

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR THE DEAD: Elaine MacKay; Helen & Laurence McGeough; Claire McGeough; Irene, Dougie & Leisha MacKellaig; Ronnie MacDonald; Michael Leonard.

Requiescant in pacem...

Weekday Services (17th December – 22nd December)

Monday	Mallaig: 10.15 am
Tuesday	Mallaig: 5.00 pm
Christmas Confessions	Mallaig: 6.00 pm -7.00 pm
Wednesday	Arisaig: 10.15 am
Christmas Confessions	Arisaig: 10.45 am - 11.15 am
Thursday	Mallaig: 10.15 am
Friday	Morar: 10.15 am
Saturday	Arisaig: 10.15 am

Sunday Masses 22nd/23rd December (Fourth 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 Mallaig / will try to see as many as time allows

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:	
09.12	TOTAL £368 (Gift Aid £215)
Arisaig:	
09.12	TOTAL £223.55 (Gift Aid £128.65)

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: Kelly Murphy 12.12.2017; Susan MacLellan; Patricia Argue 18.12.1998; John Gillies 2.12.1977.

Eternal rest...

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

Third Sunday of Advent (C)

16th December 2018

R) Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

THIRD (GAUDETE!) SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2018



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.

MORE VISTORS: My parents will be arriving on Thursday and spending Christmas with me like last year. They will be in Morar till 4th January so it is going to be a long break. My sister will be joining us between 22-29th December as well. I am delighted that they are coming.

PERSONAL: Please read the above. Do I need to say anything else? Mother is coming...

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.

STELLA NOVA CONCERT: Sunday 16th December at 3.00pm, Christmas Songs, Mallaig and Morar Community Centre.

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.

Parish Priest: Fr Stanislaw J. Pamula, Chapel House, Morar, Mallaig. PH40 4PB.

Tel. (01687) 462201 E-mails for Arisaig arisaig@rcdai.org.uk or for Morar Parish morar@rcdai.org.uk

Parish website: catholicroughbounds.org

facebook.com/catholicroughbounds

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: This year, Morar is hosting the Shepherd's Mass. I am sure that we will all try to make an effort to come to this special liturgy.

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS: Many thanks to all who attend Music Rehearsals. The final rehearsal will be on **Thursday 20th** in Morar at 7pm. My special thanks go to Margaret Andow for leading the practise and guiding us with her musical skills.

CRIB ASSEMBLY TEAMS: Preparations are already ongoing for our Cribs and Christmas decorations. Many thanks for your help with this wonderful display of the Birth of Christ!

Christmas Services 24th/25th December 2018

Christmas Night Mass (*aka Midnight Mass*) 10:00 pm.....Morar

Christmas Day Mass 10:00 am.....Arisaig

Christmas Day Mass 11:30 am.....Mallaig

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 last meeting will take place in Arisaig Club Room (Parish Hall) on Monday, **17th December at 5pm**. 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.

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.

FR CALLEJA: Fr Joe Calleja has been suffering from health issues recently and, following his doctor's advice, he is taking two months recuperation. I know that you will keep Joe in your prayers and we look forward to welcoming him back when he is feeling stronger.

PILGRIMAGE 2019 – A lot of people have been asking me about the details of our New Deanery 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 Compostela, 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! Speak to your children/parents. It would be a wonderful Christmas present!

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:

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Minutes from the meeting are available at the back.

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!

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!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Minutes from the meeting are available at the back.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: Every year, at Christmas, our flowers were donated by Mairi MacLeod. They have always been selected and prepared with such great care, thanks also to our flower ladies. As you know, Mairi is no longer with us, and yet Alistair has decided to continue this custom. Christmas is such a special time for many of us, but it can be very difficult especially to those, who lost their other halves. We offer our prayers for Mairi and all those who passed away this year, and also the ones, who will spend their first Christmas without their loved ones.

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

MALLAIG SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH: It was lovely to join Mallaig citizens for this event. I am very grateful for the invitation.

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: Thank you for your participation. The funeral Collection raised £713 which will be divided between the Parish and the Highland Hospice.

SAFEGUARDING: Our congratulations go to Margaret Andow for finishing up a course for Safeguarding in the Diocese. Margaret is now one of very few elite trainers, who will facilitate Safeguarding Training in the Diocese. We are proud that our Parishioner has such an important role in the Diocese.