



PARISH BULLETIN

St Kieran's, the Catholic Church

*in Campbeltown and
Islay*

Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain

19th May 2024

Pentecost Sunday

St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre

Pentecost Sunday, Holy Mass, 10am

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: Holy Mass, **10am**; Reception of John McKay's body, 7.30pm

Wednesday: Mid-morning Prayer and Holy Mass, **9.50am**; Funeral Service, 12.00pm

Friday: Adoration, Mid-morning Prayer, 9.30am and Holy Mass, **10am**

Friday: Exploring the Mass, 10.30am

Saturday: Vigil Mass, 6.00pm

Trinity Sunday, Holy Mass, 10am

St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay

Pentecost Sunday, 19th May, Holy Mass, 4pm

Solemnity of Corpus Christi, 2nd June, Holy Mass, 4pm

Hymns/Music for Sunday

Processional (Sunday only)

98 Come holy Ghost, creator, come (Keys)

Offertory

501 Spirit of the living God (McLennan[2])

Communion music

Veni, lumen cordium (Come light of our hearts) (Taize)

Post Communion

359 My God loves me (McLennan)

Recessional

547 The spirit to lives set us free (McLennan)

Voluntary: Improvisation on "Hymn to Joy" (Richard Elliott)



Psalm response

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Sequence

*Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.*

*Thou the anointing Spirit art,
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.*

*Thy blessed unction from above
is comfort, life, and fire of love.*

*Enable with perpetual light
the dullness of our blinded sight.*

*Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far from foes, give peace at home:
where thou art guide, no ill can come.*

*Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee, of both, to be but One,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song:*

*Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.*

Take Five

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

MONDAY

MEMORIAL OF MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

20 MAY 2024

The mother of all feasts

In 2018, Pope Francis created the new Marian memorial that the universal church celebrates today, the Monday after Pentecost. The title “Mother of the Church” was bestowed on Mary in 1964 by Pope Saint Paul VI at the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Her role as mother of the Church goes back to when Jesus, on the cross, gave her and the beloved disciple to one another and to when she became the mother of Christ, whose body we are all members of. Not everyone has a mother figure to rely on – know that you can always rely on the mother of us all.

Today’s readings: James 3:13-18; Mark 9:14-29. *“The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.”*

TUESDAY: OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF SAINT CHRISTOPHER MAGALLANES AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

21 MAY 2024

Love the person you don't like

Christopher Magallanes was a priest in Mexico during a difficult time in Mexican history. On the heels of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917, the Catholic Church and the Mexican state were at loggerheads. Magallanes wrote and preached against armed rebellion but was falsely accused of promoting armed uprising during what came to be called the Cristero Rebellion. Arrested in 1927 on his way to celebrate Mass, he gave his few possessions – as well as absolution – to his executioners. His last words were “I die innocent and ask God that my blood may serve to unite my Mexican brethren.” Since 1929 church and state in Mexico have avoided further violent conflict and are on much better terms than in the past. Pray for peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the world today.

Today's readings: James 4:1-10; Mark 9:30-37. *"Whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."*

WEDNESDAY

22 MAY 2024

The Lord loves those who love wisdom

At times biblical poetry sets theological distinctions aside. In some places in Hebrew scripture, for example, divine wisdom is feminine and spoken of in a way almost indistinguishable from God. While the Church often uses the masculine term "Father" for God, that is not to say God is male, but that God acts toward us as a loving father does. Scripture and tradition have other names for God as well. Of course, the Supreme Being is ultimately beyond gender – and all description really – but human beings need human terms to express their experience of God, including that of "wise woman."

Today's readings: James 4:13-17; Mark 9:38-40. *"For whoever is not against us is for us."*

THURSDAY

23 MAY 2024

Take a step toward wholeness

Today's Gospel refers three times to hell. Who is in hell? Can we go to hell after we die? These questions have puzzled believers and scripture scholars for centuries, and the living cannot answer them from direct experience. The church teaches in the catechism that "this state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called 'hell.'" We know what separates us from God, and we know what unites us with God. Take a step today, no matter how small, to unite yourself with God.

Today's readings: James 5:1-6; Mark 9:41-50. *"Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavour? Keep salt in*

yourselfes."

FRIDAY

24 MAY 2024

Study up!

