

Weekly Bulletin

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

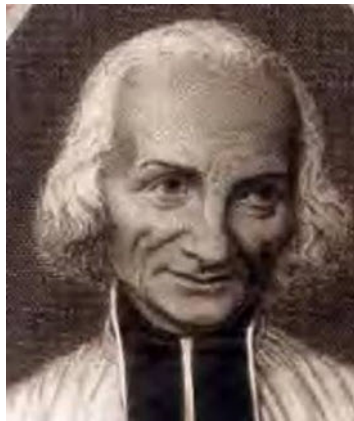
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Weekly Bulletin Online: www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/

Sunday July 29th. 2007

Saints of the Week



St. Ignatius of Loyola
Founder of the Jesuits
Tuesday, July 31



St. John Vianney
The holy Curé of Ars
Saturday, August 4



St. Alphonsus Liguori
Founder of the Redemptorists
Wednesday, August 1st

St Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

Ignatius, the youngest of twelve children, was of Spanish nobility, and was a page at the court of Ferdinand and Isabella. He received a military education and served in several campaigns. He was wounded in the leg by a cannonball at the siege of Pampeluna, an injury that left him crippled for life. During his recuperation, the only books he had access to were a collection of lives of the saints, and the *Life of Christ* by a Carthusian monk. These books, and the time spent in contemplation, changed his life completely.

On his recovery, he took a vow of chastity, hung his sword before the altar of the Virgin of Monserrat, and donned a pilgrim's robes. He lived in a cave for a year, contemplating the way to live a truly Christian life. He worked in the Holy Land trying to convert the Muslims, and when he returned, he studied theology for several years in some of the great universities of Europe.

His meditations, prayers, visions and insights led him to forming the *Constitutions* of the *Society of Jesus*, and on August 15, 1541, he received the necessary Papal approval. He was joined by six friends, one who later was canonised a saint, Francis Xavier, the apostle of the East, and the rest who formed the core of the new *Society*. He never used the term Jesuit, which was coined as an insult by his opponents; the *Society* today uses the term with pride. He travelled Europe and the Holy Land doing missionary work, and then settled in Rome to direct the Jesuits. The *Society* became one of the main bulwarks against the Reformation. His health suffered in later years, and he was nearly blind when he died. His motto for the *Society* still inspires those committed to the religious life: "*Ad majorem Dei gloriam—for the greater glory of God*"

St John Vianney—Curé of Ars (1786-1859)

John Vianney was a young man with a vision: he wanted to become a priest. He had to overcome his meagre schooling, through no fault of his own, which did not equip him with sufficient qualifications to enter the seminary. His parish priest helped him with Latin, and when he applied to enter the seminary, the bishop was not impressed by his lack of learning, but was persuaded by the parish priest who told him that the young man was *a man of prayer*. After a lengthy battle with books, John was ordained a priest. The bishop sent him to a small country parish of Ars where he felt he could do harm. As pastor of the parish, John encountered people who were indifferent, many of them living a sinful life. >>>

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He was a priest of tremendous prayer—spending the whole night before the blessed Sacrament, fasting on a meagre diet of bread and porridge. He said: “*Some devils can only be cast out by prayer and fasting.*” He was attacked by the devil, and his bed scorched, for he was becoming victorious in his battle over the sins of his flock. His work as a confessor was his most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter time, he would spend 11-12 hours a day in the confessional reconciling people to God. In the summer months, this was extended to 16 hours. People from all over Europe came in pilgrimage to his confessional, among them kings and queens and other members of royal families, such was the reputation he had as a saint and confessor. The church was packed to capacity each morning for his daily mass, which began at 6 a.m. He founded an order of women to look after young girls, and many of them owed the success of their future to him. As his fame spread, he would spend more hours in the confessional reconciling souls to God. Even the few hours he would allow himself for sleep were disturbed by the devil. He is the patron of all parish priests, and a reminder to all that, by the power of prayer, and our own sense of vision, everything is possible with God's help.

