

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

4th Sunday of Easter (B)

25th April 2021

R) The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

*Please, remember to pray for Vocations to the
Priesthood and Religious Life*



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.

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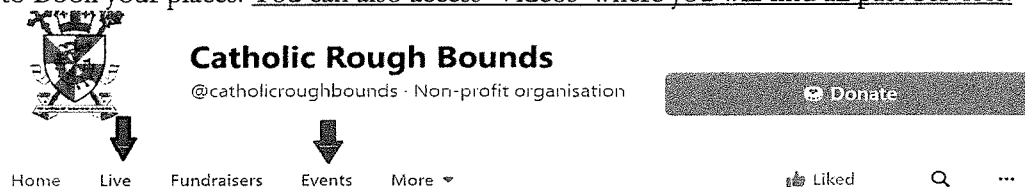
**STARTING IN MAY, YOU WILL NOT
NEED TO BOOK BUT SIMPLY LEAVE
YOUR DETAILS AT THE DOOR**

Please note that the change of system is to simplify the process and is on trial basis. This means that if we are at capacity, you might be turned away at the door. I am open to your comments regarding the system during the trial period.

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.



MALLAIG CHURCH: Following the loosening of the restrictions, I am open to the possibility of opening Mallaig Church again. However, to make it happen, the space would have to be prepared and regular maintenance to take place. If you would like to volunteer and become a coordinator, please feel free to speak to me. You would have to measure out the space, prepare signage, organise and coordinate volunteers etc. I have undertaken that responsibility with a lot of help in Morar and Arisaig but having to actively maintain yet another building during social distancing etc. is simply too much for me alone. On the other note, Teresa MacKellaig has kindly offered to sponsor the paint providing there will be enough volunteers to re-paint St. Patrick's. Please, speak to Teresa in the Harbour Shop if you would like to help/volunteer.

THE JERUSALEM MASS SHEET

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

25th April 2021

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon or a hymn. *Stand*
Cf. Ps 32:5-6

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were
made, alleluia.**

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Priest says:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Priest greets everyone present.

The people respond: **And with your spirit.**

The Mass of the day may be introduced.

Penitential Act

*The Priest invites the people to repentance using
one of the Penitential Acts.*

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have
failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they say:
**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

The Priest says the absolution. All reply: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12
Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of
the people, and elders! If you are questioning us
today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and
asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to
tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the
whole people of Israel, that it was by the name
of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you
crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by
this name and by no other that this man is able
to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your
presence, today. This is the stone rejected by
you the builders, but which has proved to be
the keystone. For of all the names in the world
given to men, this is the only one by which we
can be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R.v22

**R) The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in men:

it is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes. **(R)**

I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **(R)**

Blessed in the name of the Lord
is he who comes.

We bless you from the house of the Lord;
I will thank you for you have given answer
and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love has no end. **(R)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-2
 Think of the love that the Father has lavished
 on us,
 by letting us be called God's children;
 and that is what we are.
 Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
 therefore it does not acknowledge us.
 My dear people, we are already the children
 of God
 but what we are to be in the future has not yet
 been revealed;
 all we know is, that when it is revealed
 we shall be like him
 because we shall see him as he really is.
 The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Stand

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 10:14
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.
 Jesus said:
 'I am the good shepherd:
 the good shepherd is one who lays down his
 life for his sheep.
 The hired man, since he is not the shepherd
 and the sheep do not belong to him,
 abandons the sheep and runs away
 as soon as he sees a wolf coming,
 and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;
 this is because he is only a hired man
 and has no concern for the sheep.
 I am the good shepherd;
 I know my own
 and my own know me,
 just as the Father knows me
 and I know the Father;
 and I lay down my life for my sheep.
 And there are other sheep I have
 that are not of this fold,
 and these I have to lead as well.
 They too will listen to my voice,
 and there will be only one flock
 and one shepherd.
 The Father loves me,
 because I lay down my life
 in order to take it up again.
 No one takes it from me;
 I lay it down of my own free will,
 and as it is in my power to lay it down,
 so it is my power to take it up again;
 and this is the command I have been given
 by my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

