

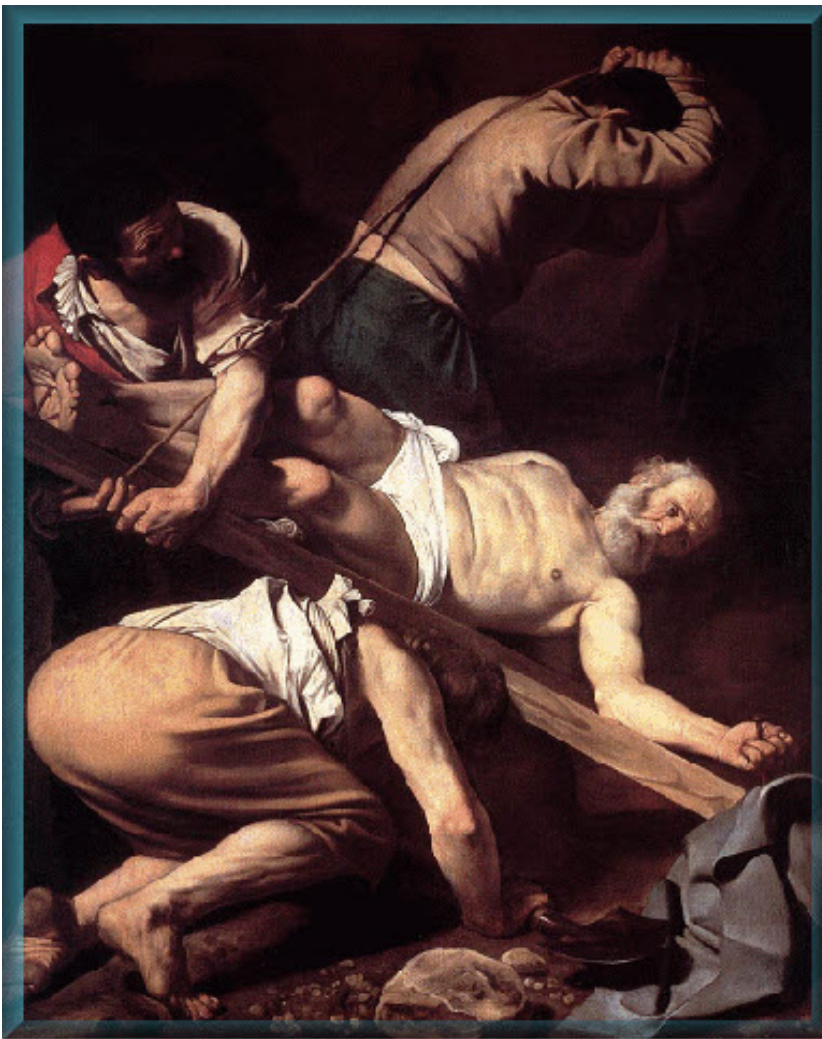
# Weekly Bulletin

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

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Weekly Bulletin Online: [www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/](http://www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/)

Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup>. 2007

## Feast of Saints Peter & Paul



Paul, a Roman citizen, was beheaded by the sword.

The Chief of the Apostles was a native of Galilee like Our Lord. As he was fishing on its large lake, he was called by Our Lord to be one of His apostles. Peter was poor and unlearned, but candid, eager, and loving. In his heart, first of all, his conviction grew, and then from his lips came the spontaneous confession: *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!"* Our Lord chose him and prepared him to be the Rock on which He would build His Church, His Vicar on earth, the Head and Prince of His Apostles, the centre and indispensable bond of the Church's unity, the unique channel of all spiritual powers, the guardian and unerring teacher of His truth.

All Scripture is alive with Saint Peter; his name appears no fewer than 160 times in the New Testament. But it is after Pentecost that he stands out in the full grandeur of his office. He sees to the replacement of the fallen disciple; he admits the Jews by thousands into the fold and in the person of Cornelius, opens it to the Gentiles; he founds and for a time rules the Church at Antioch.

Ten years after the Ascension Saint Peter transferred his apostolic capital to Rome, going in person to the centre of the majestic Roman Empire, where were gathered the glories and riches of the earth, along with all the powers of evil. From there he sent Saint Mark, his valued secretary, to establish the Church of Alexandria in Egypt. In Rome, Saint Peter's Chair was placed there, and for twenty-five years he laboured at building up the great Roman Church. He was crucified by order of Nero and buried on the Vatican Hill, where now the Basilica stands which bears his name.

**W**e celebrated the feast of the martyrdom of the two great Apostles Saints Peter and Paul last Friday, June 29th, which is a Holyday of obligation.