Have you ever given a lecture, led a workshop, or taught school for a living? If you have, you know that teaching is very hard work, at least if it is done well. Good teachers put their heart and soul into the effort – they really care about the material they are teaching. In the case of Jesus, that "material" is salvation, and He worked tirelessly to help human beings, both then and now, learn the curriculum. Surely, He must have felt exhausted and frustrated to have so many slow learners! Yet He kept at it. Thank Him for His persistent efforts by being an attentive student and doing your homework!

Today's readings: James 5:9-12; Mark 10:1-12. *"Crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he . . . taught them."*

SATURDAY

25 MAY 2024

You can make a difference

Ever want to change the world? In fact, you can. Try prayer! In scripture the prophet Elijah was a human being just like you, yet he prayed for a drought and it didn't rain for three and a half years. Then he prayed for rain, which descended on cue. You may presume "professional pray-ers" get miraculous results because of their special calling, that your "amateur" attempts can't hit heaven's speed-dial in quite the same way. Start small and local: Pray for your family, your neighbourhood, your workplace. Bless liberally and frequently. Stand back and watch for transformations.

Today's readings: James 5:13-20; Mark 10:13-16. *"The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful."*

Readings for Pentecost Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Wind, fire, speech, and courage are the gifts the Spirit bestows on those who pray.

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

Without the breath of God, the living will surely perish.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25

The works of the flesh are clearly distinct from the fruits of life in the Spirit.

John 20:19-23 or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

The Spirit of truth guides us to truth and not to error.

Words on the Word

What if I'm wrong?

If the riveting 2008 film *Doubt* starring Meryl Streep taught us nothing else, it's that there's always room for being dead wrong. We don't like to entertain that idea even in the privacy of our thoughts in the depth of the night. It's especially critical for those who are parents; those who teach and guide the impressionable; for leaders of every kind, and policymakers and deciders – in any case, it's crucial for all of us to try to be sure about what we claim is true. Because when we're wrong, we're often taking others down the path of error with us.

How do we avoid the painful consequences of being wrong about what we hold true? First, we accept our mortal limitations. At the end of his life Michelangelo had the humility to say of his art: "I am still learning." The man who did the Sistine Chapel ceiling, the Pietà, and the astonishing David – still learning? If one of the most gifted artists of any age had not reached his potential after creating such dazzling beauty, it's a safe bet you and I haven't exhausted our understanding either. There's always more to read, to ponder, and to comprehend. And when we've done a lifetime of that, we still have all that yet is to be revealed to discover.

So, task number one for avoiding error is to keep on learning. Number two is the twin sister of that task: Stay humble. There's nothing like pride to trip us up and make fools of geniuses. The humble, by contrast, remain teachable. The third necessary element is to pray, asking the Spirit for guidance. Pentecost has no meaning if it remains a static historical event. The Spirit is given for our help. But the Spirit won't trespass human freedom. If we want the aid of the indwelling Spirit, we have to ask, to invite, to welcome.

For Christians, those three steps will keep us out of harm's way. The Spirit of truth, as Jesus says, can only lead us to truth – and will lead us to all truth. Jesus makes no exceptions, doesn't outline any grey fuzzy areas where we'll have to wade in on our own. If we don't know what to do, we should pay attention to His word, pray and ask. If we're 100 percent sure what we should do, we might want to pray about that, too!

I remember making the decision, some 40 odd years ago, to quit the sixth form. I was tired, felt out of my depth, and sure the whole thing was a big mistake. After a week of daily Mass dedicated to confirming my decision, I visited the chapel one more time. Grippled by the eyes of a Madonna, I sat down for one more prayer – and changed direction and felt positive I was being led into the unknown but right road.

The Second Episode

SHE ASKED HIM FOR SOMETHING

The mother of Zebedee's sons ASKED JESUS FOR SOMETHING. It sounds like a tragic comedy – even Jesus himself, even God himself, couldn't quite understand what she really wanted. In front of Him was a woman blurting out a lot of words and emotions, with eyes darting, hands shaking, and gesticulating uncontrollably. He heard her pleading tone, but it was unclear what she really meant. What was this mother's desire that God himself did not know what she meant? Or maybe He knew and just asked so that she would finally have to clarify her desire,

