

# *Weekly Bulletin*

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

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Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>. 2007

## *St. Joseph's 40th anniversary*



St. Joseph's Church, Spean Bridge

### ***Mass of Thanksgiving*** **Next Sunday, June 3rd, at 4 p.m.**

**Bishop Murray will be with us next Sunday to concelebrate the mass of thanksgiving for the 40th anniversary of St. Joseph's. We invite all our parishioners to come to the mass and help make it a joyful and prayerful occasion. June 3rd is also the feast of The Most Holy Trinity, a most appropriate day for our mass of thanksgiving.**

St. Joseph's was opened on Sunday 28th May, 1967, and our parishioners will always be grateful to the late Monsignor Hendry for his determination to ensure that Spean Bridge had a church that was worthy of God and of its parishioners. It was a modern concept in its day, and still remains a very attractive church with its unusual triangular design. The architect was Mr Charles Grey of Edinburgh, who also was responsible for several other churches and buildings in the diocese.

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## The old St. Joseph's Chapel



When the school at Glenfintaig closed, the building was to be pulled down. However, the condition of its corrugated iron structure was still in good condition, and an approach was made to the County Council to buy it and re-erect it in Spean as a chapel for the Catholics. The Council gifted it to the church as it saved them the expense of dismantling and disposing of it. Johnny Campbell transported the sections to Spean in his lorry, where it was erected to serve the people for the next 30 years. With the increase of new housing in Spean Bridge, the Catholic population grew and somewhere more permanent and worthy was required to replace the old chapel. Monsignor Hendry engaged Charles Gray, the Edinburgh architect, to design a new church. He submitted two sets of plans, one of a traditional style, and the other a modern triangular building, which was accepted, and work started in 1966.

It was hoped to open the new church on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, May 1<sup>st</sup>., but because of delays, this was postponed until Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1967.

The new church has served the Catholics in the area very well, and given them a dignified place of worship. It is a favourite with many holiday makers who come regularly to the area and appreciate the Saturday Vigil mass which allows them more time for exploring the surrounding countryside over the weekend.

Unfortunately, the copper roof has been causing condensation for the past twelve years or more, and we are anxiously awaiting a report from the consultant engineers about its state. Already they suspect that the chipboard lining beneath the copper has absorbed rain water over a long period because of tiny splits in the copper, and the resultant damp is the reason for causing severe condensation. The danger is that, in time, this could cause the wooden structure to rot.

We await the report with a certain amount of trepidation, and, in the meantime, we pray that it may not be as bad as we fear.

We are delighted that Bishop Ian Murray will concelebrate the mass of thanksgiving for St. Joseph's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we

look forward to the neighbouring clergy joining us for our celebrations.

### **Reception—help needed**

There will be a reception after the mass in Spean Bridge Hall, and I would be very grateful if our parishioners from Spean and Roy Bridge would be willing to arrange for tea, cakes and sandwiches to be served.



*It would be a great help to have another meeting this Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, in the Chapel House, Roy Bridge at*

*7 p.m. to make the final arrangements.*

If you would like to assist in any way at all, do please come along, for your help will be invaluable.

### **No Vigil Mass next Saturday.**

**Since we are having mass at St. Joseph's next Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., there will be NO Vigil Mass this coming Saturday.**

**I do ask as many as possible from both Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge to be present at the mass to help make it a very special occasion for the parish—and also to welcome Bishop Ian.**

## Preparation for the anniversary

### **Redecoration**

The outside of the church has been repainted and the grounds have been tidied up, so everything is looking very smart. The company who tidied the grounds discovered that two of the outlets from the drains had been blocked for years, and this was causing back pressure in the down pipes and rhones. This should help to keep the building drier.

### **New Statues of St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Grace**

The new shrine to St. Joseph will be completed at the back of the church, and there will also be a stand for candles. The statues of the Sacred Heart and Our Lady will be on either side of the sanctuary

### **New Carpet**

A new carpet will be laid to replace the old worn carpet on the sanctuary

The church will be looking very smart indeed for our celebrations, and we ask for your support and help that we may always be able to keep it that way to the glory of Almighty God.

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## Retreat and Visit to Stornoway

The local clergy had an excellent retreat at Pluscarden Priory, and we also enjoyed the rest, the peace and quiet which allowed us plenty of time for prayer and meditation. The life of the monks is well ordered and disciplined, so that you know exactly what you will do the following day, week or month at the same time. Parish life is much different in comparison with each day being so different from the previous one, and with the uncertainty of what each day will bring.

The group that Margaret Muncie organised during Lent for ladies to spend a few days at Pluscarden also found the experience very fulfilling and rewarding. Margaret will arrange for another weekend visit to Pluscarden later in the year

## Stornoway—opening of new church

A large number of our priests from the diocese were at Stornoway for the opening of the new church on Friday evening to replace the former church which was destroyed by a fire. Five of us who were on retreat at Pluscarden, flew out from Inverness on Friday afternoon for the evening concelebrated mass with the bishop, and returned the next morning. We were back in our parishes by 2 p.m. I will be able to give a full report of the opening, with photographs, in next week's Bulletin.



The room of the Last Supper with Mary surrounded by the Apostles

## Pentecost

Today the Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came down on the Apostles in the Upper Room of the Last Supper, where they were gathered around Our Lady.

From that moment, the Church was truly born, and became the new Body of Christ. By the sacraments of our baptism and confirmation, we now make up the members of Christ's body in this present day, and we are asked, as Christians, followers of Christ, to give witness to him in the world by allowing the Holy Spirit to live in and through us.

The challenge becomes even greater as the world becomes ever more secular, and politicians try to keep God out of public life. May God grant us the grace to give witness to Christ whatever we do or wherever we are.

## A Day for Life

This year is the 40th anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act.

The bishops ask that the feast of the Visitation on Thursday be dedicated to making reparation for the 8 million unborn children who have been murdered, and also to pray for the repeal of

this evil act. People are seeking peace in the world from other evils of war and terrorism, yet we are inflicting the greatest act of terrorism on our innocent unborn children by killing them in their mother's womb—just as evil as any suicide bomber!

Mother Teresa said that abortion is the cause of so many other evils in the world. When you kill your own unborn children where do you stop?

Please take a leaflet from the back of the church



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## *Blessing the foundation stone of St. Joseph's*



In the photo are the late Bishop McGill and Mgr Hendry on the day the foundation stone was blessed, probably late Autumn 1965. You may still be able to recognise some of the parishioners who were present for the blessing. I am grateful for the use of this photo which recorded the occasion. If anyone has any other old photographs concerning the parish, I would be interested to borrow them to have copies made.

### *Opening the new church, May 28, 1967*



Bishop McGill, assisted by Fr. Colin MacPherson and Canon John Morrison. (From an old copy of the Catholic Observer)

### *Mass at Cille Choirill next Sunday*

There will be mass at Cille Choirill next Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, as it is the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Cairell, which is June 13<sup>th</sup>.

I would be grateful if you would let relations and friends know about the mass, some who live at a distance.

### *Easter Duties*

Next Sunday is the end of the period for making one's Easter Duties. We are obliged by the Church to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the period from Lent to Trinity Sunday.

Please encourage anyone in your household who has not frequented the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist, to do so this coming week