



PARISH BULLETIN St Kieran's, the Catholic Church *in*

Campbeltown and Islay
Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain
4th June 2023

Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

Hymns

Processional

SHEET Holy, holy, holy is the Lord (Mayhew)

Offertory

134 Father, we adore you (Keys)

Post Communion

506 Sweet heart of Jesus (Mayhew)

Final

SHEET Lord, the light of your love (McLennan)

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

**Sunday, 4th June, *Solemnity of
the Holy Trinity*, Holy
Mass, 10.00am.**

Monday: Holy Mass, **6.00pm**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: Holy Mass, **10.00am**

Scripture discussion: Friday: 10.30am

Devotions: Wednesday: Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am

*Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Mid-morning Prayer and Litany to the
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 9.30am.*

Saturday, 10th June, *Vigil Mass* and Confirmations, 6.00pm

**Sunday, 11th June, *Solemnity of the Most Holy Body of Christ*, Holy
Mass, 10.00am.**

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay.

Sunday, 4th June, Holy Mass, 4.00 pm

Sunday, 18th June, Holy Mass, 4.00 pm



Psalm with response

To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest, Lord God of our fathers.

To you glory and praise for evermore.



Blest your glorious holy name.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest in the temple of your glory.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest on the throne of your kingdom.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest who gaze into the depths.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

You are blest in the firmament of heaven.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
the God who is, who was, and who is to come.*

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*Since you are children of God,
God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son,
the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.*

Take Five

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

Monday, Jun 05, 2023

MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONIFACE, BISHOP, MARTYR

Make your life a work of art

How do we share in Jesus' glory? – by submitting to Jesus' kingly rule in our lives. Jesus promises that we will bear much fruit (certainly the fruit of peace, righteousness, and joy, and much more besides) if we abide in Him (see John 15:1-11). The Lord also entrusts His gifts to each of us and He gives us work to do in His vineyard — the body of Christ. He promises that our labour will not be in vain if we persevere with faith to the end (see 1 Cor. 15:58). We can expect trials and even persecution. But in the end we will see triumph. Do you labour for the Lord with joyful hope and with confidence in his triumph?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 1:3; 2:1b-8; Mark 12:1-12. "By the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes."*

Tuesday, Jun 06, 2023

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT

NORBERT, BISHOP One bread, one body

A painting by Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens — called The Defenders of the Eucharist — includes a serene Saint Norbert, his white robes wrapped around a ciborium as he cradles the Blessed Sacrament. Norbert founded the Norbertine religious order as well as the first Third Order for laypeople embracing the spirit of religious life. And, as a successful peacemaker, he's often depicted with an olive branch. But Norbert's preaching about the Blessed Sacrament, convincing entire villages to reclaim their lost belief in the Real Presence — also having eucharistic miracles happen on his watch — has earned him the title "Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament." May he inspire our devotion to the Eucharistic.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 2:9-14; Mark 12:13-17. "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."*

Wednesday, Jun 07, 2023

For bliss and unending life

The Holy Spirit reveals to us the eternal truths of God's unending love and the life he desires to share with us for all eternity. Paul the Apostle, quoting from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 64:4; 65:17) states: *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him,"* God has revealed to us through the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). The promise of paradise – heavenly bliss and unending life with an all-loving God — is beyond human reckoning. We have only begun to taste the first-fruits! Do you believe the scriptures, and do you know the power of the Holy Spirit?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mark 12:18-27. "When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven."*

Thursday, Jun 08, 2023

FEAST OF DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL

The cure for what ails us

Pope Francis said that living the Beatitudes means "going against the flow" of the world. What the world tells us — that wealth brings security, that power gives us strength, that pleasure makes us satisfied — is the opposite of what Jesus says. Francis asks us to let the Beatitudes "unsettle us . . . challenge us, and . . . demand a real change in the way we live." We've clearly been upended in this sense by the [current] pandemic, and we have learned first-hand that nothing exempts us from vulnerability. Jesus was, is, and always will be our only hope. Live accordingly.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-*

30; Matthew 16:13-19. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.""

