

Weekly Internet Bulletin

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

Parish priest: Fr. Tom Wynne. Tel/fax: 01397-712-238 Mobile 00796-588-598
e-mail : frtom@rcroybridge.co.uk Parish web site: www.rcroybridge.co.uk
Blessed Mary MacKillop web site : www.gaeldom.com/mmk/
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Sunday January 28th. 2007



The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple *Candlemas Day*

Friday, February 2nd.

Come to Mass on Friday morning and obtain your blessed candle.

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Blessing of Candles



How quickly the Church's year hurries on! Friday is the feast of the Presentation when Mary and Joseph came to the temple to present the Child Jesus to his Father in heaven. Christian parents follow this example and bring their new-born babes to church to have them baptised so that they too become temples of the divine life within them.

This occasion was also important in the life of Our Lord, for it was indeed a symbol that one day the Church, with all its members, would be his new body in the world. This would be achieved by the total offering of himself on Calvary and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Holy Simeon, one of the elderly priests who still served in the temple despite his age, had waited for the prophecy to be fulfilled, which has been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit, *that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.*

Prompted by the, spirit, he came into the temple, and when he saw the young couple with the child, a tremor ran through his body, for he knew that this was the long awaited Messiah promised by God. The prayers of the Israelites of good faith had now been answered after long centuries of waiting, and the Messiah had come. He said the following inspired prayer with such feeling, and this prayer has become enshrined in the Church's liturgy :

Candles will be blessed at mass on Friday, and will be available at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to have a holy candle for use at home. The feast of the Presentation has always been recognised as a *feast of light.*

The dimness of the vast temple, illuminated only by shafts of sunlight and the light from the many branch candlesticks, now had a new radiance for those who could see with eyes of faith. St. John describes this so beautifully at the beginning of his gospel:

*"In him was life,
and that life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness could not overcome it.
He is the true light that enlightens everyone
who comes into this world.*

Please make an effort to come to mass on Friday morning.

The following is an extract from a sermon of the late Pope John Paul II on Candlemas Day

"In Polish tradition, as well in that of other nations, these blessed candles have a special meaning because, after they have been brought home, they are lit in times of danger, during storms and disasters, as a sign of entrusting oneself, one's family and all one possesses to God's protection. This is the reason why these candles are called *gromnice* in Polish, that is, candles which avert lightning and protect against evil, and why this feast is called Candlemas.

Even more eloquent is the custom of putting the candle blessed on this day in the hands of a Christian on his deathbed, that it may illumine his last steps on the way to eternity. This practice is meant to show that, by following the light of faith, the dying person is waiting to enter the eternal dwelling place, where there is no longer "need of light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light

The lighted candles held by each person during the mass show the watchful expectation of the Lord which should mark every believer's life, and particularly the life of those whom the Lord calls to a special mission in the Church. They are a strong reminder to bear witness in the world to Christ, the light that never fades: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Mt 5:16).

Old sayings about the weather

If Candlemas day be dry and fair
The half o' winters to come and mair
If Candlemas day be wet and foul
The half o' winter's gane at Yule.

If Candlemas Day bring snow and rain
Winter is gone and won't come again
If Candlemas Day be clear and bright
Winter will have another flight

If Candlemas be fair and clear
There'll be two winters in the year.

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You don't have to put on
all these clothes to keep warm in our church!



**It's 100 club subscription
time once again!**



Help to keep our churches warm by joining the 100 club !

Thanks to everyone who joined the 100 Club last year, we were able to keep our churches warm throughout the winter—and the rest of the year. Our tanks are still quite full, and there is still a little money left in the 100 Club account - so you have done very well indeed, and you have my grateful thanks for your generosity and support.

We ask you to renew your subscription of **£13** by cheque or cash, as soon as is convenient, and hand it in either at church or send it directly to Ishbel Campbell, Bohuntine, Roy Bridge PH31 (Tel:01397-712-343).

Ishbel requests that the cheques be made out **to St. Margaret's**, and not to her.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the parish to thank Ishbel for all her hard work and for looking after the 100 Club account so meticulously. In March 2006, we started off with **£1,900** in the account. From this was paid the monthly prize money and the fuel bills for our three churches.

Visitors remark on the warmth of our churches, and it is nice to see people taking off their coats at mass, and in some cases their jackets, and being quite comfortable in cardigans and jumpers!

