



PARISH BULLETIN

St Kieran's, the Catholic Church

*in Campbeltown and Islay
Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*

17th September 2023

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Hymns/Music

Processional (Sunday Mass only)

438 O worship the King(5) (Hamel)

Offertory

243 In bread we bring you Lord (Keys)

Communion

677 Bless the Lord my soul(6) (Taize)

Final

147 Forth in the peace of Christ we go (Mayhew)

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 24th September, 25th in Ordinary Time Holy Mass, 10.00am.

Monday: Holy Mass, 6.00pm

Tuesday and Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Wednesday: and Holy Mass, 10.00am

Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Devotions

Wednesday: Mid-Morning Prayer, 9.50am

Friday: Adoration, Mid-Morning Prayer, 9.30am

Scripture discussion: Friday at 10.30am

Saturday, 30th September, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm

Sunday, 1st October, 26th in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am

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

1st October, Holy Mass, 4.00pm

15th October, Holy Mass, 4.00pm



Psalm response

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.*

Take Five

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

Monday, Sep 25, 2023

Hide and seek

We can try to hide things from others, from ourselves, and from God. How tempting to shut our eyes from the consequences of our sinful ways and bad habits, even when we know what those consequences are. And how tempting to hide them from others and even from God. But, nonetheless, everything is known to God who sees all. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in God's light and who seek this truth. Those who listen to God and heed His voice will receive more from Him. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18. "No one who lights a lamp conceals it ... rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light."*

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2023

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

Freely share the gifts you've been given

Cosmas and Damian were legendary. Many churches have been built in their honour, and their names make the short list of saints enshrined in Eucharistic Prayer I, used during the Mass. During the final years of Rome's brutal persecution of Christians, the twin physicians lived in Syria — then an eastern province of the Roman Empire. Not only were they gifted healers, but they refused to charge for their services. As they explained, "We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, 'Freely have you received, freely give.'" How have you been blessed by God, and how can you share that with others?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21. "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."*

Wednesday, Sep 27, 2023

MEMORIAL OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

Now on tour

Why does Jesus tell the apostles to "travel light" with little or no provision? "Poverty of

spirit" frees us from greed and preoccupation with possessions and makes ample room for God's provision. The Lord wants His disciples to be dependent on Him and not on themselves. He wills to work through and in each of us for His glory. Are you ready to handle the power and authority which God wishes you to exercise on His behalf? The Lord entrusts us with His gifts and talents. Are you eager to place yourself at His service, to do whatever He bids you, and to witness His truth and saving power to whomever He sends you?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6. "Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere."*

Thursday, Sep 28, 2023

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

Lighten the load

You may have heard the old Christmas song about a Bohemian king who became Saint Wenceslaus, in part because of his great charity. The most famous tale from the charitable king's life was recorded in the carol "Good King Wenceslaus." The king helps a poor man keep from freezing by treading a path in the snow for him, easing the man's journey to shelter. It ends with an admonishment to do likewise for anyone who suffers and "[you] shall yourselves find blessing." Do a favour for someone in need today, and like Wenceslaus, you will find blessing.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9. "Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"*

Friday, Sep 29, 2023

FEAST OF SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Entertaining angels

Care for strangers has always been a strong imperative in Christianity. Yet in today's highly politicised environment, it is challenging to reach out to strangers who some have deemed to be threats — people like refugees and other marginalised communities. Scripture is clear: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels

without knowing it." Angels? It's far easier to see angels from the safety of a holy card or a statue. But think for a moment and see if you have at some point encountered an angel through the presence of a stranger.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51. "How do you know me?"*

Saturday, Sep 30, 2023

**MEMORIAL OF SAINT JEROME, PRIEST,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

Christianity, by the book

As early Christianity distanced itself from Judaism, Christians began to lose touch with their faith's deep Jewish roots. Saint Jerome (born around 340) helped to re-establish the link. He learned Hebrew from a Christian monk

who had converted from Judaism. More unusual for the time, he studied with Jewish rabbis to gain a better understanding of Hebrew scripture. He then spent 15 years producing the foundational Latin translation of the Hebrew Bible, which we know as the Old Testament. He later said, "For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Crack open the Good Book today, in honour of a key figure who helped shape it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45. "Jesus said to his disciples, 'Pay attention to what I am telling you.'"*

Readings for the 25th Sunday

Isaiah 55:6-9

God thinks differently than we, so we lift up our hearts to know God's will.

Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

God is closer than we think. All we have to do is look.

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Paul prefers life in Christ to his own life on Earth.

Matthew 20:1-16a

Is God unfair? Or is God's justice better than ours?

