



# ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Argyll Street, PA31 8NE

Parish Priest: Fr. Philip BUA

Tel. 01546 602380

Email: lochgilthead@rcdai.org.uk

Website: www.lochgiltheadcatholic.com



## Newsletter for Feast of the Holy Family, Year B

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

#### SUNDAY MASS:

St Margaret's: 10 am  
All Saints, Inveraray, 12: 30  
Taynuilt Parish Mass: 4 pm

#### WEEKDAYS MASS

St Margaret's Church:

Tuesday 10:30 am

Wednesday 5 pm

Adoration of the Holy  
Eucharist and Praises,  
(Taynuilt Parish Mass: 10:30am)

Thursday 10:30 am

Friday 10:30 am

Exposition of the Holy  
Eucharist at 10 am before Mass

Saturday 10:30 am

Confession after Mass

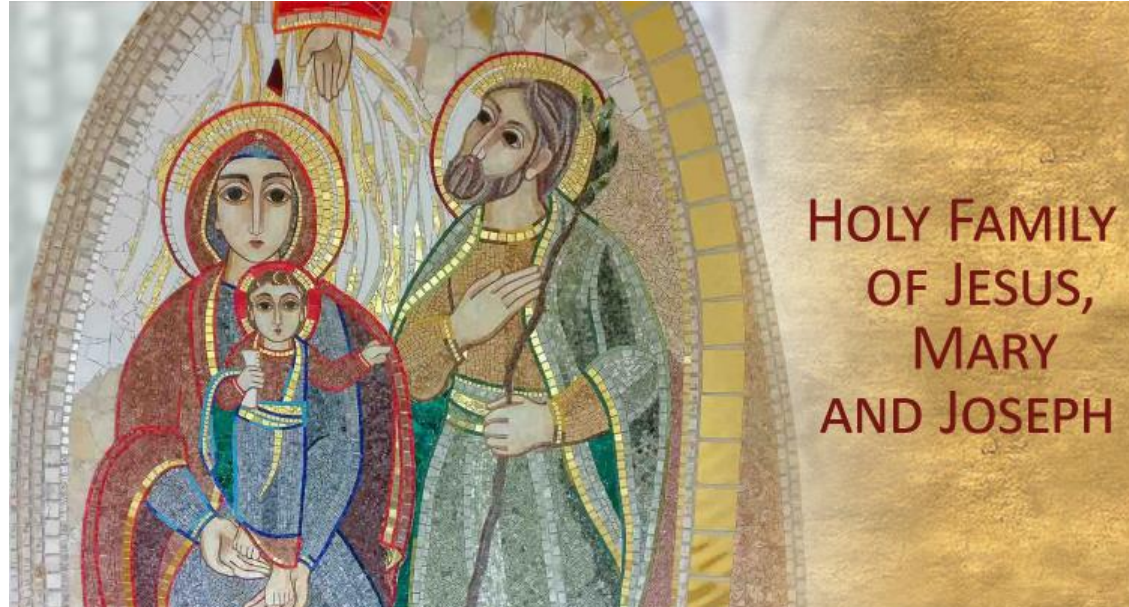
#### CONFESSION

from Tuesday to Saturday  
9:15 am – 9:40 am  
before Mass and on request

Please use the QR code  
below to make donations  
to the parish.



St Margaret RC Church, Lochgi



HOLY FAMILY  
OF JESUS,  
MARY  
AND JOSEPH

*“Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised because my eyes have seen the salvation”*

#### SUNDAY HYMNS

Entrance	317. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Offertory	641 Take Our Bread We Ask You’.
Communion	635 Sweet Sacrament Divine
Recessional	1134 Angels We Have Heard on High.

