

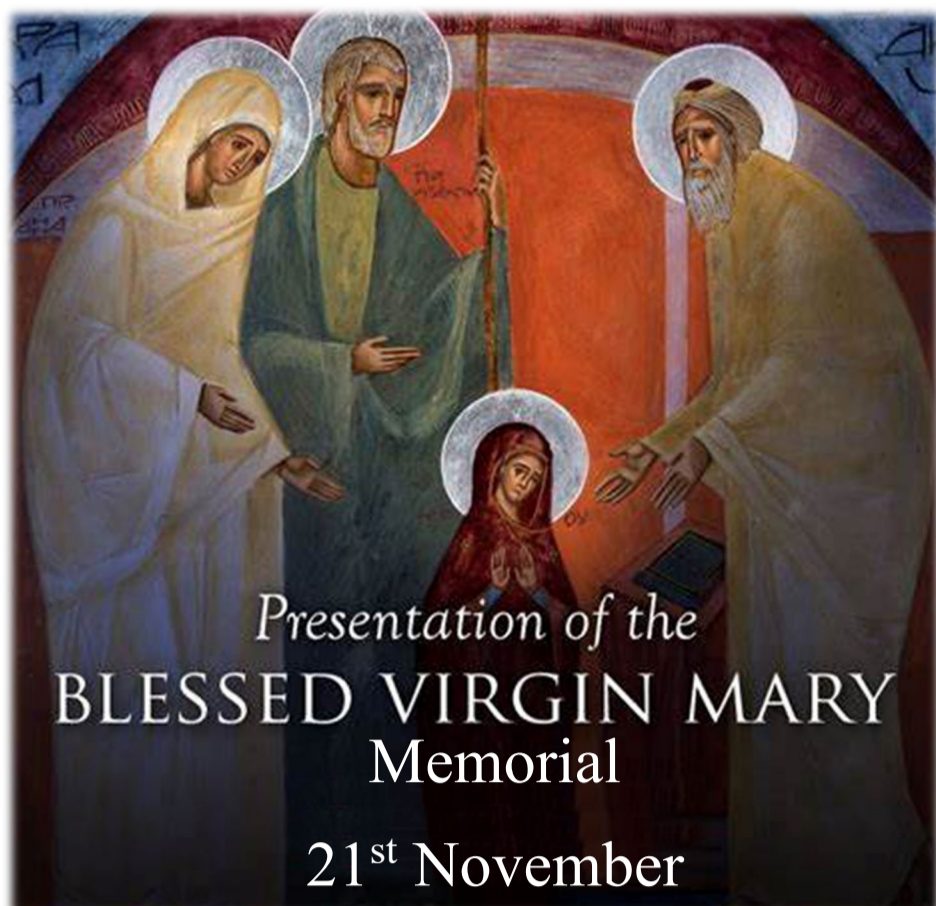
# PARISH BULLETIN

## St Kieran's, the Catholic Church *in*

*Campbeltown and Islay*

*Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*

19<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Presentation of the  
**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
Memorial

21<sup>st</sup> November

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> November, 33<sup>rd</sup> in Ordinary Time** Holy Mass, **10.00am.**

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

### Devotions

Wednesday: Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am

Friday: Adoration, Mid-Morning Prayer, 9.30am

**Scripture discussion:** 10.30am in the Chapel House

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, Vigil Mass, 6.00pm**

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, Solemnity of Christ the King,** Holy Mass, **10.00am**

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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> December,** Holy Mass, 4.00pm



### **Psalm response**

*O blessed are those who fear the Lord.*

### **Gospel acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.*

*Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.*

*Alleluia!*

### **Communion Antiphon**

*To be near God is my happiness,  
to place my hope in God the Lord.*

### **Hymns/Music**

**Processional (Sunday Mass only)**

SHEET Seek ye first the kingdom of God (Keys)[433]

**Offertory**

28 All that I am (McLennan)[20]

**Communion**

Тебе појем (We hymn thee)

**Post Communion**

342 Make me a channel of your peace (Keys)[317]

**Final**

510 Take my life, and let it be (Keys)[467]

## Take Five

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

### Monday, Nov 20, 2023

#### Can we talk?

The word bible is from a Greek word meaning “book.” If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don’t forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven’t before, try *lectio divina* (Latin for “divine reading”) – it’s a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response.

Scripture isn’t just text, it’s the Living Word – strike up a conversation!

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43.*

*“What do you want me to do for you?”*

### Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023

#### MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

##### Mary, most exemplary

According to tradition, Mary’s parents — an elderly Anne and Joachim — were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary “danced with joy” on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the “Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary” that we’re all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary chaplet used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10. “Today salvation has come to this house.”*

### Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023

#### MEMORIAL OF SAINT CECILIA, MARTYR

##### Let the music play!

Today’s Gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke’s “gold coins” with “talents.” Whichever version you read, it’s clear that God wants us to make the most of what we’ve been given — and that he recognises our efforts! In honour of today’s Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music

and musicians, enjoy Anton Bruckner’s *Te Deum* as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band *La Santa Cecilia*, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban).

