

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY HOUR

This Monday 2nd December 7pm—8pm
And every First Monday of the month

YOUTH MASS

This Sunday 17th November 10.30am and
each third Sunday of the month during term time

CHRISTMAS PUDDING MAKING EVENING & SUPPER Friday, 22nd November, 7pm

Come and enjoy an evening stirring up your own
Christmas Pudding. Then indulge in a mug of mulled wine
and a buffet supper

Ticket forms are now available at the back of Church
Please return to Krissie in the office.

THE BIG CLEAN

Please pencil in **SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER, 9.30AM** onwards
for the cleaning of the inside of the church before Christmas.
Please join us for 30mins - 2hours to get the Church ready for
Christmas. Sign up sheet now available at the back of Church

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL

Thought for the week 33rd Sunday of the Year (B) 17th November, 2024

While writing this, sitting close to the banks of Loch Lomond – only a short walk from St Kessog’s Catholic Church in the village of Balloch – I’m aware that St Kessog or MacKessog is not a saint I recall from my childhood in Scotland. St Patrick, St Columba and St Mungo were the ones we heard most about at school.

According to some sources, St Kessog was born into the Royal family of Munster in Ireland, son of King Cashel and educated by St Patrick for missionary work in Scotland. Others say that he was of Roman army descent. He was known as the soldier-saint or ‘priest-soldier’ as he went about with a sword tied to his waist. He was widely venerated in medieval times. Troops under Robert Bruce used “Blessed Kessog” as a battle cry in the wars of independence.

It was to the village of Luss on the west banks of Loch Lomond that St Kessog’s mission began in the early 6th century. He established a monastery on the island of Inchtavannach (Monk’s Island) on the western side of Loch Lomond. Near the top of Luss Glen there is a memorial stone and a cell on the right side of the wood.

We visited Luss on a weekday before the coach-loads of tourists arrived and it was beautifully tranquil as the mist rose over the loch with Ben Lomond towering above. How much more tranquil it must have been back in St Kessog’s time before the motor boat and motor car. We enjoyed gazing at the yellow, red, and golden browns of the shoreline beech tree leaves against the white-grey trunks, in this beautiful, spiritual, peaceful, place. Later that evening as we saw the stunning beauty of the northern lights, it struck me how vital for these early Celtic Christians was this appreciation of nature, the seasons, the shifting tides, the ever-changing skies.

We pray on these shores, where the Holy Spirit was so alive in the early Christian missionaries, that our connection with nature will deepen our closeness to God the creator. In words of the ancient celtic blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who need your prayers:

Please pray for Rogan, (Peter Halter's sister Jean's great grandson) whose Leukaemia has returned and very sadly they say nothing more can be done. Prayers are needed more than ever now. Please also pray for Jean herself who has macular degeneration.

Please pray for Mary Edwards who is awaiting knee surgery and for her son Ian who is unwell.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Robert Brooks who is now undergoing chemotherapy and awaiting further blood test results

Thank you for all your prayers for Joe Bunton who is transitioning into a care home and continues to need our prayers as he lives with Tuberous Sclerosis, Epilepsy and Autism with Severe learning difficulties. These conditions present huge challenges to his life.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 3 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer.

Please pray for Vera Bird's Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for the children and staff at St Martin's school

Please pray for our parishioners in St Luke's and Abbeycrest Nursing Homes



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Joe Rush, Tess Lynch, Maureen Norris , Nellie Burke, Nickey Harris, Henry New, Nellie Barke, Frank Lawless, W.G. Williams, Theresa Hamilton, James Martin, Lillian McLewee.