**That
which
is most
import
ant**

Part two

**Mother of the
sons of Zebedee**

so that she could hear herself? Jesus' question was supposed to sort out the chaos that this woman had, not only in her speech and thoughts, but also in her heart. Life presents thresholds to us, that are seemingly insurmountable, and against which human efforts turn out to be powerless: the impossibility of avoiding death, responsibility for the consequences of decisions, situations in which one cannot be oneself, poverty, illness, and misfortune, and finally, the absence of the meaning of life, its purpose, and the sense of fulfilment in the mission of existence. We first try to suppress the fear of death by our own strength – either by disregarding it completely, or by giving life to children, or by accumulating wealth and deceiving ourselves with the comforts of life, by constantly securing our health, by escaping into creativity or work, seeking to be noticed and confirmed in people's opinion, as if we they were supposed to be immortal, but after four decades of existence, the realisation dawns that it's all just floundering in helplessness, and then many people turn to God. We do not feel worthy of God because of our failed lives, so at least we want to ensure the happiness of our children, ensure their eternal advancement, right and left hand at the throne of the King of Heaven.

People want their children not to repeat their mistakes, not to omit God, as they did, and not to multiply the stupidity of their parents. A person wants to pass on the experience of life to his/her children and immediately push them into the arms of God, but how often they, even more than their parents in the past, are seduced by this world, pleasure, wealth, irresponsibility, how easily they give up freedom in favour of enslavement, addictions, becoming slaves to their pleasures, hurting their parents, themselves and those with whom they have become involved, or living promiscuously.

Oziornoje – a miracle in an inhuman land

The endless Kazakh steppe – a harsh land to which countless people were exiled by the Soviets. The land of martyrdom of innocent people also became a place of an extraordinary miracle through the intercession of Our Lady.



During World War II, the hostile steppe wastelands of Kazakhstan were a place where a huge number of people fought for survival, and for many, unfortunately, they lost.

Such dramatic fates also took place in Oziornoje – a parish consisting of several earthen huts, founded in 1936 by Polish exiles. The miracle that took place there is a testimony that there is no place on earth without God's care.

"Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more" (Romans 5:20)

Large areas of Siberia and the Kazakh steppes – endless wastelands covered with ice for most of the year – have become infamous. Cast into it by the violence of communist totalitarianism, people lost hope and the will to fight for their lives.

These tortured, unfortunate Polish exiles from Oziornoje were distinguished by extraordinary hope in such conditions. Its source was faith in God and trust in the protection of Our Lady. So when the threat of starvation became closer than usual, the Polish nomads grabbed their rosaries and looked only to God for salvation.

In the Kazakh land, which communism turned into a spiritual desert, the rosary was a special pathway to God for them. There were almost no priests in these huge territories.

The faithful often waited for years for Holy Mass and confession (priests trying to reach the faithful were imprisoned or killed).

Prayer gave these distressed people the strength to bear the superhuman suffering with which they were incredibly burdened. Union with the cross of Christ provided support in the realities of communist totalitarianism. The words of John Paul II from the encyclical on God's mercy, *Dives in misericordia*, can be applied to this spiritual reality:

“The cross is the most profound condescension of God to man and to what man – especially in difficult and painful moments – looks on as his unhappy destiny. The cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of man's earthly existence. [...] In His resurrection Christ has revealed the God of merciful love, precisely because He accepted the cross as the way to the resurrection.”

A lake full of fish was created

The people forsaken in the steppe, without the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, medicines and tools, had to undertake forced labour in harsh conditions and temperatures ranging from -50°C in winter to +40°C in summer.

March 1941 was exceptionally difficult. Poverty, hunger and severe frost took a heavy toll of lives. The exiles in Oziornoje began to pray the rosary to Our Lady for salvation. Their fervent prayer raised to heaven from the centre of an atheistic Soviet republic did not go unanswered.

On March 25, 1941, on the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a spectacular miracle occurred. The ice-covered earth began to thaw prematurely and rapidly. As a result, a crack was created in the ground, in which a lake formed. There were so many fish in it that you could catch them with your hands. Thus, the exiles were saved from starvation. From all over the area they came for the fish and were transported in trucks even several hundred kilometres!

The lake remained there for several years and only in 1955 did it dry up. Later, it was filled many times with water from autumn thaws or heavy rains, but such a number of fish never appeared in it again.

Years later, in 1997, a statue of Our Lady with a net full of fish was placed on the shore of the lake. John Paul II consecrated the statue during his apostolic trip to Kazakhstan in 2001, and it quickly became a site of devotion by the faithful.

