

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR THE DEAD: Elaine MacKay; Helen & Laurence McGeough; Claire McGeough; Duncan McDonell; Ian MacDonald; Margaret MacEachen; Sandy MacDonald's Family.
CHRISTMAS MASSES FOR THE LIVING (FOR GOD'S BLESSING): Mae MacDonald; Sandy Macdonald's Family.

Ad multos annos!

Weekday Services (30th December – 3rd January)

Monday *Christmas Octave* Morar: 10.15 am
Tuesday *no Mass*
Wednesday *Mary, the Holy Mother of God* *no Mass*
Thursday *St Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen* *no Mass*
Friday Morar: 5.00 pm
Saturday Arisaig: 10.15 am

Sunday Masses 4th/5th January (The Epiphany of the Lord - A)

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):

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 *no visits*

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:
22.12 TOTAL £397 (Gift Aid £259)
Arisaig:
22.12 TOTAL £323.30 (Gift Aid £289.60)

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: James MacDonald (Morar) 01.01; Baby Ryan Moynihan Gillies 01.01; Irene (28.12) and Dougie MacKellaig; Leisha MacKellaig; Ronnie MacDonald; Michael Leonard. *Eternal rest...*

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (A) 29th December 2019

*R) O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you. 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 instil 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.



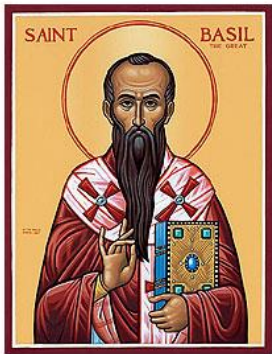
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Parish website: catholicroughbounds.org
facebook.com/catholicroughbounds



Happy New Year!

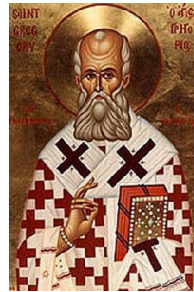
**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and
be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and
bring you peace. Amen**



Thursday 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



frictional 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 5th January we will have a Special Collection for Justice and Peace. Letter from Bishop Nolan will be read out. On 26th January, we will have a Special Collection for Scottish Catholic Education Service.

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 changes this week.

FOOD BANK NEEDS OUR HELP: Winter is here 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. Please, consider buying a few extras and leaving them in the Coop for the most vulnerable ones.

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.

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:

MORAR PARISH:

WINTER IS HERE: 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.

GEORGINA GLENN RIP: Many thanks for your participation and prayers at the Funeral Mass. Funeral Collection raised £122 to be shared between Belford Hospital and the Parish.

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



HEATING&LIGHTING: In Memory of Elaine MacKay

HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Vatican Basilica
Tuesday, 24 December 2019

“Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined” (Is 9:1). The prophecy we heard in the first reading was fulfilled in the Gospel: as shepherds kept watch over their flocks by night, “the glory of the Lord shone around them” (Lk 2:9). In the midst of our earthly night, a light appeared from heaven. What is the meaning of this light that shone in the darkness? Saint Paul tells us: “The grace of God has appeared”. The grace of God, “bringing salvation to all” (Tit 2:11), has shone on our world this night. But what is this grace? It is divine love, the love that changes lives, renews history, liberates from evil, fills hearts with peace and joy. Tonight the love of God has been revealed to us: it is Jesus. In Jesus, the Most High made himself tiny, so that we might love him. But we can still ask ourselves: why does Saint Paul describe the coming of God into our world as “grace”? To tell us that it is utterly free. Whereas on earth everything seems to be about giving in order to get, God comes down freely. His love is non-negotiable: we did nothing to deserve it and we will never be able to repay it. *The grace of God has appeared.* Tonight we realize that, when we failed to measure up, God became small for our sake; while we were going about our own business, he came into our midst. Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all, even the worst of us. To me, to you, to each of us, he says today: “I love you and I will always love you, for you are precious in my eyes”. God does not love you because you think and act the right way. He loves you, plain and simple. His love is unconditional; it does not depend on you. You may have mistaken ideas, you may have made a complete mess of things, but the Lord continues to love you. How often do we think that God is good if we are good and punishes us if we are bad. Yet that is not how he is. For all our sins, he continues to love us. His love does not change. It is not fickle; it is faithful. It is patient. This is the gift we find at Christmas. We discover to our amazement that the Lord is absolute gratuity, absolute tender love. His glory does not overwhelm us; his presence does not terrify us. He is born in utter poverty in order to win our hearts by the wealth of his love. *The grace of God has appeared.* Grace is a synonym of beauty. Tonight, in the beauty of God’s love, we also discover our own beauty, for we are *beloved of God*. For better or worse, in sickness and in health, whether happy or sad, in his eyes we are beautiful, not for what we do but for what we are. Deep within us, there is an indelible and intangible beauty, an irrepensible beauty, which is the core of our being. Today God reminds us of this. He lovingly takes upon himself our humanity and makes it his own, “espousing” it forever. The “great joy” proclaimed tonight to the shepherds is indeed “for all the people”. We too, with all our weaknesses and failures, are among those shepherds, who were certainly not saints. And just as God called the shepherds, so too he calls us, for he loves us. In the dark night of life, he says to us as he did to them, “Be not afraid!” (Lk 2:10). Take courage, do not lose confidence, do not lose hope, do not think that to love is a waste of time! Tonight love has conquered fear, new hope has arrived, God’s kindly light has overcome the darkness of human arrogance. Mankind, God loves you; for your sake he became man. You are no longer alone! Dear brothers and sisters, what are we to do with this grace? Only one thing: *accept the gift.* Before we go out to seek God, let us allow ourselves to be sought by him. He always seeks us first. Let us not begin with our own abilities but with his grace, for he, Jesus, is the Saviour. Let us contemplate the Child and let ourselves be caught up in his tender love. Then we have no further excuse for not letting ourselves be loved by him. Whatever goes wrong in our lives, whatever doesn’t work in the Church, whatever problems there are in the world, will no longer serve as an excuse. It will become secondary, for faced with Jesus’ extravagant love, a love of utter meekness and closeness, we have no excuse. At Christmas, the question is this: “Do I allow myself to be loved by God? Do I abandon myself to his love that comes to save me?” So great a gift deserves immense gratitude. To accept this grace means being ready to *give thanks in return.* Often we live our lives with such little gratitude. Today is the right day to draw near to the tabernacle, the crèche, the manger, and to say thank you. Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to *become gift* like Jesus. To become gift is to give meaning to life. And it is the best way to change the world: we change, the Church changes, history changes, once we stop trying to change others but try to change ourselves and to make of our life a gift. Jesus shows this to us tonight. He did not change history by pressuring anyone or by a flood of words, but by the gift of his life. He did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbours to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let us begin with ourselves. This is what it means freely to accept the gift of grace. And holiness is nothing other than preserving this freedom. A charming legend relates that at the birth of Jesus the shepherds hurried to the stable with different gifts. Each brought what he had; some brought the fruits of their labour, others some precious item. But as they were all presenting their gifts, there was one shepherd who had nothing to give. He was extremely poor; he had no gift to present. As the others were competing to offer their gifts, he stood apart, embarrassed. At a certain point, Saint Joseph and Our Lady found it hard to receive all those gifts, especially Mary, who had to hold the baby. Seeing that shepherd with empty hands, she asked him to draw near. And she put the baby Jesus in his arms. That shepherd, in accepting him, became aware of having received what he did not deserve, of holding in his arms the greatest gift of all time. He looked at his hands, those hands that seemed to him always empty; they had become the cradle of God. He felt himself loved and, overcoming his embarrassment, began to show Jesus to the others, for he could not keep for himself the gift of gifts. Dear brother, dear sister, if your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. *The grace of God has appeared,* to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you.