

# Weekly Bulletin

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

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Weekly Bulletin Online: [www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/](http://www.gaeldom.com/bulletin/)

Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>. 2007

## Diocesan Pastoral Assembly

*Cathedral Hall, Oban, Saturday, October 20, 2007*

***Handing on the Faith: reaching out to young people***

**Bishop Murray is inviting representatives from each parish in the diocese to come to Oban for a Pastoral Assembly to help build on the experience of previous assemblies.**

The theme for this year's diocesan assembly is: ***Handing on the Faith—reaching out to young people.***

The assembly will include prayer and liturgy, input on the theme, personal reflection and sharing ideas in groups.

The bishop makes the following appeal:

**“I am asking each parish priest to nominate at least two representatives. Some of the representatives should be people with an interest in the spiritual welfare of young people, such as parents, teachers, catechists. In addition, I would encourage you to send representatives of young people themselves.”**

The bishop wishes to impress upon us that that we are responsible for the future of the Church— and our children will only possess the legacy we leave them.

This is why he feels it is essential to have the support from the clergy and laity of the whole diocese to make use of whatever suggestions or observations they may make.

The full programme for the day is printed on the following page.

I would be very grateful if some of our parishioners and youths will accept the bishop's invitation to represent our parish at the Diocesan Assembly in Oban on Saturday, October 20th.

The future of the Church in every parish depends on the quality of faith of its people, especially parents, who will pass this love of the faith on to their children. We are like runners in a relay race handing on the baton of faith to those who will be the next generation. If they do not have a secure grip of the baton, they may drop it and lose it.

If you feel you could make a contribution to the Assembly by putting forward your own suggestions, then please do come and join the others from the diocese. The bishop wants to know what **you** think about the theme, and any solution you think may be helpful

**Please let me know by next weekend if you wish to go, so that your name may be registered. The parish will pay for all the registration fees.**



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## *Handing on the Faith: reaching out to young people*

### Aims of the Assembly

- To reflect of the place of young people (post primary to young adult) in the Church
- To share experience of ways of involving young people in the life and work of the Church
- To identify ways of reaching out to young people in home, school and parish

### Programme

10.00 Arrivals and registration

10.30 Keynote Address: Young people and the Church  
*Fr Colin Stewart, Diocese of Aberdeen*

10.45 Break

11.15 What's Happening?  
*(Input from various people and places: High School Chaplaincy.  
Lochgilthead's links with Africa, Families...*

How do we feel about being Catholics? Input from young people

1 pm Lunch

2pm Developing the Faith and Spirituality of Young People  
*Chris Docherty & Sister Bernadette Cassidy, a Youth Pastoral Team from the  
Archdiocese of Glasgow*

3pm The Way Forward

4pm Vigil Mass

The parish will meet the registration fee of £10 for each representative

**I hope a number of parishioners will be willing to represent the parish at the Diocesan Assembly. The future of the Church is in our hands, and this is an opportunity for us as a parish to try to do something about it by sharing and discussing our ideas with other people from all over the diocese.**

***Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested.***

**If there is a good response from the parish, perhaps it would be possible to share cars for the journey.**

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## Cille Choirill—next mass, Sunday September 30th at 3 p.m.

I would be grateful if parishioners would let their relations and friends know that the next mass at Cille Choirill will be in a fortnight's time, September 30th.

The final mass of the year will be on the Sunday closest to All Souls Day, which will be November 4th. It gives families the opportunity to assist at mass for the repose of the souls of their loved ones and also to visit their graves.

### Anniversaries

We remember in our prayers this weekend **Archie MacFarlane**, Spean Bridge, whose anniversary was last Tuesday, September 13, and for whom mass was said in St. Joseph's on that that day. *May his good soul rest in peace.*

## Feast of St. Januarius, September 19th.

### *The miracle of the liquefying of his blood.*

St. Januarius was born in Italy and was bishop of Benevento during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution. Bishop Januarius went to visit two deacons and two laymen in prison. He was taken prisoner himself along with his deacons and lectors. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but when the animals did not attack them, they were beheaded. What is believed to be Januarius' blood is kept in Naples, as a relic.

