



PARISH BULLETIN St Kieran's, the Catholic Church

*in Campbeltown and Islay
Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*

4th September 2022

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 4th September, 23rd Sunday, Holy Mass, 10.00am

Monday: 6.00pm Holy Mass; Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5.30-5.50pm (or on request)

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 10am Holy Mass

Devotions: *Wednesday:* Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am

Friday: Adoration and Mid-morning Prayer, 9.30am.

Saturday, 10th September, Vigil Mass,, 6.00pm

Sunday, 11th September, 24th Sunday, Holy Mass, 10.00am

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay

Sunday 4th September Holy Mass, 4pm

Sunday 18th September, Holy Mass, 4pm



Psalm response

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is
yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.*

Take Five

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Monday, Sep 05, 2022

Home is where the charity is

Today's commemoration of International Day of Charity got its start in Hungary to memorialise the death of Saint Mother Teresa (who died in 1997); the United Nations took it worldwide in 2012. The Missionaries of Charity, the order Mother Teresa founded with 12 members in 1950, continue her legacy by serving the "poorest of the poor." Now in 139 countries, the more than 5,000 sisters run orphanages and homes for those dying of AIDS, and care for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless, and victims of floods, epidemics, and famine. Despite the breadth of these efforts, Mother Teresa always said, "Love begins at home." Start your charitable activity there and watch where it takes you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11. "I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

Tuesday, Sep 06, 2022

Let the children come

Jesus wanted ordinary men who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not pull back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Do you make your life an offering to the Lord and allow him to use you as he sees fit?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19. "Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him."*

Wednesday, Sep 07, 2022

Honour those who preserved the treasure

On this day in 1303, Pope Boniface VIII was attacked in his hometown of Anagni, Italy, where he was sought out for his refusal to grant favours to the French monarchy. He briefly escaped with the help of the townspeople, but died three weeks later in Rome, refusing to back down in the face of the monarch's attempts to control the Church. Pray for all those who have faced persecution and even death so that we could worship freely and without fear.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man."*

Thursday, Sep 08, 2022

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Born free

Catholics have dozens of ways to honour Mary, and today's celebration of her birth fits into that larger picture of love and reverence. Today's date is nine months after the December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is also meant to celebrate Mary's sinless condition from her very beginning. It's a good day anywhere to consider Mary's radical embrace of her calling and ask her help to do the same in our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23. "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

Friday, Sep 09, 2022

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, JESUIT PRIEST

Check for blind spots

Saint Peter Claver, S.J. (1580-1654) spent most of his life in Cartagena, Columbia ministering to enslaved people arriving at the ports. He left a lasting legacy that inspired the formation of the Knights of Peter Claver; the Apostles of the Sea, who continue to minister to seafarers around the world; and the Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver, who serve the poor, particularly in Africa. However, like any of us — even saints — Peter had his blind spots. Though he worked tirelessly to serve those arriving in shackles, he himself enslaved people. Many Catholics at the time spoke out against slavery; Peter did not, nor did the majority of the Catholic hierarchy.

Enlightenment takes time. Like Peter Claver, show compassion as you strive for clearer vision.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27; Luke 6:39-42. "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"*

Saturday, Sep 10, 2022

Help the pain

The fruits of falsehood produce an easy religion which takes the iron out of religion, the cross out of Christianity, and any teaching which eliminates the hard sayings of Jesus, and which push the judgments of God into the background and makes us think lightly of sin. How do we avoid falsehood and bad fruit? By being true — true to God, his word, and his grace. And that takes character! Those who are true to God know that their strength lies not in themselves but in God who supplies the

grace we need to live as his disciples. The fruit of a disciple is marked by faith, hope and love, justice, prudence, fortitude and temperance. Do you cultivate good fruit in your life and reject whatever produces bad

fruit?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Corinthians 10:14-22; Luke 6:43-49. "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"*

Readings for the 23rd Sunday

Wisdom 9:13-18b

The spirit of wisdom is unfathomable by mortal means.

Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

The fact of our mortality makes the gaining of wisdom all the more urgent.

Philemon 9-10, 12-17

Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon, now free in Christ.

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus urges the crowds to understand the terms of discipleship before they commit.

Words on the Word: Luke 14: 25-33

The transformation of the half-hearted Christian into a convicted Christian is a process and not a one-time event.

The seasons are clearly defined: summer comes to an end, autumn begins. In human life there are also clear situations. For example, a woman is either pregnant or not. She can't be a just little pregnant. However, not everything in human life is so clear: but, but. It would be ideal if we were all consistent followers of Jesus Christ – behaving in every situation in line with His commandments.