Friday, Jun 09, 2023

**SOLEMNITY OF SAINT COLUMBA, MISSIONARY, PATRON OF THE DIOCESE
Pray in the Spirit**

In place of material wealth, Jesus promised his disciples the blessing and joy of rich fellowship with the community of believers. No earthly good or possession can rival the joy and bliss of knowing God and the peace and unity He grants to His disciples. The Lord wants to fill our hearts with the vision of heaven and with His joy and peace. Do you know the joy of following the Lord as his disciple? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the joy of the gospel and the knowledge of God's personal love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Col 1:24-29; 1 Cor 13:4-13; Mark 10:17-30. "Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him."*

Saturday, Jun 10, 2023

The widow's mite revisited

It is ironic that the story of the widow's mite in today's Gospel is so often used as an example of generous giving when it's obvious that giving "all she had, her whole livelihood" had left her destitute and penniless. Jesus actually uses the widow's action as an example of what happens when the unscrupulous clergy of His day, with their long robes and the esteem of the people, "devour the houses of widows." The lesson is for religious leaders not to push poor people to give more than they can afford.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mark 12:38-44. "They devour the houses of widows They will receive a very severe condemnation."*

Readings for Trinity Sunday

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

God reveals the divine Presence to Moses and agrees to accompany the people.

Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55

God is in His heaven. This is good news for us and worthy of praise.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Want the companionship of God? Live in love and peace with your kind.

John 3:16-18

When God came to live among us, the goal was to save and not to condemn.

The Elephant and the Triune God

It would be an extremely interesting activity: try to collect at least once all the symbols and comparisons with which our parents, preachers or catechists tried to explain to us the mystery of the Triune God. For example, I still remember well the image of a tree with three



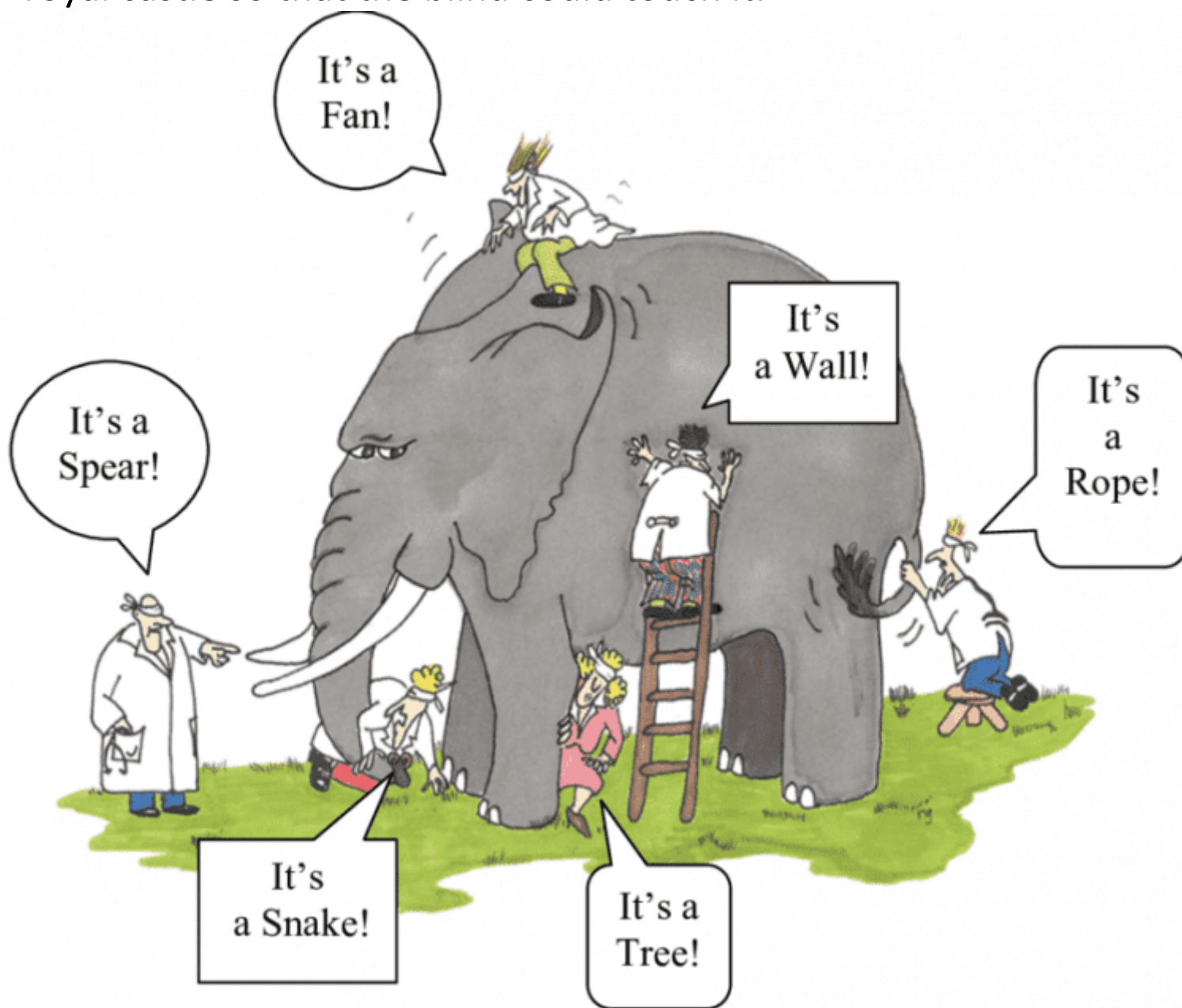
trunks growing from one root, the shamrock of one stem and three leaves, and the image of a candle with three wicks and three flames. With these examples, they tried to prove to us the axiom of "theological mathematics: three equals one.

