

He that loves father or
mother more than me is
not worthy of me: and he
that loves son or daughter
more than me is not
worthy of me.

—Matthew 10:37

13th Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 2nd July, 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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 and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 9.45am

Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Mid-morning Prayer, 9.30am.

Saturday, 1st July, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm

Sunday, 9th July, 14th in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am.

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

Sunday, 2nd July, Holy Mass, 4.00 pm

Sunday, 16th July, Holy Mass, 4.00pm



PARISH BULLETIN

St Kieran's, the Catholic Church *in*

Campbeltown and Islay

Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain

2nd July 2023

Hymns

Processional (Sunday Mass only)

87 Colours of day (Keys;C) [76]

Offertory

510 Take my life and let it be (McLennan[Nottingham]; D)
[467, 4v]

Post Communion

Bless the Lord my soul

141 Fill my house (Keys) [119]

Final

145 Follow me (McLennan;lower) [122]



Psalm response

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.*

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.*

Take Five

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

Monday, Jul 03, 2023

FEAST OF THOMAS, APOSTLE

A twin to us all

Three times in the Gospel of John, the apostle Thomas is also called Didymus. Both names mean “twin” — in Aramaic and Greek respectively. He is referred to in some non-biblical historical texts as “Judas Thomas” — a.k.a. “Judas the Twin.” It’s likely “the twin” was his nickname and he was known by it among Jews and Greeks. But there’s no explanation of whose twin he was. Today, Christians mostly know him as “Doubting Thomas” because he didn’t believe Jesus had risen until he saw for himself. While we don’t know the identity of Thomas’ biological twin, do we resemble him in our disbelief from time to time? Ask Jesus for the grace of faith and the same graciousness he showed to Thomas.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29. “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

Tuesday, Jul 04, 2023

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

Born on the Fourth of July

Born on the Fourth of July is the best-selling memoir of Ron Kovic, Catholic Vietnam veteran turned peace activist. On the fourth of July, in 1336, Saint Elizabeth of Portugal was born into eternal life. Like Kovic, Elizabeth threw herself into peace-making — twice intervening to avert war. Like Kovic, the queen bucked authority: When her husband forbade her from giving royal wealth away to the poor, Elizabeth smuggled contributions out of the castle in her robes. As subjects of the United Kingdom — with all the rights we claim to be entitled to — may we be tempered by Elizabeth’s example: “God made me queen so that I may serve others.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 19:15-29; Matthew 8:23-27. “He said to them, ‘Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?’”*

Wednesday, Jul 05, 2023

Not to torment

Do you ever feel driven by forces beyond your strength? Two men who were possessed and driven mad by the force of many evil spirits found refuge in the one person who could set them free. Both Mark and Luke in their Gospel accounts of this incident describe this demonic force as a legion (Mark 5:9 and Luke 8:30). A legion is no small force — but an army 6,000 strong! For the people of Palestine who were often hemmed in by occupied forces, a legion — whether human or supernatural — struck terror! Legions at their wildest committed unmentionable atrocities. Our age has also witnessed untold crimes and mass destruction at the hands of possessed rulers and their armies. What is more remarkable — the destructive force of these driven and possessed men, or the bended knee at Jesus’ feet imploring

mercy and release (Luke 8:28)? God’s word reminds us that no destructive force can keep anyone from the peace and safety which God offers to those who seek his help.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 21:5, 8-20a; Matthew 8:28-34. “Have you come here to torment us before the time?”*

Thursday, Jul 06, 2023

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF MARIA GORETTI, YOUTH MARTYR

Girl power

Today’s saint, Maria Goretti, died a difficult death at age 12 after being stabbed for resisting a rape. She is one of several patron saints of rape survivors. Traditional hagiography about Goretti focuses on her concern for chastity during her resistance, but women who have survived similar ordeals might see saintliness in Goretti’s resistance itself. They might reclaim Goretti’s story as one of female empowerment, a refusal to be degraded, and a rising above violence when Goretti — on her deathbed — forgave her tormentor. Her act of mercy lives on as a triumph over evil. Saint Maria Goretti, pray for all who have been hurt by sexual violence.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 22:1b-19; Matthew 9:1-8. “He then said to the paralytic, ‘Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home.’”*

Friday, Jul 07, 2023

Being unconventional

Jesus’ association with the latter, especially with tax collectors and sinners, shocked the sensibilities of these orthodox Jews. In calling Matthew to be one of his disciples, Jesus picked one of the unlikeliest of men — a tax collector who by profession was despised by the Jewish people. When the Pharisees challenged His unconventional behaviour in eating with public sinners, Jesus’ defence was quite simple. A doctor doesn’t need to visit healthy people; instead he goes to those who are sick. Jesus likewise sought out those in the greatest need. A true physician seeks healing of the whole person — body, mind, and spirit. Jesus came as the divine physician and good shepherd to care for His people and to restore them to wholeness of life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Matthew 9:9-13. “Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”*

Saturday, Jul 08, 2023

New wine for modern minds

Do you know anybody who sews patches on an old coat or drinks wine out of a wineskin? And that’s exactly the point of the Lord’s teaching. It is the work of preachers, teachers, and translators to rearticulate the ancient truths of Christianity in terms that 21st-century learners can understand. Otherwise, much of the language and images of the ancient texts just keeps getting recycled. Pray for the preachers and teachers who have positively influenced you.

