



Unity³⁶

Lochgilphead/Inveraray

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Beginning a new ministry...



Dear Brothers and Sisters

To say it has been an eventful year for me would be something of an understatement.

After completing my college studies in Rome in June, I said *arrivederci* to the eternal city, and it was time to return home, with the small matter of my ordination on the horizon!

I was fortunate to attend the ordinations of college friends from around the UK, before my own big day arrived.

On the 9th of July, on the feast day of Our Lady of Aberdeen, I had the unforgettable experience of being ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Brian. The fact that it was in my home parish of St Mary's, Benbecula, was very special to me. Bishop Brian informed me that that I was being appointed Assistant Priest of St Margaret's Lochgilphead which also covered All Saints, Inveraray.

Mid-Argyll was not an area of the diocese I knew at all, so the fact that I was going to get to know new people and a new area excited me. A first appointment is, of course, also daunting so this excitement was tempered by a little trepidation.

I thank Fr. David for the care he took to ensure that I had the best possible start to my life in Mid-Argyll, by taking the time to show me around and introduce me to people. I know it was a wrench for Fr David to leave this wonderful community and so the fact that he did this speaks volumes for him.

I extend this sincere thanks to you all, who from day one have shown me much love, kindness, patience and understanding as I begin my ministry.

It is my privilege to serve you here as priest and I'll give every day of my life to help us journey into 2020 together and discover the joys that the Lord is waiting to give us.

Wishing you and all your families every blessing this Christmas season and a peaceful 2020.

God Bless, *Fr Ronald*

St Margaret's parish life...

We said a very fond
farewell to Fr David



Wishing everyone
a blessed
Christmas and a
happy and
fulfilling 2020...

Christmas Eve: Carols at
8.30pm, Mass at 9pm

The Winter Fayre
was a huge success



Wishing everyone an environmentally friendly Christmas –

Karen Welch reflects on St Margaret's Justice & Peace Group's *Laudato Si* journey

In 2015, Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* was published and it is a passionate call to everyone on our planet to care for our common home. We are asked to express our love of God and his creation by looking at our lives, by respecting and caring for our environment, its peoples, creatures, oceans, soils and atmosphere.

Indeed, Pope Francis calls on us to see God's creation as "... as a caress of God".

One of the ways in which we are asked to respond is to reject wasteful consumerism and the 'throwaway' culture.

In 2019, St Margaret's Justice and Peace Group applied for membership of Eco-Congregation Scotland (<https://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>), an organisation of Scottish church congregations that aims to address environmental issues and the vision of fostering 'A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.'

Membership was granted in July 2019 and following an interesting and informative talk by Peter Leckie (Project Manager - Waste Strategy Review, Argyll and Bute Council) about recycling legislation, initiatives and procedures in Argyll and Bute, the group decided that it would be helpful to produce a leaflet which summarised the information about recycling facilities in Mid-Argyll.

The leaflet, 'Caring for our Common Home', was compiled and printed in time for the St Margaret's Winter Fayre and has also been distributed to the library, community centre, other churches and various other venues.

It is hoped that the information on how to recycle Christmas cards, crackers, batteries, printer ink cartridges, mobile phones, etc., as well as information about what goes in our blue and green bins, will prove useful and ease confusion about what goes where.

Karen Welch

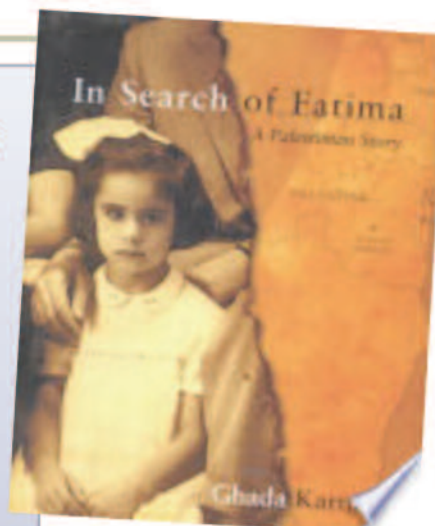
In Search of Fatima

Earlier this year, a number of St Margaret's parishioners joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

In Search of Fatima by Ghada Karmi is a 'souvenir' that can give us all fascinating a perspective on the situation in that troubled region of the world. A Christmas gift idea?

