

Weekly Bulletin

St. Margaret's, St. Joseph's & St. Finnan's

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Weekly Bulletin Online: www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/

Sunday April 8th. 2007

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!



Our efforts in prayer and penance during these last six weeks will have brought us closer to God. The extra masses at which we have assisted, our holy communions and our rosaries and Stations of the Cross, have stored up treasure for us in heaven.

It is only forty days since the ashes were placed on our foreheads to remind us of the shortness of life, and how the wise person will use his or her life profitably to serve God, and increase in their love of Him. St. Paul could say: *"I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me"*

Christ showed us so lovingly, yet so humbly, that it is in submitting to his Father's Will that we will find true peace and meaning for our life. Good Friday was the total giving of himself on our behalf to his Father.

The whole, purpose of his coming into this world at Christmas had now been fulfilled.

"I am come that all may have life, and have it more abundantly"

Our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday morning was proof to the world that he was truly God, that he had power over life and death. The disciples saw and they believed. Thomas was the last to see Our Lord, and his doubts quickly disappeared. He fell to his knees in the presence of his Risen master and proclaimed his faith: *"My Lord and my God."* Our Lord shows that it is dying to ourselves that we truly start to live. Life, suffering and death can only have real meaning if we see them in the light of Christ's Resurrection and victory over the world. St. Paul says: *if Christ is not risen, then we are to be the most pitied of men"*

The Christian has his eyes set on heaven, and sees himself only as a pilgrim in this world. Again St. Paul puts this so wisely for us: *"if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. Set your minds on the things of heaven, not on the things of earth."*

When we have obtained the final possession of God in heaven, this will be the total fulfilment of all that we ever lived for, or desired or suffered for while we were on this earth. And then will come the moment, on the Last Day, when our bodies, like Christ's on Easter Sunday, will rise to join our soul in heaven for all eternity. *"Where then, death is thy victory; where is thy sting? Thanks be to God who has given us victory through the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ."*

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Baking Stall makes £310

My sincere thanks to *Catherine MacDonald and Alison MacIntosh* for all their hard work preparing a Baking Stall last Saturday which raised £310 to help purchase new catechisms for our children. I also wish to thank everyone who contributed baking to the stall and to all who came along to buy.

It was a beautiful day, which helped the success of the stall, and the buying was brisk. There was only a little left over, and this was sold very quickly after mass on Sunday morning.

Catherine and Alison did an immense amount of baking themselves, and, with the other contribution, had a very colourful and tempting display..

Once again, my sincere thanks for their great effort. The final total of £310 is greatly appreciated. Well, done!

First Holy Communions next Sunday

First Holy Communions are always a very special day in a parish, for we see our children approaching the altar for the first time, in all their innocence, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Our Lord himself said: *"Let the little children come to me for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"*

The great French General, Napoleon, when asked what was the greatest day in his life, and was expected to refer to some famous battle he had won, said: *"It was the day of my first Holy Communion"*.

This year there are six girls, and no boys, and they worked very hard to prepare for their important day, with classes every Monday after school for the whole of last term.

Their First Communion should have been last autumn, but we lost three months when I was off after surgery on my knee, and there were no catechists available to take the children. However, I am very grateful to four parishioners who very kindly have volunteered to teach our children their catechism on a regular basis, and we hope to make a start after Easter.

The First Communion children meet this Thursday at 7 p.m. in St. Margaret's for a rehearsal.



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Captain Alasdair Watson, DSC



Alasdair Watson's remains came home on Wednesday to rest among his family at Cille Choirill. His family, on his grandfather's side, Angus, MacDonald, were born at Brunachan, Glen Roy, and Angus's brother, Ronald, was the grandfather of Ronnie, Sally, Angus and Ishbel Campbell. Bohuntin., and so the present generation of Campbells and Watsons are second cousins.