It might be very interesting if we swapped the images that spontaneously occur to us when the question of God or ideas about God arises.

The aphorism that comes to my mind first at this time will certainly surprise you. It's . . . "elephant". However, after listening to the short story I'm about to tell you, you'll understand why.



Once upon a time there was a king who, for amusement, summoned all the beggars born blind and offered a special prize to the one who could give him the best description of an elephant. The animal was brought to the courtyard of the royal castle so that the blind could touch it.



The first of the beggars who touched the elephant happened to stumble upon its leg and concluded that the elephant was the trunk of a tree. The other, who managed to catch its tail, explained that the elephant was somewhat like a rope. The third, who grabbed his ear, said that the elephant looked like a fan. The fourth felt his trunk and found the elephant to be a snake, and so on. The beggars started

arguing with each other and the king was really amused.

This story about the elephant helps me every time I start thinking and talking about God – just as chromatic signs begin any piece of music:

- Only if I try to stand before God as a blind beggar will I avoid the danger of speaking about Him with all-knowing and certainty.
- Only if I first admit to myself how limited my experience with God is, will I be able to talk about it with others.
- Only if I realise that the various ideas and images about God are complementary, not mutually exclusive, can I spare myself the useless argument over the formulas of faith. The market-traders of Ephesus were supposed to have fought and thrown fruit because they could not reconcile various theories related to the Holy Trinity.

This elephant story also helps me to properly organise the doctrine of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. After all, even this teaching is merely a groping, an attempt to interpret and connect various experiences related to God. It is, as St. Augustine claimed, "something better than nothing at all". "We speak of three persons, not because we can meet reality in this way, but so as not to be silent," emphasized the great teacher of the Church.

The words Father, Son and Holy Spirit are also figurative words that want to show us the various ways in which God reveals Himself in His own world.

In the image of the Father, all human experiences have found their place, which allow us to feel that our life is a gift and that we do not thank ourselves for it. Behind the visible reality there is a force that accompanies us and lifts us up. In this way, the people of Israel experienced God as the one who freed them from oppression and who, like a father, gave them new life.

