

# PARISH BULLETIN

## St Kieran's, the Catholic Church in Campbeltown and Islay

*Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2023

# 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time** Holy Mass, 10.00am.

Monday: Holy Mass, 6.00pm

Tuesday: No Mass

**Wednesday: Solemnity of All Saints, Holy Mass, 6.00pm**

**Thursday: Commemoration of the Holy Souls, Holy Mass, 10.00am, 6.00pm**

Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

### *Devotions*

Wednesday: Evening Prayer, 5.45pm

Friday: Adoration, Mid-Morning Prayer, 9.30am

*Scripture discussion:* Friday at 10.30am

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm**

**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> in Ordinary Time, Holy Mass, 10.00am**

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

5<sup>th</sup> November, Holy Mass, 4.00pm

19<sup>th</sup> November, Holy Mass, 4.00pm

### **Psalm response**

*I love you, Lord, O God, my strength, I love you, Lord, my strength.*

### **Gospel acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.*

*Alleluia!*

### Hymns/Music

**Processional (Sunday Mass only)**

242 Immortal, invisible, God only wise (Mayhew)

**Offertory**

510 Take my life, and let it be (McLennan, Nottingham)

**Communion**

672 Adoramus Te, Domine (Taize)

**Post Communion**

141 Fill my house (Keys)

**Final**

514 Tell out my soul (McLennan)



**Communion Antiphon**  
*Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
as a fragrant offering to God.*

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**Take Five**

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

**Monday, Oct 30, 2023**

**Healing on tap**

When you read the Gospels, you can't help but be amazed by how much of Jesus' public ministry was devoted to healing the sick, whether in body, mind, or soul. The Church continues Christ's healing ministry as central to its works in myriad ways. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Healing is an essential dimension of the apostolic mission and of Christian faith in general." In fact, he said, Christianity is a "religion of healing." What troubles your body and spirit? Bring it to Jesus to be restored to health and wholeness.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 8:12-17; Luke 13:10-17.* "He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God."

**Tuesday, Oct 31, 2023**

**Death be not proud**

From the Irish we get ancient Celtic elements of Samhain, the idea of a veil separating the living from the dead becoming so thin that it's permeable. From Mexico, we get Día de los Muertos: visiting loved ones' graves, awaiting a festive reunion as the separation between life and death momentarily dissolves. For Halloween, treat-seeking children dress as

witches, vampires, and zombies — traversing gardens with pumpkin ghoulish faces and spray cobwebs. Not really understanding what it is about or what they are engaging in. Or, if we've attended Christian schools, the focus is more heavenly, with costumes of saints and angels. However we observe this Eve of All Saints, our Catholic belief about the "last things" comes with an assurance that we are meant to return to the one who loved us into existence. "At the evening of life," says Saint John of the Cross, "we shall be judged on our love."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 8:18-25; Luke 13:18-21.* "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."

**Wednesday, Nov 01, 2023**

**SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

**See the saints in living colour**

Today as the Church celebrates All Saints, parishes and websites around the globe will feature an image of 15th-century Dominican Friar Fra Angelico's *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs*. This much-loved painting was originally part of an altarpiece in the Church of San Domenico near Florence. Most of the hallowed figures in the painting look



toward Christ. They appear in long rows and represent important male and female biblical figures, martyrs, and saints, including Saint John the Baptist in the top row, wearing a camel-hair tunic and holding a wooden cross. He looks directly at the viewer and points the way to Christ — exactly his role in salvation history. Christian art is a great tool for learning about the saints, Christian symbolism, and Catholic theology, and the paintings and frescoes of Fra Angelico are a good place to start.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a. "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God."*

**Thursday, Nov 02, 2023**

### **COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)**

#### **A work in progress**

The notion of "purgatory" is really quite simple and true to human experience. All of life is a process, and our best efforts can lead to progress but never perfection in this lifetime. What makes today special is that we can all participate in that process with our dearly departed, by our prayers, our good and generous deeds, and at Mass. Lend a helping hand today to those who are further along in the process. And may we all meet again one day, and, in the meantime, we pray, "May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40. "And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day."*

**Friday, Nov 03, 2023**

### **OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF MARTIN DE PORRES, RELIGIOUS**

#### **The struggle continues**

The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to

remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of His works, both in creation and redemption. It was a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf. It was intended to bring everyday work to a halt and to provide needed rest and refreshment. It was not, however, intended to put a stop to love of God and love of neighbour. The law of love supersedes the law of rest! Jesus shows the fallacy of the Pharisees' legalism by pointing to God's intention for the Sabbath: *to do good and to heal*. God's word has power to heal and to set free from ignorance, error, intolerance, and prejudice. Do you honour the *Lord's Day* with appropriate rest and worship, and do you treat your neighbour with love and compassion at all times?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 9:1-5; Luke 14:1-6. "My conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness."*

