

Weekly Bulletin

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

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

Sunday October 7th. 2007

October

Month of the Holy Rosary & devotion to St. Joseph



Pope Leo XIII was one of the great popes of the 19th century. His encyclical letter of 1891 on Social Justice, *Rerum Novarum*, is still as relevant today, and is often quoted by Trade Unions. It asserted the dignity of the working man, who in justice deserves to be treated with respect by his employers, receive wages worthy of his work, and have humane working conditions. He also suggested giving workers a share in companies and factories so that they also would benefit from the profits as a reward for their loyal and hard work.

There were difficult times for the Church at the end of the 19th century, and Pope Leo, in consultation with his Cardinals and Bishops, dedicated October as the month of the Rosary, and a month of special intercession to St. Joseph. This was the origin of October devotions which has existed since then: the Blessed Sacrament is exposed, the rosary recited followed by the Litany of Our Lady, and the October prayer to St. Joseph. Pope Leo saw this as a panacea to help the Church in the trials of the day. Mary and Joseph were bound so closely together by God in their marriage, and privileged to be the mother and foster father of the Child Jesus. With the love of Mary's heart, and the strength and devotion of Joseph, the early Church was secure and protected by these two most beautiful personages.

Pope Leo attributed so much of the Church's progress to this devotion. Today, not only the Church, but Christianity in general, is being attacked on all sides by atheists and humanist; our country is fast sinking into a mire of moral degradation, and bringing the rest of Europe with it. Britain has the worst record in Europe for divorces, breakdown of family life, immorality, abortions and early teenage pregnancies. We seem to have lost our moral compass, and many have ceased to believe in God and have become a rule unto themselves. They are driven by a liberalism devoid of any reference to God's commandments. Without a compass, a ship is sure to perish on the rocks.

October Devotions.

There will be devotions each Sunday in St. Margaret's at 6 p.m. Perhaps arrangements can be made for transport for our parishioners at Spean Bridge to join us.

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The schools in the Highland Region closed on Friday for the October fortnight. The time seems to have passed so quickly since the beginning of the new term, and once the children return, it is little more than a week to Halloween, and the beginning of November. Before we know where we are, it will be Advent, with the Church preparing for the birth of our Saviour at Christmas! We wish all the staff and children in both Spean and Roy Bridge schools a very relaxing break—and, we hope, some nice autumn sunshine!

The Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly had three interesting things, among others, to encourage the children to use our own natural produce.

- They made a **pot of jam** with plums from the plum tree in the school grounds.
- They made a **lovely bowl of butter** with the cream they brought to school.
- They baked **two beautiful loaves** from the flour and other ingredients gifted to the school.



In the old days, most croft houses had a **butter churn**, and produced lovely, creamy butter. When there was a surplus of milk and cream, it was used to make cheese and crowdie. All so healthy, and

home-made with pride. Of course, in those days most crofts had their own cows

Many people are starting to make their own bread nowadays. They meet families who make their own home-made bread, and when they realise how simple, and how wholesome it is, they decide to give it a try. Once they have succeeded with their first loaf, there is no holding them back, for home-made bread is much superior to anything you can buy in the shops. With the cost of wheat rising dramatically, a loaf now costs about £1.50 in the shops. Bread machines are also available, and are very easy to use, but there is nothing like the old traditional style.



Home produce

There are still a number of homes in the parish which produce wonderful marmalades and jams, and this is especially evident when there are Sales of Work in our villages.



Baking remains one of the specialities of the Highland villages, and Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge excel in their expertise of producing the most tempting cakes, scones, pancakes etc. I hope that it is a skill that will be passed on to the next generation

At the end of the day, there is nothing to compare with what you produce yourself. Who knows, perhaps the scent of freshly made bread, wafting from houses throughout the village, may soon become quite common?



