



Unity

Lochgilphead/Inveraray/
Campbeltown/Islay

*Dear Friends -
I wish you a
joyful Christmas
and a happy New
Year with God's
abundant
blessings.
Yours in Christ
Fr Dario*



December '14

Issue 21



The gift of a future

Theresa and David Sinclair were able to take the Mthunzi and Lilanda Initiative plans for a secondary school a big step forward during their visit to the Mthunzi Children's Programme in December.

The couple met with Sisters from the Teresian Order who will be M.A.L.I.'s partners in the project and administrate the school, and with Fr Bernard Zulu from the Archdiocese of Lusaka, with whom M.A.L.I. chair Marian Pallister has been negotiating for some time.

The Sinclairs' meetings set in motion match funding from Mission Matters Scotland and the instruction from Fr Bernard to start the building process.

The couple also spent valuable 'homework time' with the children (see pic above).

Theresa said: 'Without the support of the parish and the wider community in Mid Argyll and beyond, none of this could happen. It's a miracle to know this gift of a future for these children is at last to be given.'

The Mthunzi Culture Group brought their joyful music to St Margaret's in October (pic left) when they visited for the celebration of Zambia's 50th anniversary of independence at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. The visit was funded by Celebrate (Big Lottery), SCIAF, Jolomo, and other donors. The group stayed with Theresa & David, Marian & Fr David.

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Unity across the generations

By Marian Pallister with
Morag Robins

Working together to create 'community'

Daniel Kennedy baked some of the best muffins ever for St Margaret's Christmas fair. A delicious carrot-cake mix with a cream cheese filling, they were a favourite with the 'paying customers' – and the 'staff' snaffled some for their well-deserved break.

Daniel, who is 11, also produced some lethally calorific but immensely moreish millionaire's shortbread, that along with his mum Maisie's sticky apple tea bread loaf, coconut mocha cake to die for, and drool-inducing lemon slice, disappeared from the 'help-yourself' afternoon teas counter like – well, hot cakes.

There were other youngsters who contributed to the Christmas fair's success (over £1,000 was raised), including Sinead Pow, who with her friend Sioned Phillips sold SCIAF Christmas cards, and Antony Conn, aged 12, who stage managed the entire event.

Maisie Kennedy's presence (and cakes) added sparkle to the sales table.

It has to be confessed, however, that this sprinkling of youthful fairy dust doesn't really bring down the average age of the 'usual suspects' who oil the wheels of the parish.

Morag Robins has been keeping some alarming statistics:

The tent for the children's First Communion was

erected by four men whose average age was 64 and whose collective age was 254 years.

At the summer fete, there were around 15 helpers, whose collective age was a stunning 960 years. The age of coffee morning helpers can add up to 500 (except when Jan Hrdkicka joins us, plummeting the average age to youthful double figures).

In case unwelcome images of Mrs Overall (and you have to be of a certain age to understand that reference) have sprung to mind, it has to be said that the Squeak photographs of our 'average' event helpers suggest that 64 truly is the new 44 – but it's time to let some of those helpers sit back and smell the coffee while the new generations step up to the plate of millionaires' shortbread.

Catholic Social Teaching encourages community and participation. We are not created by God to live alone. Living in community is an essential expression of who we are. But Community does not just happen – it is something that men and women – and children - must work together to develop. *

At recent events, the younger generations have shown what valuable contributions they can make.

St Margaret's is rich with an amazing array of talents. Working together across the generations can help us run the parish and reach out into the wider community.

* <http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/>

Campbeltown Corner

Christmas Crackers

- ✚ The Christmas Bazaar in Campbeltown raised over £760
- ✚ Campbeltown Brass will provide music at St Kieran's telling of the Christmas story at 6.30pm, Sunday December 21
- ✚ Mass will be at 5pm in St Kieran's on Christmas Eve

Just Faith: *St Kieran's will host a Just Faith event on Friday, January 9, 2015.*

Just Faith is the new project that brings together SCIAF, Justice and Peace and Mission Matters Scotland to share the social justice work of the Church and encourage Catholics to connect their faith with action for change.

The project is being piloted in our diocese.

Diocesan Administrator Mgr James MacNeil welcomed the project, saying: 'Every parish in the diocese will be able to engage with Just Faith in its own way.'

Just Faith co-ordinator Marian Pallister said: 'Pope Francis reminds us our actions should be grounded in our faith and each parish has its own concerns.'

A Christmas message from Fr David



Once more we come to the end of another Liturgical year, and find ourselves racing through the season of Advent. Since I was a boy I have always loved this season because the readings from the prophets, particularly Isaiah, seemed to fill me with great hope.

As a Christian it can be hard at times to live out our faith in hope, in a world that seems to be apathetic at times to the Good News of Jesus Christ. And yet we cannot be despondent. In the last few years in the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles there have been more people come into the Church than at any time in recent history. We have three young men on the Seminary Applicants Year, hoping to go forward to study as priests. Parishes including our own have people coming back to the Church sometimes after decades away. There is always Good News, and we don't have to look to far to find it.

And so as we approach Christmas we pray that the hope and joy that Christ brings to our own lives, will spill out into our communities and make our society a more just and peaceful one.

Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

With much love and prayers

Fr. David



Date	Eucharist Ministers	Readers	Date	Cleaners
January			January	
4	D Bernt M Mc Call	J Green	3	E Salmon
11	M Shaw I Salmon	B Robins	10	A McCartan
18	P Conner	C Paddock	17	T McLetchie
25	R Robinson P Singal	M McCall	24	E McLachlan
	.		31	M Robins
February			February.	
1	C Mc Fadden J McFadden.	R Ranger.	1	M McCall
8	D Bernt M McCall	A McCartan	8	A Martin
15	M Shaw I Salmon	C Reese	15	C McFadden
22	P Connor	E Salmon	22	H Simpson
March			March	
1	P Robinson P Singal	M Pallister	1	A Cumming
8	C McFadden J McFadden	J McFadden	8	M Shaw
15	D Bernt M McCall	A Weir	15	E Salmon
22	M Shaw I Salmon	C Lamont	22	A McCartan
29	P Conner	J Green	29	T McLetchie
April			April	
5	P Robinson P Singal	B Robins	5	E McLachlan
12	C McFadden J Mc Fadden	C Paddock	12	M Robins
19	D Bernt M McCall	M McCall	19	M McCall
26	M Shaw I Salmon	R Ranger	26	A Martin

Please arrange your own swap if you are not available.
Mark the change on the rota in the porch
Relief Eucharist minister: C Reese.



Inveraray Insider

A night of mystery and murder (and a lot of laughs) organised by Inveraray parishioners was a huge success.

Some pointed the finger at the priest (no, no – not Fr David!) but the culprit wore no Roman collar.

Thank you Kenny Stark – can we do it again? [Ed]

In our prayers:
Maria Guidi
&
Emily Balkeen
and their families

1

Sadly missed:
Connie, Jo, Donnie,
Mary, Sam

2



Thanks to the Dalriada Singers and young musicians for their carol concert at St Margaret's – a lovely start to the Christmas season.