**Saturday, Nov 04, 2023**

### **MEMORIAL OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO, BISHOP**

#### **Be an instrument of change**

During his first homily as pope in 2013, Pope Francis quoted Léon Bloy, a 20th-century French novelist who was known for his passionate defence of the faith. In 1904 he became friends with Raïssa Maritain, a poet, philosopher, and Hasidic Jew. She was so influenced by Bloy that she, along with her well-known husband Jacques, and her sister Vera, converted to Catholicism, with Bloy as sponsor. The "three Maritains" as they were known, took their place at the centre of a circle of French Catholic intellectuals. Raïssa died on this day in 1960. What kind of influence might you have on those searching for a faith to believe in?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Romans 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Luke 14:1, 7-11. "The one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

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## *Readings for the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday*

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### **Exodus 22:20-26**

The Lord reveals to Israel that taking care of one another is the divine will.

### **Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51**

God is the ultimate source of love, strength, refuge, and victory.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10**

Paul set an example that others in turn now follow.

### **Matthew 22:34-40**

The Pharisees devise a new test for Jesus: How should we live?

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## Words on the Word

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*All who can call at least one soul theirs,  
Join in our song of praise!  
But any who cannot must creep tearfully  
Away from our circle.*

(Friedrich von Schiller, from *Ode to Joy*)

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Such a poem-slogan could be written on the door of every church, but also on the door of the dwelling of every Christian family. However, be careful, because such words may introduce division: this knows and this one does not know love. We need to ask what the basis for such a judgement is. Here arises the old problem of religion: who is worthy?

The Jews answered briefly: the one who fulfils the 365 prohibitions and 248 commandments, i.e., 613 rules. The modern Code of Canon Law, regulating the legal principles of life in the Catholic Church, contains 1,752 canons, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church – 2,865 articles. People like clear instructions and prohibitions.

The Lord God through Jesus Christ said: there is one supreme commandment, love of God and neighbour. The Lord Jesus does not preach to us theological theories or install legal principles, but He proclaims to us the Father and His eternal kingdom. He does not give us evidence of the existence of God but allows us to understand that God makes Himself known to those who believe and love.

“All real life is meeting,” once wrote Martin Buber, a German philosopher and theologian. “All religion is summed up in love,” says Jesus. Christian faith leads people as a loving community to communion with God, and only then does it make sense.

“I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: ‘Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction’. Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being” (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*).

Only faith, love and knowledge of God that bring us closer to Him make sense. The scribe presented in this Sunday’s Gospel embodies an old attitude visible in many believers: God is only a means, not an end. This is expressed in the belief that knowing the law and moral principles is not only important, but also practical, because it gives the power to judge, accept some and reject others. All under a pious guise. This leads to religious fundamentalism, rejected by the Catholic Church as a form of religious manipulation.

This is the attitude that the Lord Jesus opposes. God loves without preconditions and encourages such love. This one is so simple and yet so difficult. It is easier to look for culprits, pursue them, judge them and punish them on the basis of regulations and articles. If these regulations and articles do not serve people, they make no sense. Even if it was emphasised that they serve the glory of God. God cannot be bribed even by personal piety if it does not contain the heat of love.

*Speak clearly, instead of hiding behind a multitude of words,  
Think clearly, instead of getting lost in the tangle of thoughts,*

*Just listen, instead of throwing around solutions.  
Empathize instead of hiding in a safe shell.  
Be faithful without expecting reciprocity.  
Trust God instead of looking for evidence,  
Believe instead of building on certainty.  
Pray instead of expecting everything from yourself.*

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## Part two of the Rosary



### **Pray the rosary**

He is at the very centre of all suffering. He experienced them on Himself. Human pain penetrated Him to the marrow of His shattered bones.

### **The Sorrowful Mysteries**

#### **The Prayer in Gethsemane**

*Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.*

Jesus sweats blood. Science can explain such cases. In times of extreme stress, a person's sweat combines with blood particles from bursting blood vessels. God-Man is terrified. Aware of the suffering awaiting Him; its dimension, pain and sense of loneliness. Almighty God has made Himself human to the very limit. The Son of God did not put on the flesh of a man – He became a man with all the consequences, with all human physiology, psyche, and emotional needs.

When you feel like you are alone in the centre of your suffering; when you experience rejection and the fear of what lies ahead; when the ground disappears from under your feet, know one thing – Jesus has already been through all this in His own body.

#### **The Scourging**

*I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard.*

Many of those condemned did not survive the torture of the scourging. It wasn't called "Halfway to Death" for nothing. Roman law had no limits on the strength and number of blows. Scientists examining the Shroud of Turin found that Jesus would have received approximately one hundred and twenty double and triple lashes. The Romans used whips with hooks at the end that ripped the skin and ripped out pieces of flesh and beat them until the condemned person was just at point of fainting from the pain – and it began again.

