



Vox Clamantis

Bulletin of the Society of Saint Pius X in Scotland

December 2021

"The will to do, the soul to dare"

Dear Faithful,

After almost a month waiting in France, Fr. Hanappier has now finally made his way to the United States and the process can now begin to replace him. Although the Mass times on the back page is more or less correct, illness or otherwise unforeseen circumstances may mean that a Mass may be cancelled (or even supplemented – I'm thinking particularly of the Rorate Masses in Edinburgh) so keep an ear open for the local announcements. Many thanks to Fathers Vandendaele and Holden who have been making the long journey up from Preston to assure the Sunday programme. During the coming month, help will be coming from even further afield so we should once again be able to do that at least.

Last month saw work on the construction of the new altar in Edinburgh finally start and already great progress is being made with the



reredos almost in place at time of writing. It will still be some time until the whole project is finished but it will certainly be worth the wait!

Once again this year, I urge you to make a spiritual Advent. The usual cycle of office parties and school carol services may be affected by the arbitrary 'regulations' of the Government but, liturgically, this is no bad thing. Prayer and fasting casts out even the most stubborn demons.

With every good wish and blessing,

Rev. Sebastian Wall (Prior)



**First Communions in Edinburgh:
Archie Barry and Micheál Paton**



In our first article, we looked at the first missionary bishops sent to Scotland. Bishop Nicholson, despite imprisonment and having to travel almost exclusively by night, laid the foundations. Though he avoided (mostly) capture by Government forces, he could not, of course, remain anonymous among the people whom he had been sent to convert back to the true Faith. Nonetheless, even in Galloway, where the people “were the most bigoted against Catholics”, he was not denounced. “It may appear something extraordinary that after all these visitations and journeys of the Bishop through Scotland, although the character and functions of a bishop, after so long an interruption, could not but strike Protestants on his first appearance, and become the subject of conversation, as many of them knew all about him, his functions and journeys, yet no information was ever lodged against him... This was owing under God to his charity and goodness towards all, by which he gained the goodwill and affection even of Protestants”.



Scalan seminary in Winter

His coadjutor, James Gordon, joined him in 1706 “and never was there a happier meeting for mutual joy and satisfaction”. Similarly, he, too, won over all by his acceptance of the bad roads, poor lodgings and frugal fare. “The country afforded nothing but milk and white meats for food, and whey and water for drink. The country people had some barley bread very ill-baked, and when this failed they used cheese in place of it... The beds were made of heather, straw or grass; and when it rained there was not a dry spot in all their miserable huts. The Bishop bore all these inconveniences rather than carry with him better provisions and other necessaries, which might have any appearance of luxury”. He, too, went over to the isles – to Rum and Uist, Barra and

Eigg – giving Confirmation to 2,242 people, saying Mass, instructing and comforting the people. He had his sermons and instructions repeated in Gaelic by one of the priests. He was never safe, especially when anywhere near a garrison. And he incurred a fever that nearly proved fatal. But “he had the consolation to find that the number of the Catholics was much greater than he had imagined; and that the Protestants were well disposed to embrace our holy faith”.

The Bishop did not overlook the need for schools. Any project must be a secret one; any place chosen, a hidden one. At the end of 1713 or beginning of 1714 a tiny school was opened on Eileann Bàn in Loch Morar, with Fr. George Innes in charge. One of the pupils was Hugh Macdonald, son of the Laird of Morar; afterwards to become Bishop, and Vicar-Apostolic of the Highland District when Scotland was divided, for ecclesiastical purposes, into the Lowland and the Highland districts.

After his visit to the West, he performed the first ordination in Scotland since 1560, raising to the priesthood Fr. Dalglish at Scotshouse in Knoydart. When the persecution flared up again, he went to Edinburgh, where the London Government had recently absorbed the old Scottish Parliament, to try to have some influence. He sent a priest, Fr. Carnegie to London, where, with the help of foreign ambassadors, he managed to secure a brief spell of peace that lasted until the Rising of 1715. Even afterwards, “by prudence and caution” Bishop Gordon still maintained his little seminary in the West, “for the preparing apprentices for foreign shops” though it had to close soon after.

A new, equally retired place was found for a seminary, at Scaln, in Glenlivet, Banffshire, where one of the fugitive priests after the Fifteen had already found refuge. The history of this historic seminary, used to form the ‘heather priests’ may be read in the May issue of 2019. Hugh MacDonald was one of the first two priests ordained from here in 1725. The following year it had a dozen students but Bishop Gordon had to disperse them because of ministerial enmity.

