

Weekly Bulletin

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

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

Sunday May 5th. 2007

MAY - THE MONTH OF MARY



All the saints had a great love for the Mother of God, and it was this that helped them to become saints. There is an old Latin saying: *Ad Jesum per Mariam*—to Jesus through Mary, and it is now Mary's role as Queen of Heaven to help her children on this earth understand the incredible love that her Son has for each of us. Devotion to Mary is an integral part of our faith. She was given to us by Our Lord himself from the cross in his dying breath: **Behold, your mother**. In the beautiful inspired prayer that came from her lips when she met her elderly cousin, St. Elisabeth, she proclaimed: "**all generations shall call me blessed**".

How Jesus must have loved his mother; she carried him in her womb for nine months, where she wove his flesh >>>>>

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and blood into his sacred body. Can you imagine the intimate relations between Mary and her God's Son during this time? God had prepared her for this moment by assuring her soul was pure and spotless, a worthy dwelling place for his Son. From the earliest days of the Church, she was referred to as *the Mother of God*. When this was decreed at the Council of Ephesus in 431AD against the heresy of Nestorius, excited crowds ran through the streets in the evening with lighted torches shouting *Theotokos—Mary, Mother of God*.

The beauty, peace and holiness of the home at Nazareth is something one can only try to imagine. As Jesus grew into a youth and into manhood, Mary and Joseph lavished so much love and care on him. St. Joseph would have taught him his own trade of carpenter, and spent long hours with him sharing so many things together. How secure he must have felt as a little child in the strong arms of Joseph whenever he was lifted up.

Mary followed him so often during the last three years of his life when his mission to mankind became public. She would have known fear in her heart from the false accusations made against him by his enemies. And finally, she stood courageously at the foot of the cross until his lacerated body was taken down and placed in her arms.

The Church rightly believes, although there is no mention in scripture, that the first person to whom Jesus appeared on the morning of his resurrection was his own mother.

Traditions tells us that the apostles gathered round Mary as she lay dying, and how sad they must have been, for she was the last tangible link they had with Jesus, their Master. They laid her body in a tomb in a cemetery in Jerusalem used by Christians. and it was then, as the Church later defined at the express wish of the people, she was taken up body and soul into heaven where now reigns as Queen of heaven and earth.

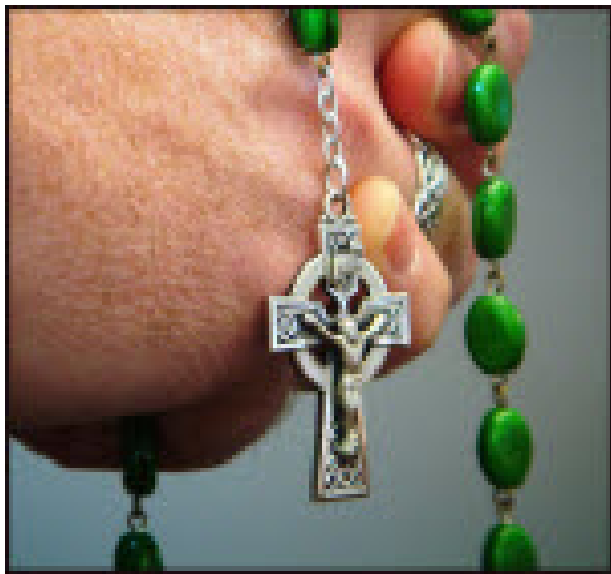
Apparitions of Our Lady—and the Rosary

Our Lady has appeared at many sites all over the world. Among the four best know are:

Guadalupe, in Mexico, where she appeared to Juan Diego in 1532, and where 10 million people visit her shrine each year.

Paris, where she appeared to Sister Catherine Laboré in 1830 in the convent of the Rue du Bac

Fatima, where she appeared to the three shepherd children. Lucy, the only remaining one of the children, died three years ago at Coimbra in Portugal.



Whenever Our Lady appeared, she always had a rosary in her hands and invited the visionaries to join with her in reciting it. She herself said to St. Bernadette that it was the prayer that pleased her most, for it contains the main mysteries of our faith in which h she was involved from the Annunciation to the Passion and death of Our Lord, through his Resurrection until her own coronation as Queen of heaven and earth.

There is an old saying:

***Don't let your rosary rust away;
let it wear away with use!***

Why not revive the old tradition in your home of having a May Altar and reciting the rosary before a statue of Our Lady each evening. It will bring untold blessings on your home and family, and a greater love of Our Lord.

The rosary was one of the best-loved prayers of Catholics down the centuries, and has helped countless millions increase in their love of God and Our Lady, and been a source of joy and comfort in every situation

Some one said: *The rosary is like a chain coming down from heaven to earth by which Our Lady draws us up to herself and to her Son.*

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Special Committee Meeting this Sunday at 7 p.m.

Most parishioners know that I will be 50 years a priest in the middle of June, and the parish wish to mark the occasion.

There will be a meeting of parishioners this Sunday in St. Margaret's at 7 p.m., and anyone wishing to help with the arrangements is warmly invited to attend.

Gaelic mass in London



Fr. Calum MacLellan, Eriskay, has asked that the annual Gaelic mass in London be advertised in the diocesan parish Bulletins.