St. Margaret's central heating pump had to be replaced before Christmas because it was becoming unreliable and occasionally seized up, and this came to £646. It lasted 20 years or more, and so it has given good service to the church!

Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to Victoria and John Harding at the death of their mother, Sue, at the early age of 46, and also to Mrs McCallum, Sue's mother. May God grant her eternal rest and freedom from her suffering. Her funeral will be on Wednesday at Kilmonivaig Church.

Home from Raigmore

Samantha MacDonald came home from Raigmore on Friday, and the doctors are very pleased with her scans. We assure Samantha that she is remembered regularly in our prayers and at mass that her pregnancy will continue normally and successfully.

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Lady Lothian (Antonia Kerr) R.I.P

We offer our deepest sympathy to Lady Cecil Cameron, all the family and grandchildren, at the recent death of Lady Lothian who was a much loved mother, mother-in-law and grand-mother.

Lady Lothian, as well as the mother of six children, was a superb journalist and broadcaster, and was often invited to take part in panels on television to discuss items of topical interest and importance.

She was a very devout Catholic, loyal to her faith, and could hold her own in any debate concerning the Church and modern-day morality.

She would have had something to say about same sex partners demanding the right to adopt children from Catholic Adoption Societies.

The following is an extract from her obituary in the London Times:

"Lady Tony Lothian pursued her own career as an author, broadcaster and journalist. She was a columnist with the Scottish Daily Express from 1960 to 1975.

She became a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists, and won the Templeton Award in 1992.

*With the renowned Odette Hallowes, who fought with the French Resistance during the last war and was captured and tortured by the Nazis, and Georgina Coleridge, she founded the annual **Women of the Year lunches at the Savoy Hotel in 1955, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind and other charities.** (She herself had lost an eye).*

*She was also **vice-president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and president of the Royal College of Nursing from 1960 to 1980, and a patron of the National Council of Women for Great Britain.** She received the OBE in 1997, and was made a Dame of St. Gregory by the Church in 2002."*

Lady Lothian had tremendous devotion to the mass, and particularly to the Blessed Sacrament. One of her last requests was that she be buried near to where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Cardinal Keith O'Brien was the celebrant at her Requiem Mass and spoke of his great admiration for Lady Lothian's deep faith and her loyalty to the teachings of the Church.

May her good soul rest in peace, and may her loved ones be consoled by her holiness which assuredly found her a reward in heaven by possessing Christ for all eternity, whom she served so lovingly and faithfully while she was on this earth.

Rota for our churches Weekend of February 3rd. - 4th.

St. Joseph's

Reader: Almy Leider

Prayers of Intercession: Christina Fyfe

Eucharistic Ministers: Moira Coutts, Betty Porter

Church Cleaning: Any volunteers?

St. Margaret's

Readers; Catriona MacDonald Helen MacLean

Prayers of Intercession: Lorna MacGregor

Eucharistic Ministers: Ann MacKintosh, Deirdre MacDonald

Church Cleaning: Ishbel Campbell

Welcome

We welcome Terry and Marie Winstanley, and their 9 year-old daughter, Emily-May, to the parish. The family moved up last year from Liverpool to Torlundy, where Terry's sister, Maureen, lived for some time, but they have now leased Spean Cottage,, at the road junction, close to the access to Blarour.

Terry is a landscape gardener, and will be happy to find work in the area. Emily-May continues to attend St. Mary's School, and was confirmed by Mgr MacKinnon shortly before Christmas.

I am sure the family will make themselves known to our parishioners in good time, and I know that they will be made very welcome by everyone.

They lived formerly at Annfield Road, which is very close to Liverpool football park, so they were quite chuffed last week when Liverpool beat the almighty Chelsea 3-1!

Feast of St. Blaise

Since the feast of St. Blaise falls on Saturday this year, the traditional blessing of throats will be given at mass on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Education Sunday next weekend

Next weekend is the beginning of Catholic Education week, which this year focuses on the role of parents as partners in the education and formation of their children in the faith.

Our bishops emphasise the importance of parents participating in their children's learning as a true partnership between school and home.

Special collection. There will be a second collection next weekend to support the Church's Education Office in Glasgow which helps to safeguard our Catholic schools.