Sit

The Nicene Creed

Stand

**I believe in one God,
 the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.**
**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,
 born of the Father before all ages.
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 consubstantial with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 and by the Holy Spirit** *All bow*
**was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
 and became man.**
**For our sake he was crucified under
 Pontius Pilate,
 he suffered death and was buried,
 and rose again on the third day
 in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored
 and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.**
**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
 apostolic Church.**
**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
 of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of
 the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayer of the Faithful

Response example: Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

After the concluding prayer all say: Amen. Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The offerings are brought to the altar.
 A hymn may be sung.
 If the Priest says the two prayers of offering
 aloud the response both times is:*
Blessed be God for ever.
*The Priest completes additional personal
 preparatory rites, and the people rise as he
 says:*
 Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
 that my sacrifice and yours
 may be acceptable to God,
 the almighty Father.

The people reply:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that we may always find delight in these
paschal mysteries,
so that the renewal constantly at work within us
may be the cause of our unending joy.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

Preface III of Easter

Christ living and always interceding for us
It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,
but in this time above all to laud you yet more
gloriously,
when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.
He never ceases to offer himself for us
but defends us and ever pleads our cause
before you:
he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more,
the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever.
Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,
every land, every people exults in your praise
and even the heavenly Powers, with the
angelic hosts,
sing together the unending hymn of your glory,
as they acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Kneel

Eucharistic Prayer III

(The Priest may use a different Eucharistic Prayer.)

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people
to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for
consecration,

that they may become the Body and Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples,
saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

The people continue, acclaiming:
**Save us, Saviour of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim
by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for
your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,

gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

The people acclaim: **Amen.**

The Communion Rite *Stand*

The Priest invites all to join in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Priest continues alone:
Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

The Priest says:
Lord Jesus Christ, ...Amen.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

The Deacon, or the Priest adds:
Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All then make an appropriate sign of peace.

The Priest takes the host and breaks it. Meanwhile the people say or sing:
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. *Kneel*

The Priest shows the host to the people and says:
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The Priest or other minister says to each communicant:

The Body [Blood] of Christ.

Each communicant answers: **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

After the distribution of Holy Communion a sacred silence may be observed or a psalm, hymn or canticle of praise may be sung.

Prayer after Communion *Stand*

Look upon your flock, kind Shepherd, and be pleased to settle in eternal pastures the sheep you have redeemed by the Precious Blood of your Son. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Announcements may be made.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Solemn Blessing

The Deacon, or the Priest, says:

Bow down for the blessing.

The Priest continues:

May God, who by the Resurrection of his Only Begotten Son

was pleased to confer on you the gift of redemption and of adoption, give you gladness by his blessing.

Amen.

May he, by whose redeeming work you have received the gift of everlasting freedom, make you heirs to an eternal inheritance.

Amen.

And may you, who have already risen with Christ in Baptism through faith, by living in a right manner on this earth, be united with him in the homeland of heaven.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Then the Deacon, or the Priest, says:

Go forth, the Mass is ended. *Or:*

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. *Or:*

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. *Or:*

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.



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Concordat cum originali: John Ainslie.
Imprimatur: Anthony J Kay, VG, Salford 23rd February 2012.
Permission granted for distribution in Scotland.

PARISHES OF MORAR AND ARISAIG

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2021

Materials and Responses in this leaflet have not been edited in any kind and contain original responses to the letter provided. We are not endorsing any of the candidates but provide information for our Parishioners to make their own judgment.

Scottish Parliament Election 2021 - *Putting Human Life and Dignity at the Centre*

A letter from the Catholic Bishops of Scotland



Catholic Parliamentary
Office

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This election presents us with an opportunity to play our part in putting human life and the inviolable dignity of the human person at the centre of Scotland's political discourse.

We often see politics through a party prism, which can create a divisive, and occasionally fractious, political environment. Whilst party politics can be an important consideration, particularly in the Scottish Parliament list system, it is individuals who will make up the parliament and form a government; and some of the most important issues, including abortion and assisted suicide, are commonly decided by a conscience, or free, vote. Therefore, it is critical to ascertain candidates' personal values and opinions and not concentrate solely on party policies.

