

## ST COLUMBA'S CATHEDRAL, OBAN

Cathedral Administrator	Very Rev Donald J MacKay	
Mass	Saturday Vigil	7.00pm
	Sunday	10.30am
	Daily	10.00am
Holydays of Obligation	Vigil Mass	7.00pm; 10.00am

## THE VISITATION, TAYNUILT

Administrator	Rev William Fraser	
Mass	Sunday	11.00am
Holydays of Obligation		7.00pm
	Telephone	(01866) 822269

## OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, TOBERMORY

Mass or Word and Communion Service	Sunday	12.00 noon
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## St Columba's Cathedral, Oban

You may have entered this building for any one of a number of reasons – simply to view it or for a few moments of quiet reflection. You may have come to the Cathedral to worship or to pray. Whatever your reason, please accept the warm welcome of the clergy and the parishioners of this church. We hope that you may be inspired by its beauty and restored by its peace.



# St Columba's Roman Catholic Cathedral Oban

## VIEWING THE CATHEDRAL

The architect chosen for the work was one of the most prominent of his time, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, whose masterpiece remains the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool. The work was undertaken by the Oban firm of D & J McDougall. The Cathedral is built of granite - blue granite quarried at Kentallen (approximately 25 miles north of here) and pink granite from Aberdeenshire. The timber throughout is English oak with Adze finish

## THE HIGH ALTAR



is of Horton Stone, topped with one long slab of finest Italian marble.

The oak panels are the work of Donald Gilbert, F.R.B.S., R.B.S.A. of Sussex and depict two scenes from the life of Columba in which the saint is portrayed as the instrument of reconciliation between peoples. On the left, Columba (the Celt) meets with King Brude of the Picts at Inverness. On the right, he meets with St. Mungo or Kentigern of the British people of Stathclyde. The two saints exchange pastoral staffs as a sign of friendship and reconciliation. The vine - a symbol of Christ reaching out to all - is carved in stone around the panels.

## THE LADY ALTAR

is to the left of the sanctuary, and is a modern representation of the Assumption of Our Lady by the English sculptor Peter Watts of Bath. Mary is surrounded by the sun, standing on the moon, in glory.

On the wall near the Lady altar can be seen a bust of the Madonna and Child, thought to be an early Renaissance work from Italy.

## THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

is where the consecrated hosts are reserved and is a reminder to us of Christ's permanent presence amongst us and his love for us all. This area is reserved for private prayer and we would ask our visitors to respect that.

## GAELIC TEXTS ON ALTAR CLOTHS

The text on the main altar is a translation from ps. 34.10 "They lack nothing, who seek the Lord". It is also familiar as "Those who seek the Lord lack no blessing".

The phrase on the Lady altar is: "Each day we will praise/admire you".

## THE LECTERN FALLS

The Lectern falls are the work of Margaret MacLellan, originally from Fort William, and were commissioned to celebrate the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the death of St Columba which occurred in 1996. The Falls show the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John against the background of the four liturgical colours, white, green, red and purple.

## BAPTISMAL FONT

Designed by Charles Gray of Edinburgh and placed in the Cathedral in the early 1960's.

## PORTRAIT OF ST COLUMBA

Above the entrance there is a portrait of St Columba being chased away from Loch Ness by the pagan druids after his visit to King Brude in Inverness. Commissioned by the Marquess of Bute for the pro-Cathedral in 1888, it was painted by a Mr. Westlake.

And so the cathedral stands today, a testament to the prayer, perseverance, and faith of many men and women. It is a symbol of the endeavour of the Catholics of this parish and Diocese and their many friends throughout the world. The strength and durability of its materials represent the strength and durability of the faith of the people, an ancient faith finding its roots in the preaching of the Celtic saints, but founded on Jesus Christ, our Saviour. It looks out over the sea towards Iona, the sacred isle of St Columba, whose name the Cathedral proudly bears.

The parish of Oban now has 1350 parishioners with 40 in Mull, 12 in Tiree, and within the boundaries of Taynuilt there are 120 Catholics. A new Catholic House of Prayer has opened in Iona, joining the recently established House of Prayer at Craig Lodge, Dalmally. There are two priests where not long ago there were sometimes four, but the needs of the people must still be met whether in the rural areas, in the islands, or in the town. Our cathedral, as well as serving the needs of the people of the parish, is used for Diocesan and National events. Although change occurs, the Gospel must still be preached: methods and circumstances may change, but the message remains the same - the love of God comes to each of us through Jesus Christ - he is our Saviour, who was born for us, died for us, rose from the dead, and now sits at the right hand of the Father, giving his life to us.