



Unity²⁵

Lochgilphead/Inveraray/
Campbeltown/Islay

Inside:

Fr David - P2
Diary dates - P4



Congratulations to our confirmandi at St Kieran's and St Margaret's. Thanks to Bishop Brian for enabling us all to reaffirm of faith.

What the Holy Spirit means to me...

Cantor Moira Shaw on her favourite psalm

Last week was Pentecost Sunday and I was privileged to be the cantor singing the wonderful psalm for the day, 'Send forth your Spirit o Lord', one of my favourite psalms.

Why do I find it so special? For me Pentecost Sunday is one of the most important feasts of the year, I love it! I can imagine the Apostles waiting and praying in the upper room for the Holy Spirit to descend on them and probably reciting this psalm

'Send Forth Your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth'

This certainly happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit and transformed from weak timid men into strong, brave disciples spreading Christ's message throughout the land.

This same psalm is sung at Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday and I can almost feel the Holy Spirit present in the church as I sing it. To me at that point Jesus is truly risen.

Often we only think of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost but I find that more and more in times of trouble or doubt, I ask him to help and guide me to make the right decisions.

Recently I found this prayer, which has greatly influenced me and strengthened my faith and I'd like to share it with you. The last line inspires hope in me and hopefully it will do the same for you:

'Heavenly Father I adore You, Jesus I love You, Holy Spirit I need you'

Cardinal Charles Maung Bo's visit to Scotland

Cardinal Bo from Myanmar (formerly Burma) spoke at the City Chambers in Glasgow on May 9. St Margaret's parishioner Marian Pallister, Justice and Peace Commissioner and SCIAF Ambassador for Argyll and the Isles, attended the event, organised by Christian Solidarity World Wide, Aid to the Church in Need, Missio Scotland and SCIAF.

Representatives from many faiths came together for the occasion - Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians of all denominations, Bahais, Buddhists and many more.

The cardinal referred to a Jewish saying, that 'a little light drives away much darkness'. And as the political situation in his country begins to improve, he declared 'Hope has no expiry date'.

Leaders of the major faiths talked of inter-faith progress in Scotland. They spoke in harmony with Pope Francis, who in a footnote to his book *The Name of God is Mercy* discusses his hopes for dialogue that will 'eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination'.

Father David's message...

We have been blessed in our Parishes to have had a very joyful Eastertide, culminating in the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, and our Confirmations in St. Margaret's and St. Kieran's.

As we go into the better weather and the brighter nights, the days stretch and we can get out in the fresh air more, rather than being stuck inside. And this is an opportunity to get more involved in our Parish Community, and our own community.

Jesus was constantly telling his disciples to "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News". This doesn't mean walking round the shops with a placard on. It does mean meeting our brothers and sisters where they are. Pope Francis is moving fast to advance his "dream of ... a missionary impulse, capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world".

Being a member of the Church can be frustrating at times things can move slowly. But if the Church is to survive we have to think of new, exciting and fresh ways to bring the Gospel of Christ, to all that we meet.

In this Year of Mercy, we are asked particularly to meet people with the love and compassion that people who came into contact with Jesus were met with. People will only come to know love and serve Christ if they are attracted - and he is an attractive proposition. We are the living faces of Christ in our communities. Let us ask ourselves some questions: Are we approachable? Are we loving? Are we forgiving? If the answer is 'yes' to all three, then those that we meet will have met Christ.

With love, best wishes and prayers

Fr. David



Some news from Zambia

A successful first term at St Columba's

Sr Veronica Nyoni, who with Sr Beatrice Phiri is establishing St Columba's Secondary School in Lusaka, has sent some reports about the school written by the Grade 8 pupils at the end of their first term.

You'll remember that St Columba's opened on January 11 this year. It is the first phase of the school, which so many of you have helped ZamScotEd (formerly M.A.L.I.) achieve. ZamScotEd is now working hard to complete the school, which must provide for children from Grades 8 – 12.

Fr Renato Kizito Sesana, founder of the Mthunzi Children's Programme, visited the school (which is built on land ZamScotEd leases from the Programme) during his Easter visit and said: 'I was really impressed. The teachers accompany the students with great attention and care for each one. I saw that even those with the worst results start thinking that they can improve. It is a great step forward. Thank you.'

Some of the Mthunzi children attend the school, along with girls and boys from the wider community. Here they speak for themselves:

My name is Getrude Nyemba a pupil at St. Columba's Day Secondary School. I am very happy to be at this school. Teachers and pupils are very cooperative and hard working. Both teachers and pupils have got a heart of caring for our environment. I have seen this through Production Unit where trees have been planted. Each pupil is assigned to care for 2 plants. The surroundings are lovely and beautiful.