Buy on line at

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Search-Fatima-Palestinian-Story-2nd/dp/1844673685> or order from Argyll Book Centre Lorne Street.



Innovations

Fr Ronald has introduced a regular children's and family mass; we were moved by the service of healing; and everyone loved the lighting of candles in the church on November 23 during the Winter Fayre.

Putting faith into action

- ✦ **The Simon Community**, which supports the homeless and rough sleepers and aims to combat the causes of homelessness, would welcome warm clothes, small cases or bags (box in the porch), but you can also donate online (<https://www.justgiving.com/simoncommunityscotland>) - eg: £10 could provide a warm meal, a shower and warm clothes
- ✦ **ZamScotEd**, which supports education in Zambia, needs help to fund desks and textbooks for Grade 12 pupils (<https://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/mli/zamscotedschoolfund>) – eg: £12 buys a desk (and employs a carpenter); £5 buys a book)
- ✦ **MO-MA** has an on-going need for toiletries, household cleaning products & **dried/tinned food**. Green box in the church porch. St Margaret's is part of a local church group supporting Moving On Mid Argyll, responding to calls for help to relieve hardship from Argyll & Bute Council, Carr Gomm, or a church or school representative. Emergency food parcels average two a month. Home starter packs (usually for a young homeless person) contain basics. MOMA needs toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel and some household items. There's also a box in the Co-op for food & household items.
- ✦ **At a recent MO-MA meeting, it was agreed that the best donations of clothes and household goods are those 'previously loved – but not loved to death!'**

Parish life (everyone's welcome)

St Margaret's Prayer Group: Every Wednesday at 7pm at St Margaret's.

St Margaret's Justice & Peace Group: First Tuesday of the month, parish house (see the bulletin re January)

LiturgyWorks
for Argyll & the Isles



Rotas

Relief Eucharistic Minister: Cecelia Rees.

Please arrange an alternative if you are unable to fulfil the rota date.

ROTA FOR JANUARY 2020 TO APRIL 2020

SUNDAYS	EUCARIST MINISTERS		READERS	SATURDAYS	CLEANERS
JANUARY				JANUARY	
5	I SALMON	C REESE	J GREEN	4	K WELSH
12	C MCFADDEN	J MCFADDEN	BRIAN ROBINS	11	ANGELA CUMMING
19	M MCALL	D BERNDT	M KENNEDY	18	KAREN GOODCHILD
26	P CONNOR	P SINGAL	T JONES	25	A MARTIN
FEBRUARY				FEBRUARY	
2	I SALMON	C REESE	M MCCALL	1	DENISE MCLEAN
9	C MCFADDEN	J MCFADDEN	ROWENA RANGER	8	A MCCARTAN
16	M MCALL	D BERNDT	A MCARTAN	15	TERESA SINCLAIR
23	P CONNOR	P SINGAL	CELIA REESE	22	J MALCOLM
				29	E SALMON
MARCH					
1	I SALMON	C REESE	E SALMON	7	K WELSH
8	C MCFADDEN	J MCFADDEN	M PALLISTER	14	ANGELA CUMMING
15	M MCALL	D BERNDT	J GREEN	21	KAREN GOODCHILD
22	P CONNOR	P SINGAL	BRIAN ROBINS	28	A MARTIN
29	I SALMON	C REESE	M KENNEDY		
APRIL					
5	C MCFADDEN	J MCFADDEN	T JONES	4	DENISE MCLEAN
EASTER 12	M MCALL	D BERNDT	M MCALL	11	A MCCARTAN
19	P CONNOR	P SINGAL	ROWENA RANGER	18	TERESA SINCLAIR
26	I SALMON	C REESE	A MCARTAN	25	J MALCOLM

Rest in Peace

Our recent goodbyes included Theresa Foggin, Florentine 'Twinkle' Gaydon, and Anna Weir's sister Lilian.

Thanks to Fr Ronald for initiating the parish Book of Remembrance that was on display throughout November.

LiturgyWorks

Argyll and the Isles:

<https://www.facebook.com/argyllandtheisles/>

Sign up with **Denise** for the next weekend at the Conforti Institute (May 22-24, 2020)