



PARISH BULLETIN

St Kieran's, the Catholic Church *in* *Campbeltown and Islay* *Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain* 31st December 2023

Hymns/Music

Processional (Sunday only)

487: Sing of Mary (Keys)

Offertory

577: Unto us is born a son (Hamel)

Communion

Gdy śliczna Panna (Piotr Wilczyński)

Post Communion

283: Jesus, my Lord, my God, my all (Keys)

Recessional

Sheet: Good Christians all rejoice (Keys – Ulti.Chr.)

Feast of the Holy Family

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Sunday, 31st December, *Feast of the Holy Family*, Holy Mass, 10.00am

Monday, 1st January: *Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God*, Holy Mass, 6.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Friday: No Mass

Devotions: Wednesday: Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am.

Saturday, 6th January, Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord and the blessing of Epiphany Water, 6.00pm

Sunday, 7th January, *Epiphany of the Lord*, Holy Mass, 10.00am.

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay

Sunday 14th January 2024, Holy Mass, 4pm



Psalm response

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

*At various times in the past
and in various different ways,*

*God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.*

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Take Five

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

JANUARY 1, 2016

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Celebrate all that is new

The feast of Mary as Mother of God occurs at the start of the new calendar year. Both are times of new beginnings. We celebrate Mary, who through her “yes” has borne Emmanuel, “God with us,” marking a new moment in history. We also celebrate the New Year, with many of us resolving to make some kind of change for the better. How might Mary inspire you to newness this year? How might you inspire others? On this eighth day of Christmas, give the gift of gratitude for Mary’s example of openness to God’s calling.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21. “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

MEMORIAL OF SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZUS, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Holiness can be a family affair

Several giants of the Early Church, including today’s saints Basil and Gregory Nazianzus, were inspired by Basil’s older sister Macrina (whose brothers also included two other saints, Gregory of Nyssa and Peter of Sebaste). Macrina deeply influenced her family with her asceticism. With the help of her younger brother, Peter, Macrina turned the family estate into a monastery and convent, providing a peaceful shelter for study and meditation. What inspiration can you draw from family members as you resolve to deepen your commitment to Christ in this new year dedicated to mercy?

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28. “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”*

Wednesday, Jan 03, 2018

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Dig a little deeper

As Christians, we believe we are called by name to follow Jesus. Do we accept what that belief implies: that Jesus knows us personally

and considers us to be an essential part of his ministry? And as we call on Jesus, just how confident are we that we know who he is and what he wants out of the relationship? John the Baptist knew who Jesus was, but such knowledge took rigorous prayer and questioning. Perhaps you need to do the same to discover why Jesus counts you among his friends.

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 2:29—3:6; John 1:29-34. “And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”*

Thursday, Jan 04, 2018

What are you looking for?

John the Baptist in his characteristic humility was eager to point beyond himself to the Christ. He did not hesitate to direct his disciples to the Lord Jesus. When two of John’s disciples began to seek Jesus out, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: “What are you looking for?” What were they looking for in Jesus and what were they aiming to get out of life? Jesus asks each of us the same question: “What’s the goal of your life? What are you aiming for and trying to get out of life?”

TODAY’S READINGS: *1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42. “Let no one deceive you. The person who acts in righteousness is righteous.”*

Friday (before Epiphany), Jan 05, 2018

Come and see

How can we know for ourselves and help others to know with certainty that Jesus is truly the Son of God and Saviour of the world? Philip, a new disciple of Jesus, at first failed to convince his friend Nathaniel that he had found the Messiah. Nathaniel was very sceptical. He didn’t like Nazareth and didn’t want to have anything to do with people who came from such an out of the way place. How could the Messiah come from such a seemingly back-water town? Perhaps we are like Nathaniel. We reject others (or at least keep them distant from us) because they come from some place or position we don’t like or find fault with. Rather than argue with his

friend, Philip took the wiser strategy of inviting Nathaniel to "come and see" for himself who this Jesus claimed to be. Clever arguments rarely win people to the gospel, but an encounter with the person of Jesus Christ can transform a person's life forever.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51. "Nathanael said to Philip, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip replied, 'Come and see.'"*

Saturday, Jan 06, 2018

Do the ordinary with extraordinary faith

Luke states that Jesus was thirty years old when he began his public ministry. Why did Jesus spend thirty years in obscurity in the village of Nazareth when his purpose for coming to earth was to save the world from destruction? This is significant for at least a

couple of reasons. First, it shows that Jesus was responsible and faithful in the mundane duties of family life. Before He embraced public duties, He showed his fidelity and concern for domestic duties. Tradition has it that Joseph died when Jesus was young. Jesus assumed the responsibility of caring for His mother. Jesus taught his disciples the precept that "who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much" by his personal example. If we want to be fit to carry on the Lord's mission today, we must learn faithfulness in great matters by first being faithful in the small matters of home and workday life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 5:5-13; Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38. "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me."*

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

We have an obligation to honour our elders and to care for them.

