

Parish Services

BIRTHDAY: Ad multos annos!

**Weekday Services (11<sup>th</sup> May – 16<sup>th</sup> May)**  
**Video Streamed Mass usually at 3pm on Parish Facebook**

- Monday ..... Mass in Private  
*John O'Donoghue RIP*
- Tuesday ..... Mass in Private  
*Duncan McDonnell RIP*
- Wednesday ..... Mass in Private  
*Donor's Private Intention*
- Thursday ..... Mass in Private  
*For Marylka Mielewska*
- Friday ..... Mass in Private  
*Donor's Private Intention*
- Saturday ..... Mass in Private  
*Mary (Nan) MacInness RIP*

**Sunday Mass 17<sup>th</sup> May (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - A)**  
Easter Sunday 12 noon ..... Mass in Private  
*Frank O'Donoghue RIP*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (only by prior arrangement, in Morar)**

Housebound visits this week..... no visits due to Lockdown

**ANNIVERSARIES/MM:** Frank O'Donoghue; Cathy Walker 07.05; Ishbel MacLellan 08.05; Lizzy Orr (Mallaig) 12.05.1978; Duncan McDonnell 12.05; Morag MacPherson 14.05.1964; Margaret MacDonald 10.05.2019; John O'Donoghue, Mary (Nan) MacInness; Maime and Bob Trybis; Ronald MacDonald (Dalnabraec).  
  
*Eternal rest...*



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[facebook.com/catholicroughbounds](https://facebook.com/catholicroughbounds)

RC Diocese Argyll & Isles – Arisaig & Morar Missions:  
Charity Reg. No. SC002876.

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

CATHOLICROUGHBOUNDS.ORG  
FACEBOOK.COM/CATHOLICROUGHBOUNDS

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
*R) May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.  
No one can come to the Father except through me.' Alleluia!*

## Pope at Mass: the Church experiences both consolation and persecution

Pope Francis offers Saturday's Mass for the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul who help the Pope and live in the Casa Santa Marta. In his homily, he says the Holy Spirit makes the Church grow, while the evil spirit tries to destroy it with envy, power and money.

*By Robin Gomes*

Celebrating Holy Mass on the Saturday of the Fourth Week of Easter, the Pope recalled the memorial of Saint Luisa de Marillac, who co-founded the Daughters of Charity with Saint Vincent de Paul. A community of the nuns lives in the Casa Santa Marta, and run the paediatric dispensary in the Vatican. Her feast day was earlier on March 15 but since it fell during Lent, it was moved to May 9 in 2016.

A painting of the foundress was placed at the side of the altar in the chapel for her feast.

“Today is the commemoration of Saint Luisa de Marillac,” the Pope said at the start of the Mass. “Let us pray for the Vincentian sisters who have been running this clinic, this hospital, for almost 100 years and have worked here, in Santa Marta, for this hospital. May the Lord bless the sisters,” he said.

## Preaching and persecution

In his homily, Pope Francis commented on the passage from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 13:44-52) where the Jews of Antioch "filled with jealousy and with violent abuse" contradicted Paul's statements about Jesus. They incited the pious noblewomen and the famous people of the city, provoking a persecution that forced Paul and Barnabas to leave the territory.

Speaking about the power of God, the Pope recalled the Responsorial Psalm, “Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for Him, His holy arm. The Lord has made His salvation known...”

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Pope noted, the whole city of Antioch gathered to listen to the Word of the Lord, because Paul and the Apostles preached boldly, and the Spirit helped them. But seeing the multitude, the Jews were filled with jealousy and opposed Paul's preaching with insults.

## Struggle between Holy Spirit and evil spirit

“On the one hand,” the Pope noted, “there is the Holy Spirit who makes the Church grow. On the other hand, there is the evil spirit that tries to destroy the Church.”

It has always been this way – one goes ahead but the enemy comes to destroy. He said there are many difficulties and martyrdom in this growth, in this struggle. As the Word of God makes the Church grow, persecution often arises.

"The Church," the Pope pointed out, "strives ahead between the consolations of God and the persecutions of the world". And when the Church “has no difficulties there is something missing". He added: “If the devil is calm, things are not going well.”

## Envy and jealousy

The Pope said the instrument that the devil uses to destroy the proclamation of the Gospel is envy and jealousy. It is the devil's anger that destroys.

Witnessing this struggle, the Pope said, it is good to realize that the Church goes ahead between the consolation of God and the persecution of the world.