As Catholics we have a duty: to share the Gospel and to help form the public conscience on key moral issues. It is a duty of both faith and citizenship. This election is an opportunity to be the effective witness our Baptism calls us to be.

The new parliament and government will be tasked with leading the recovery from the damage wrought by the current health crisis and to tackle the significant impact it has had on many aspects of life including health care, mental health and wellbeing, religious freedom, and care for the poor. It must also build on the positives arising from the Pandemic, including caring for the most vulnerable, and a renewed sense of respect for human life, human dignity, and the value of community.

These are some of the issues you may want to consider in the forthcoming election:

Beginning and end of life

It is the duty of parliamentarians to uphold the most basic and fundamental human right to life. Elected representatives ought to recognise the existence of human life from the moment of conception and be committed to the protection of human life at every stage. Caring for the unborn and their mothers is a fundamental measure of a caring and compassionate society; a society which puts human dignity at the centre.

We ought to be mindful of a further attempt to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland, likely to happen in this parliament. Legalising assisted suicide or euthanasia suggests that some lives are not worth living, contrary to the Christian belief that every life has equal dignity and value. It is incumbent upon our parliamentarians to show compassion for the sick and dying. This is not achieved by assisted suicide or euthanasia but by ensuring support is provided through caring and attentive politics, including investment in palliative care.

Family and Work

Society relies on the building block of the family to exist and flourish. The love of man and woman in marriage and openness to new life is the basic, fundamental cell upon which every society is built. The wellbeing of Scotland and its future depends on the flourishing of family life and government should respond to this reality with policies creating economic and fiscal advantages for families with children.

The pandemic has placed immeasurable pressure on businesses and many people have lost their livelihood. The state has a duty to sustain business activities by creating conditions which will ensure

job opportunities, especially in times of crisis. This must be accompanied by a just wage to provide a dignified livelihood for the worker and their family.

Poverty, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Sadly, poverty remains a scourge for too many people. The marginalised, the homeless, and the lonely and isolated have been cast further adrift because of the pandemic. And poverty now affects 24% of children in Scotland. We need elected representatives who respect a preferential option for the poor, who are willing to prioritise their need and respect their human dignity.

Our government must also work with the international community to adopt an even more effective strategy against human trafficking and modern slavery, so that in every part of the world, men and women may no longer be used as a means to an end, and that their inviolable dignity will always be respected.

Environment

The next group of MSPs will be tasked with protecting our neighbours at home and abroad from the poverty and climate crises which continue to rage on. In November Glasgow will play host to the COP26 international climate change summit. We should listen to Pope Francis' call to 'hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' by lifting up the voices of the global south and coming together to rebuild our Common Home in a way that leaves no-one behind. Scotland can also demonstrate global leadership by strengthening its commitment to becoming a carbon neutral country.

Free speech, free expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion

If Scotland is to be a tolerant, open, diverse country then we must be free to discuss and debate ideas, even those which are deemed by some to be controversial. Whilst being mindful of the need to protect citizens from hate, government must not overstep into the realm of unjust restrictions on free speech, free expression and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This must include, among others, the freedom to express belief in the biological reality of sex and gender.

Catholic schools

The right of parents to choose a school for their children which corresponds to their own convictions is fundamental. Public authorities have a duty to guarantee this parental right and to ensure the concrete conditions for its exercise. Thus, parliamentarians ought to continue to support an open and diverse state education system which includes Catholic schools.

We pray that this election will put human life and the dignity of the human person at the centre, and that candidates will ensure debate is respectful and courteous.

We urge you to visit the website rcpolitics.org and to use the resources there to help you in your consideration of election issues and to use the tools available to question candidates.

+ Hugh Gilbert, President, Bishop of Aberdeen
+ John Keenan, Vice President, Bishop of Paisley
+ Brian McGee, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles
+ Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
+ Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell
+ Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld
+ William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway
Monsignor Hugh Bradley, Archdiocesan Administrator, Archdiocese of Glasgow

Chapel House
Morar
Mallaig
PH40 4PB

.....April 2021

.....
.....

