

Parish Services

BIRTHDAY: Angela MacKay 08.02; Lindsay Murray 08.02; Fr Stan (12.02)

Frances Morrison 10.02; *Ad multos annos!*

Weekday Services (8th February – 13th February)

Video Streamed Mass on Parish Facebook.

Public Masses: You need to book your attendance on Sunday in advance!

Weekday: you have to leave your contact details at the door

Monday (St Josephine Bakhita) Morar, 10am

Morag Cameron RIP

Tuesday Arisaig, 10am

Stephen McAuley RIP

Wednesday St Scholastica Morar, 10am

Morag Cameron RIP

Thursday (Our Lady of Lourdes) Arisaig, 10am

Teresa MacKenzie RIP

Friday Morar, 10am

For all Fr Stan's Friends

Saturday Arisaig, 10am

John Kennedy RIP

Sunday Masses 13th February / 14th February (6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – B)

Saturday **Morar: 6pm**

Sandra Blackwood RIP

Sunday **Arisaig: 10am**

Margaret Lennon RIP

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

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig: **TOTAL £0**
31.01

*Average income from Standing Orders per month - £400
Average monthly income for Morar and Arisaig from Online Donations (Facebook, PayPal) - £300*

Arisaig: **TOTAL £0**
31.01

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: Ann Black 09.02.2009; Chrissie MacKelvie 02.02; Hugh MacKelvie 11.02; Morag Cameron (of Dorlin) 02.02; Stephen McAuley (died recently); Teresa MacKenzie (died recently); For all Fr Stan's deceased friends and relatives; John Kennedy 31.01; Sandra Blackwood 12.12.2020; Lydia McHenry (Blantyre) 05.02.1993; Margaret Lennon 06.02.2020; Tadeusz Gowkielewicz (died recently, Gdansk); Margaret MacNeil (died 04.02.2021); Angusina (Ina) Aitchison (01.02.2021, 94yo).

Eternal rest...

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

CATHOLIC ROUGH BOUNDS® 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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

7th February 2021

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!**

Pope Francis on Prayer:

Catechesis on prayer - 23. Praying in the liturgy

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In the history of the Church, there has often been a temptation to practise an intimist Christianity, which does not recognise the spiritual importance of public liturgical rites. Often, this tendency claimed the supposed greater purity of a religiousness that did not depend on external ceremonies, which were considered a useless or harmful burden. At the centre of the criticism was not a particular ritual form, or a particular way of celebrating, but rather the liturgy itself, the liturgical form of praying.

Indeed, in the Church one can find certain forms of spirituality that have failed to adequately integrate the liturgical moment. Many of the faithful, although they participate assiduously in the liturgy, especially Sunday Mass, have instead drawn nourishment for their faith and spiritual life from other sources, of a devotional type.

Much has been achieved in recent decades. The Constitution Sacrosanctum Concilium of the Second Vatican Council represents a pivotal point in this long journey. It comprehensively and organically reaffirms the importance of the divine liturgy for the life of Christians, who find therein that objective mediation required by the fact that Jesus Christ is not an idea or a sentiment, but a living Person, and His Mystery a historical event. The prayer of Christians passes through tangible mediations: Sacred Scripture, the Sacraments, liturgical rites, the community. In Christian life, the corporeal and material sphere may not be dispensed with, because in Jesus Christ it became the way of salvation. We might say that we must pray with the body too: the body enters into prayer.

Therefore, there is no Christian spirituality that is not rooted in the celebration of the holy mysteries. The Catechism writes: "The mission of Christ and of the Holy Spirit proclaims, makes present, and communicates the mystery of salvation, which is continued in the heart that prays" (2655). The liturgy, in itself, is not only spontaneous prayer, but something more and more original: it is an act that founds the whole Christian experience and, therefore, also prayer. It is event, it is happening, it is presence, it is encounter. It is an encounter with Christ. Christ makes himself present in the Holy Spirit through the sacramental signs: hence the need for us Christians to participate in the divine mysteries. A Christianity without a liturgy, I dare say, is perhaps a Christianity without Christ. Without Christ in full. Even in the sparest rite, such as that which some Christians have celebrated and continue to celebrate in places of incarceration, or in the seclusion of a house during times of persecution, Christ is truly present and gives Himself to His faithful.