#### Responsorial Psalm.

*He, the Lord,  
is our God.  
He remembers his  
covenant for ever*

**Monday, New Year’s Day, Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity):** Mass is at noon, 12 pm.

**Happy New Year to you all.** Thanks for the kindness shown to me at Christmas, my appreciation to the parish: singers, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, hospitality group, council, cleaners, and many others who are not mentioned here. We have many brighter years ahead and may God give us the grace to continue to do our best.

**Crib Collection:** The crib collection is dedicated to the Holy Childhood Association, providing missionaries with Christian formation and education resources.

**Our Visitors:** A warm welcome to all our visitors to St. Margaret/ Inveraray Mass station. We are glad you worship with us today, may almighty God bless you all. Please, join us after Mass for Tea/Coffee.

**St. Margaret church,** Tea/Coffee at the parish’s Tent outside the church. **All Saints Inveraray** Tea/Coffee at the back of the church after Mass. Our gratitude goes to the Hospitality group who made this possible, God bless you!

**Holy and Organic Eggs!** The parish chickens are doing their rightful job, laying already holy eggs. The eggs are available at the Parish Tent after Mass, pick and make a donation if you can!

## Collections last Sunday

Offertory for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent St. Margaret and All Saints Inveraray- **£201.90**

Offertory for Christmas Mass St. Margaret and All Saints Inveraray- **£376.10**

Christmas Flowers Collection **£203.00**

## Gift Aid Scheme

The government's Gift Aid Scheme is a very needy source of income for St Margaret's Parish. Please ensure that if you are a UK taxpayer every donation you make to the parish, including your offertory collection, is Gift Aided. Envelopes are available at the rear of the Church for this purpose.

**Thank you for supporting  
our church.**

## REFLECTIONS

### Being a Holy Family

In our natural competitive attitude, we are tempted to look at the Holy Family as an ideal we cannot realize in our families. But, Jesus, Mary and Joseph had their share of struggles.

The trust which is fundamental to a marriage was challenged by the pregnancy. Joseph must have felt terrible when he had to bring his wife to a stable to have the child. Living in a foreign land, Egypt, away from family and traditions, was far from ideal. Still, the Holy Family made it through the difficulties of their family life for one reason only: they had great faith. Joseph had faith in the angel of his dreams and treated the pregnant Mary in an honourable way.

He had faith that God would help him protect the child, and he moved the family to Egypt. Mary had faith both in the angel and in God's working through Joseph. Jesus, having emptied himself of his divinity, had faith in his parents to care for him. Some of the pious Christian works of the second and third centuries didn't understand this.

The apocryphal gospels, which have never even remotely been considered Sacred Scripture, would present the child Jesus performing miracles to help his family even in everyday chores, like changing rocks to bread so Mary would not have to bake.

(By the way the apocryphal gospels also had Jesus doing distinctly unchristian actions like beating up the local village bullies.) The child Jesus didn't need to perform miracles. He had all the miracles he needed in parents who cared for him.

*(Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino)*

### With Mary and Joseph Turned towards Jesus

Today we reflect on the Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph because we all grow up in a family and the Holy Family has much to teach us about family life.

In the Christmas pictures and in the crèche/crib, we see Mary and Joseph turned towards the baby Jesus. Next, we see the shepherds beside Mary and Joseph also turned to Jesus.

I think we could see our families in the place of the shepherds; we are with Mary and Joseph turned to Jesus. The only way for peace and love and happiness in our families is to be with Mary and Joseph and turn to Jesus. How do we do this? Through prayer.

*(Fr. Tommy Lane)*

### As Real As It Can Get

Is the Holy Family unreal? I think the Christmas story provides us with a picture that is far from our idealised perception of the Holy Family.

The Holy Family, as scripture tells us, is a truly human family, a truly real family, and their story would have made a perfect script for any modern popular reality television show.

Perhaps one of the most striking messages of the story of Christmas then, is that family life doesn't always run smoothly even for this most special of families. Right from the very beginning, there is struggle, hardship, and the need for extraordinary courage and endurance in the face of these difficulties.

*(Fr. Michael Chua)*