A land thirsty for faith and peace

For the exiles, entrusting themselves to Our Lady in praying the rosary was the only daily source of much-needed spiritual refreshment. These believing people, in addition to rosaries, also took with them the Holy Bible, prayer books and holy paintings when they travelled.

They are a sign that the fight for humanity that the oppressors wanted to deprive them of took place primarily in the spiritual space. Nowadays, looking back over the years, the Archbishop of Astana, Thomas Peta, noted: "This land is a sea of the blood and tears of martyrs, it is a very fertile land for faith. Today, goodness grows on this blood.

And so it really is. In May 1990, the construction of a church began in Oziornoje. The parish was established under the invocation of Our Lady Queen of Peace, to whom a statue from Medjugorje was donated.

Our Lady Queen of Peace was also proclaimed the principal patroness of Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. Her care is particularly important in Kazakhstan – a country whose history is painfully marked by the fate of exiles, and whose current society consists of approximately 130 nationalities and almost all religions in the world.

In Oziornoje there is also one of the 12 altars of perpetual adoration for world peace. This is the "12 Stars in the Crown of Mary Queen of Peace" initiative, which also includes such significant places as Jerusalem and Kibeho.

National sanctuary

With each passing year, the tragic history of deportations, as well as the miracle of the appearance of a lake full of fish on the steppe, become increasingly faded memories. However, the spiritual importance of Oziornoje does not diminish at all. Pilgrims of various denominations come there, especially on June 25 – the feast of the Queen of Peace. Youth meetings are also organised there every year.

John Paul II, while staying in Kazakhstan, called Oziornoje a "national sanctuary". Later, this title was officially announced by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Kazakhstan. The importance of the national shrine is extraordinary, considering that Catholics constitute 1% of believers in this country, and all Christians 25%. Archbishop Thomas Peta points out:

“The Catholic Church in Asia walks on the lake. Serving here is walking on the water with Christ. We must believe that Christ is with us. To trust even more than Peter managed to do.”

A particularly solemn consecration took place on July 26, 1995, when the act of entrusting the local Churches in Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Central Asia to Our Lady was made.

This act was part of a chain of God's events in history and was intended to join the historic act of consecration of John Paul II to Our Lady of Fatima, made with bishops from all over the world in St. Peter's Square in Rome on March 25, 1984.

Carry the light of Jesus and Mary

In Fatima, Our Lady expressed her desire to bring faith to the lands of the former Soviet Union and made special promises to the conversion of Russia. This mission included, among others: Polish Carmelite sisters from Częstochowa, when in 2007 they moved to Oziornoje in a small Kazakh house. Later, next to the post-collective ruins, a monastery was built. Divine Mercy and the Immaculate Heart of Mary – the first Catholic cloistered monastery in the history of Kazakhstan built from scratch.

The arrival of the sisters whose lives are filled with contemplation and the constant presence of Christ in the Holy Sacrament is an eloquent sign of the action of God's grace in these lands. The evangelization of the world takes place by the power of God and through the involvement of people reading His will in prayer, as John Paul II points out: "Mission is action in contemplation and contemplation in action."

Today, Kazakhstan is being reborn to a new life and is opening up again to the spiritual reality. After communism, only a few mosques, some Orthodox churches and one Catholic church remained, which was used as a kindergarten.

Currently, Kazakhstan has its Catholic bishops, four dioceses and many parishes. Although everyday life poses many challenges to the inhabitants, such as living in a harsh climate and taming nature, and the apostolic mission is a great effort, the spiritual fruits of this work are visible.

Mary, our Mother

Oziornoje is an area of spiritual radiation, strengthening, and a special encounter with God. It clearly shows the operation of God's power, which the greatest earthly powers cannot oppose. Oziornoje - a place of punishment designated by the atheist regime for exiles – has transformed into a national sanctuary, visited by many pilgrims of various faiths. It happened thanks to people's faith, their trustful prayer of the rosary and the Mediatrix of God's graces – the Mother of God. For Mary "cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and cultics, until they are led into the happiness of their true home" (Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, 62).

Our Lady continues to care for every person even today. Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort says: "[...] no human being will receive any heavenly gift that does not pass through her virginal hands, for it is God's will that we have everything through Mary" (*Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*).

Just like the starving exiles in Kazakhstan, anyone who turns to Our Lady will be heard. Even the greatest sinner, when he calls out to Mary: "Help!" – will receive unfailing help.

