



The Passion  
of  
John the  
Baptist

**AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup>**

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

*Campbeltown and Islay  
Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain  
27<sup>th</sup> August 2023*

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of  
Ordinary Time**

**Hymns/Music**

*Suggested hymns*

**Processional (Sunday Mass only)**

518 The Church's one foundation

**Offertory**

28 All that I am

**Post Communion**

498 Soul of my Saviour

**Final**

514 Tell out my soul

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

**Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am.**

Monday: Holy Mass, **6.00pm**

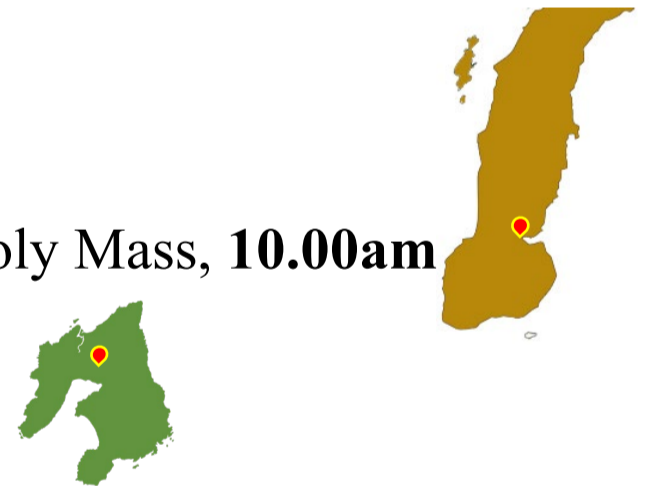
Tuesday and Wednesday: Holy Mass, **10.00am**

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm**

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup> in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am**

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

**August, Holy Mass, TBA**



**Psalm response**

*Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.*

**Gospel acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*You are Peter*

*and on this rock I will build my Church.*

*And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.*

*Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon**

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood*

*has eternal life, says the Lord,*

*and I will raise him up on the last day.*

## Take Five

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

**Monday, Aug 28, 2023**

### **MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

#### **The great romance**

Saint Augustine is known as a great thinker — arguably the most significant Christian theologian after Saint Paul. But his writing is as much heart as head. He is also known for leaving behind a life of hedonism. But he remained a passionate man — only, after his conversion, passion for God alone. “Late have I loved you, O Beauty, ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!” he lamented. It’s never too late to be swept away by what Augustine has to say: “To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men.”*

**Tuesday, Aug 29, 2023**

### **MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

#### **Prepare the way**

Painting after painting shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus. John knows it’s not about him: “He who is coming after me is mightier than I” (Matthew 3:11) and “I am not the Christ, but I have been sent ahead of Him.... He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 2:28-30). Christian tradition also calls him John the Precursor and John the Forerunner, prepping us for the Messiah by being something of a prototype. Like Jesus, he’s conceived miraculously. Both preach repentance, have disciples, and suffer in death. But as Saint Peter Julian Eymard knew, “The true secret of love consists in this — we must forget self like Saint John the Baptist and exalt and glorify the Lord.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Mark 6:17-29. “We drew courage through our God to speak to you the Gospel of God.”*

**Wednesday, Aug 30, 2023**

#### **Make a better choice**

A mother of 11 foster children always had a gaggle of children buzzing around her. They were happy and well cared for. When there was even a hint of one crossing the line from lively to obnoxious, she simply said, “Make a better

choice.” Amazingly, they did. Those are powerful words. How can you make a better choice today? What will help you walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into his Kingdom and glory? This advice from Saint Francis de Sales might prove useful: “Never miss an opportunity to do good.”

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:27-32. “We treated each one of you as a father treats his children, exhorting and encouraging you and insisting that you walk in a manner worthy of ... God.”*

**Thursday, Aug 31, 2023**

#### **It is coming**

If you knew that an impending disaster, such as a flood or hurricane, was about to destroy your home and threaten your life, wouldn't you make preparation to escape and find refuge in a safe place? Jesus warned His followers to avert spiritual disaster and not to be caught off-guard when the “day of judgment” would strike the earth and its inhabitants. The “Day of the Lord” was understood in the Old Testament as the time when God would manifest his power and glory and overthrow his enemies. Isaiah describes it as a day when God will bring down the proud and the arrogant who flaunt his law (Isaiah 2:11). That day will be darkness, gloom, disaster, and desolation for the earth when “God will punish the world for its evil and the wicked for their iniquity” (Isaiah 13:6-11). The prophet Amos declared that the “Day” meant judgment for the house of Israel as well, and not just the other nations who followed other gods (Amos 5:18-20). The prophet Joel proclaimed that at this “Day” those who truly repented would be saved, while those who remained enemies of God, whether Jew or Gentile, would be punished.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51. “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”*

**Friday, Sep 01, 2023**

#### **Ready, steady, . . .**

Jesus warns us that there are consequences for being unprepared. There are certain things you cannot obtain at the last moment. For example, a student cannot prepare for his exam when the day of testing is upon him. A person cannot get the right kind of character or skill required for a task at hand unless he already



possesses it. Our eternal welfare depends on our hearing, and many have trained themselves to not hear. We will not be prepared to meet the Lord, face to face, when He calls us on the day of judgment, unless we listen to Him today. The Lord invites us to feast at His banquet table.