Jesus' suffering was just beginning, but from the very beginning He had to face His powerlessness. As God, He could move mountains. As a human being, He was unable to lift His own tortured body from the ground. He willingly renounced His divine power in order to fully accompany man in his weakness.

### **The Crowning with Thorns**

*I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

The greatest paradox in the history of the world – man declares God King, only to then force a crown of thorns on His head and lead Him on the road to death. Man puts on a spectacle to mock the dignity of the King of the Universe. Man spits in the face of God. Man could no longer say to God more clearly: "I don't want you in my world."

And God, undeterred in His love, goes further to the summit of the hill to draw man to Himself on the cross – the sign of the greatest shame.

### **The Carrying of the Cross**

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.*

In the "Passion" according to the revelations of Blessed Anna Catherine Emmerich, a mystic, describes the moment when slaves, in the courtyard of Pilate's palace, brought a cross before Jesus and threw it at His feet. "Seeing the cross on the ground before him, Jesus fell on his knees, embraced it with his hands and kissed it three times, thanking the Heavenly Father that the redemption of people was beginning. Just as priests in pagan countries embraced the newly erected altar, so Jesus embraced the cross, the eternal altar of the redeeming blood sacrifice..." Even in His heart, Jesus did not reject His cross or rebel against it. He embraced the most shameful and hated instrument of torture that was assigned to Him at that time.

Why did the mighty God choose such a solution for man's salvation? It's a mystery. Free decision of the Almighty. He is at the very centre of all suffering. He experienced them on Himself. Human pain penetrated Him to the marrow of his shattered bones.

### **The Crucifixion**

*He grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground.*

Blessed mystic Anna Katarzyna Emmerich described the exact moment of nailing Jesus to the cross. A shocking account of God's crucifixion. Brutally stretched out on the cross, heavy hammer blows, pierced hands and feet, torn tendons, crushed bones, blood gushing on the faces of the executioners, the screams of Jesus. This is a description of the culminating moment of the fight between Heaven and the forces of darkness. The enraged demons are aware that this is their end, that they have failed in the war for man. So, they poured all their anger into the hearts of the executioners, who with mad ferocity drove nails into Jesus' hands and furiously trampled on His Holy Body.

Jesus did not die for the sins of the world. We use the plural too easily when thinking about Jesus' death. Collective responsibility alleviates our own guilt. Yet it was each person's personal

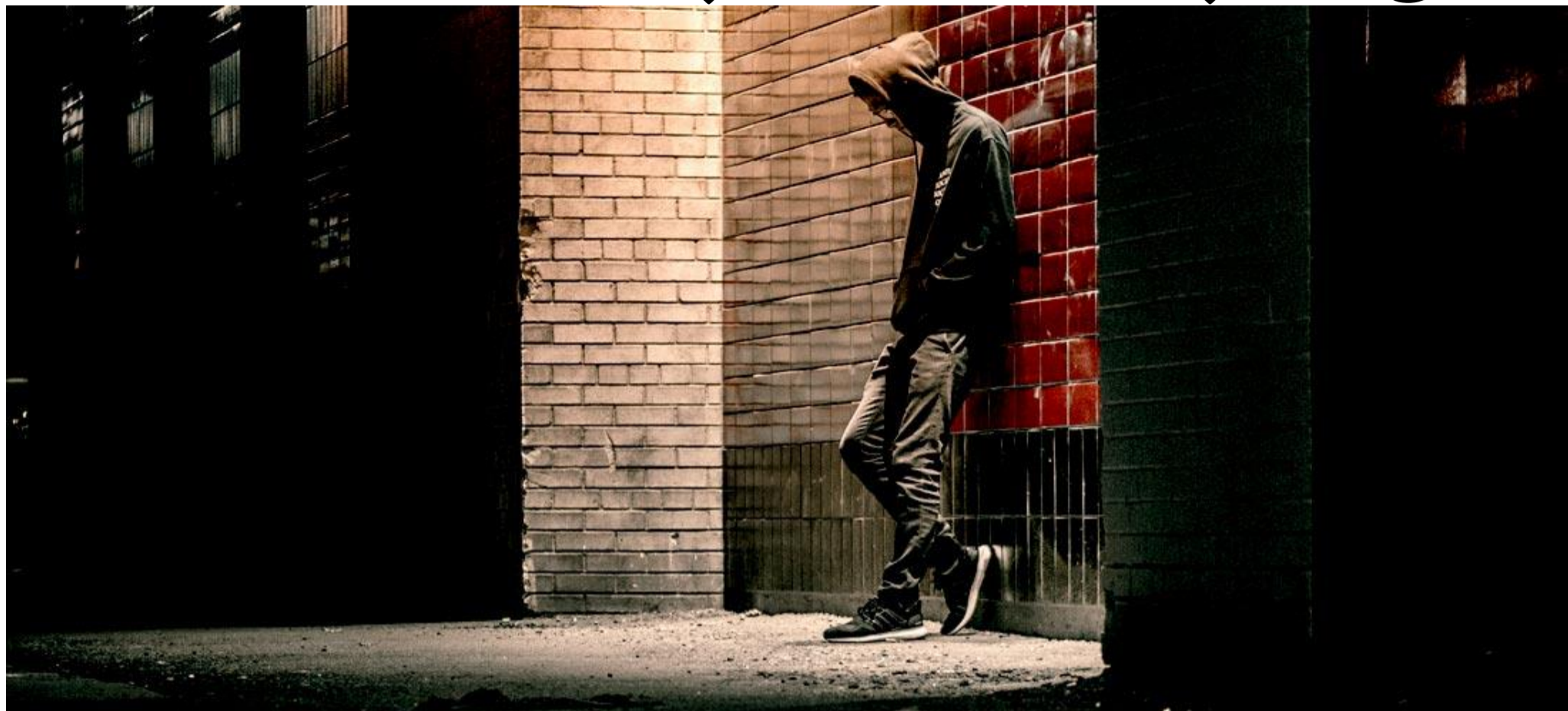
sin that led Jesus to Golgotha. Jesus died for each of us. What's more, He would do it again – as many times as it would take for a person to finally believe in His love.