In the image of the Son, the experiences that people of every age had the opportunity to experience in connection with Jesus of Nazareth found their place: God became visible in one of our brothers and sisters. The latter, in turn, is so strongly connected with the Creator that, like no one else, He shows us what plans God has for man and His world, that only the figurative word Son is able to properly describe His relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Instead, in the image of the Holy Spirit, all the experiences that make us feel have found their place: this Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour, continues to act, constantly attracting us with His ideas and with His fulfilled life. His words and deeds continue to encourage us, comfort us, call us to solidarity, mercy and commitment to peace.

Talking about the Holy Trinity should therefore not be a thought pattern to which God has been assigned once and for all, but an encouragement to seek Him and discover Him in the various manifestations of His presence.

The amusing and informative elephant story I told at the beginning is important to me for another reason. It makes me interested in other people's experiences with God. It suggests that I complete and correct my own limited and one-sided idea of Him. It motivates me to look for new images for my faith. Finally, it challenges me not to be left alone with my images of God, but to talk about them with others.

We have a special opportunity today. In the Frankish dialect, the Sunday when the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is celebrated is called "Golden Sunday". There used to be a custom that on this holiday people did not leave their town, but stayed at home and read a spiritual book, meditated on the mystery of God, and talked about faith.

I think it would be good to resurrect this forgotten custom. So, make this Sunday your "Golden Sunday" by devoting time – whether with your family or in your circle of friends – to discuss matters of faith.

I rejoice when I look on you



Saint Pascal Baylon, before being acknowledged as a saint, went from monastery to monastery, wanting to become a monk. He was not wanted anywhere because of his exceptional lack of beauty and strange clothing.

Eventually, however, he found a Franciscan community in which he became a religious brother. Above all, he loved adoration: during the day he was engaged in simple services, and in the evenings and nights he spent in front of the tabernacle.

He was born on 15 May 1540 (the feast of Pentecost) and he died on May 17, 1592 during Holy Mass (on the feast of Pentecost), as the priest raised the consecrated Host. Pope Leo XIII made him the patron of Eucharistic Congresses.

A specialism of St. Pascal was his daunting presence in the church. A certain prince who during a devotional service was talking with his neighbour in a pew found out about it. Outraged by this, the celebrant, not having the courage to call to attention the eminent parishioner, asked Saint Pascal to get them in order.

Then, before coffin with the remains of a brother, there was a terrible thud reverberated. The prince was so scared that the desire to talk during the Holy Mass left him forever.

A similar lesson was learned by the sacristan, who moved around the church without reverence. Once reprimanded by the saint, he learned to genuflect before the tabernacle.

Bending the knee before the Blessed Sacrament is more than an outward gesture. The word "adore" comes from the Latin word for "mouth" and the equivalent Greek word "adore" also means a kiss. Adoration is therefore an expression of worship given with love.

Despite all kinds of difficulties and obstacles that we encounter during private adoration (time pressure, scattered thoughts, inner dryness, etc.), staying before Christ in the Eucharist is still a time of love.

Measuring the value of this prayer according to the type of thoughts or moods that arise in us would be a lack of faith. But faith in the real presence of Christ in the consecrated Bread makes us recognize that it is above all He who loves us and looks into the depths of our being.

Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa, the preacher of the papal house, calls adoration the

intersection of two gazes: Christ's and ours. If our gaze fails at times, His gaze never fails. Sometimes adoration comes down to simply being in the company of Jesus, to remaining under His gaze, to giving Him the opportunity to rejoice in looking at us, who, despite the status of sinful creatures, are the fruits of His passion.

In a mysterious way for us, Christ rejoices in being in our presence. Adoration is a time to celebrate Jesus! This truth undoubtedly surpasses us, but it also makes us recognize the inestimable value that we represent in His eyes.

By looking at Him, we allow Him to look at us first. Our loving gaze upon the Host is His gaze in return: we love Him because He first loved us.

While simply being under the watchful eye of Jesus looks like inactivity, it is not.