Reality, however, is more complicated. It isn't easy to find an entirely consistent Christian. Such an attribute is developed. Even many of the saints had various experiences during their lives – and not always positive ones. Saint Mary Magdalene easily comes to mind, as well as Saint Paul, Saint Peter and Saint Augustine. All of them had moments of weakness, committing sins in their lives. However, they were able to get up after a fall. From Christ they received the grace of healing and support on the road to holiness. They took up their crosses every day and carried them with Christ: through tough times – to salvation; through the cross – to glory. Another, easier way there isn't. The transformation of the unbelieving person into a believer, or the half-hearted Christian into a convicted Christian is not a one-time complete event. It is a constant process, which is achieved gradually in the midst of daily struggles, in daily carrying the cross.

The Cross of Christ is a sign of the solidarity of God with people carrying their daily cross.

The Lord Jesus sets His followers a high standard. He can do this because He earlier went the way of the cross Himself. Why Christ wrote the cross into the salvation of human salvation will remain a mystery to end. "What man indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? [. . .] It is hard enough to work out what is on earth. [. . .] who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?". God, in His sovereignty, shows this was and not another way for our salvation.

A convincing answer to the question of the necessity of the cross in God's plan for salvation was given by Saint John Paul II in his book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*. The starting point for this response was a difficult question of the Italian journalist, Vittorio Messori: "Could God somehow justify Himself in the face of human history, so deeply loaded with suffering – other than by placing the cross of Christ at the centre of this history?". This question leads to an understanding of the logic of the cross, so very much in the minds of people. God's omnipotence and love is manifest in this way, that the Son of God, Jesus Christ who became a Man willing to accept suffering and death on a

cross. The cross of Christ became the revelation of love and somehow the justification of God. You can't accuse God of being indifferent to human suffering, although such voices are heard from time to time – especially after tragic events or catastrophes. Christ took upon Himself the mysterious necessity of the cross – in the name of love for us, sinners – it revealed His solidarity with us to the end (cf J 13:1).

And it is this fact, that Christ Himself experienced persecution and suffering, which allows Him to set His followers a high standard: “Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple [. . .] None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions” (Luke 14:26,33). Christ, the High Priest experienced “everything like us except sin” (Heb 4:15), He showed in His own life what self-denial is. His greatest desire was to fulfil the will of God. He said: “My food is to fulfil the will of the One who sent Me, and to do His work” (J 4:34).

The one way which leads to lasting happiness and peace is to follow Christ. He purifies all that is lacking in human love. It is true, that obedience to Jesus is united with necessary self-denial. But it is worth accepting this effort to work on yourself every day and – as the Catechism says – admonishes the sinner, instructs the ignorant, bears offence patiently, and forgives willingly. Of course, it's easy to say that than to do it. So, knowing how weak we are, we ask God during Holy Mass to strengthen us to follow Christ's way. Let's be strengthened by the Eucharistic food which we receive. May we, thanks to communion with Christ, not be half-hearted Christians but consistent in making everyday decisions inscribed in the cross.

Manifestations of the Antichrist's presence



The Holy Father Francis makes us realise that gender ideology is a “wickedness which today is done in the indoctrination of gender theory”. It destroys the foundations of our civilization because it is “a great enemy of marriage today”.

In many countries, gender and LGBT ideology has become an ideological dictatorship, imposed as the only way of life to which everyone must submit. It leads to total sexual permissiveness and a terrible spiritual submission to evil forces.

Pope Benedict XVI also warned: “Homosexual pseudo-marriages, abortion, IVF – this is a manifestation of the spirit of Antichrist, which is more and more active in the world. [...] A hundred years ago, anyone would have found it absurd to talk about gay marriage. Today, whoever opposes it is excommunicated from society.” This also applies to “abortion and the creation of human beings in the laboratory. [...] Modern society is in the process of formulating an anti-Christian creed, and if anyone opposes it, society punishes him with excommunication.” In the face of the great crisis that has engulfed our civilization, St. John Paul II wrote that “we are faced with a superhuman, dramatic struggle between evil and good, between death and life, between the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life’” (*Evangelium vitae*, 28).

Contrary to obvious scientific facts

Every intellectually honest scientist and every logical person comes to the conclusion that the neo-Marxist gender and LGBT ideology is so primitive and absurd in its assumptions that it cannot be

called a philosophy. According to the supporters of this ideology, contrary to obvious scientific facts, a man is not born a man or a woman, but becomes so through his or her choice and sexual preferences. Moreover, those who propose this position believe that all evil comes from being enslaved to Christian morality. So, in their opinion, it must be completely destroyed so that it does not limit human desires, and a new ethic should be created – free from all restrictions, so that people have unlimited access to sexual experiences.