Therefore, if it seems to you that there is no point in fighting sins anymore, because you have no strength to lift yourself up, you see no way out of the situation – entrust yourself to the care of Mary! Without delay, entrust yourself and your loved ones with confidence to the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady:

"Immaculate Mother of Jesus and my Mother – Mary. Taking Saint John Paul II as an example, I say today: I am entirely Yours. To Your Immaculate Heart I entrust all of myself and everything that I am: my mind, my will, heart and body, my senses, emotions, wounds and weaknesses, my memory, the past from the moment of conception, my present and future along with bodily death, every step, every action, every word and every thought.

To Your Immaculate Heart I also entrust my family and everything I have. I surrender all my works, prayers and sufferings to You.

You, the Best Mother, protect me and my loved ones from the Evil One. Obtain for us the graces needed for transformation and healing. Guide us along the paths of life and use us to build the kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ – the only Savior of the world, from whom comes all goodness, truth and life. Amen".

We cry together with Saint John Paul II: "Let the infinite power of Merciful Love be revealed once again in the history of the world! Let it stop evil and let it convert conscience! May the light of hope be revealed to everyone in the Immaculate Heart!"

Hope in the Psalms (130): Towards Mercy

God is patient, He is not unforgiving or vengeful, and He does not tire of forgiveness.



A person – a pilgrim. From the abyss of sin, they journey towards the Flame of mercy. “Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life.” (*Spes non Confundit*, 5). Readiness for inner transformation gives hope for a new life. Hence the longing cry that comes from a heart wounded by sin:

A Song of Ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!

Lord, hear my voice!

Let thy ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee,

that thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

God is patient, He is not unforgiving or vengeful, and he does not tire of forgiveness. He wants to speak to my heart, to revive it with the fountain of His grace. Only He has the power to lead me out of the slavery of sin, just as He did with the chosen people.

"God's reset" is another chance for the repentant sinner who, in his/her human powerlessness, expresses hope that only the Lord has the power to fulfil what he has promised (cf. Rom 4:21). I fall, God picks me up, forgives me and saves me, He doesn't condemn me and doesn't reject me. Therefore, I repeat: *I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.*

***Trust in the Psalms
(131): Like a baby in
the arms of a caring
mother***

I will reveal. But what? Great works are not the result of human effort, but of God's grace.



Some say that a person does not age but matures. And there is something to it. Of course, this doesn't apply to everyone, because some people become stupid with age, but most don't. Successes that turned out to be meaningless and failures that made a person re-evaluate something and re-arrange his hierarchy of values; all this experience makes you look at life differently; for what is of value, for what is not of value. Although, it is also true, some people have already discovered this wisdom in their youth. . .

When did the author of Psalm 131 mature? It's not known. But this is the prayer of a mature person, with a quite reasonable hierarchy of values. We don't know whether he is the same who wrote the first of the Ascents Psalms, Psalm 120; he who was fed up with living in the war-torn land of Meshek, in Kedar, where he lived with those who hated peace. And therefore, he set out towards Jerusalem, towards the temple, towards God; to experience difference and become different. Maybe not, maybe the author of the Psalm is someone else. But since it is a song of ascents, a song of going up, he must be a pilgrim. And the road always changes; helps you to get become wiser. . .

Song of Ascents

*O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me.
But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a child quieted at its mother's breast;
like a child that is quieted is my soul.*

*O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time forth and for evermore.*

Reject haughtiness and pride. That inflated disregard for others and focus only on oneself. Me, me and me again. . . They say that pride is the root of all evil. True. It can destroy even the greatest works of art, turning a fortune into continually wasted dross. . .

What was it like in Paul's Hymn to Love?

*Love is patient and kind;
love is not jealous or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude.
Love does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice at wrong,
but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

Pride has only one thing in common with love: it never ceases. Besides. . . Pride is impatient: it

cannot stand waiting; it must have everything immediately, here and now. And if not, it stomps its foot in anger. Pride does not forgive: it is always ready to draw the most serious consequences from the smallest mistake of its neighbour. And at the same time, it is full of jealousy: it cannot stand it when others could dim the glow of the prideful ego. That is why it is also fond of all kinds of applause and the smoke of incense burned for it is pleasant to it. When injured, it will rise like a punctured balloon, and if it just gets angry that's least expected. It is not ashamed of this self-absorption because it is convinced that it deserves everything. In the main it always cares about its own interests, and about the affairs of others, as long as they coincide with its own. It also gets angry easily. Then it either strikes out blindly or, if it is less impetuous, prepares a cold revenge. For to forget, to let go – never. It doesn't care about justice, it doesn't care about the truth, as long as it's out there somewhere. It can't stand opposition and doesn't trust anyone. It will criticise anything that does not glorify it. It is persistent only in inflating its own ego. . . Yes: pride is the opposite of what Saint Paul wrote about in "The Hymn to Love"...