The liturgy, precisely because of its objective dimension, demands to be celebrated with fervour, so that the grace poured out in the rite is not dispersed but instead reaches the experience of all. The Catechism explains it very well; it says: "Prayer internalises and assimilates the liturgy during and after its celebration" (ibid.). Many Christian prayers do not originate from the liturgy, but all of them, if they are Christian, presuppose the liturgy, that is, the sacramental mediation of Jesus Christ. Every time we celebrate a Baptism, or consecrate the bread and wine in the Eucharist, or anoint the body of a sick person with Holy Oil, Christ is here! It is He who acts and is present just as He was when He healed the weak limbs of a sick person, or when at the Last Supper He delivered His testament for the salvation of the world.

The prayer of the Christian makes the sacramental presence of Jesus his or her own. What is external to us becomes part of us: the liturgy expresses this even in the very natural gesture of eating. The Mass cannot simply be "listened to": it is also an expression incorrect, "I'm going to listen to Mass". Mass cannot merely be listened to, as if we were merely spectators of something that slips away without our involvement. The Mass is always celebrated, and not only by the priest who presides over



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Parish website: www.catholicroughbounds.org // **Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/catholicroughbounds

Liturgical Calendar texts taken from Universalis® unless stipulated otherwise

it, but by all Christians who experience it. And the centre is Christ! All of us, in the diversity of gifts and ministries, join in His action, because He, Christ, is the Protagonist of the liturgy.

When the first Christians began to worship, they did so by actualizing Jesus' deeds and words, with the light and power of the Holy Spirit, so that their lives, reached by that grace, would become a spiritual sacrifice offered to God. This approach was a true "revolution". Saint Paul writes in the Letter to the Romans: "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (12:1). Life is called to become worship to God, but this cannot happen without prayer, especially liturgical prayer. May this thought help us all when we go to Mass: I go to pray in the community, I go to pray with Christ who is present. When we go to the celebration of a Baptism, for example, it is Christ who is there, present, who baptizes. "But Father, this is an idea, a figure of speech": no, it is not a figure of speech. Christ is present, and in the liturgy, you pray with Christ who is beside you.

YOU DO NOT NEED AN ACCOUNT ON FACEBOOK TO ACCESS OUR LIVE-STREAM!

www.facebook.com/catholicroughbounds/live/

or

www.facebook.com/catholicroughbounds/videos/

HOW TO ACCESS ONLINE MASS: This Pandemic has forced many of us to learn more and more about computer and internet usage. A lot of forms, bookings etc. are done over the internet without any paper. If you would like to benefit from our online presence, watch Masses, have instant news from the Parish and the area, you can go to:

www.facebook.com/catholicroughbounds/



In the menu bar, when you click 'Live', it will take you to our livestreaming Masses. If you click on 'Events', it will help you to Book your places. You can also access 'Videos' where you will find all past Services. If you do not have a Computer or Tablet, consider asking your family member to buy it and set up for you. It is very simple to use and will allow you to join in with others.

NEWSLETTER: Good news. Now printed version of the Catholic Rough Bounds Parish Newsletter will be available in our local shops in Mallaig and Arisaig. I will do my best to deliver myself or via our volunteers each Saturday afternoon. Our thanks to both the Harbour Shop and SPAR for supporting our local Community.

CHRISSE MACPHERSON RIP AND TERESA MACKENZIE RIP: Thank you so much for participating (online) in the Funeral Liturgy.

ANGUSINA AITCHINSON RIP: Funeral Mass is taking place in Perth on Monday, 15th Feb at 10am in Our Lady of Lourdes. Burial in Morar on Tuesday, 16th February at 1pm.

MARGARET MACNEIL RIP: Margaret passed away peacefully in Abbeyfield Care Home in Ballachulish on 4th February 2021. Margaret's Requiem Mass and Burial will take place on Monday, 15th February at 10am. We have very fond memories of Margaret, as he was a faithful and long-standing Parishioner. Always helpful when needed. May God grant her eternal peace.