Dear

Scottish Parliament Election on 6th May 2021

**Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles
Parishes of Arisaig, Morar and Mallaig, and the Small Isles**

As you will be aware, the Catholic Church has an historical and current significance in our area and we write to you on behalf of the above parishes to present some important questions which have been put to us. We would like to give you the opportunity to consider and respond to these questions which are at the heart of our Catholic faith. They are:

1. (a) What is your stance on abortion?
(b) Do you support or oppose a home abortion policy?
(c) Do you support or oppose buffer zones around abortion providers?
2. (a) What is your stance on euthanasia?
(b) Do you support or oppose any move to legalise assisted suicide?
3. What is your stance on nuclear weapons?
4. Recent court ruling has shown that the decision made by the Scottish Government to restrict public worship was unlawful.
(a) What is your position on Freedom of Conscience, belief and religion?
(b) What would you do to ensure protection for freedom of conscience for health workers, civil servants and others who may not wish to be involved in such procedures as abortion, assisted suicide and transgender issues?
5. The recent report on Hate Crime has revealed that the highest number of cases of Religious Hate Crimes have been committed against Catholics.
(a) How would you prevent religion based discrimination?
(b) What actions would you take/have taken to ensure peace and harmony in your Constituency?
(c) What safeguards would you put in place to ensure freedom of expression and freedom of religion so that legitimate differences of opinion are not criminalised and that necessary discussions and debates may still take place?

6. As a Parish, we have applied for all the available COVID Relief Grants but all our applications and subsequent appeals were rejected. The Scottish Government did not offer any support for struggling Parish Communities. Do you agree with this decision?

7. Priests have also been excluded from either Furlough or self-employed support schemes. What may not be fully understood is that the priest's small wage for his keep comes out of the church collections from the parishioners as does the maintenance of the church buildings and not from the Diocese. Because of the closing of Churches due to COVID (now deemed to have been illegal) there has been a large drop in collections and as a consequence priests in this area are struggling. Despite this, HMRC has considered them to be vocational workers not eligible for COVID relief. Many people have been excluded from any support for similar reasons, despite them being taxpayers and losing income. What is your opinion on the matter?

We thank you for your time and attention and look forward to your response to these questions by letter or email. Your responses will be shared with the parish community.

Yours sincerely

Lilian Macdonald – Secretary, Arisaig Parish Council
lilian.macdonald@btinternet.com

Deirdre Roberts – Secretary, Morar and Mallaig Parish Council
deirdrebracara@hotmail.com

ERSKINE, JOHN

Scottish Labour Party and Scottish Co-operative Party

**FAILED TO PROVIDE THE
PARISH COMMUNITY WITH
RESPONSE**

FORBES, KATE MSP

Scottish National Party SNP

**FAILED TO PROVIDE THE
PARISH COMMUNITY WITH
RESPONSE**



Jamie Halcro Johnston

for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

19 April 2021

Dear Ms Macdonald and Ms Roberts,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your parishes on a number of issues. I will try to respond to them as fully as I can.

Firstly, I recognise the important social role that churches have in our society. Particularly in a region like the Highlands and Islands, churches have long had a key position in our communities.

Over the last year, we have really seen the strength of church communities in responding to some of the many problems created by the pandemic. I am very grateful for that work around our region.

Legal issues around abortion

On the issue of abortion, I entirely recognise the sensitivities of this for people whose faith stands full-square behind a right of life for the unborn.

Abortion has been decriminalised, within tight restrictions, in this country for over half a century and there has been a broad political and public consensus in favour of that. I am not aware of any proposals to substantially vary the existing law and would not expect that to be brought forward in the next Scottish Parliament session.

However were a serious proposal to be presented to make changes, for example by lowering the time limits, I would always look first at the evidence presented, such as around viability.

On the changes to early medical abortions brought in during the Covid-19 pandemic, I do have a number of concerns and have been in contact with the Scottish Government Health Secretary about this.

