

Weekly Bulletin

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

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Sunday June 3rd. 2007

St. Joseph's 40th anniversary Sunday, June 3, 2007

Forty years ago last Tuesday, May 28th, 1967, St. Joseph's Church, Spean Bridge, was blessed and opened by the late Bishop Stephen McGill.

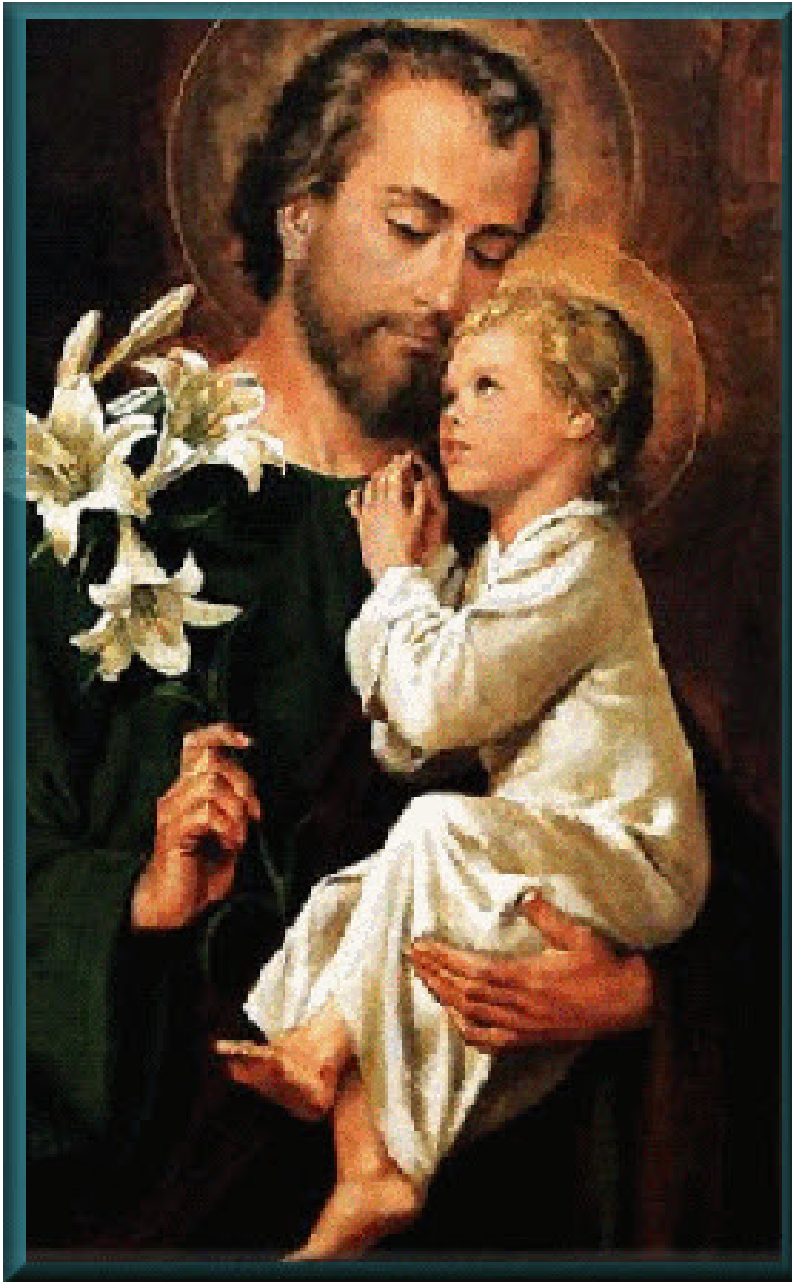
As we mark the occasion today, we thank God for the many graces he has given us through this church, dedicated to St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary.

We are grateful to Monsignor Hendry, and all who supported him in the building of the new church, for their generosity and their encouragement which made it all possible.

Every church is indeed a *gateway to heaven*, for here the presence of Christ dwells in the Blessed Sacrament, and the holy sacrifice of the mass has been offered faithfully and regularly over the years. Here children have been baptised and confirmed; penitents received the consolation of the sacrament of reconciliation; couples sealed their marriage vows, and the dead brought before the altar for their requiem mass as their final act of homage to God before being laid to rest.