Tradition has it that the two saints were martyred within a few days of each other in the year 67AD. They had been imprisoned in the Mamertine Prison of Rome and both had foreseen their approaching death. Saint Peter was crucified, upside down at his own request, as he felt unworthy to die in the same manner as his Saviour. Saint

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Beheading of St. Paul—a carving in a mediaeval cathedral

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, (modern Turkey). He was a Jew and was know as Saul. He was also a member of the Pharisees who hated and persecuted Christians. He was present at the death of St Stephen, of which he approved. On his way to Damascus to arrest one group of Christians, he was knocked to the ground and was blinded by a heavenly light. Jesus spoke to him and asked him : "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? He said "who are you Lord"? And the voice answered: "I am Jesus

whom you are persecuting". Saul said "What do you want me to do Lord"? The Lord said: "go the city, you will be told what to do".

The experience had a profound spiritual effect on him, causing his conversion. He was baptized, changed his name to Paul , and began travelling, preaching, and suffering for the sake of the name of Jesus.

As an apostle he was imprisoned, flogged, and many times was near death. Five times he received the forty lashes minus one. Three times he was beaten with rods, once he was stoned, three times he was shipwrecked and for a night and a day he was adrift at sea. He was frequently on dangerous journeys, in danger from rivers, bandits, from his own people and also the gentiles.

He was in danger in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, and from the falsehood of certain brothers and sisters. He worked hard, through many sleepless nights; he was hungry and thirsty, many times without food; he suffered cold and was naked. Besides all these things he was also under pressure because of the anxiety he felt for all the Churches.

He was finally imprisoned along with St. Peter in Rome where they were both martyred, tradition tells us, within a few days of each other. Paul, being a Roman citizen, could not be crucified, and so was beheaded.

These two great Apostles are the very pillars of the Church, for each gave their lives to preach the good news of Christ, and each gave their lives in testimony and witness of what they believed. May we be as faithful in the secular world in which live.



While the Bohuntine road is being resurfaced, the above notice has been placed at the beginning of the road as a warning of possible long delays. It has intrigued everyone, especially local people, as they were not aware that there was an alternative route to Bohuntine. We look forward to this mysterious road being revealed after being kept hidden all these years!

## Scottish Catholic Observer

This week the Observer focuses on *St. Finnan's, Invergarry*. so it should be of interest to our parishioners.

If anyone wishes to have a copy reserved for them regularly, please put your name on the list at the back of he church. The paper costs 80p.

## Graduations

If any of your children are graduating from university soon, please let me know, as it would be nice to congratulate them through the Bulletin. We are always very proud to know of the success of our young parishioners.

## Special collection next Sunday for the Diocesan Fund

Next Sunday's collection is to help with the running expenses of the diocese—its office for administrative work, staff wages, travelling expenses etc. All these come to a considerable amount annually.

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## Break-in at Cille Choirill Church

Vandals broke through one of the windows close to the altar, some time last week in the hope of finding a lot of money in the box. Two books had been sold, which would amount to £12, but the damage to window will be very costly because it is leaded glass.

The last break-in about five years ago, when a window was damaged. similar to the present one, the monks at Pluscarden were able to repair it, and came down specially to replace it. The monks no longer make or repair leaded windows, and the cost to have the new window made and replaced by a glass firm would probably cost approximately £600. What we plan to do is, to replace the window with the same type of glass, and have imitation lead squares made that can be fixed onto the glass. The difference would not be noticeable, and should the window be broken again, the cost to replace it will be considerably less. It is very sad that this kind of vandalism should happen, but such are the times in which we live when nothing is held sacred, and churches are just as prone to break-ins as domestic property. I am very grateful to Roddy Campbell for boarding up the window temporarily until a replacement can be obtained..

### *Our sick*

Both Katie MacKintosh and Joe Beattie came home from hospital last weekend, and are making good progress.

Jimmy Keenan is still in Raigmore, Ward 2c, and has improved considerably. He hopes to be allowed home some time next week.

Willie MacKillop was transferred to the Belford Hospital from Raigmore, and he is making good progress after his surgery.

Nell MacDonald is still in the Belhaven Ward,

We also remember very specially in our prayers Frederick Rose, father of Margaret Sargent, Peter Rose and Mary Beresford, who is seriously ill and not expected to live.



## Summer holidays

The schools closed on Thursday morning, and the children and staff have six weeks of holidays ahead of them. We wish them a very happy time with lots of sunshine.

At the prize-giving in Spean School on Wednesday morning, I was presented with a card from the staff and children with their good wishes for my Golden Jubilee, and also a beautiful cake, baked by the school secretary, Lorna Weir, whose family now run the Roy Bridge Stores, and a medal for trying my best in class!



The new term in August will bring some changes among staff.