He was already thinking of the succession. Bishop Nicolson had died in 1718 and, though Bishop Gordon would in fact see another 20 years of apostolic activity, a replacement bishop was chosen by him and sent to Rome for consecration. This was the Enzie man, Alexander Grant, who had learned Gaelic and been the



Rector at Scalan and the original idea was to divide the country of Scotland into two districts, based on language and culture with a bishop for each. The dividing line, stretching from Dumbarton to Nairn, meant that much of what we would today consider Highland, including Scalan, was in the Lowland District. The division itself was delayed because Grant died in Italy before being consecrated. He came to Rome as bishop-elect just before the death of Giuseppe Sacripanti, the Cardinal Protector of the Scottish Nation and its college. Pope Benedict XIII appointed Cardinal Falconieri to the post without asking James VIII (III), the Old Pretender. Consultation on this was one way in which the Papacy normally showed that it recognised James' claim to the throne, and the breakdown in relations affected the progress in establishing the two Vicariates. Grant went on pilgrimage to Loreto and was last heard of at Genoa in December 1727 – suffering from the ague and in abject poverty. He is presumed to have died soon after at the early age of 34 although there is a tale told that long afterwards a Scots priest, travelling in the South of France, met a band of Trappist monks returning from their field labour; and in one of them recognised Father Grant.

The division finally went ahead and from 1727, Scotland now had two vicariates – Highland and Lowland. There was, however, no second bishop and so Bishop Gordon had to continue his labours alone for a further four years. But, in 1731, after six years of priesthood, Hugh MacDonald was consecrated Bishop for the Highland Vicariate of Scotland.



Eileann Bàn, seen across Loch Morar

One of his first acts as bishop was to re-open the seminary on the island of Morar. There had been the idea that with the death of the Catholic Duke of Gordon that Scalan would have to remain closed, (though this didn't happen), because his children had been

brought up as Protestants. Scalan had had to close but, once the sporadic local periods of persecution had died down, it continued to flourish until bigger premises were found. With storm clouds gathering, Bishop Gordon died in 1745, once again leaving just one bishop for the whole of Scotland.

In keeping with the non-political line of the Propaganda, Hugh MacDonald was among the party of his clansmen who tried to persuade Bonnie Prince Charlie not to go ahead when he landed in 1745 – after which 'he was little more consulted'. Arriving on the French man-o'-war disguised as usual as a layman, he was astonished to find



The Raising of the Standard at Glenfinnan

the Prince disguised as a priest. The Bishop knew that an uprising at that time would be bad for Scotland (especially the Highlands) and the revival of Catholicism, but reluctantly blessed the royal standard at Glenfinnan. After Cullodan, he fled abroad, his house and former seminary on Loch Morar having been destroyed by the military, and spent three years in France. One benefit of this period of exile was that Hugh MacDonald received an annual payment from James for the rest of his life as a token of the King's gratitude. It equalled the entire subsidy sent by Propaganda.

On returning to Scotland he stayed out of the Highland District, but was betrayed while in Edinburgh in 1755 and brought to trial. Times were changing, with 'priest-catchers' despised, and, by dint of the pressure of foreign ambassadors and a technicality of the law which condemned priests (he was a bishop) the sentence of exile was not enforced: Bishop MacDonald was able to live quietly at Shenval in the Cabrach and administer his district from there. While in Edinburgh, curiously enough, he assisted in the secret consecration of Bishop James Grant who was related to the unfortunate Alexander. In 1761 Hugh's nephew John MacDonald was appointed coadjutor and consecrated at Preshome. Over the next fifty years he and one more MacDonald, along with two Chisholms, were to cater for the needs of the Highland District.

Mass Schedule

	CARLUKE	GLASGOW	EDINBURGH
Wednesday 1 st December	7.15am		
Thursday 2 nd December	11am		
Friday 3 rd December (<i>First Friday</i>)		6.30pm	6.30pm
Saturday 4 th December (<i>First Saturday</i>)		11am	11am
Sunday 5 th December — 2 nd of Advent		11am	9 am & 11am
Monday 6 th December	11am		
Tuesday 7 th December	7.15am		
Wednesday 8 th December — Immaculate Conception		6.30pm	6.30pm
Thursday 9 th December	11am		
Friday 10 th December	7.15am		
Saturday 11 th December		11am	11am
Sunday 12 th December — 3 rd of Advent <i>Gaudete</i>		10.30am	11am
Monday 13 th December	11am		
Tuesday 14 th December			6.30pm
Wednesday 15 th December	7.15am		
Thursday 16 th December	11am		
Friday 17 th December	7.15am		
Saturday 18 th December		11am	11am
Sunday 19 th December — 4 th of Advent		10.30am	11am
Monday 20 th December	11am		
Tuesday 21 st December			
Wednesday 22 nd December	7.15am		
Thursday 23 rd December	11am		
Friday 24 th December Christmas Eve		6.30pm	6.30pm
Saturday 25 th December — Nativity of Our Lord		Midnight & 11am	Midnight & 11am
Sunday 26 th December — In Christmas Octave		11am	11am
Monday 27 th December	11am		
Tuesday 28 th December	11am		
Wednesday 29 th December	11am		
Thursday 30 th December	11am		
Friday 31 st December	11am		

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If you require any further information concerning one of these places, or need to talk to a priest e.g. in case of emergency for the Sacraments, please ring the phone number mentioned in contact details.