If you have any relations or friends

living in or around London, he asks you to let them know about the Gaelic Mass which he will say, and will be held on May 14th at 3 p.m. in:

**St. Mary's Church.
Moorfield
Eldon Road
London EC2**

There will be a ceilidh afterwards in the church hall, and people will have the opportunity to meet and enjoy a cup of tea and, perhaps, meet old friends and make new ones.

Fr. Calum says that last year there was a great gathering of Gaels at the mass. Whether people are Gaelic speakers or not, they are all welcome to this annual mass in the city. Please let any one know who might be interested in attending the mass.

Perhaps, it would be an idea to have a mass in Gaelic every so often in our own parish, and invite people from around the Lochaber area to come.

Unfortunately, I do not speak Gaelic, but I am sure we could ask one of our Gaelic-speaking priests in the diocese to say the mass.

There is Canon John Angus MacDonald at Kingussie, Fr John Paul MacKinnon at Ballachulish, Canon Donald MacKay a Oban and Fr Donald Campbell at Glenfinnan, and I sure they would all be willing to help.

Anniversaries

Please remember in your prayers at mass this weekend: Dougald MacKillop and Lily Valley.

Mass will be said for Lily on Monday at 10 a.m., and John and members of his family will be present.

Mass will be said for Dougald on Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

St Joseph's, Spean Bridge

At long last, the front of the church is being painted, and the weather could not have been better to help the job along.

Our one big problem with the church is still condensation. The thin copper roof heats up so quickly in warm weather, and the cool air inside the church condenses when it meets the warm surface. The reverse is equally true in winter, when the warm air from the central heating system meets the cold roof.

Bishop Murray will join us for the church's 40th anniversary on Sunday, June 3rd. There will be a special mass, and we hope that a large congregation will be present for the service and to welcome the bishop.

St. Joseph's has given excellent service to the parish over the years, and is a worthy place for mass to be said and the Blessed Sacrament reserved.

We are grateful to the late Monsignor Hendry that he had the foresight to see how essential it was for Spean Bridge to have a dignified church of its own to replace the old tin building.

I was in my first parish at Kingussie when the church was opened, and I remember it as a splendid and happy occasion. Little did I realise then, that I would be helping to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Weekly Offering envelopes

Please obtain your new book of Weekly Offering envelopes at the back of the church today.

We had hoped to have the books ready for last Sunday, and are sorry for the delay. Should any parishioners not have a book allocated to them, please let me now as soon as possible so that this can be rectified.

Gift Aid—the main purpose of the books is to ensure the contributions of every parishioner who has signed a Gift Aid form are recorded.

The parishioner has no further responsibility as their tax has already been deducted at source. Have you thought about Gift Aid yet?

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Do you have Sky Television?



Mother Mary Angelica

The Eternal Word Television Network was founded in 1981, thanks to Mother Mary Angelica's determination, vision, and faith. Since that time, EWTN has grown to become the largest religious media network in the world. Through God's Divine Providence and the generosity of those who support EWTN's apostolic work by their prayers and donations, EWTN reaches around the world with the message of the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church. In 1996, Mother Angelica hosted the first EWTN Religious Programme. She began by saying, "Welcome. I've been waiting for years for this." She continued her message by saying that EWTN also has a catalogue on show from which people can order good books, beautiful artwork, statues and rosaries to strengthen their and the faith of families and individuals.

There is mass twice a day, which housebound parishioners will appreciate; there are religious talks and discussions on every subject, and whenever the Holy Father visits other countries, they give a first-class presentation.

Mother Angelica used to give regular talks and hold discussion, and she became a firm favourite with millions of people. Sadly, she suffered a stroke two years ago, and does no live television nowadays. However, the recordings of her many talks and interviews are still played, so viewers have the opportunity of seeing her at her best.

One of the interesting programmes is about converts who were received into the Church, and tell their own story. Quite a number were pastors of different denominations, and they and their families decided to become Catholic. Their stories make compelling viewing.

The rosary in honour of Our Lady is recited each day, and also the rosary of the Divine Mercy.

After 10 a.m., the channel is broadcast from Germany for an hour, and most times translations are given.

It is so good to have excellent religious programmes to replace much of the rubbish broadcast on our screens, and they also help to increase our faith in God and the Sacraments.

How do you receive EWTN?

Simply go to channel 769

Remember you must have Sky Television

Happy viewing!

Religious education at school

We intend to get the children's religious education underway next week. There will be five adults who have volunteered to take the children for their lessons, and this will be a tremendous help.

I will contact the parents of the children during this coming week with the hope of making arrangements that are suitable to everyone.

I am very grateful to Catherine MacDonald and Alison MacIntosh for arranging a Baking Stall last month to gather funds for the new books. They raised over £300, which will be sufficient to ensure that each child has a book of its own.

The days of the Penny Catechism are long gone for the new books cost £8 each, and the teacher's manual £20. However, we have the money to purchase the books, and they are very colourful and will be of great help to the children and their teacher.

Any adult in the parish who may wish to help, please let know, as I am sure we can make use of their offer.

Some of our children will be confirmed in October, make their First Confession next Lent, 2008, and their First Holy Communion in June.