St. Joseph must have a special care for us, as we are his spiritual family. The new statue and shrine in his honour is long overdue, and there will be votive candles available.

This 40th anniversary is an opportunity for everyone in our parish to thank God for the many graces we have



Let us ask God today at this anniversary mass for the grace to increase in our love for him so that we may remain loyal and steadfast in our faith in a world which is becoming ever more secular and estranged from God.

We remember also today the souls of Monsignor Hendry, all the priests who served St. Joseph's, and all the parishioners who worshipped God in this church who have now gone to their reward in heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon the, May they rest in peace. Amen

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Group photo at the opening of St. Joseph's



Monsignor Hendry, Bishop McGill, MacRae, contractors, Kingussie, Charles Gray, architect

In Hospital

Katie MacKintosh, Murlaggan, had a fall in the house last weekend, and was taken to Raigmore to have pin inserted in her hip. I phoned the hospital, and the news is that she is making good progress. She is in Ward 3 if anyone wishes to drop her a card.

We will keep Katie very much in our prayers that she may soon be back home.

Joe Beattie is still in the Belford Hospital, and will be going to Raigmore shortly for another consultation and check up. He is in the extension to the Medical section, the same corridor as the maternity ward.

Joe has had quite a battle over a period with his health, but he always remains so cheerful, and enjoys a visit from his many friends. I told him that he must be back home in time for my Golden Jubilee! At this time of the year, Joe was usually out with his strimmer making sure that all the borders were kept neat and tidy so that the lawn looked its best when it was mowed. He did a lot of good work around the church and the chapel house for which I was very grateful.

Nell MacDonald is now in the Belhaven Ward where she is receiving a lot of loving attention. Her family were so devoted

to her at home, but because of her recent stroke, she now requires day and night attention, which was not possible for her family to provide for her over a long period.

Katie, Joe and Nell will be remembered very specially in our prayers at mass over the weekend.

Anniversary

Wednesday is the second anniversary of the death of Mrs Watt, Inverroy, and mass will be said for the repose of her soul on Wednesday evening.

Roy Bridge—record for broken ankles?

There has been a spate of broken ankles in the parish - three, in fact, over the past few months!

The most recent is Tina Jones.

It is good to see Hermione Cooper back at work, and Margaret Watt getting out and about again with the help of her elbow crutches, and being able to drive her car.

Roy Bridge has certainly kept the plaster department of the Belford Hospital busy!

It takes so little to break an ankle, but the result can be devastating for the person as it restricts them from doing so many of the things one takes for granted.

Watch your step!

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Cathie Kennedy R.I.P



Cathie died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital early last Sunday morning, May 27th, after a short illness. Although she had been declining for some time, she was still very alert and cheerful up until almost the end. With the rosary in her hands and whispering the *Hail Mary*, she passed gently into the presence of God whom she loved and served so devoutly and faithfully throughout her life.

Ken Jones, and his wife Tina, and Sister Ishbel MacPherson, both nieces, were with her shortly before she died, so she had the assurance of her loved ones around her.

Cathie was born at Kilmonivaig, and the family walked each Sunday to Chapel Brae church for mass—a round distance of about twelve miles, and thought nothing of it. The children came each Saturday morning to Canon

MacDougall for Catechism, and had to leave home shortly after 6 a.m. to be in good time for their lessons at 9 a.m. When the priest moved to the present chapel house, it shortened the distance by a mile.

Cathie was housekeeper to Dr Rankin in Fort William for some time, until she met Donald, who was a traveller for a tea firm, and they were married in 1940. They lived at Inverroy, and it was about 1952 that they decided to take over the running of the post office. She would cycle from Inverroy in the mornings to assure the post office was always open on time, and in 1954, she and Donald moved to Mulroy Terrace. They spent almost 40 years providing a first class service for the village in the post office, which was also a very well stocked shop. Roy Bridge Post Office was always a popular place for people to meet because of the kindness and hospitality with which Cathie and Donald received all their customers. Although they were not blessed with a family of their own, Cathie and Donald's love of children was legendary. She always made a fuss of children when they came into the shop, even with dirty lemonade bottles, which Cathie rewarded with the usual three pence, which was immediately spent on sweets!