In order to enhance good standards of the school, pupils are not allowed to use vernacular language. We are all asked to speak English so as to get used and improve our English. If you are found using vernacular, it is punishable. May God bless our school and our Teachers.

From Barbara Kanyanta: I am in grade 8 B at St. Columba's Day Secondary School. My experience at St. Columba's is very good. It has beautiful surroundings and I find the teachers to be very helpful. Learning started in the very week one of the term. This surprised me and we were told that no absenteeism but also that we are to study hard and shall be writing tests 3 times in a term. Really, this has been happening. We write these tests in all the 8 subjects that we are taking. They stick results on glass panes and this is encouraging. If one has failed, you are encouraged to study hard so that you do better in the next test. There's competition amongst the pupils, which is good and encouraging.

I also like the uniform of our school. We look so neat and the teachers do encourage us to keep the environments clean. No littering is allowed. We are to keep the classrooms and toilets very clean. May God bless, protect and guide St. Columba's School.

My name is Awesome Fred Mubanga. I am in grade 8 at a new school called St. Columba's day Sec School. Our school is very good with 9 teachers, 2 general workers and 1 watchman. The surroundings are very quiet and good for studying, you only experience waving trees and its so amazing. The School administration and the teachers do not allow use of abusive language, no fighting, no stealing and other bad behaviours. I am happy because we feel protected and bullying is not allowed. I love the teachers, my fellow pupils and the surroundings...Looking forward to next term.

Diary dates

Women's Interfaith Fair: Interfaith Scotland and Interfaith Glasgow are hosting a **Women's Interfaith Fair** as part of Refugee Festival Scotland on Wednesday 15th June from 11.30am - 2.30pm at our new Dialogue Centre at Flemington House, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, G21 4BF. Email frances@interfaithscotland.org. Make friends, learn about other faiths.

Feast of St Columba: June 9: There may still be places on the Iona Youth Pilgrimage to Iona. Denise Roberts, the diocesan youth officer, is the person to contact if you have P7s, S1s or S2s who would like to go (June 23-26). See the diocesan website for details: <http://www.rcdai.org.uk/articles/iona-youth-pilgrimage-2016.html>

Working Together in Faith: Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees' conference is on June 21. You can register to attend on their website: <http://www.sfar.org.uk/working-together-in-faith-day-conference-2/> . It's in Edinburgh, but a trip to the capital in mid-summer is as good as a holiday - & see Fr David's comments on acting out our faith.

Taking Action

June 12 is **World Day Against Child Labour**. There are 168 million children still in child labour and vulnerable children may have produced many items that we buy. What can we do? See Justice & Peace Scotland - <http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/> and <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/WDAACL/lang-en/index.htm> . Catholic Social Teaching asks us to respect human dignity and dignity in work (<http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/principles/>)

Missio Scotland is taking a group of young people to Zambia in June and will visit St Columba's (see P3). The organisation is supporting the school & was instrumental in brokering the partnership between ZamScotEd and the Teresian Sisters who are administrating the school.

Relief Eucharistic Minister: Cecelia Rees

Date	Eucharist Ministers	Readers	Date	Cleaners
May			April/May	
1	M Shaw I Salmon	J Green	30	A McCartan
8	C McFadden J McFadden	B Robins	7	E McLachlan
15	D Bernt M Mc Call	C Paddock	14	E Salmon
22	P Connor P Singal	M McCall	21	M Robins
29	M Shaw I Salmon	R Ranger	28	C McFadden
June			June	
5	C McFadden J McFadden	A McCartan	4	J Malcolm
12	D Bernt M McCall	C Rees	11	K Welsh
19	P Connor P Singal	E Salmon	28	A Cumming
26	M Shaw I Salmon	M Pallister	25	K Goodchild
July			July	
3	C McFadden J McFadden	C Lamont	2	A Martin
10	D Bernt M McCall	J McFadden	9	M McClay
17	P Connor P Singal	J Green	16	D McLean
24	M Shaw I Salmon	B Robins	23	A McCartan
31	C McFadden J McFadden	M McCall	30	E McLachlan
August			August	
7	D Bernt M McCall	C Paddock	6	E Salmon
14	P Connor P Singal	R Ranger	13	M Robins
21	M Shaw I Salmon	A McCartan	20	C McFadden
28	C McFadden J McFadden	C Rees	27	J Malcolm

Can't do your date? Arrange a swap & mark on the rota in the porch.