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

Alphonsus was born in Naples, and went to the University of Naples to study law, and by the age of 16 he had a doctorate in both civil law and canon (church) law. But he soon gave up the practice of law for he felt himself drawn to serve God in the priesthood. He was ordained a priest, and concentrated his pastoral efforts on parish missions which became very popular because of his friendly style of preaching. This attracted large numbers of people to listen to him wherever he went. He spent long hours in the confessional in the parishes he visited, and found people anxious to reconcile themselves to God because of his kindly and human approach. Before he went on to another parish, he would form groups to carry on his work to encourage others to lead a truly Christian life. He was one of the outstanding moral theologians of his time, and he showed that the law of God was gentle and compassionate, and not something dominating and to be feared.

He founded the Redemptorist congregation, which was an association of priests and lay brothers living a common life, dedicated to following Christ, and working mainly in giving missions for the poorer people in the rural areas. His congregation foundered for a while, but with his trust in God, he re-established it, and it was approved some years later by the Holy Father. The simplicity of his preaching, and his kindness and compassion in the confessional, changed the pastoral attitude of many of the notable clergy and preachers of the day. He was consecrated a bishop, but still continued his work of preaching missions and strengthening the Redemptorist Order. He had tremendous devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady, and wrote books to help people increase in their devotion to the Eucharist and to the Blessed Virgin. He suffered greatly before his death, with little relief from pain, but his love of Christ gave him the courage to continue humbly serving him until the end. The great work of the Redemptorists has continued, and they are still renowned for their parish missions, continuing their work of preaching and hearing confessions with the same kindness and compassion as their saintly founder. Their monastery at Kinnoull in Perth has been a lighthouse of the faith, and most parishes in Scotland have benefited from a mission by the Redemptorist Fathers throughout the years.

Thank you

Recently, Katie Jasperon and her son, Donald, spent a short holiday at Achluachrach. Before leaving, Donald gifted the British money he had left to help with the repair of the window at Cille Choirill, and it came to £60, which is equivalent of \$128 Canadian dollars.

We are most grateful to Donald for his generosity and kindness, and his gift will certainly help towards the cost of replacing the window.

He enjoyed his visit and intends to come back next year, and we look forward to welcoming him—and hope there are no more broken windows at Cille Choirill church!

Blessed Mary MacKillop—Vigil Holy Hour

The Sisters of St. Joseph are holding a Holy Hour from 7.30 –8.30 p.m. in St. John's, Caol, on August 7th, as a preparation for the feast next day of Blessed Mary MacKillop.. Everyone is invited to the vigil

We will have mass for Blessed Mary in Roy Bridge on Thursday, August 8th at 10 a.m.

Mass in Spean Bridge will be on Friday at 10 a.m. instead of Thursday.

Next week, the Bulletin will remind us about devotion to Blessed Mary, and the part we can play in helping her to become Australia's first canonised saint.

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St. Joseph's Roof Appeal *Race Night*

Saturday, Sept. 1, Spean Bridge Hall at 7.30 p.m.



The roof of St. Joseph's church at Spean Bridge will have to be replaced in time at an estimate cost of £35,000!

The spire will come down first of all, as it is more than likely that this is the main cause of the severe condensation in the church. If this helps, it will give us more time to appraise the situation. At the moment, a plastic cover has to be put over the new carpet every day after mass to prevent it being damaged by the condensation. However, the roof has been opened and examined, and the old form of chipboard used at its construction is rotten, and there are also cracks appearing in the copper panels caused by the vagaries of the weather over the past 40 years. Consultant engineers have examined the roof, and they strongly recommend the latest form of artificial slate called Decra to be used to replace the copper. Campbell Construction investigated the possibility earlier of using Ballachulish slate, but, having consulted the plans, it was obvious that the roof construction is not sufficiently strong to bear the weight of natural slates.

FUND-RAISING

David MacFarlane has come up with the idea of having a Race Night in Spean Bridge Hall. This is organised entirely by a professional firm, and consists of eight races shown on film. All we have to do is to get sponsors for the eight races, and encourage people to "buy a horse" at the cost of £5 each—and then get as many people as possible to come along on the night and "bet" on a horse for each of the races! We hope to have some great prizes. There will also be entertainment between the races, so it will be a night of fun and excitement!

