



Columcille

**The Bishop of Argyll
And The Isles' Newsletter. No 35**

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Dear Friends,

Death: Judgement; Heaven; Hell! These are the four classical themes of Advent. I am aware that the church has developed other themes for Advent. However I am suggesting to you if you are preaching on any or on all the Sundays of Advent that you give attention to these classical themes. If you are not preaching then why not ask those who are preaching to do so! They are critically important because they deal with the basic and universal expectations of humanity in our relationship to God, not only in life and death but in terms of the future of the universe and indeed its conclusion. These themes address the greatest hopes of the universe but also the greatest fears and darkneses. So when the church on the fourth Sunday looks at Hell, it is in to complete lostness that Christ is born. By approaching Advent in this way the birth of Christ becomes all the more powerful. If you would like some help in your preparation on these lines do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

With the global anxiety over institutions that we took for granted but are now fragile to breaking point with increasing anxiety over the rapidly changing ecosystem of our planet the classical Advent themes have a new and topical poignancy to them.

In addition linked to preaching on these themes you might like to encourage group

discussion on them following the Eucharist over a cup of coffee.

Again, I am asking you to be aware of those who are suffering from financial anxiety. This may be particularly acute at Christmas time. Even if it is only a listening ear or an extra message in a Christmas card, it all counts!

Learn Anytime Anywhere

A Learning Initiative for the Diocese –

I have come across an excellent educational resource based in The United States called “Now You Know Media” This organisation produces courses of audio CDs on themes of basic importance to all Christians. Brian Daley a Jesuit Priest has recorded one course called “Early Christianity and The First Christians”. There are 18 topics on six audio CDs. From the beginnings of Christianity through to the important Teachers and Fathers of the early church. Daley explores the main features and figures of the church’s life in its beginning stages. You can learn how The New Testament came into being; what were the main influences on early Christians; and what the basic teachings of Christianity were and have come down to us. Perhaps your charge would be interested in buying a set of these CDs and a small group perhaps listen to them together. You can order the CDs from www.NowYouKnowMedia.com

If you are going to use them please do let me know so that I can share the process with you and be of whatever help I can.

Urgently Needed – Editor of The Diocesan Magazine.

I am finding it difficult to give the time necessary to collecting articles and editing material for our Diocesan magazine. It is published three times a year and involves not only the collection of material but also developing an attractive layout. If you are interested yourself in considering taking this on or know of somebody else who might be please do get in touch with me.

THE NEXT MAGAZINE!

Please send me articles and photographs for the next magazine. Closing date - February 30th 2009.

To save time it would be helpful if you would proof read them yourself and have something of the editor's hat on your head!

Scottish Liturgy 1982

Many of you have asked me about the daily practise of praying with Morning and Evening Prayer. This is known throughout the world as the Prayer of the Church or the Divine Office. It comes in different forms depending on history and culture. Coupled with the development of new liturgy in the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1982 our church has developed and published "Daily Prayer". This provides material for both the morning and the evening and does not demand a great deal of time. With the daily lectionary readings Episcopalians can receive spiritual food whilst being immersed in scripture. You can order a copy from the General Synod Office at £9. Tel. no. 0131 225 6357. Also on my travels around the Diocese I notice that some charges are still using the yellow book of Collects for the Eucharist. This no longer has permission for regular use. It has been replaced with the Collects that are in the spiral bound book called "Scottish Liturgy 1982 – with Propers and Revised Common Lectionary", again you can order this from the General Synod Office (of course if you are using the 1662 Prayer Book included in The Scottish Prayer Book you will be using the Collects and Readings in those liturgies.)

Back to Church Sunday 27th Sept. 2009

For the last few years in England there has been a successful ecumenical process of inviting new people to come to church or indeed those who have left it for one reason or another. Some Diocese in Scotland have already participated. However every denomination in Scotland will be participating on the 27th September 2009. The basic idea is that each member of a congregation invites one friend to come to church on that Sunday. The service itself is not expected to be special. Our Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry will be providing resources in preparation for the Sunday in the New Year. Please put the date in your diaries.