Are you ready?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13. "Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not a human being but God, who also gives the Holy Spirit to you."*

**Saturday, Sep 02, 2023**

**Talent contest**

The parable of the Talents is about much more

than money. It speaks of the gifts that God has given to each of us and how we choose to "invest" those gifts in the community. Are we seeking only the most limited return, for ourselves? Or are we sharing our gifts, doing our part to help build up the community? The questions are more than hypothetical, for one day, at an unexpected hour, we will be called to account. Invest wisely for a generous return!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30. "Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return?"*

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## *Readings for the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday*

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**Isaiah 22:19-23**

God chooses who will rise and who will fall by divine decree.

**Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8**

God be praised and thanked for responding to us in our need.

**Romans 11:33-36**

God's wisdom and ways are unfathomable to the human mind.

**Matthew 16:13-20**

The identity of Jesus is revealed through Simon.

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## *Words on the Word*

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Many people today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, often find it difficult to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord and as God. More often, He is considered to be the founder of a religion, a so-called religious genius like Buddha or Muhammad. This is happening more and more often, because untrue thinking and beliefs, defined as scientific research, are often presented as progressive and modern, bringing freedom to humanity, while evangelical thinking is perceived as an expression of backwardness. Catholics are sometimes screamed at and often paralysed by the aggressiveness of the media, they prefer to remain silent and watch passively, closed inside churches, among their own. Like Peter, when we find ourselves in the screeching crowd that is judging Jesus, we are sometimes embarrassed when someone asks, "Are you also a disciple of his? Aren't you one of them too?"

Let's listen to the words of John Paul II: "Maybe it will not be demanded of you to shed blood, but faithfulness to Christ – certainly yes! The faith that must be kept every day. I am thinking of engaged couples and the difficulties in today's world of chastity in anticipation of marriage. I mean young married couples and the trials to which their pledge of mutual fidelity is exposed. I mean the relationships between friends and the temptation of disloyalty that can creep in between them. I am also thinking of those who have embarked on a path of special consecration and the effort sometimes required by perseverance in giving themselves to God and to their brothers and sisters. I am also thinking of those who want to experience relationships of solidarity and love in a world where – as it seems – only the logic of benefits and personal or group gain has value. I am also thinking of those who work for peace and who see new hotbeds of war being born and developing in various parts of the world; I am thinking

of those who work for the freedom of people and see that they are still slaves to themselves and others; I mean those who fight to make human life loved and respected, and who must witness frequent attacks on it and on the respect it deserves. Dear youth! Is it hard to believe in such a world? Is it hard to believe it in the year 2000? Yes! It's hard. This shouldn't be hidden. It is difficult, but with the help of grace it is possible, as Jesus explained to Peter: "It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven" (John Paul II, Rome, August 19, 2000).

The keys – the symbol of power were promised to Saint Peter to emphasise his importance and the importance of the role of his successors. Jesus did not revoke His promise, even though Saint Peter in the square of the high priest denied Him, denied belonging to His disciples and denied his Galilean origin. Peter is Christ's delegate on earth, like all popes. Their task is to lead the Church on the way of salvation. Keys open what is locked. Jesus taught us that keys should serve us more to open than to close, He condemned the Pharisees who blocked the way of salvation for the faithful. The gates of heaven have been opened by Christ, He saves. Whoever believes in Him receives salvation. Our role is to decide: life or death, blessing or curse.

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*Woe to him who has evil thoughts,  
Woe to him who withholds a helpful word,  
Woe to him who refuses friendly gestures,  
Woe to him who does not open his clenched fist,  
Woe to those who have closed themselves to God's Love.*

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## Prayer

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**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** Margaret Wilson (2022) **and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

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## News and Events

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

**Thanks to Fr John** for serving the parish in the absence of Fr. Tony. Please give generously to the Mission Appeal for the Mill Hill Fathers.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>** of September, Fr Jarosław (Jarek) Kwiecień will be here to celebrate Holy Mass.

Fr Tony will be back for the Masses on the following Saturday and Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>).



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[www.stkieranscampbeltown.org](http://www.stkieranscampbeltown.org)



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