In terms of buffer-zones, I understand this is a reference to demonstrations outside healthcare providers. I think there is a real problem with this, given that people should have a right to privacy in accessing lawful healthcare, advice and support.

Assisted dying and end of life

Assisted dying has been an area of continuing interest for the Scottish Parliament. Previous proposals have failed to gain sufficient support and much of the evidence prepared at the time is now very much out of date.

I have said previously that I am prepared to look at any proposal on its merits and consider the spirit in which it is brought.

However, as was the case when a Bill was last brought before the Scottish Parliament, there are real concerns across society about safeguards and avoiding unintended consequences that may occur from any change to the law. From my own perspective, I have yet to see any proposals that would address these issues fully enough to have my support.

Nuclear weapons

I would point out firstly that defence matters are rightly decided together in the UK Parliament, so I have not had any direct responsibility in this area as an MSP.

I am more than happy to share my personal view that it is only by cooperating internationally that we can hope to reduce or eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons being used in conflict. This would have to be accompanied by a strong approach on non-proliferation.

We have seen a dramatic decline in recent decades of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons held by the major powers and real successes from working globally.

We have also seen a general reduction in conflict through successful international action. That is something I sincerely hope can continue as war, regardless of the technologies used, always brings death and devastation with it.

Restrictions on public worship

As the courts held, I do believe that some of the restrictions on public worship have gone further than is reasonably justified.

Equally I have been pleased at the response of so many churches, who have adapted to serve their communities during the pandemic. That deserves a great deal of credit.

Conscience issues in employment

Freedom of religion and conscience and how it relates to people's employment is in many cases a matter for the courts, given the individual circumstances of the people concerned.

Most importantly, I think it must be a matter for clarity between an employer and employee – and conscience issues should be taken into account at the earliest opportunity. There will of course be some situations in which a person in taking a particular position, sincerely held, will render him or her incapable of carrying out a given role. Within larger employers like the NHS, I would hope this can be accommodated by reallocating a member of staff to different tasks.

Reducing instances of hate crime

I opposed the Scottish Government's Hate Crime Bill and would actively like to see it repealed. I do not think it found a reasonable balance between protecting the rights of free speech and preventing criminality – and there were clear concerns from Scotland's legal sector that the Bill was unclear and badly drafted, which could create even more problems for prosecutions. The Scottish Police Federation also noted that

it could have severe consequences for the relationship between the police and the community.

Lord Bracadale conducted a review on hate crime law in 2018 where he argued that statutory aggravations of offences would continue to be the best way to handle crimes of this nature. In regards specifically to sectarianism in Scotland, I believe the current SNP government has not done enough to continue the positive progress that was being made in reducing this sort of hatred. We must work with communities, with young people and others to address religious hatred and to promote an inclusive and tolerant culture.

Support for church organisations during Covid-19

It is largely true that the focus of financial interventions around Covid-19 have been focused on maintaining jobs and keeping the wider economy afloat.

There are certainly funding avenues open to churches, whether provided through the state or by other funding routes. I am aware that some church organisations have accessed support from the Third Sector Resilience Fund.

I do believe there may be a case for looking further at how not only churches, but community groups and others have weathered the pandemic and to consider what they need to continue their positive work in our region.

In terms of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, I find it difficult to see how this could be an effective measure for clergy, given the duties of their position and particularly the need for them in communities at this time. I am aware that a number of churches have used the scheme successfully, such as for diocesan officers and other lay staff.

I hope this has gone some way toward answering your questions and thank you for taking the time to contact me and for allowing me to set out my position.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Halcro Johnston

Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency

Dear Lilian and Deirdre

Thank you for yours of 7th inst.

Forgive a succinct reply but I, like other candidates, am receiving an enormous weight of correspondence from individuals and lobby-groups. I answer your questions in order.

1) I support the current legal position on abortion. I agree with buffer zones around abortion providers because women seeking abortions are going through a traumatic experience and need our support – regardless of whether we agree with their decision.