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

The blessed one walks in the ways of God.

Colossians 3:12-21

Love is the bond of perfection.

Luke 2:22-40

Jesus is presented by his parents in the temple, and called a sign of contradiction.

Words on the Word

Born into . . .

God, by creating man and woman in his own image and likeness, crowns and perfects the work of his hands - he calls them to a special participation in his love and, at the same time, in his power as Creator and Father through their free and responsible cooperation in the transmission of human life: "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it'."

*Therefore, the basic task of the family is to serve life, to realise in the course of history the original blessing of the Creator: the transmission - through birth - of God's image from person to person (...): The fruitfulness of marital love, however, is not limited only to the physical generation of children, even if it is understood in its specifically human dimension: it is expanded and enriched by all the fruits of the moral, spiritual and supernatural life that fathers and mothers, by virtue of their vocation, must pass on as a gift to their children and, through their children, to the Church and the world... (John Paul II, *Familiaris consortio*).*

* * *

On the Sunday after Christmas, we would like to consider the mysteries of Christ's coming into the world from the perspective of human families and the miracles happening in them.

A woman was blessed and was expecting twins - boys. The boys grew quickly under their Mother's heart and began to explore their immediate surroundings. First, they discovered some

strange cord that connected them to their mother and through which they received everything they needed for life. They said to each other: "How much our mother must love us, that she shares everything she has with us." The weeks passed and the boys felt better and better, safe, nice and warm. However, everything changed quickly from day to day. More and more often they said to each other that their stay in this world was probably coming to an end. The smaller of them protested: "I would like to stay here forever - it is so nice and safe here." The second one, a little bigger, tried to explain: "Maybe there is life after birth." The smaller one was not convinced: "It's impossible," he shouted, "we can't survive even an hour without this rope. No one who left the mother's womb ever returned. Such a thing has never been heard of. "Entering into the world - being born - will mean our end." The bigger one was silent, but both of them couldn't calm down, the smaller one continued: "If everything ends at birth, what's the point of it all? Maybe there isn't a mother at all." After a while, the bigger one started to comfort the smaller one: "There must be a good mother, how would we survive without her." But the smaller one was not convinced and said: "Have you ever seen her? Maybe it only exists in our imaginations and dreams, maybe only in our world of faith. This is how they spent their last moments in their mother's womb arguing and talking. Almost certain that the end of their lives was approaching, they felt a painful pressure and, amidst many difficulties, they left their mother's womb, their eyes were opened and they began to scream together, because everything they saw exceeded all their expectations and imaginations (R. Breitenbach, Sechs-Minuten-Predigten).

By God's will, every person is born from a father and a mother. They claim it and nurture it. Bringing a child to biological life and nurturing it is part of the parents' task. Parents receive the power to create new life from God, therefore there is a second task of parents: to open the child's eyes to God and His salvation - to the call of all people to salvation.

God became man. Behind this mystery of Christmas, which we celebrate so colourfully and sentimentally, there is the mystery of resurrection, because Christ came to us to open the gates of heaven and enable us to achieve the eternal kingdom. The mystery can only become clear in the head of a person in which pride and conceit have not yet reigned supreme, and where there remains room for questions and readiness to change. Just like the twins from our story, we ourselves have a lot of trouble accepting the truth and at the same time the mystery about the kingdom of God.

Parents are not only educators, but also witnesses of many miracles that they observe in the lives of their children from the moment they are conceived. Conceiving and giving birth to a child is the first such miracle. Accepting this miracle - birth - requires a change in the parents' lifestyle. Also accepting the truth about the universal redemption of people, about my redemption, requires transformation.

Are we ready for changes in our lives? What has changed in our parish communities since last Christmas? What has changed in our homes, neighbourhoods, what has changed in ourselves? What is God's intention for us expressed in Christmas?

His intention is to give birth to us into a new life. This new life, however, comes from faith. Whoever surrenders to this faith will be set in motion and will be born again for a new world, voluntarily.

It takes time before our wildest expectations begin to take shape. The more we become fascinated by the coming of the Son of God into the world, the more we will become children of God. Only when we become them fully will we be ready for this new birth, that is, for the resurrection from which Christmas takes its meaning.