There is always this struggle - the Holy Spirit creates harmony in the Church and the evil spirit destroys, even today.

## Power and money

Temporal powers, the Pope pointed out, are an instrument of this envy.

“Temporal power can be good, people can be good but, in and of itself, power is always dangerous.”

“The power of the world is opposed to the power of God, and behind the power of this world lies money.”

The Pope said that, ever since the morning of the Resurrection, temporal power and money have been used to silence the truth.

The Holy Father concluded saying that a Christian should place his or her trust in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and not in temporal power and money.

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE SACRED HEART – DAY OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS**

**Pope Francis has again invited Catholics to pray for priests on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which this year is Friday 19th June.**

**GIFT AID:** We have now received our Gift Aid claim. Thank you so much for helping this way. We have been one of the first parishes to receive this help in the Diocese due to our prompt submission.

**PARISH CEILIDH:** Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, I have decided to cancel the planned Parish Ceilidh in June. Once the Coronavirus threat is over, we will reschedule. I am sorry about it as an anonymous donor already provided us with beverages for the event. They are safely stored in the Chapel House.

**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.*

**NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE and SCOTLAND (as provided by Bishop McGee):**

#### **COVID-19 WORKING GROUP**

On Tuesday the Bishops' Conference established a Covid-19 Working Group, which will create an Infection Control Protocol to govern the phased reopening

of churches for public worship, in accordance with legislation and current government guidelines on social distancing and hygiene. The Group will be led by Sir Harry Burns, former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland.

Sir Harry reminded the bishops that Covid-19 is both highly infectious for everyone and dangerous, especially for the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. In his view the lockdown is working but we are still in a dangerous stage and it is too early to lift it. It is imperative to wait and see what happens in other countries which are gradually lifting their lockdowns.

The Working Party will look at how we can slowly and safely reopen Churches and what forms of worship will be appropriate as we progress. The Group has begun work immediately and will report back to the next BCOS Meeting in early June. Even when Churches do open, it will only be for very small numbers at any one time and Sir Harry predicted that we will not be able to expect the return of our normal Sunday Mass numbers until 2021.

I would love our Churches to reopen but only when it is safe to do so. I do not presume that all Churches would open simultaneously. I want to stress that no Church in our diocese will reopen unless the Parish Priest is first happy that all hygiene and safety requirements will be met. Likewise, I would not expect any priest in the vulnerable category of age and/or underlying health issues to minister. I do not want to see any of you put in the way of unnecessary danger.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The lockdown is having serious effects on the economy, including charities and so the Church. The cessation of Masses in public, especially on a Sunday, has

obvious financial implications for both parishes and dioceses. The Bishops' Episcopal Finance Committee (comprised of the Treasurers from all eight dioceses and the BCOS General Secretariat) has met several times since the lockdown began and will be meeting again next week. The sharing of information and ideas has been very helpful.

Our own Diocesan Trustees continue to meet weekly with Duncan to discuss the situation for both parishes and the diocese. The Trustees appreciate the sound advice given by Duncan.

As you know the Diocesan Levy which parishes pay was reduced by 25% in March and reduced by 50% for April, May and June. If any parish would like a 'Levy holiday' for that period then please contact Duncan for details. Likewise, please contact Duncan if you have any queries at all.

#### Parish Income

As mentioned above it is highly likely that we will not be experiencing 'normal Mass' practices until 2021. The cessation of the Sunday Collection has had a major impact on parish income. It has become clear that the parishes with more Standing Orders are coping better than those with fewer Standing Orders. If, as expected, we do not return to the usual level of participation at Sunday Mass for at least eight months then we need to adapt as soon as possible. Standing Orders is the best method for guaranteeing regular income until normal Mass attendance resumes. Therefore, please encourage the use of Standing Orders by your parishioners. This can be done sensitively, making it clear that only those parishioners who are able to pay should do so. It may be helpful to involve your Parish Finance Committee.

#### PASTORAL IMPLICATIONS

The spiritual and pastoral welfare of our people remains a priority for us all. When the lockdown began the immediate offering of so much varied online spiritual support and other pastoral initiatives across the diocese and country has been very impressive. However, it is now presumed that parish life will not return to normal for at least eight months. Even when Churches begin to reopen a reduced ability to engage with people will remain for a considerable period. Therefore, how can we best celebrate the Sacraments, nurture prayer, catechise, provide pastoral care and support the vulnerable in the medium to long term? The Bishop's Conference has established a Working Group to identify and offer resources which may be helpful in supporting spiritual growth and pastoral activities within our communities. I will be chairing this Group and would welcome any insights or suggestions from you.

