



Unity³⁵

Lochgilphead / Inveraray

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Fr David – thank you for giving us miles of smiles, for being there in the darkness, and for sprinkling God's blessings.

Fulfilling Christ's Kingdom

I am writing this last piece for Unity surrounded by boxes and parcel tape and wondering how I have managed to acquire so many books. I am due to leave the parish on Monday August 12th, which will nearly be eight years to the day that I have served the people of St. Margaret's, All Saints, and a spell at St. Kieran's in Campbeltown.

Without doubt these have been the happiest years of my life. When I came here at first I only knew a few people from the Diocesan Choir, and now it seems I know half of Mid-Argyll.

It will be a great wrench leaving the parish, but when I get stopped and asked what I will miss most, my answer is always the same. "The biggest loss to me in my life, will be you, the people."

You, the people of the parishes, have increased my faith. You have made me understand in a deeper and more personal way what it means to be a Christian. Your humility and compassion for one another have been a wonderful sign to the community that Christ's kingdom, of justice and peace, is on its way to being fulfilled. And for that I will be eternally grateful.

I only have one thing to ask of you as I leave, and that is please continue the good work that you are doing. Care for and love Fr Ronald, as you have cared and loved me.

And pray that the parishes of St. Margaret's and All Saints will continue to spread the joy of the gospel.

With love and prayers

Fr David



A ministry in pictures



Far left: Victoria Falls – Fr David will continue on the board of ZamScotEd.
Left: A St Margaret's summer fayre – will the Lochaber Cluster's dumpling meet our standards?



Christenings, confirmations, weddings, funerals – thank you for your loving care.



Special occasions – no-one does them better!



Left: Justice & Peace – engaging with MP Brendan O'Hara
Below: planting a tree to mark 40 years of Justice & peace and to help care for the environment. As the juniper grows, we'll remember Fr D.



Making folk feel good – the Fr David Factor



From us to Fr David...

Thank you, Father, for your kind, compassionate ministry to all, especially those in most need. You set us a very high standard and we will continue to try to live up to it. We will miss you and wish you all the best. With love from Cecelia and John

I would like to thank you, Father David, for your support to me, and to say I am truly grateful for your kindness over the years. Patricia

For me music forms an important part of the liturgy. It gives atmosphere to the Mass, it creates emotion, praise, sorrow, joy, it leads us into prayer. Father David's contribution in leading our parish in praise of God through music has been immense. His strong voice gives us the confidence to sing out in joy, his organ playing has been invaluable. As a cantor I can feel his encouragement and reassurance flowing into me as I stand up to sing the psalm and for that I am eternally grateful. Karen Goodchild

Dear Father David - Thank you for all the good things you did for me - your understanding and support. For all you did for the parishioners of St Margaret's and all the people of Argyll. You have been a witness of the Gospel that gives us joy. Your joy is radiant and "infectious". I will never forget your singing and your hearty laughter. Also your alternations between the duties of a priest and an organ player during mass are legendary. You are much missed. You stay in my memory and prayers. May God bless you. Jan Hrdlicka

Thank you, Father David, for your generosity and kindness and for sharing your love of God with us through the sacraments. We shall miss your wonderful sense of humour and infective laugh! Over the past eight years you have shared in our family's sorrows and joys. You have journeyed with us, prayerfully and joyfully celebrating new life at baptisms and weddings, and have shared our grief, supported, comforted and consoled us in the dark days of sickness and death. May God bless you and keep you in his tender care as you take up your new appointment in Lochaber. Karen Welch

Ian and Eunice wish Father David all the very best in his new parishes and future parishes. We have enjoyed his 8 years in St Margaret's, and have always found his prayers and support both during difficult and happy times just great. Thank you and good luck.

During a difficult patch in my marriage I needed someone to turn to. Father David gave me tea and tissues and a chance to unburden myself. His approachability and quiet understanding enabled me to keep going and start to put things back together. Anon.