Church Rota: October 13th 14th

St. Joseph

Reader: Margaret Muncie

Prayers: Almy Leider

Euch. Minister: Liz Campbell Betty Porter

Cleaning: Private rota

St. Margaret's

Readers: Rory MacDonald, Lorna MacGregor

Prayers: Betty Campbell

Euch. Ministers: Ian MacDonald, Deirdre MacDonald

Cleaning: Moira Coutts

Appeal for volunteers to share cleaning of St. Margaret's



If any of our parishioners would like to volunteer for cleaning of St. Margaret's, it would be helpful in sharing the work. We have six volunteers who are very happy to continue cleaning the church, but a few extra hands would always be appreciated. If you would like to add your name to the volunteers, please let me know. *Thanks in advance.*

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Meet Lila Maria Berardelli

Congratulations to Bruno and Ali Berardelli on the arrival of Lila Maria. She is a beautiful baby, and has brought immense joy and happiness to both families. It is the first grandchild for Dr. Colin and Dr Elizabeth. We wish Lila Maria every blessing, and may the angels bless her and protect her. She certainly has many ardent admirers already!

School Committee meets with Councillors in Inverness

Members of the parents' committee met with councillors in Inverness on Thursday. Originally, it was hoped that 17 councillors would be present, but their number was reduced to eight. However, the committee members were encouraged by their positive attitude, and their response to the detailed preparations which were demonstrated on a screen. This included an exact costing, and also photographs of the modules which they are requesting to replace the present buildings. The modules are the very latest, and of the highest standard, and would provide excellent accommodation for the children. These would include two classrooms, a general purpose room, an office and toilets. They would be well heated, allowing plenty of day light into the class rooms, and the modern design would give an uplift to pupils and staff. We keep the final outcome in our prayers, and the committee must be encouraged by Provost Henderson's letter in this week's *Lochaber News*.



The new Farm Food Shop and Restaurant

Alistair and Alison MacKintosh are expanding their business at the Rural Complex, and their new Farm Shop, with the addition of a restaurant, is nearing completion. All going well, they hope to have the official opening by the end of November. The new

shop will be much larger than the present one, and there will be a spacious restaurant to cater for all the visitors who come to visit the Complex and the Farm Shop. There is a very modern toilet area with facilities for the disabled. It will mean a great rush for Alistair and Alison moving in before Christmas, stocking up the shop and the restaurant, taking orders for their Christmas fare. They have a large clientele for their free range turkeys, and people come from a distance to buy their organic vegetables, fruit etc. We wish them every success and look forward to the opening of the new shop and restaurant. The new restaurant will be a great place to stop off journeying to or from Fort William, or just to pop in for morning coffee or afternoon tea. Perhaps, in time the restaurant may be able to take functions.

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Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly in Roy Bridge School

The children sing the beautiful hymn, *Fields of Life*, composed by Peter Rose and Ann Conlon



The Harvest Festival Service in Roy Bridge School on Thursday morning was very beautiful, with all the children playing a part in front of an audience of appreciative parents and grand-parents. There was a magnificent display of fruit, vegetables and meat, all brought to school by the children. The photo below shows just a small part of the extended table that was laden with produce.

The children told us something about each vegetable and fruit and the country it came from.

What was so interesting that they made plum jam from a plum tree in the school grounds, showed a basket of potatoes grown



at the school, and also a loaf of bread and a bowl of butter, both made by the children.

The service explained how generous God is in giving all these gifts to the world, and reminded us how much we must appreciate and care for God's creation

Fields of Life

Peter Rose and Ann Conlon

Do you see the fields, chosen in days of old,

Where the soil is deep and blessed by the rain,
Where the gentle sun touches the earth with life,
The fields that gave my people the gift of grain?

When the earth was ploughed, clearing the land of weeds,
When the seed was sown and safe in the loam,
When the evening sun darkened the fields with shade,
My people left their labours and turned for home.

They knew the sun would return to warm the soil.
They knew the rain would water the seeds.
They knew the land would reward the hours of toil.
They knew the earth would serve their needs.

And the earth rolled on, counting the days and years,
And the children grew and worked all the land,
And the fields of life, held in a bond of trust,
With love, were passed, like treasure, from hand to hand.

So, when we plough, planting the seeds of life,
When we reap our crops, the fruits of the earth,
We use the land, held in a bond of trust
We share a gift the cycle of death and birth

We know the sun will return to warm the soil.
We know the rain will water the seeds
We know the land will reward the hours of toil.
We know the earth will serve our needs