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28. “I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*

### Thursday, Nov 23, 2023

#### Give thanks for a virtuous day

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It’s an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the “cardinal virtues”: prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don’t give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44. “If this day you only knew what makes for peace.”*

### Friday, Nov 24, 2023

#### MEMORIAL OF SAINTS ANDREW DŨNG-LẠC AND HIS COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

##### Follow the rule

“Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you.” In this monastic proverb, “rule” refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48. “Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it.”*

**Saturday, Nov 25, 2023**

**OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT  
CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH  
MARTYR**

**No room for violence**

The Holy Spirit reveals to us the eternal truths of God's unending love and the life He desires to share with us for all eternity. Paul the Apostle, quoting from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 64:4; 65:17) states: "*What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived,*

*what God has prepared for those who love him,"* God has revealed to us through the Spirit (1 Cor 2:9-10). The promise of paradise – heavenly bliss and unending life with an all-loving God – is beyond human reckoning. We have only begun to taste the first-fruits! Do you live now in the joy and hope of the life of the age to come?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40. "They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."*

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## *Readings for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday*

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**Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

Wisdom is a worthy spouse, producing her riches for those who embrace her.

**Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5**

Happiness and prosperity await those who walk in God's ways.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**

Children of the light cannot close their eyes to the hour that is to come.

**Matthew 25:14-30**

Those faithful in small matters will share in the joy of the one they serve.

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## *Words on the Word*

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### **Jesus – the smuggler**

"Ask a customs officer about false-bottomed suitcases:

You open luggage and come across completely harmless contents; The nightgown lies right next to the hairbrush, toothpaste next to the slippers. However, you will find hot goods not on the top, but hidden underneath.

These can be treasures; it can also be an explosive.

The author of parable stories resembles a smuggler: his luggage has a false bottom."

An interesting comparison I found in the preface to a book with modern parables, allegories and metaphorical stories.

A comparison that also accurately characterises Jesus and His parables. The teacher had colossal parables with a false bottom. At first glance, they often look completely harmless. But with their help, Jesus smuggles into our lives up to the present "hot goods" - treasures or explosives, but most often treasures including explosives.

Let's have fun today as a customs officer and try to examine what Jesus hid in the parable of talents.

First of all, I'll discover the treasure that Jesus wants to smuggle passed me by using this story. This treasure is a promise that I have some specific talent – at least one! If I understand the concept of "talent" not only as a talent or skills in the general sense, but also the possibility of working to build the kingdom of God, then the promise of Jesus sounds as follows: you also have a gift that you can use so that something more can be revealed of God's kingdom. Don't look with envy at people who appear to have more! Each and every one of us has been gifted, nobody has everything, but also there's no one who has nothing at all. You don't have to be afraid – He won't demand much from you, He won't expect more than you can achieve.

If you have a talent for listening, sit down by the patient's bed; Go to those who, apart from

you, have no one they can confide in or tell something.

If you can arouse enthusiasm in others, gather a group of people around you and infect them with your faith and your joy.

If you like to make contacts, turn to others, invite them into your company and try to get them out of their insulation.

I also discover a treasure that Jesus wants to smuggle with this parable into our communities. This treasure relates to encouragement: you will take the Good News that has been entrusted to you, to all people! Try new methods so that the Gospel remains alive! Try to help so that our communities become a breeding ground for talents, and places,

- in which it sets out together in search of talents;
- in which hidden talents are brought to light and supports them;
- in which there is mutual enrichment and giving;
- in which everyone enjoys the talents of other members of the Church.

I also discover the explosive that Jesus wants to smuggle into me with this parable. This explosive material concerns the question: what do you do with your talent?

Have you already discovered what gifts God has prepared for you personally to build the community, what vocation did He foresee for you? How will you answer the trust that God has placed in you – fear, excuses, or maybe gratitude and joy? Do you use your time and your abilities to become the person you can become?

Again, I remembered a story about the rabbi Zusha, who was supposed to have said shortly before his death: "In that world they will be not asking me: "Why didn't you become Moses? " Rather, they will ask me: "Why didn't you become Zusha?" They will not ask me: "Why did you not reach the level that the greatest and most powerful representative of our faith achieved?" But they will ask me the question: "Why didn't you attain the capability that God had allotted to you personally? Why didn't you become the one you were to be?"

