

Weekly Bulletin

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

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

Sunday June 24th. 2007

Cardinal O'Brien celebrates Fr. Tom's Golden Jubilee at Invergarry and Roy Bridge



Cardinal O'Brien with Fr Tom, a group of parishioners, friends and visitors who attended mass at St. Finnan's Invergarry, last Sunday.

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Concelebration mass at Invergarry: Mgr. Toal, Cardinal O'Brien, and Fr. Tom



Cardinal O'Brien and Fr Tom discuss the service

Last Sunday was truly a memorable day with the visit of Cardinal O'Brien to celebrate my Golden Jubilee at both Invergarry and Roy Bridge, He was sorry he was unable to be here in time, as he would have wished to say mass also at Spean Bridge and meet the parishioners. He is an incredibly busy man, yet he seems to find time in his hectic weekly programme to be present wherever he is needed, and brings a special grace with him.

Both the masses at Invergarry and St. Margaret's were very beautiful, and the Cardinal appreciated our liturgy and the excellent music provided by our choir. He has asked me to express his thanks to the parish for the wonderful welcome he received and for the excellent buffet provided by social committee after mass.

He really has a special affection for our parish, and loves coming back to the Highlands. Perhaps, if he has any free time in the autumn, I can manage to persuade him to come to Roy Bridge to relax and benefit from our peace and quiet for a little while.

The celebrations are now over, and I did enjoy myself, so much. You gave me lovely time, and I appreciate so much all that everyone did to make the occasion a truly parish celebration. I had a wonderful time and I will hold it for ever in my memory.

"Thanks" seems so inadequate, but I mean it with all my heart. No priest could be more proud of his parishioners than I am, for there seems to be no limits when it comes to kindness and hospitality. Guests at the celebrations were so impressed how beautifully everything was arranged—the quality and perfection of the ceremonies in the church, the magnificent banquet we had afterwards, and how quickly everyone was served with such a variety of food and drink. I know that many people contributed towards the buffet, and this was a great help to the Social Committee who worked so hard to ensure everything was just perfect.

May God bless you all, and may I be more worthy of a great people who only deserve the best!

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A letter of thanks from Fr Tom's family.

"Dear Parishioners,
On behalf of all the family, can we just say a very sincere "thank you" to you all for the hard work, effort and commitment in making Uncle Thomas's Golden Jubilee such a very special occasion. It was truly wonderful, and as a family I know we all felt very privileged to be a part of it.

To see so many priests from so far afield concelebrating mass was a remarkable sight, and very humbling.

Uncle Thomas is surrounded by a very loyal and special community of parishioners.

Thank you all so much for making the last week such a memorable occasion for our entire family.

With our grateful thanks for all your hard work!"

Catherine MacKinnon RIP

We offer our sincere sympathy to Monsignor Donald MacKinnon, and all the family, at the death of their mother.

Katie, as she was known to her friends, was always a very devoted parishioner of St. Mary's, and was a founder member of the *Children of Mary*, started by the late Monsignor MacMaster.

She was a very devout, humble woman, who brought up her family by her example as well as by her words.

Never one to seek the limelight, she fulfilled her vocation as wife and mother true to the example of the holy women of the Gospel. She and Dodo had eight children. She was a daily communicant at mass until finally illness prevented her from attending church.

She had two debilitating illnesses which she bore with great fortitude and acceptance, and never a word of complaint, or asking why this should happen to her.

Her son, Monsignor Donald, brought her holy communion as often as he could while she was in Belhaven and at home. I shared two weeks with her and the rest of the patients in the Belhaven Ward while I was convalescing after my knee joint operation, and it was moving to see how kind and affectionate the nursing staff were to her, for she was such a humble person, grateful for all that was done for her, and never a word or sign of complaint.

In the book of the Apocalypse, the Risen Christ says:

I will make all things new. Catherine will now be freed from all impairments to her body, *and being made new in Christ*, she will rejoice in the presence of God, united to her husband, Dodo, for all eternity.

Much was asked of her during these latter years of her life, especially the death of her husband, Dodo, and her illnesses, all of which she accepted so courageously. She had loving daughters who decided to take her home from hospital a year or more ago, to care for her and be able to spend more time with her. She was greatly loved by six daughters and two sons, and will be sorely missed by them.

Despite being housebound for so many years, she was not forgotten, for a large number gathered in St. Mary's on Friday morning for a very moving Mass of Thanksgiving for her life.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

Anniversaries

We remember in our prayers at mass this weekend, Tommy MacGregor's parents: Jimmy and Katie MacGregor, for whom mass was said last Wednesday evening.

Also Sally MacKenzie's parents: Eck and Nan Simpson, for whom mass will be said on Monday.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord....

Feast of Saints Peter & Paul Friday, June 29th Holyday of Obligation

Friday of this week is the feast of Saints Peter & Paul, and the masses will be at the following times:

Invergarry: Thursday, Vigil mass 7.30 p.m.

Roy Bridge: Friday 10 a.m.

Spean Bridge Friday 7.30p.m.

Many people absent themselves from Mass on holidays of obligation for no particular reason.

May I remind everyone that as Catholics the Church binds us to assist at mass on Holidays of Obligation.

Gift from Cathie Kennedy's estate

Cathie had a great love of St. Margaret's, and I received a cheque on Thursday from her executors for £400 which she left to the church. Several masses will be said for the repose of her soul, and throughout the year.

May her soul rest in peace.

School Summer Holidays

The schools break up for their summer holidays on Thursday. We wish all the children and staff a very happy time with lots of sunshine and lazy days.

We also wish our children from primary 7, who will be leaving Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge schools to go to Lochaber High School in August, every success in their new studies. I am sure they will always give a good account of themselves from the excellent education and example they have received in their own local schools.

I was speaking to a councillor recently, who has been a member of the Highland Regional Council for many years, and he said it is quite possible that the decision to close Roy Bridge school could be reversed.

The committee who did so much to save Invernevis Home have given us new hope about the future of our school. All is not yet lost. Victory in the last battle is the one that counts!



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More photos of the Jubilee



Cutting the two Jubilee cakes.



A group of parishioners with the Cardinal and Fr Tom after mass.

Scottish Catholic Observer

The next two editions of the *Scottish Catholic Observer* will feature the 40th anniversary of St. Joseph's and the Golden Jubilee celebrations at Roy Bridge and Invergarry. I have ordered 25 copies for the next two weeks.

Should anyone wish to have a regular copy of the *Scottish Catholic Observer*, which can be obtained at mass each weekend, please write your name on the sheet of paper at the door of the church. The cost of the paper is 80p.