Our Companion Diocese of Zanzibar

I have asked a small group of people to gather information from around the Diocese concerning the considerable connections and projects with which people in this Diocese have been involved for the Diocese of Zanzibar. Much of this work was initiated by my predecessor Bishop Douglas Cameron and his wife Pat. However the Diocesan Board of Mission and Ministry now feels that it is important to co-ordinate our efforts as far as possible. If you have interests and concerns with the Diocese of Zanzibar please get in touch with
Catriona Beel
catriona08@btinternet.com

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Companions Together Worldwide

A Day for exploring Companion Links –
Sat March 21st 2009 at The Albany Centre, Glasgow G4

This day conference will be hosted by the Provincial Overseas Committee of The Scottish Episcopal Church, to explore International Companion links and to share experiences and information. For details of the day please contact
gill.young@ukonline.co.uk

Cumrae Retreat, Music and Conference Programme 2009

14 March -Messiah from Scratch, £25

26-29 March -Art for All (Catherine Drain: for beginners and the more experienced alike with lots of practical work in a variety of mediums), £165

30 March – 2 April -Celtic Retreat (The Warden), £120.

For more information please contact the warden 01475 530353.

(The Friends of The Cathedral of The Isles also have a website with useful information –

www.cumbraecathedralfriends.com)

Mothers' Union -The latest publication from MU: "We are Created by God" is a discussion booklet exploring our identity and relationships and it may be used by small groups with the help of a facilitator. This looks like an exciting document. If you are interested in training to be a facilitator please do get in touch with Fiona Rice Campbellrice1@aol.com
Tel. no. 01546 886674

The West Highland Region -The six charges of The WHR have now advertised for a new Rector. There has been considerable interest already. However if you do know of any Priest who might be interested in applying please ask them to contact the Diocesan Secretary secretary@argyll.anglican.org

Christmas 2009

I have met a number of people who have looked carefully for notice of Christmas and Advent services who are on holiday at that time of year. Many are also visiting their families. Although there is an established tradition of midnight services do remember that families often prefer a splendid Christmas service on Christmas Day itself. It is important to make provision for this. Please plan and advertise your services as soon as possible and make the information available in hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation and shops.

Reflection

From a letter of Charles de Foucauld (Feast Day 1st December)

"The soul will bring forth fruit exactly in the measure in which the inner life is developed in it. If there is no inner life, however great may be the zeal, the high intention, the hard work, no fruit will come forth; it is like a spring that would give out sanctity to others but cannot, having none to give; one can only give that which one has. It is in solitude, in that lonely life alone with God, in profound recollection of soul, in forgetfulness of all created things that God gives himself to the soul that thus gives itself whole and entire to him."

In the Love of God, +Martin, Oban

The January Newsletter – material to be received by Tuesday 16th December

THE BISHOP'S December Diary

29th November LCM Review Holy Trinity, Dunoon

30th - St Paul's, Rothesay.

1st December – Island Retreats Board meeting – 12noon

2nd – College of Bishops and Episcopal Synod meetings , Edinburgh

3rd - Cathedral Chapter meeting 11am

5th – Glenalmond Council

7th – St John's Cathedral, Oban and Kilbrandon

8th – The Ordination of the new Roman Catholic Bishop Joseph Toal, St Columba's Cathedral, Oban 6pm.

10th – Farewell dinner for Chris and Rosemary Todhunter

13th – St John's Cathedral Christmas Party – 3pm

14th – St Bride's, Onich 9.30am, St Mary's, Glencoe 11.30am

15th – Oban FM

17th – Provincial Doctrine Committee, Edinburgh

18th – Community Christmas lunch, Appin.

21st – St John's Cathedral, Oban

24th – Midnight Mass St John's Cathedral, Oban 11.30pm

Christmas Day – St James, Ardbrecknish 11am

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