

# 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 2007



## *Seonaidh Callum MacDonald on his baptism day*

Last Sunday was a special day when Seonaidh Callum was baptised in St. Margaret's. His birth and safe delivery brought so much happiness, not only to his only family but to the whole community. A large number of his family, friends and neighbours gathered in St. Margaret's for his christening, and it was a very special occasion for us all.

His godparents were his uncle and aunt—Wayne MacCallum and Catherine MacDonald. His two grandmothers and his great-grandmother were present for his christening and placed the sign of the cross on his forehead as a sign of their Christian faith being passed on to him from one generation to another.

We wish Seonaidh Callum every blessing, health and happiness throughout a long life. He has brought so much joy into the lives of so many people already, for he is a very popular young boy. Not only is he popular, but he is also a very beautiful and healthy baby, gaining pounds by the week! We pray that his good progress will always continue, May God bless his parent's John and Samantha! (See page 4)

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## Celtic monks & the Church

**O**n Wednesday, we celebrate the feast of St. Benedict, the father of western monasticism, and on Thursday we honour one of the Celtic members of the Columban monastic family, St. Drostan.

The notion that a separate Celtic Church always existed has been a source of myth and propaganda for 400 years. This began after the Reformation, where authors, such as George Buchanan, sadly supplied the initial false information by inventing the notion of a national Celtic Church opposed to the Roman Church.

In recent works published by leading authorities on the Christian Celtic culture, such a notion is completely rejected and has not the slightest support. One of the great authorities, Patrick Wormald, states that, *"The false information perpetuated over the last 400 years proclaiming that there was a "Celtic Church" in opposition to the Roman Church. endured until the 1960s, and is still accepted by some students. This is now being undone by new age paganism based on notions of some sort of "Celtic spirituality" supposedly distinguished by its closeness to nature"*

In 1927, Major V. Hay, an acclaimed historian, wrote a book called *A chain of error in Scottish History* in which he showed conclusively that many genuine historians accepted the integrity of passed historians, and, without any research, quoted them liberally, only to find out later that prejudice had altered the true historical facts. This was unfortunately the case of George Buchanan's writing on the supposed "Celtic Church".

Patrick Wormald defines clearly: "One of the common misconceptions is that there was a "Roman Church" to which the supposedly Celtic Church was nationally opposed." The Celtic-speaking areas were part of Latin Christendom as a whole, and although they may have of some liturgical variations, there was unity of doctrine and they acknowledged the supremacy of the Bishop of Rome as successor of St. Peter.

After the arrival of St. Patrick in Ireland, monasticism spread quickly through the island and then across to Scotland and the north of England where St. Aidan, a bishop and former monk of Iona, founded the See of Lindisfarne. These new links with the Latin West brought the Celtic-speaking people into closer contact with other groups of Catholics. Through this, they unified their liturgy; synods were held in Ireland, England and France to resolve a way of calculating the feast of Easter.

Pope Honorius gave certain Columban monasteries permission to continue with their own liturgical services. The cultural exchange was mutual, and there was evidence of this by the spread of the uniquely Irish penitential system, eventually adopted as a universal practice of the Church by the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215. In Ireland, confession was made

privately to a priest, whereas in the early Church, penitents were obliged to wear sackcloth and ashes as a sign of public repentance.

The Irish monastic tonsure differed slightly from the tonsure as practised in monasteries on the continent.

The Irish also learned to adopt the system of a bishop with a diocese, like the rest of the Church.

The holiness of the Irish monks had a tremendous influence on the rest of Europe, and their monasteries spread throughout France and northern Germany.

Their spirituality was based on the monasticism of St. Benedict. St. Patrick had been ordained a priest and bishop in Rome, and spent some time with St. Martin of Tours in the Loire Valley, before returning to Ireland, so he had a deep knowledge of the Church's teaching and liturgy, which he taught to the Irish.

There was a common love of the priesthood, the mass, the Eucharist and devotion to Our Lady, the angels and the saints. The monastery on Iona was dedicated to Our Lady and the Angels.

The Columban monks have left their mark of holiness everywhere they went, and especially in the Highlands. St. Cairell, St. Finnan, St. Malruha, St. Donnan, St. Finbarr, St. Drostan, and many other Irish saints influenced the people with their deep faith in God and their love of the Eucharist. Wherever the Columban monks have been, they have also left a deep peace, and that peace can still be found today in the areas where they had their cells and their churches and spent so much time in prayer.

There is no better example of this peace than our own church and cemetery at Cille Choirill



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## **Frederick Rose R.I.P.**

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mrs Daphne Rose, on the death of her husband Frederick, and to Margaret Sargent, Peter Rose, Mary Beresford and the rest of her family at the loss of their father, which occurred on Tuesday morning at his home at Pleasington, near Blackburn. Lancashire. He had a heart that was so strong and loving and devoted in so many ways, that it prolonged his final days considerably. He had the comfort of having his family around him during the last fortnight, and the consolation of his good friend, Fr Kevin Kenny, to give him all the sacraments,

He was a dedicated teacher who had a tremendous influence on his pupils over the years, and he gave them a great love for learning and helped them to develop their own gifts and talents to a great degree, for which they were forever grateful to him.

