

Unity

Lochgilphead/Inveraray/
Campbeltown/Islay

Inside:
Year of Mercy prayers

The best ever New Year's gift to our diocese – a new bishop.

We pray for Bishop-elect Brian McGee as he prepares for ordination as Bishop of Argyll and the Isles on Thursday 18 February at 7pm in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.



Fr David's Message

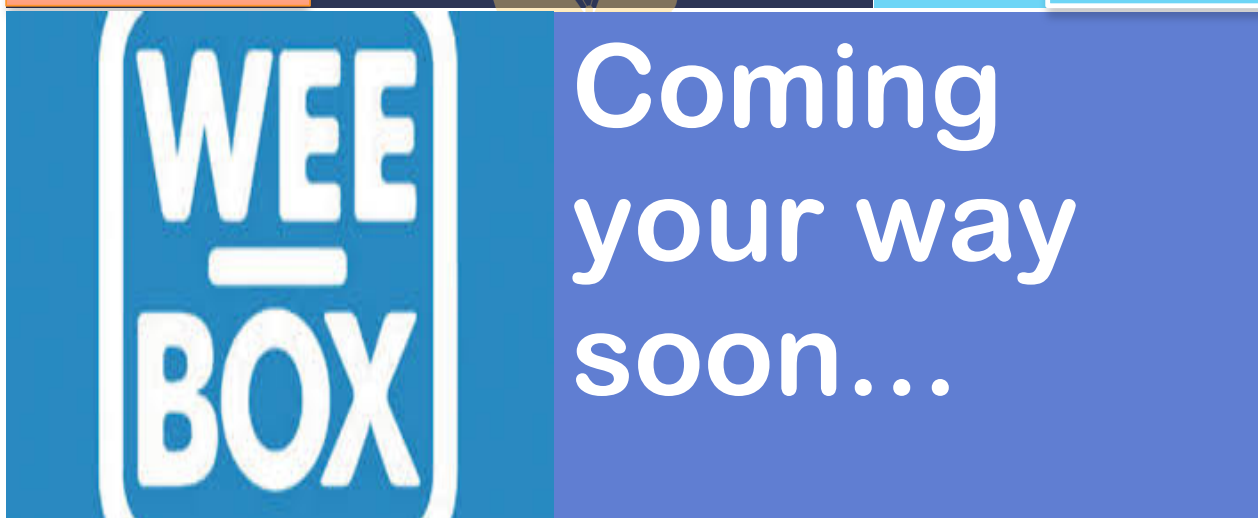
The Holy Year of Mercy began on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception 2015, and closes on Sunday the 20th of November 2016, the Feast of Christ the King. This is a wonderful opportunity for us as a Parish community, and as individuals, to reach out to others and show them Christ's redeeming mercy.

Pope Francis said, "In his mercy, Jesus never tires of stretching out his hand to lift us up, to encourage us to continue our journey, to come back and tell him of our weakness, so that he can grant us his strength."

Jesus never tires, of forgiving us, of pouring his healing balm upon our souls. And the wonderful thing is that it's all free. It doesn't have to be earned. "It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it".

There is nothing more important to the life of a Christian than our salvation with Christ Jesus. The healing power of the Holy Spirit can transform us and strengthen us in this Holy Year. Let us pray that we will have the courage and wisdom to approach the Father, who is always merciful and full of compassion, slow to anger abounding in love.

Fr. David.



Your Year of Mercy Prayers

SCIAF's Wee Box will be with us very soon, and the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund's 2016 campaign will as always raise our awareness of the challenges faced by so many people around the world.

Catholic Social Teaching (see <http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/SocialTeaching.aspx> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELyLdMlFdZA> for some excellent CST resources) reminds us that respecting human dignity means putting the poorest in our society first.

In the Year of Mercy, SCIAF asks us to put this into action through prayer and action. And they will be asking us for help by writing our own prayers and reflections so that they can share them through their resources and their website.

This is one I submitted - if you would like to add your special thoughts, contact me or SCIAF's Rachel Lamb (rlamb@sciaf.org.uk / marian.pallister@zen.co.uk)

Marian Pallister, SCIAF Ambassador for the Diocese of Argyll & the Isles.

Can I do it, Lord?
Can I hold out my arms to embrace
The face of evil?
Can I do it Lord?
Can my mercy drop like gentle rain
On the pain of those so different from
Myself?

Even in your Agony
Your mercy touched the thief,
The murderer, those who did not know
The magnitude of their offence.

