiler room. Alistair fixed the issue but during inspection it was discovered that all the wiring that should have been replaced years ago, somehow missed the boiler room. The wiring is in fact so old, that it remembers the youth of our oldest parishioners. Boiler room will have to be rewired asap.

FRESH HERBS: Thanks to Sister Maria Edith we have some fresh Rosemary from the Shrine of Our Lady available at the back. Help yourself and leave a donation in one of the boxes. There is nothing better than using fresh herbs when cooking our Christmas Meals. They add so much goodness!

HEATING ON?: Please note that the Church boiler is prone to tripping. Over the past 2 years I tried to limit these incidents by preventing the air gathering in the system (auto-vents) and putting anti-freeze in the system. However, there are some instances that I cannot predict – ex. If the wind is strong it pushes the air down the chimney and trips the boiler. As I cannot predict when it trips, sometimes I discover this shortly before Mass, which means that the Church is cold. The electric air blowers only come on when the main heating is on (it disperses the heat from the radiators, it does not produce any heat). I still think that we should get as much life as possible from the boiler as the replacement would be too expensive. We service it every year now and hope it will serve us for few winters yet. However, if these occurrences when the Church is cold continue, we will need to consider our options. Please, understand that I am doing my best to keep us warm!

MORAR PARISH:

CHRISTMAS HAMPER: Marina Muir has prepared a Christmas Hamper this year. The tickets are available at the back of the Church. Please consider buying a ticket for your friends and in this way support the Parish. Many thanks for preparing this wonderful prize!

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

LEAKS: Many thanks to MacKellaig Builders for the work they have done on the Church/Chapel House Chimneys. This was a major repair, boys had to endure horrendous weather to progress with the work and they have done a marvellous job. It was a serious repair, so we wanted to make sure that everything was done properly. Quite often when you watch these cookery programs on the television, you can see what kind of precision is required to mix the ingredients properly, and why do I mention it? I was truly amazed to see Angus 'Tougal' MacDonald and John MacKay under watchful eye of their boss Douglas MacKellaig when preparing concrete mixture, applying it to the wall, to make sure that no water would penetrate it! However, there has already been some water damage and the walls will need to

dry a bit. Duncan MacDonald will try to paint over the visible signs. Hopefully internally the walls will dry up.

NEW DIOCESAN LEVY: Last year, within a 12-month period, we paid in to the Diocese £4512 (not including Special Collections). This year, starting in December, we have to pay £8616. This is an increase of £4104. This is the set amount that we will have to pay, no matter how much our weekly Collection is going to be in the coming year.

MALLAIG SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH: Thank you for this kind invitation. Mallaig Community Council has asked me pass on this invitation to all Mallaig Senior Members of our Congregation. It will take place on the 12th December in Mallaig and Morar Community Centre at 12.00 for 12.30pm. I am very grateful to them for making me feel part of this Community.

MORAR SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH: Thank you for this invitation to the Christmas Lunch. I am very grateful to them for making me feel part of this Community.

JACKIE MACLELLAN RIP: With great sadness I heard about Jackie's passing in Inverness. He put up quite a fight and against the odds, was able to get the fullness of life. He never lost his faith and continued to trust in Christ the Healer! His funeral Mass will take place in Mallaig Church on Monday, 10th December at 12 noon.