



# Vox Clamantis

Bulletin of the Society of Saint Pius X in Scotland

June 2022

*"The will to do, the soul to dare"*

Dear Faithful,

May turned out to be a very busy month! This year we re-instituted the crowning of our Lady with fresh flowers. These were renewed throughout the month with her altar being adorned with more flowers.

For the Rogations this year we once again went out into the fields to bless the growing crops (and the bees that look after them). This was followed by the feast of the Ascension.

At the end of the month, a parish barbecue was held in Glasgow. Much like the one we held for the feast of the Assumption last year after the garden clearance, this one was very well-attended. The Edinburgh parish celebration was held at the beginning of this month but printing constraints mean the pictures will only be available for next month's edition.

Also at the end of the month, the last day of May in fact, Mrs. Evelyn Pelosi passed to her eternal reward after a short illness. Because of the priests' meeting in Bristol, I was not needed at the priory in Carlisle for that week so was able to visit her the day before her death to assure her of the last rites of the Church. May she rest in peace.



***Blessing the fields for Rogations***

This coming month, we have the feast of Whitsun on the first Sunday of the month, with the feast of Corpus Christi on the 16<sup>th</sup>. At the time of going to press, the funeral of Mrs. Pelosi is due to take place on the following day, followed by her burial at



Mount Vernon cemetery.

The Sacred Heart is on the 24<sup>th</sup>, with the feast of St. John the Baptist the following day (transferred because of the Sacred Heart). The Feast of the holy Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul closes the month on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Though extremely important dates in the liturgical calendar, none of these feasts is a Holy Day of Obligation in Scotland.

June is the anniversary of the ordination of most priests in the Society, so I would ask you to pray for us both during this time.

With every good wish and blessing,

Rev. Sebastian Wall (Prior)



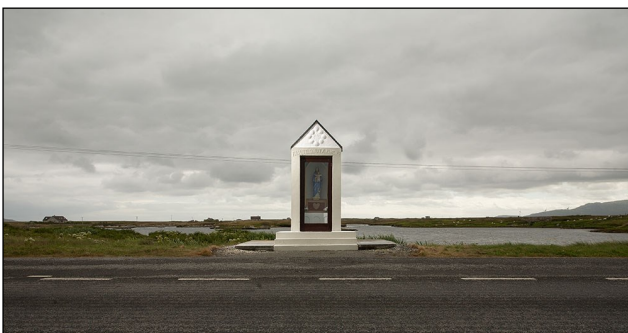
***A few pictures from the parish barbecue in Glasgow***



# Our Lady of the Isles



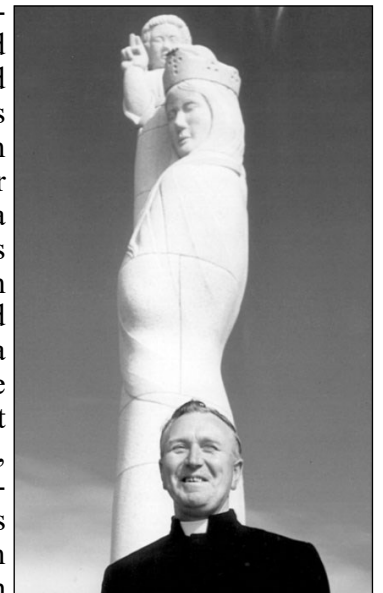
While browsing through the Sabhal Mòr Ostaig site for Gaelic courses, I was astonished to come across a picture of Saunders Lewis, D J Williams and Lewis Valentine, three of the most influential figures regarding the Welsh language in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Their importance in Welsh culture is probably of little interest to the readers of a publication such as this, but the reason why some may, nonetheless, be familiar with their names is the notoriety they achieved in 1936 by burning down a bombing school of the RAF on the Llŷn peninsula at Pen-y-berth. The British Government both before and after the Second World War were (understandably) keen to establish military bases in remote areas such as the Llŷn and Scotland. They had looked into suitable sites in England itself (in Northumberland and Dorset) but changed their mind because of the protests of the residents. Despite the protest of half a million Welsh residents (an extraordinary number, considering the popula-



tion), the Government finally decided on Pen-y-berth, a historical site both in Welsh culture and religious history—it had been a stopping place on the way to the pilgrimage to Bardsey Island. Villages were destroyed, populations displaced and the school was built. Then on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> September, the three set it on fire before handing themselves in at Pwllheli police station.