I remember his telling once how many of his former pupils would return to the school where he was teaching to thank him for what he had done for them during the years they were his pupils, and this continued for many years with others coming to visit him to express their appreciation long after he had retired.

Truly, Frederick Rose was a giant of a man in his profession, albeit a gentle one, for he inspired so many students by his own dedication, and they themselves recognised the tremendous influence he had on their young lives, which helped them in turn make a success of their own careers and vocations.

Not only did he inspire them academically, but he was also a man of deep faith whose love of God permeated everything he did, and this also had an edifying and lasting effect on them.

His musical talents were certainly passed on to his children, and we are indebted to him for this because we have benefited so much in our parish from Margaret's gift of music, and for all she has done for the St. Margaret's, plus her organ playing from which so many have benefited whether it be Sunday mass, weddings or funerals, all given with such kindness and willingness to help. Her talents have greatly enhanced the musical reputation of Roy Bridge primary school, which has so often swept the boards at the Music Festival. Now we are fortunate that her brother, Peter, and his family have come to make their home in Roy Bridge, and we are grateful that the church, and also the Lochaber Music Association, are all benefiting immensely from his professionalism.

Frederick's Requiem mass will be in Pleasington Priory on Thursday morning. If I can manage, I would like to go down on Wednesday to represent the parish, and be back in Roy Bridge by Thursday evening.

The 11.30 am mass this Sunday will be offered for the repose of his soul, and also that God may comfort his wife, Daphne, and her family.

*May his good soul rest in peace.*

## **Anniversaries**

We remember in our prayers at mass this weekend those who anniversaries are at this time:

**Ronald Kennedy**, Bohuntine, for whom mass was said last Sunday,

**Catherine Toal**, for whom mass was said on Thursday

**Duncan MacInnes**, Achluachrach, for whom the Saturday Vigil Mass was said.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

## **Special Collection this weekend.**

This collection goes towards helping with the administrative costs of running our diocese.

We are fortunate in having Roy Maxwell as our treasurer, who was honoured last year for his work for the diocese by being made a Papal Knight. Roy was a former executive in the Bank of Scotland, and is an expert on finance and computer software. We are so fortunate to have him in charge of the diocesan financial affairs. Also Janie Milne who is a very dedicated financial secretary, and is most helpful to the clergy in their parishes.

## **Scottish Catholic Observer**

I have reduced the number of copies from 25 to 15. This includes weekly copies ordered by six of our parishioners. Please place the money in the box provided so that an exact count can be made of the number of papers purchased.

The contents of the paper have improved significantly over the past year, and help to keep its readers in touch with what is happening in the Church in Scotland.

In last week's Observer, Cardinal O'Brien expressed his disappointment that Gordon Brown, our new Prime Minister, has ignored the plea of so many to alter the Act of Settlement which forbids a member of the Royal Family to marry a Catholic.

The two princes are to be congratulated for the magnificent concert they organised at Wembley stadium in memory of the 10th anniversary of their mother's death. The princess Diana would only have been 46

## **Head Teacher at Invergarry**

I was delighted when I heard that the Education authorities had approached Siobhan Bradley, who is teaching at Duror primary school, and asked her if she would accept the post of head teacher at Invergarry for a year. This kind of approach seldom happens, and Siobhan must have impressed them by her standard of teaching and her ability to take over the responsibility of running a school despite her young age.

We wish her every success, and I am sure she will be very popular with the pupils. I visit Invergarry school fairly frequently, and it is always a joy to be with the children. They are very musical, and two years ago they were first equal with Roy Bridge at the music festival.

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Seonaidh Callum MacDonald in close-up

## Spean's "Eternal" Light

We've not long passed the longest day  
when fields are luscious and full of hay.  
In Spean Bridge a lamp shines bright  
and people ask if it's eternal light?"

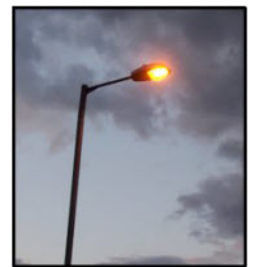
It shines by day, it shines by night  
its glow spreads from its lamp-post height.  
It does not matter how many hours  
no one cares from those with powers!

It's shone for several months and more,  
certainly three and probably four!  
Do those in council wish to know  
Will it still be shining in the snow?

It's simply caused by eccentricity  
For no one cares about electricity  
No matter how the public shout  
Spean's light will not go out!

It's up to us to start the fight  
To save the planet with all our might  
We'll try and hope there's not a hitch  
Till someone finally finds the switch!

Peter Wilson, the editor of *The Braes*, has frequently mentioned in the paper the continual waste of electricity with this one road light shining out continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Peter intends asking the Hydro Board to assess the cost in electricity, and it will be interesting to know how much it comes to.



## Thanks to *The Braes*

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Peter sincerely for the special report of my Golden Jubilee celebrations, and for all the photographs, especially the lovely colour photo on the front page of this month's edition. It was very good of him, and I do appreciate his kindness. *The Braes* is going from strength to strength, and has a very important role in the community keeping us up to date with local news, especially since the Community Council restarted. Peter, of course, is a professional journalist and does a great job.