Finally, I discover one more explosive that Jesus wants to smuggle with this parable to His communities. This warning: do not hide the joyful and liberating teaching under rules and prohibitions! Don't make the rules and observance of the rules and fear of taking a risk the most important principle underlying your decisions and behaviour! Do not let your Church become: a museum in which the Gospel is preserved and cocooned, but you don't live it! Don't be afraid of experiments when it comes to passing on the faith in such a way that it brings consolation and healing to people! Don't be afraid to take a risk!

Again, the thought of the late bishop Georg Moser comes to my mind: "A church that risks nothing, risks everything."

Jesus – a smuggler. His smuggling luggage is His stories and parables. They all have a false bottom. And He smuggles both treasures and symbols into our lives.

If we look at them exactly like a conscientious customs officer, then they will enrich us and give us quite enough topics for thinking.

# Let's douse the fire of the suffering

Our faith is based on many amazing mysteries. One of them is the truth about life after death, which each of us will experience; About the eternal communion, to which we are all invited



God is love and – being a community of three Divine Persons – He wants to include us in the life of the Trinity here on earth, and then forever in eternal life. This is a fascinating and unspoken reality! We mature toward it, staying in communion with Jesus – consuming Him in the holy forms of the Body and the Blood, which, by the Holy Spirit, introduces us into communion with God the Father. We always grow, thanks to unity with His Word, when we live within the Gospel, and when we shape all our relationships with others so that they are an image, an icon of references to love in which the persons of the Holy Trinity people abide. God, who is communion, makes everything in communion. We are not always aware of it, but it's so. The mystery of the Church is the mystery of communion . . .

In every Eucharist, Christ, through the sacrifice of Himself, unites us so closely that we become members of his mystical body. He makes us – when we consume Him – also enter communion with Him and among ourselves, with everyone who receives Him at a given Holy Mass, but also around the world. This communion is multidimensional, overcomes all dimensions of distance and time. In Christ three great realities unite – a militant, a triumphant and suffering Church. This communion ensures the continuous flow of spiritual goods between all members of the Church.

The Church Militant is us living on earth. Struggling with temptations, maturing and waiting for a personal meeting with Christ, which is the only certainty. In the communion of the Church Militant the holiness of one person causes an increase in the sanctity of the other. At the same time, the fall of another is not only a private matter for them, but it weakens the spiritual condition of everyone. Every sin hurts the whole body of the Church. Every conversion multiplies its strength.

The Church Triumphant includes saints and blessed in the reality of heaven – the constant presence of God – who support members of the Church Militant and ask for the showering of favours upon it. The mystery of this union is expressed by a note from the *Story of a Soul* of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: "I stood before angels and saints and I said to them: 'I am the smallest creature, I know my misery and my weakness, but I also know how noble and generous hearts like to do good, so I am begging you, blessed inhabitants of heaven that you would adopt me as a child. You will have the glory, which I will acquire for your causes, but please listen to my prayer, (. . .) I dare to ask you to obtain for me your twofold love.' "

The flow of favours and spiritual goods is also included in the Church Suffering. It is made up of those who die in grace and friendship with God and – although they are already sure of their eternal salvation – they will be able to experience the joy of union with God only when

they undergo purification, " so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030 ). These are the souls of the dead in Purgatory, who plead to us for all graces, but they can't help themselves. At the time of death, their time of being of service, accepting suffering, reparation and penance ended. Now they only count on us.

Our help is a manifestation of the highest love. **The Holy Mass is an enormous gift for the souls of the dead.** Offered for their intention as well as the rosary prayer or reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Especially valuable will be our gift of igniting the love of our hearts. Let's reject anger, vulnerability, anger, insulting, shameful speech from our mouths and let's put on heartfelt mercy, goodness, humility, quietness, patience, forbearing each other and mutual forgiveness: as the Lord forgave us, and yes you! For this let everything be taken on in love, which is a bond of perfection (cf. Col. 3,8.12-13). These are the most beautiful flowers that we can give to our loved ones.

"I have no other way," wrote Saint Thérèse of Lisieux – "to prove to You my love, but to throw flowers, that is, not to let any small sacrifice, no look, no word, to use every small thing and do them out of love . . . Jesus, for what use will my flowers and my songs be for You? Ah, I know well that this fragrant rain, these delicate flakes without any value, these love songs of the smallest of hearts will delight You. Yes, these will please You, and make the Church Triumphant smile. They will collect up, the petals collected with love, of my flowers, and passing them through Your divine hands, (. . .) they will then throw down those flowers that have gained infinite values through the divine touch; they will throw them upon the Church Suffering to douse its flames, they will throw them into the Church Militant to grant it victory!" . . .

At this special time of experiencing communion with the Church Suffering, we offer Holy Masses, indulgences and our prayers for all deceased Parishioners, for our priests, ministers and faithful. We also ask you wherever you are, to unite with us in this prayer.