#### INFORMATION UPDATE FROM ANTHONY HORAN

Message 1 Sent to Bishops 5th May 2020

Dear all

Below is an email from the Scottish Government. The email includes a link to the latest document providing further information on the government's Covid-19 Framework for Decision Making. The document does not provide much in the way of optimism for the lifting of restrictions.

The highlights of the document, which focuses on the new approach of 'test, trace, isolate and support', are as follows:

- Our current lockdown is pushing the number of infectious cases down. This means that the longer we leave restrictions in place, the more latitude we will have to change restrictions without risking a resurgence of the virus. But at present, given the continued high number of new cases and the imprecision around the R number for Scotland, which remains too close to one, the evidence is indicating that any change to the restrictions could easily lead to a resurgence of cases that would risk overwhelming NHS capacity in Scotland.
- In the 'better' scenario, primary schools and nurseries in Scotland would be able to re-open without causing a resurgence in the virus. However, given the current level of infections and R, the chart also shows that, in the 'most likely' scenario, full re-opening would cause a resurgence in the virus such that hospital capacity in Scotland would be overwhelmed in less than two months. A 'worse' scenario would further exacerbate the situation.
- We will engage and work with business and trades unions to support the reopening of certain workplaces as soon as possible, but only when it is safe to do so. This will be on the basis of a solid framework of guidance that supports safe working and is consistent with our Fair Work approach.
- Our guidance on safe working will reflect clear underlying principles about the basic requirements of physical distancing, hygiene and broader health and safety considerations, and this must then be developed for specific environments, by employers and trades unions.

I also had my regular telephone call with the Scottish Government this afternoon. It was a bit more optimistic in tone than the framework document.

The Scottish Government has confirmed that hospital and care home chaplains are currently eligible for Covid-19 testing if they are symptomatic. The same applies to NHS staff and other frontline workers. As testing expands to all NHS

staff and frontline workers, irrespective of whether they are symptomatic, I am told chaplains will also be eligible for testing under the expansion. I have asked them to send me the guidance document which provide for this as I know there have been inconsistencies in approach by different health boards and hospitals.

With regard to PPE, the government is currently procuring for a large supply of equipment for healthcare workers and also non-healthcare workers who need it for their work. This, I am told, includes chaplains. I asked if this would include other clergy e.g. those presiding over burials at gravesides. My contact was unsure if this was the case but they will check and revert.

The Scottish Government continues to engage with me on a regular basis and there is little doubt they are taking the difficulties experienced by faith communities during the pandemic seriously. They have just appointed an individual to take forward discussions around the phased reopening of churches for (i) larger funerals; (ii) marriages, and (iii) private prayer. This is good news and hopefully the work of our new Working Group with Harry Burns will dovetail nicely with the government's own discussions in this area. Though I acknowledge that it will not be an easy process.

I hope that the above is of some interest and assure you that I will keep you updated on developments in my discussions with government.

Kind regards

Anthony

Message 2 Sent to Bishops 7th May 2020

Dear all

Following on from my email yesterday I have received the clarification, below, from the Scottish Government. It confirms that chaplains, and clergy who undertake funerals, are able to be tested if they are symptomatic. As previously mentioned, there are plans to extend this to those chaplains and clergy who are not necessarily showing symptoms.

Please note that PPE is only available to those who handle the deceased.

Kind regards

Anthony

‘For the purposes of accessing testing, ‘key workers’ are divided up into 4 priority groups, and Health and Care workers (which includes NHS chaplains) are in the ‘Priority 1’ category. Other non NHS faith workers needing to travel e.g. to undertake funerals will count as Category 2 and also qualify. As discussed, regardless of category, tests will only currently be considered for those who are symptomatic.

I also mentioned the PPE guidance for funeral directors – I must apologise as this is in fact only for those who have to handle the deceased.’

## SAFEGUARDING

I have attached the latest Report from the Independent Review Group. Please share it with your parishioners on your Social Media and alert them to it via your bulletins.

### UPDATE FROM INDEPENDENT REVIEW GROUP

The work of the Independent Review Group, set up by the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland to monitor the implementation of the McLellan Commission on safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, continues. The Covid-19 crisis means we have had to adapt how we work, but for of all of us, throughout the Church, safeguarding is even more important during the lockdown.