On the right is a photograph of a family reunion at Bohuntin around 1975



Alasdair was captain of a motor torpedo boat during the war, and took

a important part on raids on Dieppe and Bruneval on the French coast, and took part in the Normandy landings on D-Day. His Gun boat was blown out of the water by a German E-boat, but the crew survived to continue until the end of the war. He received the DSC. His father was an eminent surgeon, and Alasdair followed him into medicine, but was called up during the war, and later decided on teaching as his career. He was a Captain in the RNVR, and acted as Equerry to the Queen.

Alasdair and his wife had no children, but his two nephews, Alasdair and Hugh Keane, came over from New Zealand for the funeral, and a niece and her son came from Canada, near Vancouver. His nephews also brought his medals, naval cap and a folder of photographs which I hope to use for the Bulletin in the near future, as the photographs will be of interest to many local people.

Angus Pirie Watson (Fr.Vincent), Ann Watson (Alasdair's mother) Diana Temple(Watson), Morag Campbell (MacDonald, Achintee), Angus Campbell, Morag MacMillan (MacDonald) Ishbel Campbell and Angus MacDonald Achintee)

May Captain Alasdair's soul rest in peace.



Hamish MacDonald, Fort Augustus. R.I.P

Hamish died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital on Wednesday morning after a very short illness, and our sympathy and prayers go out to his wife Alison and his daughters Fiona, Sheena and Heather and their respective families. Hamish came regularly to Mass at Invergarry, and was always willing and delighted to take part in the readings.

As a young boy, he went to the Abbey School at 8 years of age, and left at 18 to go to University. His first appointment as a teacher was to Kilmonivaig School, Spean Bridge, and he is still fondly remembered by many of his former pupils. He and Alison were married in St. Margaret's, Roy Bridge, by Canon Dominic MacKellaig while he was teaching at Kilmonivaig. From there he returned to teach at the Abbey for the next 43 years

Hamish played an important part in his own parish at Fort Augustus after the Abbey was closed and the gate house was converted into a chapel. He was a great help to Fr. Paul, and since Fort Augustus is now served from Inverness, he would lead the rosary, and also the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

He will be sadly missed, not only by his own family, but by all the local people and by hundreds of students he taught while he was a master at the Abbey School. The parish minister, Dr. Adrian Varwell, has very kindly offered the Church of Scotland for Hamish's Requiem mass. which will be on Tuesday morning at 11 a.m., and afterwards to the crematorium at Inverness

May his good soul rest in peace.

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Anniversaries

This year **Christine Morrison's** anniversary falls on Easter Sunday, April 8th, and the 10.15 mass in St. Joseph's will be said for the repose of her soul.

We pray that God may comfort her mother and father, and also John and the children. Christine was only 34 when she was taken from us so quickly, and she is still greatly missed by her family, and by both communities. As a tribute to her, the people of Spean Bridge voted that the road in the new scheme should be named after her, and is now known as *Morrison Avenue*

Allan Rodger's anniversary is on Tuesday April, 10th. Mass will be said for Allan on Wednesday evening.

May their good souls rest in peace.

Eastertide mass at Cille Choirill Sunday, April 22nd, at 3 p.m.

There will be mass at Cille Choirill in a fortnight's time, and I would be grateful if our parishioners would let their relative and friends know, who live at a distance.

This will give us the opportunity to share our Easter joy with our loved ones in heaven who rejoice with Christ in his glorious resurrection from the dead.

I will ask the neighbouring parishes to announce the mass.



Church Rota April 14th.—15th.

St. Joseph's

Readers: Angus Cameron

Prayers of Intercession: David MacFarlane

Eucharistic: Ministers: Almy Leider, Liz MacFarlane

Cleaning: Volunteers

St. Margaret's

Readers: Peter Rose Val MacDonald

Prayers of Intercession: Tony Sargent

Eucharistic Ministers: Linda MacDonald, Ian MacDonald

Cleaning: Ann Mackintosh

Weekday Mass: There will be no mass in Spean Bridge on **Tuesday**, as I have been asked to say the Requiem Mass for Hamish MacDonald at Fort Augustus at 11 a.m.



*A happy and
blessed
Easter to
everyone*