2) I don't know anyone who is advocating euthanasia. Assisted dying has been debated before at Holyrood and I have no doubt it will be again. It is incumbent on anyone taking part in that debate to inform themselves of as wide a range of views as possible. There are really important issues about safeguards and informed consent. For myself I think powerful arguments have been made in recent years to allow those who face unrelieved suffering to make their own decisions over their own future. I would not want to interfere with anyone else's life in matters such as these; but neither would I welcome them interfering in mine. I recognise that religious groups hold strong views on this issue but there are people of many faiths – and none – in modern Scotland and we have to respect the right of each individual to think and act differently.

3) I regard nuclear weapons as a necessary evil. Nobody wants them, but they have helped maintain peace since 1945.

4) Of course I support the freedoms you outline. On part b) the Courts in Scotland made a decision some years ago and, if there was another legal dispute, I'm sure they would again.

5) It is very difficult to stop low-level discrimination – of any sort. But the legal framework exists to challenge discrimination. I taught for over 30 years in a local school where there was quite remarkable religious harmony. Long may it last! With regard to c) I think such safeguards exist.

6) The Scottish Government will have to justify its actions here, not me. However I can see the difficulties they might face. Which religious organisations do you support? And how much do give to each of them – without facing further charges of discrimination?

7) Again, this is for the Scottish Government to justify. Unfortunately there have been many individuals who have not had the support they needed during this pandemic. I very much doubt any religious bias in this – just a reluctance to judge the relative merits of different religious groups. What I would say is that I know of other individuals and groups who have fallen through the net. I don't think there is any malice here, just an inability to devise a system that catches everybody fairly.

Yours sincerely

Denis

BAPTISM IN MORAR: On 2nd of May I will have a privilege of Baptising Alexander. It is always uplifting for the Parish to welcome new Christians!

FIRST COMMUNIONS/CONFESSIONS: Thank you to all the parents present at the meeting last week. It was decided that providing all goes well with the preparation classes, we could Celebrate First Communions on 27th June at 12 noon in Morar.

ROOF SURVEY: Many thanks to Angus MacDonald for his help with organising the roof inspection.

CHILDREN'S MASS: There will be an additional Mass on a Sunday until further notice at 12 noon in Morar. It will be a crucial element of Preparation toward First Confessions and First Communions of our children, but anyone can attend providing there is sufficient number of spaces with respect to Social Distancing Measures.

DIGGER IN MORAR: It turns out that the digger has been delayed for unknown reasons. The drain still has to be cleared but delay and the recent spell of good weather have forced me to do some of the work manually. I had some great help with it from Manuel and some parishioners lend me their garden equipment. Thanks to Mae MacDonald for feeding the workforce.

GAS TANK: Many thanks to Alistair Neil for his help with some electrical work and his continuous support. I was informed that the gas tank is over 20 years old and requires to be exchanged for a new one. Rather than keeping Gas supply which requires regular safety checks, I decided to terminate the contract. Gas tank will be removed in the coming days/weeks. I am going to miss my gas hobs but in long term, it seemed untenable to keep a huge gas tank for this reason. New induction hob will be put on instead. My current gas hob is in very good condition (5 burner, 75cm) and would certainly be of use to someone with gas connection.

AIRBNB: We are looking forward to re-opening of Self-Catering Accommodation on the 26th April. House is now available for bookings till end of August. We already have some bookings in place and will be doing our best to ensure that the House is ready. My thanks to Catriona and Debbie for keeping it so tidy. I have asked Duncan MacDonald to re-paint some of the old windows and gutters. The windows in particular have been in bad shape but unfortunately lack of funds prevents us from doing anything further. On a positive note, however, we were able to secure a Council Covid Support Grant for the Chapel House. Funds are to be used for the use of the House only.

FR MACKINNON: Fr Donald Celebrated his Golden Jubilee on 15th April. He recently broke his arm which prevents him from driving but has kindly agreed to come one Sunday to Celebrate his Jubilee Mass in Arisaig. There are baskets at the back of the Church for his presentation gift. We are grateful for his long service to the Church and the Diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

CHAPEL HOUSE: With conversion into a non-domestic Self-Catering Accommodation, we are required to carry out electrical inspection and fulfil other requirements. Many thanks to David Smith for helping to prepare the house for the electrical inspection which will be carried on the 13th May. John MacKinnon will be providing us with a quote to replace 2 windows on the ground level and also fix the window in the lounge. He will also make adjustments to the window installed some time ago which could not be open.