Hatred of God, the family and the Christian value system caused gender ideologues to devise a strategy to destroy the Catholic Church. This is to be done through demoralisation. By taking over culture, education and the mass media, adherents of this ideology will be able to propagate total permissiveness and destroy the Christian value system. The objective of this neo-Marxist ideology is to penetrate all areas of life, i.e. cultural institutions, schools, universities, various social organizations and the media, which are to become the most important weapon in the fight against Christianity.

One of the founders of the gender ideology, André Breton, calls for the total eradication of Christian morality: “An offensive against Christian civilization must be carried out in an impressive style to finally deal with concepts such as sin, original fall, and redemptive love, and absolutely replace them with the divine intimacy of a man with a woman. A morality based on the primacy of pleasure will soon get rid of all this wicked morality of suffering and submission which is in the hand of imperialisms and the Church. “

Whereas Wilhelm Reich (1897-1957) claims that all sexual restrictions must be abolished in order to remove from the consciousness of all people the belief that man was created “in the image and likeness of God.” This Austrian psychiatrist and sexologist wrote: “With the release of the spasm of the genital muscles, the idea of God should disappear” and proposed the “religion of orgasm” and “sexual mysticism.” “Love in the loins and the sweetness devouring pleasure during intercourse - this is the true god” – so said W. Reich.

“They cannot excuse themselves from guilt”

The gender and LGBT ideology grows out of Marxism, which denies the existence of God and is driven by hatred of believers and the Catholic Church. In the Scriptures we find very strong words about people who do not believe in the existence of God: “For all men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists, nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying heed to his works;. [...] For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.” (Wis 13:1,5); “Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So, they are without excuse” (Rom 1:20).

Intellectually honest scientists who sincerely seek the truth are amazed at the fact that from the smallest atom to the largest galaxy, the universe has amazing structure and meaning. Everything that exists is inscribed in an exceptionally brilliant and intelligent design that indicates the existence of God.

For example, human life begins with a single cell the size of a dot. This cell contains information (the DNA code) that makes it possible to create a body of 100 trillion different types of cells, each of which functions like a miniature city and each “knows” how to act and create one organism. Each cell also contains information about whether a given person is a woman or a man. The sex of a person is therefore not a matter of his or her choice, but an unchanging biological fact.

Shouldn't we be surprised by the fact that there are three trillion pieces of information in the cryptographic four-letter code in the human genome? It would take 31 years to read them at a rate

of three letters per second! To use another comparison: the information contained in human DNA would fill a stack of books 500 times the distance between the Earth and the Moon!

Scientists emphasize that the information contained in a DNA molecule is neither matter nor energy; they are separate from it, and it is only their carrier. This brilliant software or thought record indicates the existence of the personal, infinite intelligence of God.

Therefore, a spiritual leader of world atheism, prof. Anthony Flew, learning the truth about human DNA, understood that atheism has no logical foundations and is an unreasonable, blind faith in the random emergence of life and the entire universe.

Saint John Paul II points to the main cause of atheism: "If man, despite his intelligence, is unable to recognise God as the Creator of everything, the reason is not so much the lack of appropriate resources, but rather obstacles created by his free will and sin" (*Fides et ratio*, 19).

Immortal human soul

Gender ideologists, denying the existence of God, also reject the existence of an immortal human soul. In this way they reduce the human person to matter alone, and happiness to the unlimited satisfaction of bodily instincts and needs.

Nobel Prize laureate in physiology and medicine, Australian neurophysiologist John Carew Eccles (1903-1997), one of the world's leading authorities in the field of human brain research, concluded that every human being has an immortal soul. John Eccles claimed that human consciousness is not a product of matter. Matter is incapable of producing psychic phenomena and there is no transformation of physical into psychic energy. Only spiritual reality can produce psychic phenomena. The materialists' claim that thinking is the result of material processes, according to Eccles, has nothing to do with the findings of science: "The belief that thinking is the product of material processes is simply a superstition held by dogmatic materialists." (*A unitary hypothesis of mind-brain interaction in the cerebral cortex* (1990); article published in "Proceedings of the Royal Society", B 240, pp. 433-451). John Eccles emphasized that we all have a personal self – that is, an immaterial mind that works through the material brain. Thus, in addition to the physical world, there is a mental – or spiritual – world (immortal human soul) in man and both of these realities interact (cf. *How the Self Controls Its Brain*, p. 38).



Being aware of how wonderfully we were created, with every deed and thought, and with all our hearts, we should thank and express our love to God who called us into existence and to live together in community (cf. Sir 47.8).