* * *

The Family from Nazareth was extraordinary - the incarnate Son of God, the immaculately conceived Mary and Joseph, faithful to God. But these incomprehensible spiritual gifts did not make their lives idyllic. They were a mystery to each other, the

same mystery that members of all families are to each other. They had to trust and confide in each other, they had to sacrifice for each other. They had to give up their "I" every day. But they were happy because one of the greatest mysteries of the Bible was fulfilled in their lives. The mystery that says that blessed are those who are sorrowful, silent, persecuted, and weep. They are happy like the inhabitants of the house in Nazareth (Fr P. Pawlukiewicz, Homily, Dec. 30, 2001).



A testimony

A New Year's Eve Breakthrough

Three years ago, we went with a prayer group to celebrate New Year's Eve. We stayed in a village where there is a small, one-story, modest family house – the kind that was built in the past. When we got inside and settled in, we found your journal spread out on the table, which was passed from one to another for everyone to read.

Something different spoke to each of us out of it, but I believe that together we silently reflected on what was written there. We reflected on our lives and thought about our resolutions for the New Year.

When I was reading your journal, I was deeply touched by the testimony of a boy who struggled with the problem of self-abuse. Then a voice inside me said: "This is about me!!!"

In this silence, my entire messy life was displayed before my eyes – full of impurity, lust, masturbation and selfishness. I decided to say "yes" to God, to give Him my life, my impurity, everything!

We welcomed the New Year with prayer, singing, champagne and sparklers that everyone held in their hands. The first day of the New Year was also very important to me.

I couldn't stay silent anymore and I told the prayer group about my problem: a life full of impurity and masturbation. At the same time, I gave testimony about how the journal spoke to me.

I told them about my decision to fight for purity and that I had already started my life anew. At the end, I asked everyone to pray for me. Then there was dead silence in the room, which lasted for about 10 minutes. After this silence, Sister Lucy spoke up and said: "Let's go and pray for Paul!"

Even before I started praying, I was overcome with inner fear and anxiety about how others would judge me, whether they would despise me. . .

Today I know that this fear and anxiety was not from the Lord! It didn't last long, because as soon as everyone started praying for me, Jesus won and the devil, with his area of expertise of fear and anxiety, was obliterated!

In the community's prayers, I felt unity and the love of Jesus. Christ stood by me in front of everyone through the Holy Spirit. His Gift – God's word for me – was received by Brother Peter: "Whoever hides his mistakes will not find happiness; whoever confesses and forsakes them will receive mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Everyone remained in silent delight and asked Peter whether he had not already prepared this sentence for me in advance. His response was just as astonishing: "No! This is a word from the Lord. When I opened the Holy Bible, my eyes fell on those words!

I felt like the happiest person in the world because I knew that the Lord had taken care of me! The Lord gave me His word! The Lord knows me and knows about me! The Lord loves me! With the Lord Jesus, I can actually win this fight! Jesus has won!!!

Paul

The Holy Family is a proven model

Broken families, injured children, un-sacramental relationships, same-sex couples. . . The world claims that this is the modern normal. And what does God say about this?

You don't need to look too far to see the unfavourable changes regarding marriage and family – they're visible all around. On the one hand, a traditional family, and on the other hand, patchwork families in which one of the spouses is divorced or both of them start new relationships, taking care of children from the previous marriage and those born from the new relationship; in addition, same-sex relationships with the right to raise children granted to them by the state. Additionally, broken families and couples living in informal relationships. Has the ideal of the Family of Nazareth become a thing of the past? Does it still fit the changing reality? Looking at the dismal results of experiments carried out on the family, is it worth looking at this Family to discover its beauty and discreetly attractive lifestyle?

Orientation to God

The Holy Family shows that orientation towards God is a guarantee of a good and successful life. "Our religion is not a piece of clothing that we lock in a suitcase and wear it when it suits us. Faith must be everyday clothing, for every hour of our actions and thoughts," wrote Giuseppe Maffei.

Faith and an intimate relationship with God were the family of Nazareth's life compass. Without faith, everything becomes a dangerous drift on the stormy ocean of the dubious offers of the so-called world. Do I believe that God's plan of matrimony and family is the path to true happiness?

The Holy Family, relying completely on God, survived difficult trials and emerged strengthened. Mary and Joseph, being faithful to God in everything, remained true to themselves and the task they had undertaken. Jesus saw how much they loved each other. All this united the whole family. This is perfectly presented in the painting of the Holy Family from Kalisz. Jesus stands in the centre, holding the hands of his Mother and his guardian Joseph. Their lowered gaze means that they are trustingly led by the



Son. And this is their, the spouses', deepest secret of happiness that every person desires.