With the abandoning of Pen-y-berth, the Government then sought other locations for their weapons of mass destruction and their attention naturally settled on another small, isolated community, this time on South Uist in the Western Isles and the Ministry of Defence announced its intention to establish a Rocket Range there. Initially, the proposal was welcomed as it would bring much needed jobs to the island but this stance changed when it was realised what the scale of the establishment was intended to be. There was to be a new military town, along with facilities for the construction of missiles. The development was to extend from Sollas in North Uist to Bornish in South Uist with its centre in the parish of Ardkenneth. It was to be something similar to the army training centre at Salisbury Plain. People and their activities were to be ‘removed’ from the military area.

Having survived the so-called ‘Reformation’ and the clearances, this seemed the death knell not only for the language (in a far more precarious position than Welsh at the time) and culture of the area but also for the Faith if it went ahead. It is fitting, then, that the opposition to this was led by the Parish Priest, Canon John



Morrison. Energetically he set about organising opposition to the project using the usual means of drumming up political support and the national media. He did not, however, reach for his matches. Instead, he enlisted the help of the heavenly host, particularly her who is terrible as an army in battle array, sending a statue of our Lady around the island for people to gather to say the rosary. He also set about the con-

struction of wayside shrines along the roads which would be used by the new military installation, should it go ahead.

1954 was a Marian Holy Year and the Holy See was petitioned to grant the title 'Our Lady of the Isles' (*Moire ro Naomh nan Eilean* or *Bana-Thighearna nan Eilan*). Since the title was new (though not, obviously, devotion to our Lady which permeates the language and culture in a myriad of ways), there was no image to concentrate popular devotion so the canon decided to commission a large statue and erect it to overlook the proposed site of the installation.

Probably the most well-known Scottish sculptor of the time was Hew Lorimer. Born in Edinburgh, he went to school in Musselburgh before going on to Oxford, though he left prematurely to study art back in Scotland. After graduating, he became an apprentice to Eric Gill and shortly before starting work in South Uist, he had carved the allegorical figures on the National Library.



The work was to be carved from white granite, since the weather in the Western Isles is far from clement (it rained almost incessantly on the day of its dedication in 1958). Forty tons of rock were cemented together and the image of our Lady holding the infant Jesus aloft reaches almost 30ft from the side of Ruabhal hill. By 1957, when the statue was erected, the top of Ruabhal had already been acquired by the MoD for a radar station so the statue stands at 170ft above sea level.

The dedication of the statue on the feast of the Assumption, 1958 was well-attended. There was an honour guard of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders through which passed the visiting clergy, an Archbishop, two Bishops, Canons and Monsignors, a choir of schoolchildren sang.

Eight months later, in April 1959, the announcement was made by the Ministry of Defence that the rocket range development proposal was to be much scaled down. It was to be a missile testing and firing range with mostly visiting military personnel. There was to be no 'new' town and no removal of people.

Over the years, the future of the site has several times been brought into question. Curiously,

at the most recent rumours of closure, there was more talk of 'protests' because it would adversely affect the life of the islanders but Faith, language, and culture have been replaced by the more prosaic grounds of money.



This would not be a true 'Islander' account of our Lady of the Isles if it did not include an anecdotal story, so beloved of Highlander and Islander alike. As befits an installation of the Ministry of Defence, there are scrupulous security measures in place. When testing occurs, red flags or lights alert anyone in the vicinity that they must leave the area immediately. There are perimeter fences and Cctv. In the depths of night, it is said, the alarms will sound and security staff are alerted to the presence, within the perimeter fence, of a tall stately lady walking through the grounds. Of course, when the dogs and soldiers are dispatched to apprehend the said 'lady', no-one is found—it is a false alarm. Islanders are wont to say that it is *Moire Mhin Mhathar* who visits the place of her rightful home at the summit of Ruabhal.





# Mass Schedule



	CARLUKE	GLASGOW	EDINBURGH
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> June			7am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	11am		
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June ( <i>First Friday</i> )		6.30pm	6.30pm
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> June ( <i>First Saturday</i> )		11am	11am
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June — Whit Sunday		9am & 11am	9am & 11am
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June			6.30pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15am		
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15am		
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> June		11am	11am
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> June — Trinity Sunday		9am & 11am	9am & 11am
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15am		
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15am		
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> June — Corpus Christi		6.30pm	6.30pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June			12 noon
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> June		11am	11am
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> June — 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Whitsun		9am & 11am	9am & 11am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June			6.30pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	7.15am		
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	11am		
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June — Most Sacred Heart of Jesus		6.30pm	6.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> June		11am	11am
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June — 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Whitsun		9am & 11am	9am & 11am
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	7.15am		
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June — Sts. Peter and Paul		6.30pm	6.30pm
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	11am		

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Church**

202, Renfrew Street,

**GLASGOW****G3 6TX****Saints Margaret and Leonard's  
Church**

110, Saint Leonard's Street,

**EDINBURGH****EH8 9RD**

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.