

Weekly Bulletin

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

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

Sunday November 25th. 2007

Feast of Christ the King



Here is Christ, our King! God incarnate on his throne!

Christ's kingdom is a kingdom of love, humility, truth, justice, mercy and forgiveness. In his dying moments, the thief being crucified along with him said: "Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom". Our Lord's immediate reply was: "This day you will be with me in paradise." A life of sin was forgiven in an instant.

***Who could refuse to honour and love such a compassionate king, God-made-man,
who willingly suffered and died for us?***

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THE LUST FOR POWER IN OUR WORLD

King is a word we do not feel comfortable with to describe Jesus because we always associate it with earthly power. If you heard someone describing Jesus as king you might reply, "but he was born in a stable." Jesus was certainly not the majestic type of person. When Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and said they could all be his if he bowed down and worship him. Jesus replied that only God is to be worshipped. This is Jesus' attitude towards all earthly power and authority. Jesus' kingdom is totally at odds with the kingdoms of this world where rulers dominate others, abuse their powers, and are so easily corrupted. This has no place in kingdom of Christ.

We have many scandals in nations because of the abuse of power, but Jesus in his humility allows himself to be totally powerless on the cross. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is the Christ of God."

The true values for Jesus' kingdom are love, service and humility. If we want to be great, we must remember his words: "Who is the greater, he who sits at the table or he who serves? Surely, he who sits at the table, yet I am here as your servant." There is no place for violence or retribution in Jesus' kingdom. It was because nations and states were abusing their power that Pope Pius XI introduced this feast in 1925.

In many ways we see that Jesus' kingdom is totally at odds with any kingdom that displays abusive power. You would expect kings to receive important people and dignitaries but Jesus received the lowly and the rejected people of his time. A king might expect to receive gifts, but Jesus was the one who gave gifts: granting pardon, restoring sinners to his love; healing the blind, the lame the deaf and the dumb, and even raising the dead to life. Kings wear a crown, but the crown that Jesus wore was made of thorns—and his throne was the cross.

The preface in today's Mass describes Jesus' kingdom:

It is a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, mercy and peace.

It is becoming more difficult in our age to try to establish the kingdom of Christ on earth as society grows daily more secular and more pagan. It was the tension between politics and religion which led Pope Pius XI to institute this Feast of Christ the King in 1925—three years after Mussolini became Prime Minister of Italy and his fascist government came into power.

Pope Pius XI said: "The manifold evils in the world are due to the fact that the majority of men have thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives, their private affairs and politics. As long as individuals and states

refused to submit to the law of Christ, which is the law of love, there would be no real hopeful prospect of lasting peace among nations on earth."

How true this statement was as we look back on the past 90 years!



Cille Choirill Christmas Cards

Last year, we had a large number of Cille Choirill Christmas cards printed, which reduced the price considerably, and these are on sale this week at 4 for £1, a very competitive price for such a beautifully produce card. I am sure many exiles will be delighted to receive one.

There will also be cards from the Carmelite Sisters on sale next weekend.

It is good to ensure that your Christmas cards bear the message and image of Christmas. The Church reminds us with its annual festive slogan:

Put Christ back in to CHRISTmas



St. Margaret's Central Heating breakdown

When I turned on the heating for the Wednesday evening mass, there was no response. I realised that there was something seriously wrong as I could hear water running in the pipes. John Campbell and James Hannah arrived at 8.15 a.m., and lifted some boards in the far away vestry, with no success. By listening very carefully they traced the leak to an old rusted iron pipe under the benches opposite the Sacred Heart Statue.

They removed the benches, lifted the carpets and the floor boards, traced the severe leak, and sorted it. Within an hour, the whole system was freed from airlocks, and the heating working once again.

The congregation for Joe's funeral were unaware of the drama to ensure they were all kept nice and warm.

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Anniversaries

This Sunday is **Angus MacKintosh's** 11th anniversary, and the 11.30 am. mass will be said for the repose of his soul, His wife, Eileen, and the family will travel up from Glasgow for the anniversary mass.

Donnie MacInnes, Achluachrach, for whom mass was said on Friday

May their good souls rest in peace

Margaret Sargent to be honoured by the community this Friday



An evening is planned by the school, the parents and the children in Roy Bridge Hall this coming Friday, St. Andrew's Day, to honour Margaret on her retirement after teaching for 30 years in Roy Bridge Primary School.