Works born of pride are doomed to failure. If it leads to anything, it only leads to ridicule. Sometimes dangerous, terrifying, but funny. A pilgrim towards God, towards heaven, even if he is initially imbued with the thinking of this world, will eventually notice: this is a road to nowhere. Man cannot build anything lasting on his own. He is unable to build a tower of Babel reaching to heaven, he is unable to enter back into Eden. Therefore, the pilgrim heading towards God, towards heaven, begins to understand. And in the prayer of Psalm 131 he discovers his own heart.

*O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvellous for me.*

Not that he doesn't do anything. But he has no illusions that there isn't much that depends on him. It won't change the world. He can change himself, he can help some limited number of people in this or that matter, and probably nothing more. You have to come to terms with it. Instead of flailing around and making accusations that it is the fault of those who do nothing or do something wrong, it's worth bringing order and peace to your soul. It's worth becoming like a child. Like a baby – happy to be changed and fed, with mum and dad close. Like a contented baby, trust God that when a person is helpless, He will take care of important matters. . .

Because God cares about us. He cares about the sparrows, and even more so about us. And about the Church too. There is no need to chase, rush, accuse, worry yourself or those around you, or torment yourself. In God's hand we are as safe as babies in the arms of a caring mother.

Prayer

Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers:
Lucy Cunningham, Tommy McGrory snr, Jen McGrory, Lilian Cox, Sarah Carmichael, Doleen Durnin.

Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



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

Coffee Morning: the fundraiser will be on Saturday 25th May. Donations and home baking welcome. Helpers needed to set up on the Friday evening at 6.30pm, and on the Saturday morning. Thanks.



RNIB: stamps are still being collected.

Donations for winter heating are now no longer needed. Thanks for the extra support.

A Novena for Life has been agreed by our joint bishops conference bio-ethics committee as part of our preparations for the Day for Life.

We invite you to join Catholics across Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland in a Novena for Life from 23 May to the Feast of the Visitation, praying for the protection of human life. Sign up to the Novena at prayforlife.ie for your daily intention, accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. The Feast of the Visitation is a celebration of joy in new life, even in challenging circumstances, and we pray for a return to a society that values and protects all human life from the moment of conception to its natural end. The Novena will lead up to our annual Day for Life on Sunday 16th June 2024 of the Bishops Conferences of England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland.

From the bishop:

Clergy Appointments

The Diocese of Aberdeen has agreed to look after Our Lady of the Rosary and St Columba Parish, Kingussie. I am grateful to Fr Andrew Harden, Parish Priest of Aviemore, for taking on this extra responsibility.

Fr Mark Odion, Regional Superior of the Missionaries of St Paul, has confirmed that a replacement for Fr Walter will be sent soon. He will be a direct replacement for Fr Walter and so will be appointed to St John the Evangelist, Caol and St Mary and St Finnan's, Glenfinnan. I again thank Fr David and Deacon Thomas for looking after Caol and Glenfinnan until then.

St Agnes, Glenuig

I am sorry to inform you that the Chapel of Ease at Glenuig, St Agnes, has been recently violated. I decided that the Church should be closed until a Penitential Rite has been celebrated on Monday. Obviously, we do not want to close our Churches and at Wednesday's Clergy Assembly, there was a general consensus that keeping churches open during the day was of great value. Please pray for the parishioners in Glenuig who have been hurt by this horrible act. They strength and courage to carry on.

Health and Safety representative: each parish requires a Health and Safety representative. If anyone would be willing to take on this role, please let Fr. Tony know. Some online training will be available. (The parish priest cannot take on this role as he's the one who needs to get risk assessed!).



campbeltown@rcdai.org.uk



www.stkieranscampbeltown.org



<https://www.facebook.com/campbeltownrcchurch/>