The IRG last met face to face on February 22nd, when we were joined by Fr Gerry Maguinness, new General Secretary of BCOS along with Michael McGrath. That was a very useful meeting following the publication of the first two independent audits, conducted by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE), of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh and the Diocese of Galloway, and we were able to announce that the 2020 Independent audits would be of the Dioceses of Motherwell and Aberdeen

Prior to the lockdown, we had anticipated that the start of the 2020 audit process would have been on April 21, and we were planning a “Lessons Learned” conference in June. Now we are working with SCIE to determine if some of the preparatory work with the next two Dioceses can be done by working remotely to allow a quick start to the face to face elements of the audits. We will keep you informed of how we progress that. Both initial audits have been a valuable learning experience for all of us.

On these first two completed audits, we are now arranging what may have to be on-line meetings to offer assistance to both dioceses on possible ways of implementing the action points for improvement that emerged in the audits, and we will have formal follow up meetings at the end of the 6 month period since publication to acknowledge the progress which has been made. We are very grateful for the ready cooperation we have received from both the Archdiocese and the Diocese.

Events have recently unfolded in ways which none of us could have anticipated. While we are deprived of personal contact, churches and our shared connections through our communities will be very important and a vital part of our survival strategies. It will also be important not to let our focus drift. Mindful of the responsibilities placed on us, the IRG met virtually on the 18 April 2020 when we were given sight of the online Audits of each diocese for 2019 conducted on behalf of BCOS.

The work of safeguarding is particularly important at a time when people are physically isolated, may have less support than usual and may be worried and frightened. We are grateful for the many ways in which diocesan safeguarding staff have continued to link with the IRG, to complete their annual office audits / action plans and to plan for future events. We know that behind the safeguarding staff there are people attending DRAMTS and DSAG meetings - virtual of course. There are hundreds of volunteers who remain committed across parishes in Scotland. Neither do we forget the work of Religious Orders and their communities who have also helped us with information and ideas, particularly about support to victims and survivors, and we look forward to meeting with them and the new Chair of the Religious Order Commission Geraldine Bienkowski.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with Bishops' Conference, which will guide the process and shared oversight of future audits. This is the

result of much collaboration, good will and a commitment to learning from the experiences of all involved.

We are happy to report that representatives of the IRG have been welcomed at the DSAG Safeguarding Advisory Group meetings in 6 Dioceses with the final 2 in planning. Themes from those meetings will form part of our 2020 annual report. We have an agreed Action Plan and will be tracking diocesan action plans against the recommendations of the McLellan report, which gives our mandate and framework.

Finally, we have had many conversations about the Outreach events. After a successful meeting in the Archdiocese of Glasgow in 2019 and agreement about dates, further such events are on hold partly because of some capacity issues in late 2019 and now the Public Health emergency. We have new provisional dates and are determined to proceed as soon as practical.

Preparatory work is ongoing.

The Outreach events are hosted by IRG members and organised jointly with Diocesan Safeguarding offices. They are open to anyone, regardless of status, who wants to find out about the IRG's work and to contribute ideas about how safeguarding can improve. They are not training events, though there is some input. They are opportunities, in as safe a place as we can collectively make it, to talk about safeguarding, knowing that the impacts of abuse still resonate for many people. Sharing ideas about how safeguarding practice can improve further, particularly in relation to the support and care of those hurt, helps the IRG and may help others.

Although these are not survivor-specific events, a guiding principle for the IRG is a recognition that victims and survivors will be present in any gathering. We understand that many people affected by abuse feel that they have not been heard.

As you will know, Helen Liddell, the Chair of the IRG, has made it her mission to ensure that survivors are at the heart of safeguarding. In facilitating these sessions we bear that in mind. We know too of other events organised by Dioceses, such the 'Grief to Grace' event scheduled to take place in Paisley Diocese when circumstances allow.

These are troubling times for all of us. We will do our best as an IRG to live up to the mission given us. We never lose sight of the importance of independence, and we recognise the driving commitment of many in the Church to ensure that the vulnerable among us are protected and shielded with love and compassion.

#### Notes

Further information about the Independent Review Group and its work can be found on [www.bcos.org.uk](http://www.bcos.org.uk)

Information about outreach events will be made available through Diocesan Safeguarding teams.

To contact the IRG please email the Group's administrator, Richard Riley on [rileyofnorthiam@aol.com](mailto:rileyofnorthiam@aol.com)



**HEATING&LIGHTING:** *In*  
*Memory of Ishbel MacLellan RIP*