Readings for the 13th Sunday

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

An influential woman throws her support behind the prophet Elisha.

Psalm 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

Those who follow in the way of the Lord are blessed and exalted.

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Belonging to Christ involves a journey from death to new life.

Matthew 10:37-42

Ultimate allegiance is required of those who are disciples of Jesus.

Words on the Word

An announcement

A man is sought, one of three billion. Size and appearance are irrelevant. Bank account and car brand are irrelevant. An interesting job awaits him. The demands are high: to listen more than to speak, be understanding more than judging, to help more than accuse. We take no responsibility for gratitude. If you feel a fit for this job, please report to your nearest neighbour as soon as possible. This one will surely be pleased (K.W.).

* *

As on the previous Sunday, today we hear the words of Jesus to the disciples. Jesus requires something extraordinary from them. He says: "Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:37-38). These are very radical expressions. Jesus invites us to consider what it means to lose and what it means to win (gain). This juxtaposition of "losing" and "gaining life" appears in six places in the Gospels. This shows how important and demanding a responsibility is of the mission of Christ's disciples.

Today, Christians are the most persecuted religious group. They die for their faith in Africa, the Far East and the Middle East, often forgotten. Nobody mentions them, nobody knows about them – only the Lord knows about them. He is their reward.

In our country where religious freedom reigns, people who believe in God need not fear such persecution. However, it is also not easy for us to transmit the faith that flows from the depths of the heart. There are various reasons for this: being religious is not very fashionable, but we too often put ourselves at the centre of our lives. We tend to be selfish and comfortable. Jesus teaches the opposite. He lives and dies not for Himself, but for people, that is, in the service of man. He also died for me.

Sometimes it is enough to treat our monotonous work as a service to our neighbour. Then we feel that self-realization takes place. Such are the fruits of love – we experience joy. Jesus said, "Come blessed ones to my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world! For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you clothed me" (Mt 25:34-36). Our own family, our children, our spouse need us most.

Life is a gift in our hands. This gift deserves to be used in a free, brave and creative way. Life brings many risky situations, but you have to take risks. The gift of life can be used in many ways. You can devote your energies entirely to an earthly career, or you can give them to God.

There are people who have learned the "rules of life" and are able to "adjust themselves." Of these people it's colloquially said they'll "go far". We find them in every environment – whether in the

secular world or in the convent. In everyday life they are cunning, in relation to God they are cautious. Their favourite saying was: "God – yes, but not too much".

If a son wants to go to the seminary, yes – they think it's a good idea; if a daughter expresses a desire to join a convent – they don't agree to it. They are cautious about their neighbours because: "We don't know who he is and what he can do." They approach each project with the question: "What will I get out of it?"

There are other people who can't or don't want to "think things up". These are parents whose most important concern is their families. They are sensitive young people who are hurt by the fact that the world is so brutal, who feel lost and helpless. Sometimes they dream of a different world, sometimes they rush to reform the world, some of them repeat to themselves that if something can be done for people – and in cooperation with God, then one must get involved as a priest, monk, nun or layperson. They are also people bent over by age and happy – because they did not waste their lives and see the happiness of their children or the fruits of their work.

* * *

To lose

*To lose an old life also means:
To leave cosy places,
Not to hang on to fears,
To reject false remorse,
To surpass tradition,
Not to care too much about what
others say.*

*To lose an old life also means:
To praise the joy of life,*

*To proclaim its meaning,
Open up new horizons,
Not to be afraid of risk
Not to avoid the cross.

Losing the old life also means
To find new ways,
Letting dreams lead,
To open up unconditionally,
To love and trust God. Amen.*

Prayer

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

Please remember in your prayers Roseanne Carlin (2001), Isabelle Lafferty, Anthony Cunningham (Billy)(2015), Basil Wood (2007) **and all whose anniversaries occur at this time. Pray for the repose of the soul of Clarke Lafferty who passed away last week in hospital.**

News and Events

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

Special Collection: next Sunday a collection will be taken up for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris).

Led by the Spirit: *Collated Document* (From Bishop Brian)

Thank you to everyone who participated during the Consultation. The responses from parishes have now been collated into a single document. It is interesting and uplifting to read the comments from all over the diocese from laity and clergy as we discern together God's call for us today. It is a real expression of faith and hope. Please read the document prayerfully – alone or with others – noting which statements attracts or challenges you and ask where the Spirit is moving. The document can be read at

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