



PARISH BULLETIN

St Kieran's, the Catholic Church *in*

Campbeltown and Islay

Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain

13th August 2023

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 13th August, 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –

Monday: Vigil Mass, 7.00pm

Tuesday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Wednesday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Devotions: *Tuesday:* The Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, 9.45am

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

Saturday, 19th August, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm

Sunday, 20th August, 20th in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am (Intention RIP

Margaret Wilson).

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

Sunday, 20th August, Holy Mass, 4.00pm



Psalm response

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

My soul is waiting for the Lord,

I count on his word.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*The bread that I will give, says the Lord,
is my flesh for the life of the world.*

Hymns/Music

Processional (Sunday Mass only)

SHEET O Jesus, I have promised (McLennan) [365]

Offertory

158 Gifts of bread and wine (McLennan) [135]

Communion

Тебе појем (We sing to you)

Post Communion

507 Sweet sacrament divine (Keys -loC) [464]

Final

116 Dear Lord and Father of mankind (Keys) [105]

Take Five

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

Monday, Aug 14, 2023

MEMORIAL OF MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST, MARTYR

Holiness becomes you

Maximilian Kolbe is best known for the manner of his death — he volunteered to die in the place of a stranger, who was a man with children, at Auschwitz during World War II. But his path to sainthood began at the age of 10 when his exasperated mother said to her troublemaker son, “I do not know what will become of you!” The Blessed Mother stepped in with a couple options — appearing to the boy in a vision and offering him purity or martyrdom. He gave her the surprising answer: “I choose both.” Remarkable conversion, however unlikely, is possible — in others and yourself. Believe it!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Matthew 17:22-27. “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”*

Tuesday, Aug 15, 2023

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

Without a doubt, love reigns

Thanks to Thomas the Apostle — that so-called “Doubting Thomas” —

Catholic tradition has its earliest account of Mary’s Assumption. This tradition holds that, just as Thomas was elsewhere when the other apostles were visited by a resurrected Jesus, he had likewise been away when Mary, surrounded

by the apostles, drew her last earthly breath. As Thomas returned to Jerusalem, three days after Mary’s burial, it is said that he saw her gloriously lifted into the heavens. This time, it

was the other apostles’ turn to doubt Thomas. With great scepticism, tradition tells us, they opened her tomb and found it empty. Pope John Paul II, quoting Saint Francis de Sales, insisted that Mary died “in love, from love, and through love.” Love like Mary today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Vigil: 1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57; Luke 11:27-28; Day: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Corinthians 15:20-27; Luke 1:39-56. “He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.”*

Wednesday, Aug 16, 2023

Infectious faith

An oft-forgotten holy figure, Saint Roch died on this day in the 14th-century Holy Roman Empire, having lived a distinctive life from his birth. He is traditionally regarded as having been conceived by a miracle and later became an ascetic said to have worked miracles. The patron saint of dogs, he is said to have been healed from the plague by a dog that brought him bread while he was recovering. He modelled for the world a divine confidence in the face of pestilence, which inspired great faith in God among his peers. Having survived a pandemic ourselves, will we trust God with our future as Saint Roch did?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 18:15-20. “Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*

Thursday, Aug 17, 2023

Harvest is plenty

Farmers and home gardeners are often busy in mid-August if their crops have done well. It is a time of intense work: harvesting, processing, selling, canning. The spiritual parallel is often made: Our missionary impulse is to plant the seeds of faith in word and action, in hopes that the seeds bear fruit. When times seem difficult, it is heartening to look around for signs of fruit, of God’s love made manifest. Take a moment to celebrate in the witness of a Christian you know who makes God’s love visible.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Matthew 18:21—19:1. “How often must I forgive [my brother]?’ ... Jesus answered, ‘I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.’”*

Friday, Aug 18, 2023



Moved by movies

As the weekend emerged in the last century as a two-day break in the workweek for leisure and spiritual pursuits, filmgoing became a major form of recreation. At its height in the 1930s, 65 percent of the population went to the pictures weekly. "Going to the pictures" may now simply mean clicking on a streaming app, but watching films remains a popular weekend pastime. Over the years the Vatican has recognized film as a valuable art form deserving of "praise and support." With that in mind, in 1995, in honour of the 100th anniversary of cinema, the Vatican named 45 important films worthy of watching. Make your way through this fascinating list on a given weekend, and enjoy a guilty pleasure, without the guilt.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12.* "They fought against you, but I delivered them into your power."

Saturday, Aug 19, 2023

It's human nature to help

According to the U.N., this year a staggering 117 million people will be driven from their homes by war, violence, and poverty. Two billion people don't have access to sanitary water at home. World Humanitarian Day, celebrated today, commemorates the lives of the men and women serving in some of the most challenging situations in the world. The voiceless victims of war and poverty need help to alleviate their suffering and draw attention to their plight. Donate to a humanitarian organisation like SCIAF which represents Caritas Scotland, or Mary's Meals.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15.* "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Readings for the 19th Sunday

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Elijah encounters God in a tiny sound, not the mighty "acts of God."

Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Kindness and truth, justice and peace, prepare the way of the Lord.

Romans 9:1-5

Paul anguishes over not reaching his people with the message of Christ.

Matthew 14:22-33

Faith in Jesus requires the banishment of fear and doubt.

Words on the Word

Go slower

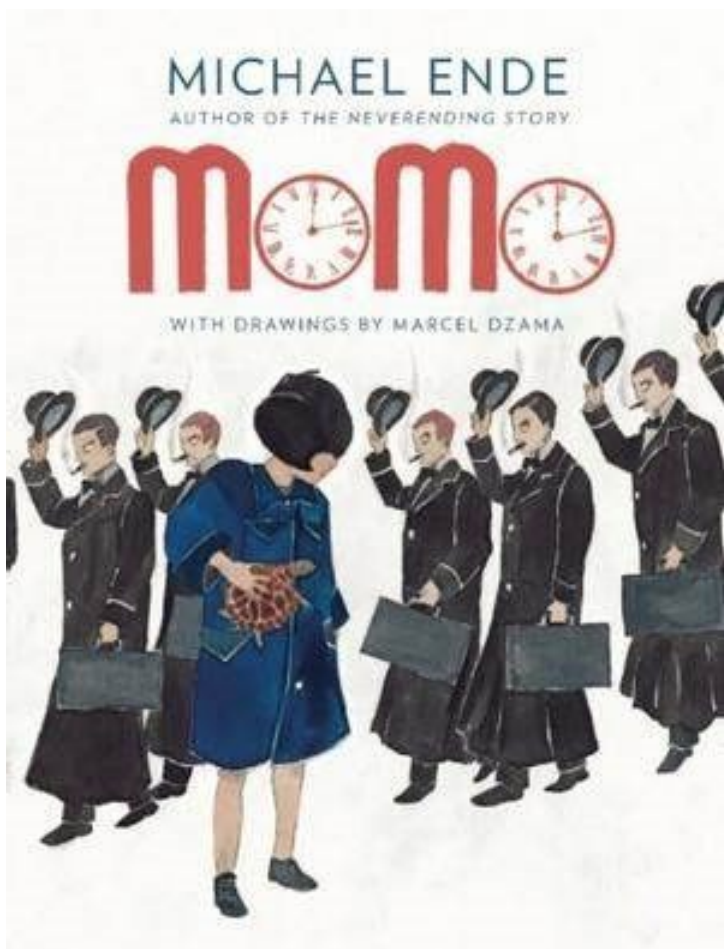
More than 200 years ago, the physics professor and writer from Göttingen, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, wrote in his Doodles:

"There are two ways to prolong life. First, when the points of birth and death move apart and thus the road will be longer . . . ; some doctors have already done a great deal in this area. The other way is to go slower and leave both points where God wants them."

In these unremarkable-sounding sentences, the satirist Lichtenberg hides an ironic question: what will it gain if we extend our existence by days, weeks or even years, but then rush through this time hastily and superficially and we will not even have a moment to really live? What's the use of quantity if the quality leaves much to be desired?

This is a question that is more relevant today than ever. Through developments in the field of medicine, our average life expectancy has increased significantly. Never before in history have people had such a long life at their disposal as they do now. And there has never been so much





"free time." But has this extension really resulted in more life? It doesn't look like it. After people complain ever more loudly that they don't have time. Momo, a character in the novel of Michael Ende, learned about paradoxical the phenomenon of time: the more time we save, the less time we have.

In his description of the two ways to prolong life, the moralist Lichtenberg undoubtedly also conceals an appeal. Go slower! Live vigilantly and consciously in the time you have at your disposal!

An appeal that also goes to the heart today:

Go slower – then you will keep the correct orientation; then you can be sure that you are on the right track. "The slowest walker who does not lose sight of his goal walks faster than the one who wanders aimlessly around," says Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, a contemporary of Lichtenberg.

Go slower - then you will have time to notice your surroundings and digest the impressions; then you will be able to savour and delight. "He who no longer tastes becomes unpalatable," says the proverb.

Go slower – then you will be able to thoroughly explore all things; then you will be able to reach the decisive questions: Who am I really? Who do I owe my life to? What plans does God have for me?

Go slower – then, like the prophet Elijah, you will experience that God is not found in what is big and loud, in what is unusual and spectacular, but that often imperceptibly and surprisingly He enters your life.