LIVE FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH: I understand there is still a bit of confusion in the community over live flower arrangements in the Church. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were given advice that we should limit all possible triggers to limit the spread of the virus, and so we are not allowed to sing, we have to wear face masks, we do not use incense. Ultimately, as I have found out from our coordinator, the Parish Priest is ultimately responsible for making these choices and decisions. Some priests, from the onset, intentionally or not, have chosen to ignore the guidance and allow them in. I must say that such attitude has always been strange for me. The fact that priests in the diocese cannot agree on one policy for all, would prevent any hurts confusions etc. Sadly, this is not the case, so I have to take the blame for being 'the baddy' whereas some priests, for allowing

everything are to be 'goodies'. Therefore, I can assure you that the decisions I make do not make me feel comfortable. No one likes (I presume) to say 'no' when people ask.

There is of course a wonderful argument on the other side that we are all different. All priests enrich us with their personalities and can be slightly different in taking various approaches. However, I want to assure you that the decisions I make are not an exercise of power but rather of concern. We are extremely vulnerable as a community, with limited access to healthcare and options that would be available in the more urbanized area. Even testing availability for COVID is not working as it should be and as the outbreak in the Western Isles continues, we see how easy the virus spreads. And so, I asked a doctor friend of mine from school, who treats asthma among other pulmonary diseases, what his opinion would be. He said that of course sneezing and coughing can be triggered by strange smells and chemical compounds like flowers and incense. Imagine that someone asymptomatic with allergies comes to the church to attend a service – funeral for an example. Flowers then make them sneeze in a closed space and so we have a possible outbreak. I know that I can be told that anyone can sneeze for whatever reason, but I prefer to think that if there is something, I can do to prevent a higher probability of something happening, I will do it. If you cross the street without looking, does it mean that every time you will be hit by a car? In my ministry I have always tried to look not only at the letter of the law but also the spirit of the law and I am deeply, deeply sorry, if such decisions have made feel anyone hurt. However, one thing I will not base my decisions on is to allow one thing that Father so and so in such parish did. Again, I am very sorry, but until restrictions last, we are not going to have live flowers in the Church. However, after speaking to the undertakers, I allowed for one small arrangement to be possible on top of the coffin, providing flowers are not belonging to the group of more 'etheric' ones. I can assure you that I love flowers, I love seeing the Churches decorated with them, as they are signs of the living faith and devotion to Jesus and as soon as the restrictions ease, I will allow them back. In the meantime, we have silk-arrangements at the moment. Mae MacDonald and Cathy MacDonald donated the Christmas arrangements and late Marie MacLeod the Easter ones. If you wish to have silk flowers at the funeral, you can always ask Mae to make suggestions for an inexpensive solution for your loved ones.

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 and kindness. I keep our Churches Heated on minimum during winter months to prevent dampness and frost related damage. It also prevents me getting sick from cold when I stream masses.

BOILER IN MORAR: Still causing problems...

APPEAL FOR HELP: I am grateful for all your financial support. Fundraising has been done entirely on Parish level and we continue to pay our monthly levies. **At the moment, our Parishes are running a deficit, which means there is more money going out as coming in.** What more, this year the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, under Bishop Brian McGee, has sent the following message: In 2021, Morar will have to pay to the Bishop (Diocese) £7992, Arisaig £5100. What more, Gift Aid rebate will be much lower than in previous years due to lower contributions in tax year 2020/21 (Pandemic). I honestly lost faith that anyone in decision making circle will listen to any argumentation or that the Scottish Government will help the Church survive. The effects of the lack of proper maintenance to our building will be catastrophic.

IF YOU STOP CONTRIBUTING TO THE PARISH, IT WILL NOT HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE DIOCESE. THE LEVY IS SET, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CONTRIBUTE. IF YOU CONTRIBUTE LESS, THE PARISH RESOURCES WILL BE EVEN FURTHER DIMINISHED. PLEASE HELP!



HEATING&LIGHTING:

In memory of Teresa MacKenzie from Mary MacLennan, Donald, Dena, Stuart and Fraser