Their retirement from the Post Office was the end of a long and happy period for the village, and they were so sadly missed. During their time, Roy Bridge Post Office had become an essential part of village life - a favourite meeting place because of the warmth and affection of Cathie and Donald's welcome.

Donald's death was a great blow to Cathie, but her strong faith and trust in God's Will, gave her the strength to continue with her life. Her sister Dinah, who had also lost her husband, came to live with Cathie, and they shared their life so happily together. Some time after the fire in their home, they decided that they would go into a retirement home. They spent a few months at the Annie Cameron Home at Locheilside, and then moved to Fairfield Home, Inverness, where they shared a large room, and were able to live happily together. Older people have a resilience and an acceptance of life as it comes, and Cathie received the sad news of Dinah's death, almost three years ago, with great peace and calm. The priests and deacon at St. Mary's parish were very faithful in bringing both Cathie and Dinah their holy communion regularly, and this was always such a joy and consolation to them, especially for Cathie during these past three years.

Cathie lived a very devout, innocent and holy life, and was always very generous to the clergy and the Church, and when God called her to himself, she would have gone with confidence into his presence, and I am sure heard these words from Christ : *Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy thy Lord.*
May her good soul rest in peace

St Joseph's

June 9th

Reader: Angus Cameron

Prayers: David MacFarlane

Euch. Ministers: Moira Coutts Liz Campbell

Cleaning: Volunteers

St. Margaret's

June 10th

Readers: Catrina MacDonald Helen MacLean

Prayers: Lorna MacGregor

Euch. Minister: Ann MacKintosh Deirdre MacDonald

Cleaning: Ann MacKintosh

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The new Holy Redeemer Church, Stornoway



Last Friday, May 25th, Bishop Murray blessed and rededicated the new Holy Redeemer Church in Stornoway, and concelebrated mass with nine clergy. It was a very moving ceremony, attended by a packed congregation, which included the architect, the contractors and representatives of benefactors from Germany. Afterwards, everyone was invited to a lovely buffet and ceilidh in the Caberfeidh Hotel. Fr Tom Cairns O.P., the parish priest, is to be congratulated for the beautiful church for which he is responsible, and for all the hard work he put in to assuring its successful completion, He and his parishioners have every reason to be proud of it. May God bless them all.

Mass at Cille Choirill



There will be mass next Sunday, June 10th, at 3 p.m. at Cille Choirill.

I would be grateful if our parishioners would let their relatives and friends, who live at a distance, know about the mass.

The cemetery, as always, is looking very neat and tidy, and this is a great consolation to people who have loved ones lying at rest there.

I had a lovely letter from the teachers and pupils of Dalbrae Academy, Cape Breton, to say how much they enjoyed their visit to Lochaber, and that the mass on the Sunday afternoon at Cille Choirill was one of the highlights of their visit. It was a great joy to have them with us, and also to be entertained by their music and dancing

Welcome to Monsignor Toal

We were all delighted when Bishop Murray announced that the Holy Father had honoured Fr.Toal by making him a Prelate of Honour in recognition for all the work he has done over the years training and guiding seminarians on the road to the priesthood.

The hierarchy could think of no one more suitable or capable than Fr. Joe of running the college at Salamanca once it closed as a seminary .

They made a special request to him when they were gathered in Oban for the consecration of the Cathedral, and asked him if he would consider accepting the responsibility of now running the college as a retreat centre. They had every reason to be assured that it was in safe hands, and it has proved to be a great success and is used by parishes from all over Scotland, and by many priests for their annual retreat. A group of priests from Ireland made their Pentecost retreat this year at the college. Our parishioners have fond memories of the week we spent at the college, and we found it refreshing both spiritually and otherwise.

June—month of the Sacred Heart.

The warmth and colour of June is a suitable month to dedicate our devotion to the Sacred Heart. In his apparitions to the French nun, St. Margaret Mary, he promised so many favours and blessings to those who honour his Sacred Heart and invoke his help.

Next week's Bulletin will remind us of the efficacy of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.