ELECTIONS: There is an insert in this week's Newsletter regarding the elections. Disappointing that some of the candidates failed to provide us with a response.

GIFT AID: We received our rebate from HMRC for Morar. Arisaig should receive the money from the claim shortly. Submitting and keeping records is extremely time consuming and requires cooperation on various levels, but it is a crucial form of assistance to the Parish. Thank you for using GiftAid Scheme and for all the help with the accounts.

DONATION FROM LORD AND LADY CRAIGMYLE: Morar Parish has received its annual donation from the Trust. I am very grateful for this help in a time of need. Lord and Lady Craigmyle have been a great help to Morar over the years.

HEATING AND LIGHTING: Thank you so much for all the donations toward heating and lighting. This is really a huge help. The average weekly cost of heating in Morar Church (not the house!) is now £40. This is because the Church is used daily. As the temperatures increase, our bills should go down a bit.

Parish Services

BIRTHDAY: Katarzyna Kanka 26.04; Lynsey MacDonald 30.04..... *Ad multos annos!*

Weekday Services (26th April – 1st May)

Video Streamed Mass on Parish Facebook. Public Masses: You need to book your attendance on Sunday in advance! Weekday: Leave your contact details at the door

Monday Morar, 10am
Hugh Dickson RIP

Tuesday Arisaig, 10am
Jackie Milligan RIP

Wednesday Morar, 10am
Iain MacDonald RIP

Thursday St Catherine of Siena Arisaig, 10am
Jessie Anne MacDonald RIP

Friday Morar, 10am
Kathleen Milligan RIP

Saturday Saint Joseph the Worker Arisaig, 10am
Polly Pringle RIP

Sunday Masses 1st May / 2nd May (5th Sunday of Easter – B)

Saturday **Morar: 6pm**
Peggy MacMillan RIP

Sunday **Arisaig: 10am**
John O'Donoghue RIP

Sunday Children's Mass **Morar: 12noon**
For Jadwiga Horewicz and Iwona Mroczynska (Fr Stan's aunts)

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

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME. FOR ALL ONLINE DONATIONS, ENVELOPES POSTED TO THE CHAPEL HOUSE AND STANDING ORDERS INTO THE PARISH BANK ACCOUNTS.

COLLECTIONS:

Morar/Mallaig:

18.04 £170 (Gift Aid £110)

Easter Hamper Won by Tiina from Morar £271

Arisaig:

18.04 £165.20 (Gift Aid £58)

ANNIVERSARIES/MM: Peggy MacMillan (South Uist) 26.04; Hugh Dickson; Jackie Milligan; Iain MacDonald; Jessie Anne MacDonald; Kathleen Milligan; Polly Pringle; John O'Donoghue; Mary Ritchie (Morar); William Gerard Buchanan 23.04.2011; David John Kyte 24.04; Hamish Mathieson (Skye, died recently); Angela MacLeod (Barra, died recently)..... *Eternal rest...*



HEATING&LIGHTING:

no donation this week



Parish Priest: Fr Stanislaw J. Pamula, Chapel House, Morar, Mallaig, PH40 4PB. Tel. (01687) 452201 or (01687) 450223
E-mails for Arisaig Parish: arisaig@rcdai.org.uk (RCDAl Arisaig Mission, Sort Code 83-91-25 Account No. 65626995, The Co-operative Bank plc)
or for Morar Parish morar@rcdai.org.uk (RCDAl Morar Mission, Sort Code 83-91-25 Account No. 65628087, The Co-operative Bank plc)
Parish website: www.catholicroughbounds.org // Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/catholicroughbounds
Liturgical Calendar texts taken from Universalis® or New Advent Encyclopaedia unless stipulated otherwise