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## A testimony

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# I drank from a poisoned spring



My turbulent life story began with a dramatic situation in our family. It led to the early breakdown of my parents' marriage. I took away from this event a great wound of rejection and loneliness. Not having a normal home, I envied those who had one.

Helplessness and growing anger in me led me to the world of youth subcultures. There, together with others who had experienced life like me, we learned contempt for the world and its authorities. For me, primary school became a time of listening to hard music, drinking alcohol and experimenting with drugs. I quickly became the object of attention from teachers and parents who warned others against any contact with me. It was very sad, but of course understandable. . .

### I looked in the wrong place

Diversions were not bringing me the expected satisfaction, and life was becoming more and more burdensome to me. Soon I and my previous group mates didn't understand each other. I began to look for a solution in sorcery and occultism, from which I expected to have extraordinary powers. But instead, I was filled with fear and darkness. The abundant promises of the New Age movement were also unable to provide an answer to my inner anxiety and the sadness of my heart. Successive gurus and Far Eastern meditation practices only trapped me in my strangeness. . .

As a teenager, I had neither prospects nor the will to live. Thanks to stimulants, I escaped from everyday life with its usual problems into illusory worlds. I was also incapable of building friendships. I entered into casual contacts that left me with only a feeling of shame.

### Fascinated by God

When nothing showed the possibility of change, something strange happened: when I was

meditating one afternoon, the image of the Virgin Mary appeared before my eyes, and vivid memories of Marian songs I had heard in the past began to come to me.

At that time, I left my hometown to study. Among my new friends, I met a boy who, as a Catholic, was not ashamed of his faith. I was intrigued by his normality and kindness. Through them, God slowly penetrated my heart. Openness and friendship with this person brought me closer to God and the Church. I began to seek out Christian mystics and read their works. My prejudices diminished, and I increasingly desired a living experience of God.

### The grace received in confession works

The turning point for me was an unplanned confession, which I made after a sincere conversation with a monk. The light of truth then entered my soul, opening a new stage in my life: a time of childhood joy, but also effort and struggle. I broke off sinful relationships and threw away occult accessories (records, books, images, etc.) because I knew it was impossible to serve two masters. I began to get to know God in prayer, sacramental life and involvement in the activities of the charismatic community. Unfortunately, the devastation that the evil spirit wrought in me through the sins of many years of idolatry made itself felt through harassment and physical ailments. Only after years of persistent personal and community prayer, and thanks to the help of priests, bad thoughts and blasphemies left my head and my heart regained trust and simplicity.

The Lord organised my interior and healed it with His grace so that I could live consciously, making wise and free choices. God allowed me to complete two fields of study and marry a wonderful woman, thanks to whom I keep discovering Him in my life anew. Every day I experience various states, I still have to pick myself up, but I cannot imagine life without God. Whatever happens, I know that He loved me as a sinner, and neither doubts, nor inner darkness, nor sad external events can separate me from Him.

*Thomas*

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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, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

**Please remember in your prayers David the Son of Irene McDougal,**

**Glenramskal, 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.

**The Solemnity of All Saints** (Wednesday) is a holy day of obligation. **All Souls** is on Thursday. Lists for **Remembrance of the Holy Souls** are in the porch. Please return them Wed/Thurs.

**Bishop Brian is attending the Synod** in the Vatican. You can keep up to date with the commentary of his experience on the diocesan Facebook page

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