"The power of his gaze," writes St. Gertrude – results in humbly recognizing our own weakness and sinfulness, joy from the greatness of His mercy, healing from hardness and insensitivity, the ability to accept various graces and fulfil God's will.

From St. Gertrude we find another very uplifting message. She wrote them down under the dictation of Jesus himself, who confessed to her that He greatly appreciated and rewarded our every look at His Eucharistic Face.

“How many times a person looks with love and respect at the Host, which sacramentally contains my Body and Blood, so many times does he increase his future merits. In the Kingdom of God, they will taste joy, a new and special reward for every glance directed at the Blessed Sacrament”.

Isn't adoration on earth a pledge and assurance of seeing God in heaven? Although during adoration we are tired and sometimes also discouraged, none of this time is wasted. The body, feelings and thoughts are unable to comprehend the unspeakable reality that takes place inside the soul.

Hans Urs von Balthasar – one of the greatest theologians of our time and also a man of contemplation – explains that the secret of adoration belongs to God, not to us. He puts the following words into Jesus' mouth:

“My kingdom unfolds within you, though it takes place outside your eyes. I am the King and centre of all hearts, and I alone know the deepest secrets.

“You see only the outer shell behind which you hide one from the other. I, on the other hand, see souls from the inside, from the interior, where their true face is. There, in the depths of your souls, shines your gold, your most precious jewel. There is written the title of your greatest dignity and nobility. There, spiritual eyes are constantly staring at the face of the Heavenly Father. There, even when the body and consciousness fall asleep, the eternal light in front of the tabernacle is constantly watching.

“The outer face of men is twisted and awkward, but the inside is admirable. And when people truly love each other, their inner face shines before Me. I then receive gifts greater and more valuable than those they exchange among themselves. All the good in them, even when they do not see it or recognize it because of a certain shyness, turns to Me.

The incomprehensible beauty of souls, which the Father hides from them so that they do not appropriate it for themselves – this beauty, the most sublime of all, right after the beauty of God Himself, is present without a veil before my eyes. What a splendour of this sight: in the

vast sphere around my Heart, millions of hearts bloom like a giant rose, sighing for the Sun amidst the struggles and dangers of the night, amid constant fears, adversities, hesitations, falls and rises. And all these hearts are turned to Me."

The emergence of new centres of Eucharistic life, new places of adoration and communities is a tangible proof of Jesus' action and His desire to embrace us all.

In the past issues of our bulletins, have been published various testimonies about the miraculous transformation that takes place in human hearts and entire environments thanks to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Adoration in parishes is again on the increase, but yet more is possible and needed. Thanks to this initiative, more and more good will be born: Jesus will give concrete proofs of his love and power.

However, since these signs are intended to stimulate all of us to greater faith in His living and effective Presence, you are encouraged to share your testimonies. Let's remember that Jesus still works the same way: through teaching and signs. Let Him work through us too.

Prayer



Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers: Connie Graham, Lilian Cox, Madge McWhirter, Sarah Carmichael, Catherine Walker, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

Please remember in your prayers Sarah Theresa Cassidy (2016), John O'Neill and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

News and Events

Tea and coffee in the hall after Sunday Mass. Our visitors are most welcome, please come along.

Confirmations: Bishop Brian will be here on the weekend of 10/11 June to confirm two candidates at the Vigil Mass on 11th June.

Sailing Pilgrims: the sailing pilgrimage will be in Campbeltown on 9th June in the morning. Gathering in the hall. Anyone who can assist with tea and coffee would be appreciated. Let Fr. Tony know.

June Devotions: *Mid-morning Prayer* on Wednesdays before Holy Mass; *Mid-morning Prayer and Litany to the Sacred Heart* during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Fridays.



campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk



www.stkieranscampbeltown.org



<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch/>

A Parish of the R.C. Diocese of Argyll and the Isles; Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC002876

Parish Priest: Fr. A. Wood, St. Kieran's, Campbeltown; Tel. 01586 552160