Hermione Cooper has decided upon early retirement, and will be replaced in St. Mary's by Terri Brown, Inverroy. Terri has acted as supply teacher for several years, and has decided to go full time again. She was very popular with the children in Invergarry school where she has been teaching almost full time over a period.

Congratulations to Siobhan Bradley who has been appointed head teacher of Invergarry Primary school for the next year. We wish her every success.

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The editorial in this month's *Flourish*, written by its editor, Vincent Toal, deserves to be read by everyone, as it is a powerful comment on Cardinal O'Brien's sermon for the feast of the Visitation, which created world-wide interest. The editorial is entitled:

## ***New enlightenment needed to address life issues.***

THE FURORE generated by Cardinal O'Brien's remarks on abortion has served once more to highlight the hostility of the British media to Christian moral values.

The same journalists and commentators who never tire of warning about threats to the planet and the dangers of fuel emissions, go apoplectic as soon as Church leaders dare to highlight the killing of seven million babies in the womb.

The Cardinal's appeal to conscience was deliberately misconstrued as seeking to dictate how MPs should vote. Now we are told the interests of constituents are sovereign over the demands of justice and truth.

It is this same woolly thinking that has seen weak-kneed politicians coin their classic answer to abortion - *"I'm personally opposed, but I don't want to impose my views on others."*

The incongruity is astounding. Do we let politicians get away with the same pathetic cop-out on other issues - racial discrimination, sexual abuse, violence, murder. *"I'm personally opposed, but it's the individuals' rights ..."*

Of course not. We expect and need leadership. And we need leadership underpinned by values and moral norms which are universally recognised as belonging to the natural order. Policies should succeed in upholding the basic human rights of all, not simply safeguarding the choices of a few.

In the Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul made the obligation to defend human life very explicit: *"This task is the particular responsibility of civic leaders ... No one can ever renounce this responsibility, especially when he or she has a legislative or decision-making mandate."*

As Christians, we are called, indeed required to be, pro-life, to cherish and protect human life as a gift from God from the moment of conception until natural death. Elected representatives have a special obligation in that regard.

But 40 years on from the Abortion Act, we have reached the stage where abortion is the first, and often the only solution offered to women in the face of an unwanted or difficult pregnancy.

A great many women, especially if they are unsupported, succumb to the subtle pressure of feeling irresponsible and misguided for wanting to give birth to their babies.

This bleak climate of death casts a deep depression over Britain.

Abortion has not solved our myriad social ills. Community and family breakdown has led to an increasingly problematic society. We have worsening violence within homes and on our streets. Exploitation of the young and vulnerable is a growing menace.

**It is not the Catholic Church's teaching on love and sex that has led to abortion. Nor does the Church encourage violence, threats or exploitation.**

The blame lies squarely with our aggressively secular and materialist society, with its fevered hostility to Christianity. It is within this dysfunctional reality that unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and abortions are soaring.

Record numbers of abortions are the grim harvest reaped by the sex obsessed pedlars of promiscuity. How dare we disturb their self-indulgence with harsh truths! How dare we try to prick their conscience!

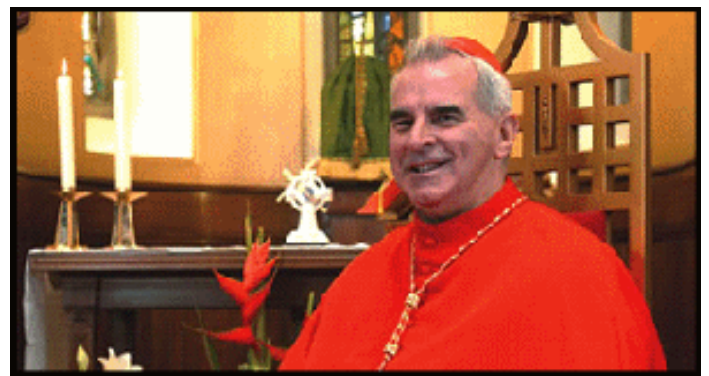
In his reminder to politicians to examine their consciences, Cardinal O'Brien was calling for ***a new enlightenment.***

It is time for the light of God's love to illumine our minds, direct our decisions and dispel the darkness of death which has invaded the sanctuary of the womb.

Only then will the psalmist words ring true for our society: "From my mother's womb you have been my help."

**As Prime Minister Gordon Brown stated, when the strong help the weak, we all grow stronger.**

- Vincent Toal



Cardinal O'Brien, who recently visited our parish, made this statement in his sermon on the feast of the Visitation:

***"Because of the liberal attitude to abortion in this country, the equivalent of two classrooms of unborn children are being killed each day..."***

How many gifted children have we destroyed, sent to us by God to help the world?