Full trust

The life of the Holy Family was not idyllic. God did not keep them from hardships. They experienced them from the beginning, but He also guided and supported them. They were sure that they were not alone. It was a mutual relationship. The Father loved them, they responded to His love with love, faithfulness and trust. Mary and Joseph were tested from the time they were engaged. God entered their lives like a hurricane. And they've already thought it all out. "Our plans and hopes are thwarted time and time again, only God's Mercy never disappoints us." God sometimes disrupts our plans. The Holy Family passed through a dark valley in life, all the way to the cross. We don't always understand what happens to us. There are times when it hurts, when we suffer, but God turns pain into joy, just as death turns into resurrection. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph based everything on God and were not disappointed. They tell us: it is worth being faithful to the Father, trusting Him with all your heart!

Husband and father

During their flight to Egypt, the Holy Family faced many threats. Joseph, the head of the family, turned out to be a responsible man. Obedient to God, he took on the burden of the challenge and protected those he loved from mortal danger. He was ready to give his life for them. He showed that love is not sweet words, but action and deed. This is how he fulfilled himself as a husband and father. In Nazareth, Joseph, working as a carpenter, gave his loved ones not only a sense of material stability and certainty of tomorrow, but also that there is an unfailing love, that watches over and is constantly at their disposal. The members of the Holy Family were open to each other. The mother followed her Son to serve Him, Joseph served Jesus by the example of a simple and honest life. Jesus returned the love of his mother and adoptive father. The way they experienced the hardships of life became "proof" of limitless trust and love for the Father. They obeyed God to the end. When others looked at the life of the Holy Family, they said in their hearts: how they love each other, how happy they are.

As in Nazareth

Yvonne and John have eight children. John supports the entire family, Yvonne takes care of the children. There is a deep bond between them, which they say is crucial for the children. They accepted each child as a gift from God - because if they exist, it means that God has His own plan. They love all children very much, they approach each of them individually, because each one is different. They talk to them, teach them how to clean and do chores. They spend Sunday together. They then read the Holy Bible together and talk about what they experienced during the week. There are also misunderstandings between spouses. Once, as they recall, while preparing a meal together, an argument broke out and the door slammed. Suddenly, as they say, the grace of forgiveness came to them, and Jesus returned among them. Another time there was no money for Christmas. They were worried. Friends came to help. There were even gifts for children. They agree that what they want for their children, above all, is for them to believe in God. They are trying to mature into being spouses and parents, and they are working on it. They see God working in their lives. Once, strangers gave them a car, others helped them buy an apartment. – The most important thing is not to lose complete trust in God – confess the spouses.

Prayer



Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers: Tommy McGrory snr, Connie Graham, Lilian Cox, Sarah Carmichael, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

Please remember in your prayers Mary Carroll (Molly)(1978) and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Prayer to the Holy Family

God, out of love for us, you sent your only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not perish, but could have eternal life, and in the Holy Family, you gave us a model of life. Grant that, united by mutual love, we may imitate its virtues in our families.

Holy Family, image of the Holy Trinity on earth, help us in our needs. We believe that you look at every family with special love. Let every family become a temple of God, where mutual love and peace reign.

The Holy Family, whose Guardian – Saint Joseph is a model of fatherly love, the Holy Mother – of motherly love, and Baby Jesus – of obedience and filial love. We place ourselves under your care, asking that parents and children, old and young, be united by your love.

With faith and trust, we present to you the desires and needs of all families.

We ask You strengthen the mutual love between spouses; for parents who are anxiously waiting for their child to be born. For growing children who fill homes with joy, for young people in whom love awakens and for engaged couples who are preparing for marriage with dignity. For old people who are getting closer to the Father's house day by day. For those families where there are unemployed people, who lack daily bread, for neglected and abandoned children, for widows and orphans, for the sick and suffering, so that they may experience kind care from their neighbours.

We pray for broken families and those seeking divorce. Let true love be renewed in their critical situation and let resentment and selfishness fade away.

Holy Family of Nazareth, defend our families which are threatened by so many dangers and lead them along the path of Gospel blessings. Amen.

News and Events

Tea and coffee in the hall after Sunday Mass. Our visitors are most welcome to join us. Please do come.

Dedication of the altar: the bishop is able come on **8th January**. This is a Monday, and the Mass and Dedication of the Altar will be at **6.00pm**. This is a special event in parish life, the altar cannot be used for the Eucharist until this has taken place, and I am sure you will all prioritise this event in your calendars. A gathering afterwards in the hall has been organised with some refreshments – both solid and liquid.

Fr Tony will be away from Thursday evening to Friday evening. Please contact Fr Henry at St. Mary's, Lochgilphead in any urgent situation during this time.

May you experience joy, happiness, good fortune and most of all love in the coming New Year. As the days lengthen and light increases in our world, let us open are heart ever more to the Lord's light.



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