Fighting with God

Gender and LGBT ideology questions the existence of an immortal human soul and degrades man to the level of a rational animal. Its main goal is to fight God, to remove Him from human minds and hearts, to fill the existential void with sexual sensations, mass consumption and various drugs.

Gender and LGBT is neither a science nor a branch of medicine, but a leftist ideology aimed at controlling minds and hearts, destroying marriages, families and the Catholic Church.

The gender and LGBT ideology, calling evil good and encouraging the rejection of Christian morality, is – as Pope Benedict XVI said – a manifestation of the spirit of Antichrist. The only force that destroys human happiness and the wonderful harmony and beauty of creation is departing from God through consciously and voluntarily committed sins. They are the main cause of the greatest human tragedies and misfortunes. They break the ties of life and love with God and other people and lead into terrible slavery of evil spirits. Unclean sins are especially dangerous. We know from God's revelation that only Christ gives the right to sexual intercourse in the sacrament of marriage.

Through this sacrament, the Lord Jesus enables husband and wife to make their sexual intercourse (when they are in a state of sanctifying grace) be a participation in the life and love of the Triune God, and thus make it a source of their mutual sanctification.

Therefore, pre- and extra-marital intercourse belongs to the gravest category of sins. All activities aimed at achieving sexual sensations outside the sacrament of marriage are grave sins that kill love, deepen selfishness, and place a person under the slavery of evil forces. Only Satan, through the ideology of gender and LGBT, can propose the “religion of orgasm” and “sexual mysticism”, wishing to lead a man to total animality, to absolute selfishness. That is why you need to defend yourself against sin, and immediately go to Jesus present in the sacrament of penance after each heavy fall. In sincere confession we will experience the miracle of God’s mercy, forgiveness of all sins, restoration of miraculous harmony and the beauty of God’s image and likeness.

Effective medicine

Let’s oppose the crusade of demoralization led by gender and LGBT ideology, combating lies with truth and hatred with love. Let us share the Gospel and the joy of faith with others. Let’s make people aware that the greatest treasure of humanity is the Risen Christ, who teaches, heals and saves in the Catholic Church.

Only Jesus Christ frees from the terrible bondage of unclean sins, breaks all chains of bondage and addiction, and teaches how to love with a pure heart. The only effective medicine for all problems and diseases of the spirit is the love of Christ. So, you have to take it every day. Therefore, try to attend Holy Mass every day and adore Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray the rosary and read the Scriptures. Never become discouraged and immediately arise from every heavy fall in the sacrament of penance. Be patient and persistent. The Lord Jesus assures: “he who endures to the end will be saved” (Mk 13:13); “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith”(1 Jn 5:4).

Prayer

A prayer for Ukraine

Подайте руку Україні (Podaj ruku Ukrajinii)

Podaj rękę Ukrainie

Give Ukraine a helping hand

God of hope,

we pray to You when hope is scarce

as our world convulses with the horror of war.

You alone know the extent of the crimes committed in Ukraine:

the people murdered, the homes and infrastructure destroyed,

the way violence comes as a calamity,

cutting a swath through the world.

Why is power concentrated in the hands of so few?

How can we make this war stop?

You alone know a way out of this quagmire of evil.

Help us find it.

Awaken those who dismiss this as someone else’s problem.

Give world leaders wisdom as they impose sanctions,

looking for diplomatic and economic ways to end this aggression.

Raise up resistance to war in Russia itself.
Protect the people of Ukraine,
who are reeling from the trauma of invasion.
Open the arms of all countries
to take in refugees.
In times like these,
fill us with resolve rather than hatred.
Help us believe that justice will prevail,
that crimes will be prosecuted,
that peace can be found
even in the roar and rubble of war. Amen.



Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers: Owain Williams, Catherine Walker, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

Please remember in your prayers Margaret Wilson and Joselyn Richards **who now sleep in the peace of Christ and** Edward Lafferty **and all others whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

News and Events

Coffee and tea: this Sunday in the hall after Mass.

Laphroaig: the total amount of coins received in Laphroaig container came to £196.35. Thanks to the donor.

John Morton: John will be heading for Stirling University in a few days. We wish him well and thank him for his consistent and keen service to celebration of the liturgy.

Annual Collection for Sick and Retired Priests: This Sunday is our annual day on which we ask for donations for our Sick and Retired priests.

Ministers of Holy Communion (Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers): A call for existing or new Ministers of Holy Communion to engage in Pastoral Ministry to the sick and housebound. Let Fr. Tony know if you would like to find out more.

Delving into the Word of God: begins Friday 16th September at 10.30am after Mass.

Live streaming:

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch>)

Zoom [click here](#), 'Join a Meeting' with the Meeting ID **6593787274**, and the passcode **fXQ9F5**.



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