



Unity²⁹

Lochgilhead/Inveraray



'...sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel' – Pope Francis

Inside:

Justice & Peace – P2

St Margaret's Summer – P3

Faith into Action – P4

September 2017

Issue 29

'Let us love, not with words but with deeds' Pope Francis

Loving the poor – a message from Pope Francis

Pope Francis has made it so clear that we have to put our faith into action, and this autumn edition of *Unity* leads to a new designated day of action that we might want to plan ahead for. His Holiness has designated Sunday, November 19, as the first **World Day of the Poor**. The quote you see at the top of this page, '*Let us love, not with words but with deeds*', are the words he uses to introduce his message about this day. He goes on to tell us what John has to say about this: "Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth" (1 Jn 3:18). These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard.' He contrasts 'the *empty words* so frequently on our lips and the *concrete deeds* against which we are called to measure ourselves'. And he stresses that it's not about making ourselves feel good!

Pope Francis doesn't ever give us an easy path to follow. Neither, of course, did Jesus. His Holiness reminds us that 'The earliest community realised that being a disciple of Jesus meant demonstrating fraternity and solidarity, in obedience to the Master's proclamation that the poor are *blessed* and *heirs* to the Kingdom of heaven (cf. Mt 5:3).' Prayers are a vital part of our lives as Christians, and our weekly Prayer Group puts that into practice. But we also have to **do** something. Pope Francis tells us what James had to say about that: 'What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled", without giving them the things needed for the body; what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead'.

So maybe between now and November 19, we can think of something positive that our community at St Margaret's can do that puts us shoulder to shoulder with brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves.

With love and prayers

Fr. David



St Margaret's Justice & Peace Group –

Margaret McCall reflects

We are all aware of the network of Food Banks, but how many of us realise that there is now a growing demand for the services of Back to School Banks? In the Justice and Peace Group, we are currently examining the need for such a bank in our area and how best to help.

I am old enough to remember when some children had to come to school wearing inappropriate clothing – girls wearing light summer dresses in winter; boys in washed-out, too-small jumpers; wellies worn day in, day out. Some even had to wear School Board boots.



It was not unknown in those days for some children to miss a day or so at school because their school clothing was in the wash. We certainly don't want those days back – yet we are hearing that this CAN happen in our area in 2017.

Our group has received a lot of information from Sandra Douglas, who is part of the Scotland-wide network of Back to School Banks. Their aim is that every child should experience the same pride, self-respect and dignity as their peers. Brand new school clothes for every child who needs them.

We have decided to meet with members of other churches on October 10 to see how we can set up a Mid-Argyll Back to School Bank. We will seek funding from a range of sources, including the supermarkets who provide uniforms for local schools, and we hope you will be able to help if and when we get the Bank up and running.

Children keep on growing – the fact that we're half way through a new term doesn't stop that. And the stress is on new, rather than second-hand, but there will always be a place for quality second-hand items.

That's the practical side of what we're trying to do. We're also lobbying on the child poverty issue. We've joined Justice and Peace Scotland in backing the Give Me Five campaign (Bishop William Nolan, President of the Justice & Peace Commission spoke at the campaign's launch), along with the Church of Scotland, and organisations such as Child Poverty Action Scotland, Poverty Alliance, Children First and other charities. The aim of the campaign is to lift 30,000 children in Scotland out of poverty by increasing child benefit by £5 per child - there are currently 260,000 children living in poverty in Scotland.

You can sign a petition calling on MSPs to support the top up. You'll find links to the petition on the Justice & Peace Scotland website (<http://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/>) and answers to FAQs at <https://ctbi.org.uk/give-me-five-child-poverty-campaign-launches/>. And don't forget that you're very welcome at our Justice & Peace meetings on the first Tuesday of the month.

Margaret McCall

St Margaret's summer, 2017 – Joys, hard work and sadness



Justice and Peace Group:
➤ Worked with CAB & MO-MA to screen 'I, Daniel Blake' – anti-poverty work
➤ Met with Brendan O'Hara MP on poverty issues
➤ Plans to form Back To School Bank (see P2)

MO-MA says 'Thank you' to St Margaret's parishioners for our continuing generous help to provide essentials for those moving on into permanent accommodation in Mid Argyll.



J & P Group's 'All-nations get-together' – another successful event thanks to Jan, Susan and Theresa



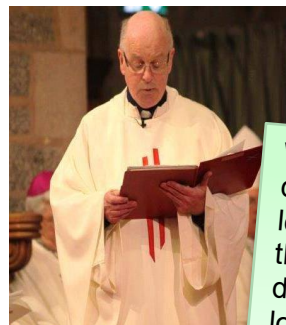
Denise & Marian went to Zambia & worked with the children at St Columba's & Mthunzi. Land transfer fees now paid, so the gifted land will soon belong to our secondary school.



Impressive St Margaret's representation at two 'Liturgy Works' weekends



James's Big Birthday



We shared the deep sense of loss felt throughout the diocese when we lost Fr Donald MacKay. May he rest in peace.

Putting faith into action

- ✚ Don't miss the Justice & Peace Scotland weekly blog: <https://www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/Blog.aspx>
- ✚ Have you visited the Justice & Peace Argyll & the Isles Facebook page? Don't just like – share and act! <https://www.facebook.com/JusticeandpeaceArgyllandIsles/>
- ✚ Listen to Radio Alba – Christian radio with regular contributions from Justice & Peace: <http://radioalba.org/>
- ✚ MO-MA has an on-going need for toiletries, household cleaning products. Box in the church porch.
- ✚ <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/> - SCIAF is campaigning to stop child trafficking in India. Can you support them?
- ✚ **LiturgyWorks Argyll and the Isles:** <https://www.facebook.com/argyllandtheisles/?fref=hovercard> . See the report of the August 2017 weekend (and sign up for the next two weekends at Conforti).

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.

The Evangelisation Group needs your help - have you completed the Parish Census Form?



May to August Rotas
Relief Eucharistic Minister: Cecelia Rees.

Date	Eucharist Ministers	Readers	Date	Cleaners
Sept			Sept	
3	D Bernt M McCall	Alec Fisher	2	A Martin
10	P Connor P Singal	R Ranger	9	M McLay
17	M Shaw I Salmon	A McCartan	16	E McLachlan
24	J McFadden C McFadden	C Rees	23	D McLean
			30	A McCartan
Oct			Oct	
1	D Bernt M McCall	J Hrdlicka	7	T Sinclair
8	P Connor P Singal	E Salmon	14	E Salmon
15	M Shaw I Salmon	M Pallister	21	C McFadden
22	J McFadden C McFadden	J McFadden	28	J Malcolm
29	D Bernt M McCall	C Lamond		
Nov			Nov	
5	P Connor P Singal	J Green	4	K Welsh
12	M Shaw I Salmon	B Robins	11	A Cumming
19	J McFadden C Mc Fadden	M McCall	19	K Goodchild
26	D Bernt M McCall	Alec Fisher	25	A Martin
Dec			Dec	
3	P Connor M Mc Call	R Ranger	3	M McLay
10	M Shaw I Salmon	A McCartan	10	E McLachlan
17	J McFadden C Mc Fadden	C Rees	17	Christmas clean
24	D Bernt M McCall	J Hrdlicka	23	?
31	P Connor P Singal	E Salmon	30	D McLean