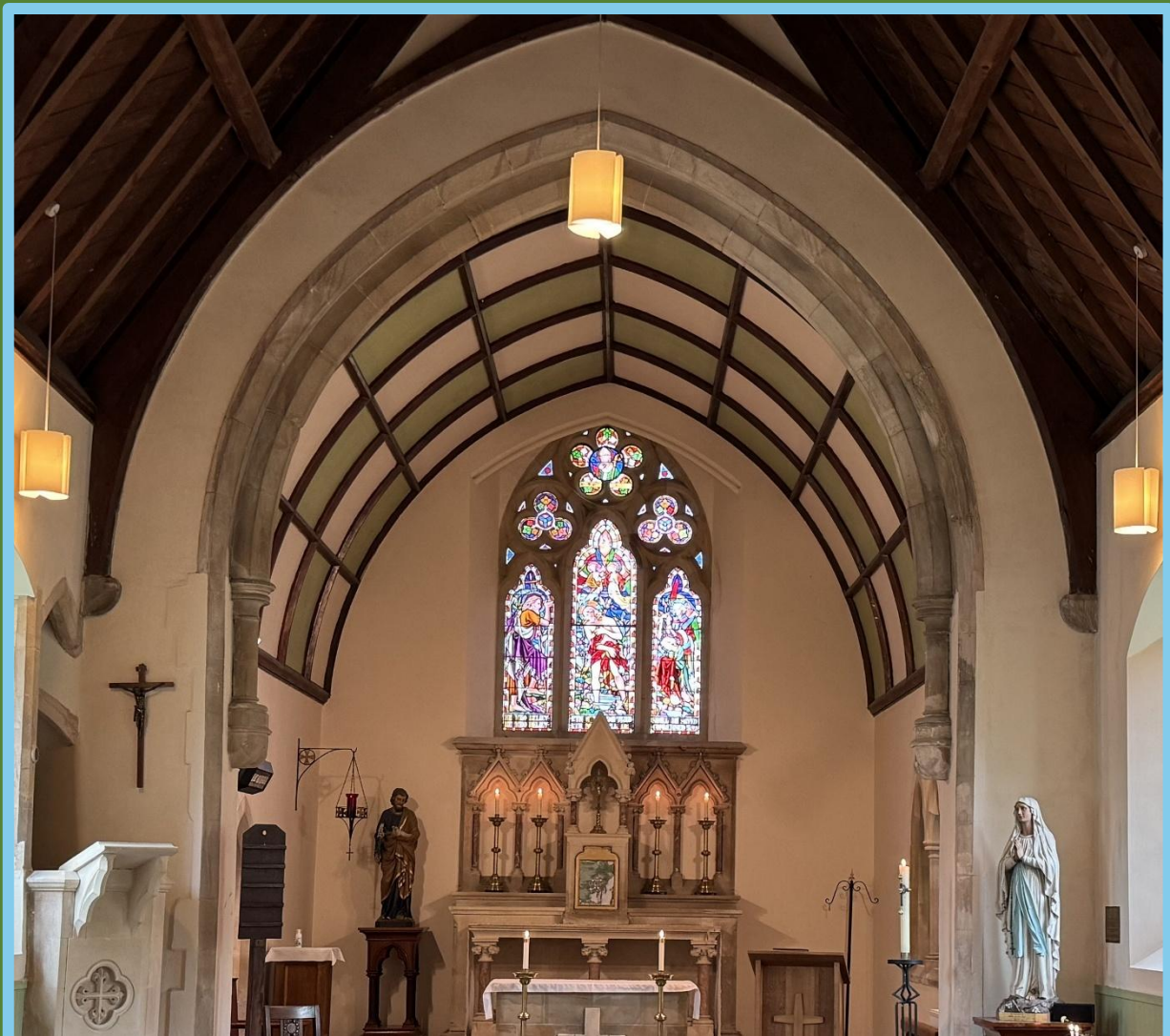


**Parishes of Our Lady of the Assumption
& St Maolrubha, Isle of Skye
& St Duthac's, Dornie**

Parish Review

2025



Habemus Papam!



The election of Pope Leo XIV by Fr. Ronald

There are times when we must wait for our prayers to be answered and there are other times when prayer requests are responded to rapidly!

This was the case for our Parishioners who took part in our Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in May. (Pictures of our Pilgrimage within these pages)

We had arrived in Lourdes on Thursday, 8th May and had been on the go since around 3am!

After checking into our hotel, we gathered for the opening Pilgrimage Mass at 5pm in the small St Gabriel's Chapel within the Lourdes Sanctuary.

We were in the unfamiliar situation of being on pilgrimage without a sitting Pope. Following the death of Pope Francis in April, the Cardinal Electors had just gone into Conclave on the 7th May.

We included the Cardinals in our Prayer of The Faithful during Mass with this prayer intention:

That the Holy Spirit will inspire and strengthen the Cardinal-electors as they choose a new Holy Father to lead us. Lord, Hear Us...

I thought that we would be repeating that prayer a number of times during our time in Lourdes...the Holy Spirit had other ideas!