Margaret has influenced so many children academically, and also holistically, during these years, helping them to understand and treasure the gifts that God has given to them, the talents with which each person has been endowed, and also how to appreciate the beautiful world which God has placed in our care.

Her classes and assemblies have been a model of how to enrich children by making education both interesting and fun. Her musical talents have played an important part in communicating with the children. She entered the children for the Lochaber Music Festival each year, mostly with her own personal compositions, and they always came first in the adjudication; she composed lovely Christmas plays for the Blessing of the Crib, and a whole host of other things besides, including the beautiful Cantata in honour of St. Margaret of Scotland.

The parents always looked forward to the end of term concerts in the hall to see their children perform very professionally musical plays produced by Margaret—and Friday evening will be no exception, as she will present her most recent Action Music Drama, which won first prize at the Festival in March, but which the parents unfortunately did not see at the end of term as Margaret had to return to Blackburn for her father's funeral.

What Margaret has also given to the children is something very important—confidence to appear, to speak and to act in public, something seriously lacking in former days of education.

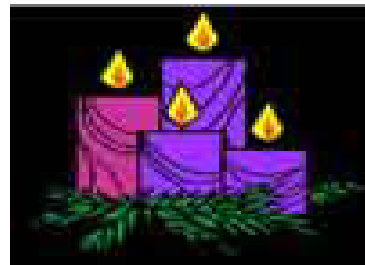
The parents realise just how much they owe to Margaret for educating their children so well, and also for making their years at Roy Bridge Primary school so exciting and enjoyable. She will be sorely missed, but I am sure, there will be times when a supply teacher is required, and the children will be glad to welcome Margaret back, even for a short periods.

We wish her every blessing and happiness for the future as the community says a very big and sincere thank you to her this coming Friday.

Our readers will be happy to know that Clare and her baby daughter, Chloe Margaret, are both making excellent progress. And where is Margaret? Over in Belgium looking after them!

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent

The Church's liturgical year comes to an end this week with the feast of Christ the King, and the new liturgical year starts on Sunday with the beginning of Advent.



Christmas is only a few weeks away, and these four weeks of Advent are so important to help us prepare for the birth of our Saviour.

All the adverts on television never mention the true meaning of

Christmas. The gigantic commercial enterprises have hijacked the holy season of Advent, and are pressurising families into buying expensive gifts.

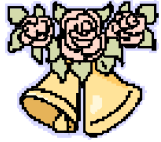
The poor are shut out, the starving children ignored and luxury is the key note. Let us not be caught in this pagan trap. Christ was born poor. May the poor have an important place in our giving this Christmas. Don't forget SIR, Dalmally, who feed 100,000 starving children each day. A lesser gift could mean more children receiving life-giving nourishment.

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Wedding congratulations



Kenneth Douglas and Alana Porter were married in St. Margaret's last Saturday, November 17th, and we wish them every blessing and happiness in their new life together in Inverness. Alana is head receptionist at a large dental medical centre, and Kenny is a bricklayer, with his own business, and he will never be out of work with all the new houses that are being built in Inverness! They already have their own home, and when they return from their honeymoon in Mexico they will be ready to settle in. The bestman was her brother Graeme, and the bridesmaids her sisters Rebecca and Arlene, and Kenneth's sister, Sarah.

St. Andrew's Day—Friday November 30th



St. Andrew was the brother of St. Peter, and it was he who first recognised Our Lord as the Messiah, and took Peter to meet Christ. He was martyred in Patras Greece, and his relics were later taken to Rome by the Emperor Constantine. Before this happened, tradition tells us that a monk called St Rule, took some of the Apostles bones to Britain for safety in case the rest were lost, and finally reached a remote part of Scotland. The church where the relics were enshrined gave its name to the town—St. Andrews. Thousands came on pilgrimage from all over to honour the Apostles relics. Sadly, at the Reformation, the church was desecrated and destroyed and the relics lost. However, Pope Paul VI gave part of the Apostle's bone to the late Cardinal Gordon Gray, and this is now in a reliquary on St. Andrew's altar in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. A decisive victory was won by the Pictish King, Angus, faced with an invading army. His prayers were answered when a white diagonal cross against a blue sky appeared above them. After the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, Robert the Bruce proclaimed St. Andrew as Scotland's new patron.