### A TESTIMONY

## Share the treasure of faith



I lived in sin for a long time and pretended that my private faith is enough to get closer to God, and I do not need a church, confession and Holy Mass.

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps 32:1).

I am 44 years old, and I am a Christian belonging to the Catholic Church. Ten years ago, I started reading the Bible myself, mainly the New Testament, and in it the four Gospels, paying special attention to the sayings of Jesus Christ. The steadfast logic and a sense of the only possible motivation for Jesus' works being God's love for man was what attracted me step by step.

For a long time, I thought that my private faith is enough to get closer to God, and I didn't need a Church, the sacrament of penance, Holy Mass, etc. However, three years ago, after a short telephone conversation with the priest, **I decided to go to church for a year to finally decide after a year whether it makes any sense.**

**It ended in a December confession, the first after nearly 20 years of adult life and marriage.**

And what happened later was a greater reward than I could expect, which is difficult to describe, and even more difficult to be understood by those who haven't experienced it:

**"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Ps 32.1).**

I experienced Christmas as if my own child had been born – or maybe even greater, because when my children were born, my awareness was much more limited.

I've been thinking about myself for 5-7 years; What's wrong with me that despite the happy marriage, healthy children, a stable situation in the company I don't feel the joy of life. I had the desire to help others, but until now it didn't manifest in a practical way, it was rather a certain plan for the future, primarily after the children become independent. I used to think about politics, I was even at several meetings, but I told myself that it wasn't for me; Although deliberations, discussion and managing are things that I have to deal with for 20 years, I felt that the strange compromises and the fight for "the material" were not for me.

I got a blast in my head, when **I realised that the greatest source of people's suffering was to distance themselves from God**, a true spiritual death, and life in the pain of loneliness. **I discovered with horror how many people live with a "stone around their neck", which doesn't allow them to live in happiness with God. This personal discovery showed me the greatest, most wonderful thing that can be done in life – to help people discover God – the fullness of love in their lives.** The love you can give another person.

Currently, I have been experiencing special joy for over half a year and I pray every day, so that the Holy Spirit would never really leave me and remain in me forever. I try with all my strength to keep pure thoughts and feelings and to constantly evangelise myself and everyone who surrounds me, so that the Holy Spirit freely spills into all souls. I believe, and actually I am convinced, that what is most important to a person is contained in the life of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God leading to the knowledge of the living, true God.

The Christian duty, our duty, is to live the Gospel and proclaim it wisely, with love and as often as is possible. Not only when someone comes to us for advice but taking the initiative to enter the sphere of the other person. We should remember that evangelisation consists in serving another person who needs God, even when they are not aware of it. Love and wisdom are two attributes, without which the opportunities for the development of God's word are drastically decreased.

In my opinion, today's time is waiting for the rain of the Word of God to pour down. The situation in our country and around the world is particularly favourable, because neither materialism nor totalitarianism nor democracy without a spirit nor any cult satisfy the spiritual

needs of humanity. Hence the rapid increase in the desire to accept the Word of God and the desire to return to the Catholic Church of those who left the faith and those coming to the Church who didn't know it before.

Can something encourage a person to look for God more than the testimony of those who have found God? The history of humanity recalls the madness of the Alaskan goldrush. Where did it come from? After all, hardly anyone had a chance to see this gold physically before they decided to travel to Alaska. And yet many believed the testimony of other people, and newspapers writing about it. The only difference is that God can always be found by anyone who is looking for him (Ps 9:11; Mt 7:7-8) and will give to everyone without measure (Ps 34:11) – and the gold in Alaska was only found by some of those who sought it, and even those who found it didn't find happiness with it.

Have you ever wondered why the newly converted seem a little crazy? They are somewhat wound-up and joyful. Really believing – they've found a treasure greater than all that was found in Alaska, because it is eternal, real, most important in human life, giving real joy of life, and consolation . . . What's more, they want to share this treasure with others! I don't recall that any "lucky devil" after finding gold in Alaska simply distributed everything to the needy. And yet faith, on the contrary, multiplies when we share it. Even if we do it inefficiently, too fast, too insistent.

That is why I also share the faith I found with everyone I meet. I also share it with you because I care about you . . . And Jesus cares even more about you, He who gave his life for your salvation.

Salvio

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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 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.

**Book and Jigsaw Sale:** has been postponed due there not being enough books yet.

**Thanks to the Highland church:** we now have the altar, chairs and lectern.

**Saint Andrew's Day:** Potluck Supper Friday 1 December 7.00pm, please indicate on the lists in the church porch what you would be able to bring along so as to avoid duplication. Thank you.

**Christmas cards:** are available at the back of the church.

**A few copies of the *Response to Scottish Government consultation: Guidance on the Delivery of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) Education in Scottish Schools*,** which the bishop has asked to be circulated in parishes, are available in the porch.



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