ZamScotEd, Justice & Peace, my own ups and downs - I'll miss your steadying hand on the tiller. Thank you for being there for me and so many more. The Lochaber Cluster is very lucky. Marian

Fr David knows how to plant the word of God, the word of love into the people around him. He has a loving heart. He has been a wonderful person to the community of Lochgilphead and here in Zambia - so loving, so caring to the families of all members of the Church. We will miss him so much I hope he will still be in touch. Chakwe Daka, Mthunzi social worker & fellow ZamScotEd board member

I wrote this down paraphrasing what Fr David said at one of our LiturgyWorks weekends: "We have to let our joy show, let our radiance shine out. We have to spread God's joy. We must run the risk of an encounter with others in those difficult messy places, get involved. Yes, it will be hard, yes it will hurt, but that is where Jesus is." I think this sums up Father David's contribution: he gets involved in those difficult messy places and spreads God's joy and mercy. Karen G.

I first met Fr David at the diocesan choir liturgy weekends at Kinnoull before he went to seminary. He was jovial and a great asset to choir, as he is now to the musical liturgy of St Margaret's. As a seminarian he made a diocesan choir visit to Salamanca memorable. As Deacon, we heard him sing the Gospel during Pope Benedict's visit to Bellahouston, fighting against wind to keep pages in position. During the eight years that he has been with us he has endeared himself to us by his kindness, humour, and most of all his devoutness. When I was ill last year he regularly brought the Blessed Sacrament to my home, 13 miles from Lochgilphead. During my recovery he was caring and sympathetic and a great help towards my complete recovery Thank you, Fr David. Our loss will be Lochaber's gain. May God bless you in your new mission. Moira Shaw

Putting faith into action

- ✚ **Justice and Peace Scotland** invites you to *A Day of Reflection on Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'*. Saturday 21st September 2019, Renfield St Stephens Centre, 260 Bath Street, G2 4JP Glasgow. Book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/laudato-si-care-for-our-common-home-tickets-59884089925>. This is all about taking care of the environment. St Margaret's has recently been accepted as an Eco-Congregation.
- ✚ **MO-MA** has an on-going need for quality towels, toiletries, household cleaning products & **dried food**. 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. In the last year, 70 emergency food parcels have been requested. Home starter packs (usually for a young homeless person) contain basics. MOMA needs toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, towels. Sign up to MOMA as the local good cause on www.coop.co.uk - that gives MOMA a share of the Co-op's Community Fund. There's also a box in the Co-op for food & household items.
- ✚ **LiturgyWorks Argyll and the Isles**: <https://www.facebook.com/argyllandtheisles/?fref=hovercard>. Sign up with Denise for the next weekend at the Conforti Institute (September 6-8).

Parish life (everyone's welcome – it's OUR parish!)

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.

LiturgyWorks
for argyll & the isles



July – October 2019 Rotas

Relief Eucharistic Minister: Cecelia Rees.

Please arrange alternative if you are unable to meet the rotas

Date	Eucharist Ministers		Readers	Date	Cleaners
July				July	
7	M M Call	D Berndt	M Mc Call	6	E Salmon
14	P Connor	P Singal	R Ranger	13	K Welsh
21	I Salmon	C Rees	A McCartan	20	A Cumming
28	C McFadden	J Mc Fadden	C Rees	27	K Goodchild
August				August	
4	M McCall	D Berndt	E Salmon	3	A Martin
11	P Connor	P Singal	M Pallister	10	D McLean
18	I Salmon	C Rees	J Green	17	A McCartan
25	C McFadden	J Mc Fadden	B Robins	23	T Sinclair
				31	J Malcolm
September				September	
1	M Mc Call	D Berndt	M Kennedy		
8	P Connor	P Singal	T Jones	7	E Salmon
15	I Salmon	C Rees	M Mc Call	14	K Welsh
22	C McFadden	J Mc Fadden	R Ranger	21	A Martin
29	D Bernt	M McCall	A Mc Cartan	28	D Mc Lean
October				October	
6	P Connor	P Singal	C Rees	5	A McCartan
13	I Salmon	C Rees	E Salmon	12	T Sinclair
20	C McFadden	J Mc Fadden	M Pallister	19	J Malcolm
27	D Bernt	M McCall	J Green	26	E Salmon