Words on the Word

A new perspective

How beautiful human life can be:

The day is kind to him, a great night awaits!

But we, born for the happiness of paradise,

Barely see the sunshine on earth,

Because our restless pursuit still drives us

Struggling with us and with those around us.

It's in vain to look for agreement and harmony here –

When it's dark around us – joy rings for us,

And when the world is bright, sadness slumbers within us,

And happiness passes us by unnoticed

(J.W. Goethe, Trilogy of Passions).

We have learned in life, and unfortunately often in the Church, to judge others according to their efficiency or usefulness. In the Gospel today we read about a strange landowner who probably cares more about the welfare of his workers than about his vineyard or his own goods. Meanwhile, we often demand from ourselves and others so-called good deeds, going to church, solidarity with the poor and needy, involvement in building justice, and sometimes hearing at the end: "Those who go to church aren't any better either." We surrendered to the

ordinary human perspective on our religious life, everyone judging us as people, no one noticing our religiosity, God in our lives, i.e., the proper foundation of our lives.

The payment described in the Gospel is small, it will not change the lives of workers much, but Jesus wants to talk not about money and social justice, but about the kingdom of God, to which both the former and the latter have access.

It is worth considering what we can pay for with money. Can money buy a clear, sunny sky, beautiful waves, the charm of spring or a sunset? Can you buy moments of happiness or human love?

Of course, the Gospel also talks about work and effort.

Everything that is valuable is obtained through talent and work, and not without a bit of luck. The Kingdom of God, the Lord's vineyard, already exists, is becoming, and will reach its fullness in the future. Are we ready to work at any time to get there?

For many believers, this is a huge difficulty. We know the saying: what costs nothing is worth nothing, or, you only get what you pay for. We want to deserve the kingdom of God, this is our human nature. We are reluctant to agree to be helped or a gift, even if it is heaven. It's dangerous and not good and to think that we can deserve heaven, that if we deserve it humanly, it will earned.

Let's ask ourselves: why am I in church today? Did someone tell me to? Is it a sense of duty? What's more important is that here I am gifted, that here with Christ the Lord and Saviour we celebrate the gift of life, natural and supernatural. That something is given here so that we can live – it is this denarius from God that will allow me to continue living in hope and love.

The parable of those invited to work in the vineyard shows God's generosity. The owner of the vineyard (God) goes out to the market any time of the day to employ the unemployed waiting for work. He doesn't look at his watch. He doesn't look at references and recommendations. One could even say that He likes to employ those who do not have good references: customs officers, open sinners, and thieves may turn out to be "ideal" workers in His vineyard (A. Pronzato).

Five pieces of advice from Padre Pio



It doesn't take much to live a truly godly life. It is enough to emphasise certain principles in your spiritual life and put them into action.

First piece of advice

– this is the sentence of St. Paul the Apostle: "God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28). It is true that God can transform even evil into good, but only if man is devoted to Him without any reservations. So also sins, from which God will not always save you, He in His Providence can turn into good if you serve Him.

And so, if King David had not committed sin, he would probably never have achieved such great humility. Magdalene would not have loved Jesus so passionately if her many sins had not been forgiven. And Jesus would not have forgiven her if she had not committed them.

So, consider God's great mercy – it transforms our misery into the work of His goodness and graciousness. It is able to drain saving juices for our souls from our anger and the venom of iniquity. So, can't He do this out of our troubles, worries and experiences?

And that is why there is no need to torment yourself with afflictions, whatever they may be, but just try to love God with all your heart, and everything will turn out for the good. You don't even have to think too much about what will come of it, when it will happen and what good it will be.

If God puts the mud of ignorance on your eyes, it is not to deprive you of your sight, but to make you see better and to make you wonderful, worthy of the love and admiration of the angels. Maybe God wants you to fall like Saint Paul who fell off his horse?

So do not lose hope and courage because you fall, but do a great act of humility, reviving and renewing hope. To lose heart and become impatient after a fall is a trick and an ambush of the enemy, it is giving him weapons and allowing him to achieve victory. So never do this, for the grace of the Lord is always ready to uplift you.

Second piece of advice

Let it be engraved in your soul: God is our Father. So, is there any point in fearing a Father who has said and assured us that without His will and Providence not even a hair will fall from our

heads?

It is truly wonderful that, being children of such a Father, we have and should fulfil another task: to love Him and serve Him! So fulfil your duties and don't worry about anything else. You will see that when you arrange your life this way, Jesus Himself will take care of you.