You washed feet.
You healed.
You comforted.
You forgave.

Lord, in Your mercy
Hear my prayer that seeks
To change my weakness into
A mercy twice blessed - blessing
Me in my giving; the friend, the foe,
The stranger, in receiving.

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New beginnings...



This new year has already brought us many new beginnings to celebrate.

The announcement of a **new bishop** is surely a wonderful start to 2016 for our whole diocese. St Margaret's singers will join the rest of the diocesan choir under the guidance of Fr Michael Hutson for Bishop-elect Brian McGee's ordination on Thursday 18 February at 7pm in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. Travel share arrangements for anyone planning to be part of this joyous occasion should be made early.



On January 11, **St Columba's Secondary School** opened its doors to Grade 8 pupils in Lusaka. This is the first phase of the school, which so many of you have helped ZamScotEd (formerly M.A.L.I.) achieve. Theresa and David Sinclair and Marian Pallister spent Christmas and New Year in Zambia working with their ZamScotEd partners, the Teresian Sisters, who will administrate the school.



Going to a fabric shop in down-town Lusaka was a great excitement when they saw the fabric for the girls' uniform skirts had a real tartan look about it. The Zambia Government has allocated 80 pupils and eight teachers to St Columba's, and there will be four Teresian teachers, too. If you would like to become a Friend of ZamScotEd and help the charity complete the project with the backing of Missio Scotland, contact Marian or Theresa.

Theresa Sinclair gave one wee boy a real new start when she taught him to swim during her stay in Zambia. Christmas Day at Dream Valley turned into something really special for **David Daka**. From shivering on the side of the pool to diving in and swimming like a wee fish in just a few minutes gave this former street kid a confidence in himself that will make 2016 his best year yet.



Katy Cameron is back in the organist's chair in 2016. Last November 22 was a special day for Georgia Susan Cameron (see left) but now it's a special time for parishioners (and Fr David, who won't have to multi task so often) with Katy back leading our music.

Year of Mercy

Diary dates

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome

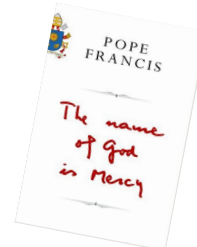
October 9-16, 2016. Cost: Between £900-£1,000

Book Shelf

Pope Francis: The Name of God is Mercy: A conversation with Andrea Tornielli. Price £14.99.

Available on line: https://www.paulineuk.org/year_of_mercy and on Amazon for £10.49 (Kindle edition £5.99):

http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/1509824936?keywords=The%20Name%20of%20God%20is%20Mercy%3A%20A%20Conversation%20with%20Andrea%20Tornielli%20Pope%20Francis&qid=1453049622&ref=sr_1_fkmr2_1&sr=8-1-fkmr2



Taking Action

Sign the petition against modern slavery

Justice & Peace Scotland encourages us to take email action to end modern slavery (which affects at least 21 million people around the world) by encouraging our government to ratify an international protocol. Go to this link then click on 'Please take a moment to tell your minister of labour to ratify the protocol now...':

<http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/Home/tabid/40/ctl/details/itemid/1808/mid/531/its-time-to-end-modern-slavery-ratify-the-protocol.aspx>

Date	Eucharist Ministers		Readers	Date	Cleaners
January				January	
3	Phil Connor	Pat Singal	A Mc Cartan	9	K Goodchild
10	M Shaw	I Salmon	C Reese	16	A Martin
17	C McFadden	J McFadden	E Salmon	23	M McLay
24	D Bernt	M Mc Call	M Pallister	30	D McLean
31	P Connor	P Singal	J Mc Fadden		
February				February	
7	M Shaw	I Salmon	C Lamont	3	A McCartan
14	C McFadden	J McFadden	J Green	10	E McLachlan
21	D Bernt	M Mc Call	B Robins	17	E Salmon
28	P Connor	P Singal	C Paddock	24	M Robins
			M Mc Call		
March				March	
6	M Shaw	I Salmon	R Ranger	1	C Mc Fadden
13	C McFadden	J McFadden	A McCartan	8	J Malcolm
20	D Bernt	M McCall	C Reese	15	K Welsh
27	P Connor	P Singal	E Salmon	22	A Cumming
				29	K Goodchild
April				April	
3	M Shaw	I Salmon	M Pallister	5	A Martin
10	C McFadden	J McFadden	J McFadden	12	M Mc Clay
17	D Bernt	M McCall	C Lamont	19	D McLean
24	P Connor	P Singal	J Green	26	A McCartan