



UNITY

St Margaret's

Lochgilthead & Inveraray



Easter 2014

Issue 19

Fr Roddy Johnston – P3
RDR



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Pope Francis has urged us this Lent to be stewards of God's creation. Jean Hodgson of Eco-Congregation Scotland writes:

Does the environment matter? What can we do about climate change? These vexed questions are hard to answer, but here in Scotland there is a movement whose aim is to help churches address them.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a charity, offering a programme to enthuse and equip churches to weave environmental issues into their life and mission in an enjoyable and stimulating way. We are an ecumenical environmental movement made up of over 300 local Christian congregations who are encouraged to link environmental issues to their Christian faith and take practical action in their church, their local community and globally. Across Scotland, there are 18 local networks, providing support at a local level for congregations to live more sustainably.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is open to congregations from any Christian tradition and is supported by many different denominations, and organisations such as SCIAF and Christian Aid.

Our Vision is for a Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

Our Values are that we care passionately for God's creation; we are a faith-based movement; we are rooted in local groups of Christians; we work co-operatively with each other and with others who care about the environment; we encourage transformational change at individual, community and national levels.

Our Mission is in prayer, worship and conversation, where we discover what it means to care for God's creation. We put that care into action individually, locally, nationally and globally, desiring to live justly in a transformed world. We commit ourselves to campaigning on urgent threats to the web of life in our vulnerable world.

Want more information? See P4...



Fighting with words

By Denise MacLean

Hope in the darkness – St Margaret's parishioners working for change

A small informal group of St Margaret's parishioners lead by Anna Weir meets on a monthly/6 weekly basis to help promote the aims of ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture).

The evenings consist of perhaps a reading from scripture and some discussion and prayers for the victims of torture and for the torturers themselves. It's also an opportunity to focus on the plight of some specific individuals and send a greeting that will hopefully provide them with some encouragement and hope.

The group also writes to representatives of the governments of countries where torture is being carried out.

You may remember that every year at Christmas time, our parish supports Anna in her work with ACAT by sending messages of support to victims of torture throughout the world. Anna explained in an earlier edition of Unity that: 'ACAT is a small ecumenical charity that campaigns for the tortured, those under

threat of torture and the disappeared; and campaigns against extra judicial execution. It also seeks to support and pray for human rights groups and defenders.'

Torture ban not practiced

Although torture is banned internationally under all circumstances including war, civil war and terrorist attacks, it is tragically still considered an acceptable practice in some countries.

ACAT's mission is to work as a body of Christians for the abolition of torture worldwide; to increase awareness of the widespread use of torture in many societies today; to campaign on behalf of victims and petition their governments and just as importantly, to support all these efforts by the power of prayer.

St Margaret's ACAT group welcomes any new members for prayer and letter writing. The date for the next meeting will be in the bulletin or alternatively speak to Anna Weir or Denise MacLean after Mass.



Left: One of the images used by Srs Diane and June to reflect on the Gospel of the woman at the well

St Margaret's Lenten Journey

Guest speakers help us work for change in ourselves

Fr David's programme for Lent 2014 has been a varied and interesting one that has taken parishioners on a special Lenten journey.

The first speakers were Sr Diane and Sr June of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, whose reflective presentation gave an insight into the Lenten Gospels through the use of art.

A range of images, some well known, others new to us, that included illustrations of passages that included the woman at the well, and the Transfiguration, began a thoughtful dialogue between the Sisters and audience.

Rev. Martin Matheson's sincere presentation about the ministry of the diaconate gave an insight into his journey that gave food for thought about our own self-discovery. Martin's honest exploration of the balance he seeks between his family life and the work he carries out in the diocese was humbling to hear.

We have all read the Gospel of the woman at the well many times and no doubt thought we understood it – but Fr. Mark Kelly initiated an exciting and lively discussion in which he offered signposts to new insights. Hopefully this rewarding exchange will prompt Fr David invite Fr Mark back to Lochgilphead.

SCIAF's 'Take a closer look' campaign was the starting point for Marian Pallister's presentation. The SCIAF ambassador for the diocese reiterated Pope Francis's warning against 'global indifference' and came up with some disturbing facts about the damaging knock-on effect our lifestyle choices can have on our brothers and sisters across the globe

Fr. Roddy Johnston came to Lochgilphead from Stornoway to engage his audience in a quirky but academic polemic on his perception of ecumenism. Not to reach out to people of other denominations and other faiths is to ignore Pope Francis's words about 'global indifference', but we move out to embrace others by being confident in our own faith.

Sharing Sundays

Sunday Service for the Elderly

There is a short service every Sunday at 4 pm in Ardfenaig Care Home, Ardrishaig that is hosted by the local churches.

The St Margaret's service takes place every 6 weeks and will be announced in the bulletin.

Everyone is welcome – sharing our faith is always a joy.



Proclaim the Gospel of Joy

Journeying through another Lent together to the Resurrection of the Lord, I have been contemplating that when faith is shared, how much more it grows.

We have been very privileged to have some wonderful speakers throughout Lent, and we have also shared our faith in our spiritual reading group - as well as the children receiving Catechesis for the Sacraments from our wonderful Catechists.

All of this sharing increases our faith, and gives us hope and joy, as Pope Francis wrote in a recent document, 'The Joy of the Gospel.'

And this joy of the Gospel should not be for an hour a week at Church: this joy should be permeating our whole lives and our community. Pope Francis says: 'There are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter...there are those who look as if they are coming back from a funeral, after they have been to the Eucharist.'

But if we as Christians, as Catholics, are going in any way to evangelise we have to bring that joy to others: 'Goodness seems to spread.' And there is no goodness that can match that of Christ Our Saviour and Redeemer.

As a community the 'Joy of the Gospel' constantly calls us forth to be a living, breathing organic reality in the lives of its members and beyond. Standing still is not an option for any one of us. We are extremely blessed to have a vibrant, faith-filled community. Let us not rest - there is a Gospel of joy to be proclaimed. 'Go therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptising in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.'

May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord be in your hearts and homes this Easter.

With love, best wishes and prayers

Fr David

ROTAS

DATE	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers	Date	Cleaners
May			May	
4	P Connor.	R Ranger	3	A Martin
11	P Robinson. P Singal.	A McCartan	10	C McFadden
18	C McFadden. J McFadden.	C Reese	17	H Simpson
25	D Bernt. M McCall.	E Salmon	24	A Cumming
			31	M Shaw
June			June	
1	M Shaw I Salmon	M Pallister	7	E Salmon
8	P Connor	J McFadden	14	A McCartan
15	P Robinson P Singal	A Weir	21	T McLetchie
22	C McFadden J McFadden	C Lamont	28	E McLachlan
29	D Bernt M McCall			
July			July	
6	M Shaw I Salmon	B Robins	5	M Robins
13	P Connor	C Paddock	12	M McCall
20	P Robinson P Singal	M McCall	19	A Martin
27	C McFadden J McFadden	R Ranger	26	C McFadden
<p>Please arrange a swap if you are unable to keep to the rota. Mark the change on copy in the church. Relief Eucharist Minister: Celia Reese.</p>				
August			August	

Eco-Congregation Scotland

Mid Argyll Local Network: Church of Scotland parishes of Ardrishaig, Glassary, Kilmartin and Ford, and North Knapdale are registered with ECS, and meet as a local network, along with the parish of Netherlorn. We meet twice a year, (usually in Kilmartin), to support each other and discuss matters of mutual interest. Between meetings, there is informal contact, e.g. with a monthly walk programme, which is open to all.

To find out more or to register please visit:
www.ecocongregationscotland.org.
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