"Think of me, and I will think of you," Jesus once said to St. Catherine of Siena. And the Sage says: "Eternal Father, Your Providence governs everything" (cf. Wisdom 14:3).

Third piece of advice

We must observe what the Divine Master taught when He said to His disciples: "Have you lacked anything?" (Luke 22:35). It is worth thinking carefully about this text and considering it. Without money, without shoes, without clothes – Jesus sent His disciples into the world wearing only one tunic.

And He said to them, "Did you lack anything when I sent you without a purse, without a bag, and without sandals?" (Luke 22:35).

And they replied that they lacked nothing. Therefore, I say the same to you, that when you are overcome with weariness and discouragement, and you feel no confidence in God, has this toil ever overwhelmed you? You will surely answer me no. And that's why I want to add: why don't you try to overcome adversity with a willing heart? If God has not abandoned you in the past, how can He abandon you in the future?

After all, in the future you will belong to Him more than in the past. So, there is no need to worry about what will happen in the world in the future. Maybe it (evil) won't come at all? And even if it comes, God will give you the strength to withstand and endure it. The Divine Master instructed Saint Peter to walk on the waves of the sea.

Saint Peter was afraid when the wind blew, and he began to sink. And the Divine Master took his hand and said reproachfully: "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31).

If God tells us to walk on rough waves, there is no need to doubt, there is no need to be afraid. God is with you, have courage and you will enjoy freedom.

Fourth advice

The fourth piece of advice is about eternity. For God's children, this short life that passes is of very little importance, because we will live in the glory of God for eternity. So, consider whether you are walking the right path to eternity or whether you are already setting foot on this path. May your feet move in this direction and may you be happy because life in this transient and restless world is insignificant.

Fifth advice

I want it to be etched in your mind forever. Its contents are words from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (6:14).

Keep Jesus Crucified in your heart, and all the crosses in the world will seem like roses to you. The thorns of the Saviour's crown of thorns, which wounded His head and also wound ours, will in no way cause other wounds.

As long as there is even one drop of blood in our body, the fight between good and evil will continue. The trials with which the Lord subjects you and tests you are a distinguishing sign of His special love and like a precious pearl for your soul.

All these difficulties will pass very quickly, as winter passes and spring comes. Also, after our

earthly life, which passes so quickly, there will be an endless spring, which will be richer and more beautiful the more tempests and storms there were.

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 Jamesina (Shirley) Finn (2017) and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Padre Pio Prayer

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approaches. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches, I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile!

Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers. I need You.

Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of the bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the Light which disperses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me, Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to You, if not by communion, at least by grace and love.

Stay with me, Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation, because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your Presence, oh yes, I ask this of You!

Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your Spirit, because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen.

News and Events

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

Special Collection this Sunday for Ecclesiastical Students of the diocese.

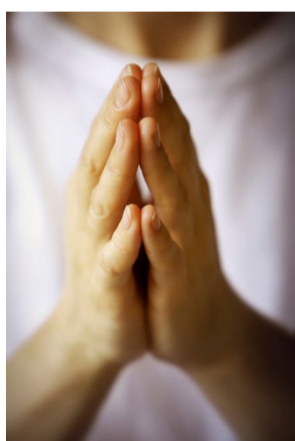
Receiving the Precious Blood at Holy Communion: the receiving of the Host at Holy Communion is the reception of the whole Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the sacrament. However, receiving both the Body and the Blood under both forms is a more complete and fuller sign of union with our Lord in the Sacrament. Therefore, both species, the Most Holy Body and the Precious Blood will be offered at Holy Communion for Sundays (including the Vigil Mass). There will be a chalice of the Precious Blood separate from the Priest's (reason: the priest celebrating the Eucharist must drink from the chalice).



Rather than sharing from the same chalice about which some people will be wary, **the Body and Blood will be given by intinction** by the priest. That is, the Host will be partially dipped into the Chalice and combined. Slightly larger communion wafers will be used for this and will have to be received on the tongue (for obvious reasons).



There will be members of the faithful who will still want only **to receive the Host alone in the hand** and so the Minister of Holy Communion should be approached with both hands cupped to receive in the hand.



There may also be faithful who prefer to receive **only the Host on the tongue**. They should signal this by approaching the Minister of Holy Communion with hands held together as in prayer.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: An EMHC will be needed to hold the Chalice as the priest distributes Holy Communion. The EMHC should come into the Sanctuary, standing next to the priest, as he consumes Holy Communion himself. Then the EMHC will be given Holy Communion and then the Chalice to hold, standing next to the Priest.



campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk



www.stkieranscampbeltown.org



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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