On his feast day each year, in a ceremony led by the Archbishop of Naples, a reliquary containing the blood of the saint, is held up before the people, usually thousands, who have gathered in the Cathedral for St. Januarius's feast. The dry blood liquefies and bubbles very shortly after it is exposed in the cathedral. Scientists have not been able to explain this phenomenon to date. The people of Naples are quite convinced that, if the dry blood

of St Januarius does not liquefy, then some impending disaster make overtake them.

They look on the event as something quite natural, and a great cry of joy goes up in the Cathedral as soon as the miracle takes place.

As recently as 1988, a team of scientists was called in by Cardinal Michael Giordano, the archbishop of Naples, to have another attempt at explaining the liquefaction. In publishing the conclusions of its experiments, the chairman, Professor Pierluigi Bollone (who is also president of the International Centre for study of the Shroud of Turin), declared that spectrographic photos of the whole process proved definitely that the liquid was arterial human blood. "It's a real miracle," he said.



The archbishop of Naples showing the glass phial of the liquefied blood of St. Januarius to the congregation

## Pope Benedict urges us all to go green to save our planet

Pope Benedict has called on Catholics worldwide to embrace the environment before it is too late.

Speaking at an open air mass for youths in Austria he said:



"To the new generation is entrusted the future of our planet, where it is clear that development has not always been able to protect the delicate balance of nature. There should be a decisive "yes" to the

protection of the created world and a strong commitment to reverse the tendencies that lead to irreparable degradation.. Before it is too late, we must recreate a strong alliance between man and the earth, and cultivate God's creation. Global warming will impact foremost on the poorest and weakest who, even although they are not responsible for it, are the most vulnerable because they have limited resources or live in an area of greater risk." He has initiated an annual *Save Creation Day*

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## Vocations Awareness Week

During this coming week, the Church prays that the young people, whom God is calling to serve him in the priesthood or religious life, will recognise his voice within their hearts, and not be afraid to "launch out into the deep." What greater vocation can there be than this?



In 1914 a weekly magazine, *London Opinion*, published a design by Alfred Leete featuring a picture of Lord Kitchener on the cover. Leete's design was later adapted by The Parliamentary Recruiting Committee and used with great success as a poster to help recruit soldiers to fight for Britain in World War I

The same poster today, with some changes, could be a reminder to our young men and women that

## THE CHURCH NEEDS YOU

The group called *Priests for Scotland* is an initiative of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland which has as its goal the promotion and encouragement of young men to offer their lives in the service of the priesthood in Scotland.

In recent years, candidates for seminary has changed significantly and is much more varied than before. While twenty years ago the likely candidate for seminary was just finishing secondary school; today it is much more difficult to describe the "likely candidate". Some still come from secondary school having heard the Lord's call in their family, school or parish. Others enquire because they are searching for a more fulfilling way to spend their lives. They have been to university; they have finished apprenticeships; they have worked in a variety of different occupations and none of these have left them with the satisfaction that they thought they would have found. Both groups want to make a difference with their lives and they feel that God may be calling them to consider service as a priest. Many of those who come forward speak of a seed that was planted sometimes as early as primary school. Almost all of those who come forward have found their way thanks to someone inviting them to consider serving as a priest, even if that message was delivered ten, twenty or more years ago.

This is a challenge for priests and for the wider community to consider anew the way that priesthood is presented and encouraged. For too long we have been quick with statistics that apparently prove that there is a crisis in vocations to the priesthood. But no one ever became a priest because they were convinced by statistics. These statistics are themselves questionable in the degree to which they present an apparent problem since they do not take into account the sharp fall in the population itself.

To minister today as a priest in Scotland is to minister at a challenging time and in a rapidly changing world. If someone who is reading this would like more information about priesthood in Scotland please contact Fr. Andrew McKenzie, Priests for Scotland, 89 Abercromby Street, Glasgow, G40 2SA . If you have a computer, you can get more information from the website: [www.priestsforscotland.org.uk](http://www.priestsforscotland.org.uk)

Everyone should make it his/her daily resolution to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life:

### Prayer for Vocations

Jesus, Son of God,  
You call all the baptised to "put out into the deep", taking the path that leads to holiness.  
Grant that many may also hear the call to serve you in the priesthood and religious life,  
and be your witness in the world. Amen