Go slower – then you will find time to be completely at home, to listen to your inner self and to hear the insistent voice of God within you. Then, also in conversation with others, you will be able to hear the quiet tones between the words in which the requests, hopes and questions addressed to you are hidden. You will also notice phrases and gestures through which others want to encourage you, comfort you, and show you their sympathy.

Go slower and, like Jesus, let others go, ride off, and hurry ahead of you, so that you can find time to be alone with yourself and pray alone.

Go slower – then, like the disciples of the Lord, you will find out who comes to the rescue in turbulent times; who will stay with you even when the water is up to your neck; who you can really trust when the wind blows in your face; who will you be able to rely on when you start to lose ground under your feet in your pursuit of deadlines and the daily rush.

Go slower – then you will see that Jesus extends His helping hand to you. Then you will feel that God is the uplifting foundation of your life.

There are two ways to prolong life, says Lichtenberg. If we don't want to leave this matter only to the doctors; if we choose the other way for ourselves and want to go slower, then holidays are a great time to take the first steps in this direction . . .

God has a good plan



"Whoever trusts in My mercy shall not perish, because all his matters are Mine, and his enemies will fall to pieces at the feet of My footstool" (Diary 723).

How beautiful is the promise that Jesus makes! He always keeps His word. Sometimes we meet people who tell us things, and we know that people's promises can be disappointment. Therefore, the temptation is that whenever we hear the word of Jesus, we will treat it the same as the words of people who have failed us. And He does not fail. The Lord Jesus reveals the future to us – every enemy of His (every evil spirit, every sin and every hopeless situation) will fall to pieces at His footstool!

Let's look at what follows from this promise, because it announces the triumph of God's mercy. Christ invites you to participate in His victory. This participation takes place through trust. God has a really good plan for your life.

In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord says, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11-13).

Even if you have heard that God has a good plan for your life and wants you to be happy, there is still one thing left: how will it happen? How will this plan be implemented? When the archangel Gabriel came to Mary and revealed God's plan to her, he heard her say, "How will this be?" (cf. Lk 1:34). The archangel replied: Let the Holy Spirit lead you, let Him fill you, cover you and guide you (cf. Lk 1:35).

In other words, he said to her: trust! Let me guide you! There is someone watching over you. Be submissive and obedient and you will see great things! Mary trusted and thanks to that the most beautiful miracles in the history of the universe happened!

We need trust so that God can carry out the best plan for our lives. Jesus says to St. Sister Faustina: "If their trustfulness is great, then My mercy shall be boundless. [...] The graces from My mercy are drawn from one vessel, and that vessel in trustfulness. The more trustful a soul

trust is, the more it will receive. Souls that have boundless trust are a great consolation to Me, for into such souls I pour all the treasures of My graces. I am glad when they ask for much, for I want to bestow, and even much, very much. But I am saddened when souls ask for little, when they tighten and close up their hearts” (Diary 1602, 1578).

Trust is a virtue about which the Lord Jesus also spoke to the servant of God, Sr. Leonia Nastal: "If souls trusted Me more, the earth would have as many saints as there are people on earth." When you trust in God's goodness, you can feel safe because Jesus promises that you will not perish. Whenever you do not know what to do, when you are afraid for yourself, for your loved ones, for your future - trust Him.

Jesus gives us trust as a remedy for our hearts wounded by fear and anxiety. And it's not about the attitude that I have to pull myself together, roll up my sleeves and face my own doubts. Rather, it is about listening to His words and recognising in your heart that Jesus knows better, and resting with trust in His presence. The most important thing is to decide to trust His words more than your own fears and anxieties.

To Fr. Dolindo Jesus says: “I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say ‘You take care of it’. I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you.”

Trusting Jesus means trusting yourself less and less: your attitude, feelings, ideas, plans, while being more and more attentive to His words and promises, reading them and considering them in relation to your life. It is a sure growth path that leads to victory.

This truth expressed by Jesus was also passed on to St. Sister Faustina: "No soul that has called on My mercy has been turned away or disappointed" (Diary 1541). Why aren't you to be ashamed? Because Jesus says that all your affairs become His affairs: "Seek after the kingdom of God, and everything else will be added to you" (Luke 12:30). And to St. Faustina He says that "My Kingdom on Earth is My life in the human soul" (Diary 1784).

This is how you enter into a relationship with the Lord Jesus in which you take care to care only for Him, and He cares for you and everything that is good for you. This is what he meant when he said to Martha in Bethany: "you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed — indeed only one" (Luke 10:41b-42).

Isn't that great? You have everything in common with the God of the entire Universe. He is omnipotent. You and all your affairs are in His hands. Could anything threaten you?

Our Lady of Herbaceous Remedies

According to an old tradition, seven or 77 different herbs and grains, later also flowers, were tied in a bouquet to be blessed on the feast “Our Lady of Herbs”, that is the Assumption. The number seven in the Old Testament is a symbol of perfection. These seven herbs are chamomile, mint, lemon balm, basil, rosemary, lovage and nasturtium.

The celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the past was inseparably associated with the blessing of herbs. Hence, this liturgical holiday was popularly said to be the

day of "Our Lady of Herbs".

Herbs have accompanied man since the beginning of time. Also today, many of us "return to nature" and use herbs in addition to or instead of modern medicines. Herbal remedies become an important part of our healthy life, we rediscover the old knowledge about the benefits of various herbs. "There is more medicine in an onion than in a pharmacy" – says the old wisdom of life. This may be a bit of an exaggeration, but there is no doubt that nature contains many substances beneficial to health.

Already 400 years before the birth of Christ, the Greek physician Hippocrates taught that "what you eat should be your medicine." Onion helps with wasp bites, heals corns, relieves coughs and colds. Thyme is not only a great herb for baking, but also relieves whooping cough and rheumatic pains. Sage is not only good for making stuffing but maybe even better as a bath additive. And the royal herb basil, which was placed in tombs in ancient Egypt, soothes throat irritation and nervousness. And, of course, rosemary is not only good with lamb, but also can reduce muscle pain and improve memory.



In this relationship between man and nature, the celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the ancient custom of blessing herbs plays an important role. Man should be perfect, saved and healthy, which is personified by Mary. According to an old tradition, seven or 77 different herbs and grains, later also flowers, were tied in a bouquet to be blessed on the day of Our Lady of Herbs. Seven in the Old Testament is a symbol of perfection. These seven herbs are chamomile, mint, lemon balm, basil, rosemary, lovage and nasturtium.



The custom of blessing herbs dates back to pagan times. Many of these and similar herbs were placed on sacrificial altars by the Germans. Around August (according to the present reckoning of time) they had fasting days before the great harvest festival. Many herbs used to this day also played an important role in the medicine of the Egyptians, Romans and Greeks. Our pagan ancestors knew that these plants could give people health, peace and well-being. Sorcerers also used herbs to conjure evil spirits and demons. Knowledge of plants was also of great importance among converts to Christianity. During various ceremonies, they gave herbs to be blessed, thanking God for the gift of nature. From the time when Charlemagne (742-814) ordered the establishment of model herb gardens, monks and nuns also planted them *en masse* at their monasteries.

Dominican St. Albert the Great of Cologne around 1230 already knew about 200 medicinal herbs. Rediscovered today, St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) knew many ways to "heal body and soul" and prescribed mullein as a remedy "for a weak and sad heart".

On various occasions throughout the year, flowers, herbs and cereals are blessed in churches, but the most popular is Our Lady of Herbs – on August 15. Not only because almost all herbs bloom at this time, but also by referring to this Marian feast. Already early Christianity knew the legend that the Son of God took his Mother to heaven, and the apostles, opening the

tomb, found only roses in it.

Even then, Mary was called the Patroness of the harvest, and the August season was considered the blessed time of the harvest. Folk tradition gives great importance not only to the celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The period of 30 days from August 15 is the "feminine thirty". According to folk tradition, but it is also confirmed by science, it is exactly at this time that herbs bloom at their most beautiful, have an intense odour and the greatest power. That is why on these days you should collect herbs, which – knowing about their healing effect – we will use in the winter.

Prayer

♥ PRAYER TO OUR LADY, MOTHER OF GOD, ASSUMED INTO HEAVEN ♥

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of us all!

We believe with all the zeal of our faith

in your triumphal ascension with body and soul into heaven,

where you were proclaimed Queen of all the choirs of angels and of all the hosts of saints.

And we join them to praise and bless the Lord,

who has exalted you above all pure creatures,

to offer you the warmth of our piety and love.

Your gaze, which maternally caressed the humble and suffering humanity of Jesus on earth, is satisfied in heaven with the vision of the glorious humanity of the Uncreated Wisdom, the joy of your soul in seeing the adorable Trinity face to face touches your Heart with beatific tenderness, and we, wretched sinners, we whom the body impedes the flight of the soul, we beg you to cleanse our senses so that we can learn here on earth to taste God from the wonders of creation.

Amen.



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 Ian Bruce Caldwell (2016), recently deceased Mary McGeachy **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.

Solemnity of the Assumption: Mass as on the front page. Bouquets of herbs/wild flowers will be blessed during Mass. There are plenty of wild flowers in our garden.

Coffee Morning: a great success. Well done to everyone involved. So far, the total raised is approx. £700.

Father's holiday: Rev Fr John Doran, of the Mill Hill Fathers, will be in residence from Friday 25th to Wednesday 30th and offer Holy Mass from Saturday to Wednesday. He will also be making a Mission Appeal. Fr Tony will be back for the 9th September.



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