David will be responsible for selling horses in Spean Bridge (712-418), and Frank MacKenzie has very kindly offered to sell horses in Roy Bridge.(712-414)

The firm charge a professional fee, but wherever they have provided a Race Night, it has resulted in an excellent profit for the fund-raising event.

Keep Saturday evening, September 1st, free, and you can buy as many horses as you wish. If the horse you own comes in first, you get a special prize, plus the odds you will also get if you have backed it with the hall "bookies"!

There will be more information and a reminder nearer the time



New sign for St. Joseph's

The old wooden sign board had become rotten and so we are replacing it with a brand new one made of plastic. The background is black with gold lettering, and looks very smart.

It was made by the Sign Firm at Annat Industrial Estate, and the price was very reasonable.

We are fortunate that the grounds of our three churches—St. Margaret's, St. Joseph's and Cille Choirill—are all well maintained, and this greatly enhances the property. Many visitors comment on neat our grounds are kept. Well done, to those involved!

Next Mass at Cille Choirill

Sunday, August 12, at 3 p.m.

The 15th August is the Sunday nearest to the feast of Our Lady's Assumption. It is a reminder to us that on the Last Day, our bodies too will rise from the dead, but incorruptible, to join our souls in heaven. Our Lady was taken up body and soul into heaven for she did not inherit the sin of Adam, and it is only right that she, who is all pure and holy, and gave birth to our Saviour, should not suffer the corruption of the grave.

Corruption is the result of sin, and Mary, of course, was sinless. She anticipated what will happen to us.

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A wonderful surprise at our latest parish graduate

***Catrina Macdonald
School Wood,
Roy Bridge***

It came as most delightful news when I learned this week that Catrina Macdonald had recently received a B.A. in Nursing from Dundee University.

I don't know if anyone outside of her own family knew that she was studying for this degree while still continuing with her exacting role as a nurse specialising in the treatment of Accident and Emergency cases at the unit in the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Her degree is truly a wonderful achievement!

Perhaps, one should not be too surprised, for Catrina is a very dedicated nurse and highly qualified in the exacting role demanded of her in the emergency treatment of people involved in serious accidents.

But it also came as an even greater surprise to me personally when I discovered, at the same time, that Catrina has an M.A. degree from Glasgow University where she graduated in Psychology and Sociology in 1981.

She is a very accomplished academic young woman, and we hope this most recent degree will bring her much success and fulfilment in her discerning career as a nurse. We are all delighted for her and for her family who must be very proud of her.



Catrina Macdonald M.A., and recently B.A. (Nursing)

In Hospital

Mary Morrison, Aonachan Drive, is still in the surgical ward at the Belford, and is gradually making progress. There is no word of her coming home as yet.

Nell MacDonald is in the Belhaven Ward, and, despite her handicap, is wonderfully cheerful.

Joe Beattie is back home again, and we pray that he will continue to make good progress.

Jimmy Keenan is also continuing to gain strength, and is feeling very much better.

We remember all our sick and housebound in our prayers, and especially at our weekend masses. I know that they appreciate the fact that we pray for them.

Ordination of Permanent Deacon in Daliburgh

Because of the shortage of vocations to the priesthood, the Church over the past few years has reintroduced the office of permanent deaconate. In the early Church, as well as ordaining bishops and priests, the apostles also ordained

married men of good character as deacons to help the clergy with their pastoral responsibilities. The deacon can preach, administer holy communion, baptise, marry couples and take funeral services.

Our first permanent deacon, Martin Matheson, from Garrynamonie, South Uist, will be ordained by Bishop Murray in St. Peter's, Daliburgh on Wednesday, August 22nd. Martin has had to study theology and church law, assisted by tutors, over a period of four years, so that he will be competent in fulfilling his duties as a deacon.

This ordination is of immense importance to our diocese, which is already beginning to feel the shortage of clergy. We have only one late vocation studying for the priesthood at the moment, who will not be ordained for another four years. Meanwhile the rest of the clergy are getting older. Married deacons can be of valuable service to the priesthood. Perhaps Martin's ordination will encourage more single and married men to consider offering their lives in the service of the Church as a deacon.