As we walked back to our hotel after Mass, there were lots of bells ringing...and then lots of phones pinging! News from Rome...white smoke...'*Habemus Papem*' – We have a Pope!

We were due to have dinner upon returning to our hotel but the extremely gracious hotel staff understood that this was a momentous moment and so dinner was put on hold as we gathered around TVs to find out the identity of the new Holy Father.

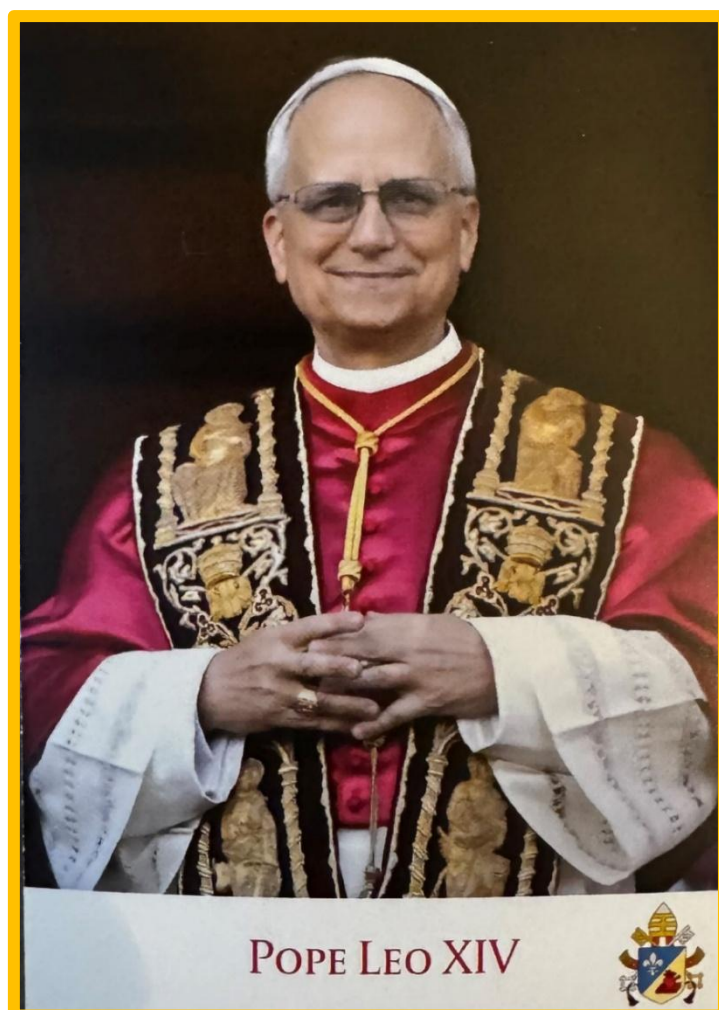
After a fairly lengthy wait looking at pictures of an empty St Peter's balcony, there was some movement and at 8.13pm French time the announcing Cardinal declared to a packed St Peter's Square and to the world Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost to be the newly elected Pontiff, taking the name Leo XIV.

A short time later the new Pope introduced himself to the world. The first Pope from North America and who had carried out extensive missionary work in Peru.

It was an historic moment made all the more special to be at a great Catholic Pilgrimage site with our Parishioners.

It was also edifying to witness the huge interest from the wider world and from media outlets of this event. The harvest is indeed rich...

May God bless and protect Pope Leo XIV



Our year in pictures



**Elizabeth and Daniel's 1st
Holy Communion**



Jonathan &
Sabrina



Weddings

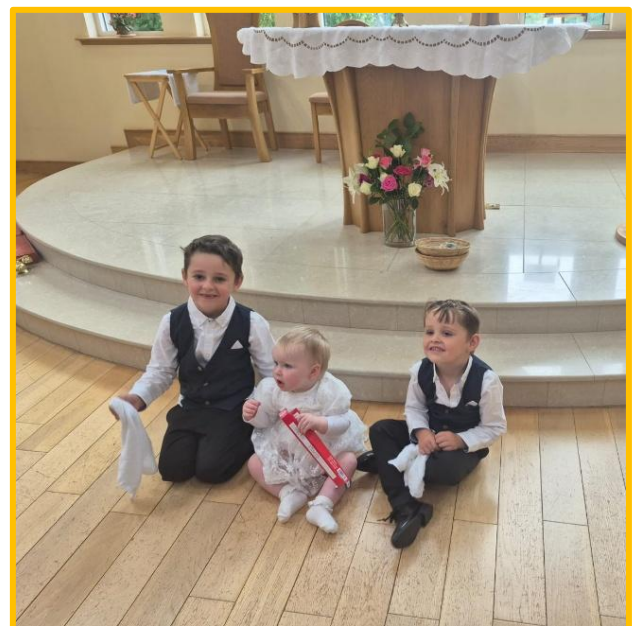


Aedan &
Emma

Felix's Baptism



Archie-John, Ada and Jamie A treble Baptism!



Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

8th – 15th May 2025



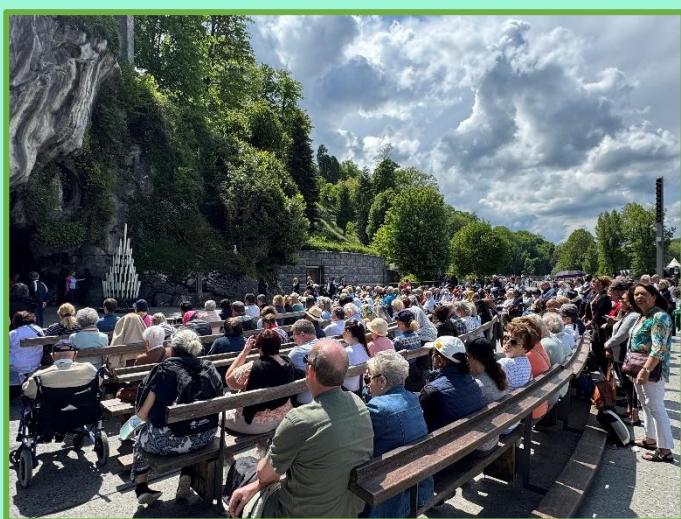
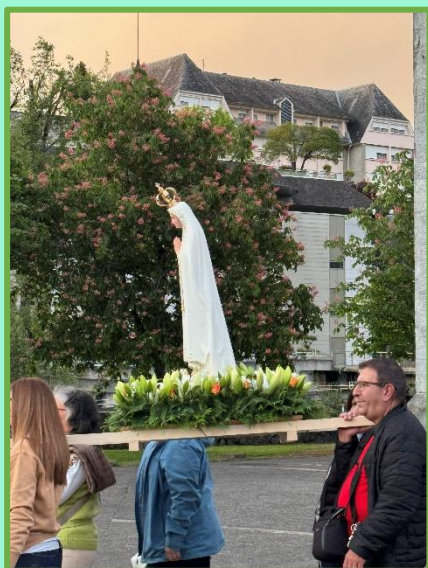
*"Loving, caring,
fellowship,
refresh"*



*"Special,
memorable,
fun"*



"Joyful,
supportive, caring,
entertaining"



"An amazing week of spirituality with a wonderful group of people."

A Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is being planned for May 2027.

Silver Jubilee of the Parish of Skye

2000-2025

There were celebrations in August 2025 to mark the Silver Jubilee of the birth of the parish of Skye.

In attendance were wider community members, local school and church representatives, the constituency MP, former Priests of the Parish and Clergy and lay faithful from other parts of the Diocese and beyond.

All joined with our parishioners for two celebration Masses led by Bishop Brian McGee.

On the 13th of October 2000, Bishop Ian Murray celebrated the Inaugural Mass to mark the birth of the Parish of Skye. This Mass took place in St Maolrubha's in Broadford.

In 2006 the newly built Church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Portree was completed on the site where the previous church building had been. The new building also incorporated the Presbytery where the Parish Priest would live – the first resident priest on Skye since the Reformation.

Before being established as a parish, Catholics on Skye would be served by visiting Priests, usually from the Diocese of Aberdeen. Our connection with the Aberdeen Diocese continues to this day due to our close links with our neighbouring parish of St Duthac's in Dornie.

On Tuesday 26th August 2025 Bishop McGee led the 1st of the celebration Masses at St Maolrubha's, Broadford. Afterwards there were refreshments, songs and hearty conversation at Breakish Hall.

On Wednesday 27th August there was the 2nd celebration Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption, Portree followed by a celebration ceilidh at Skye Gathering Hall.

The preparation and work that went into these days and the joy that was apparent from all in attendance stands the parish in good stead for the next 25 years and beyond.





Anthony Wilcken Tribute

On the 25th of October after the Vigil Mass, there was the unveiling and blessing of a Commemorative Plaque for Anthony Wilcken.

Anthony's Widow Jane and his children joined with parishioners for this special occasion.

Anthony Wilcken lived at Corry Lodge, in Broadford with Jane and his family. He gifted the building which became St Maolrubha's to the Catholic community in the south of Skye twenty-five years ago.

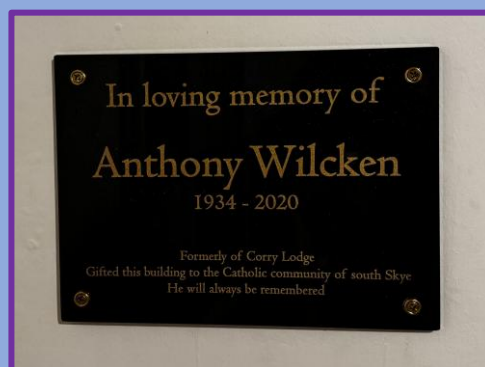
Before having our own church building, Mass was celebrated in the Medical Centre. It became increasingly apparent that the congregation needed a permanent place of worship.

Anthony and Jane together with the congregation and the support of the local community began fundraising in earnest, to achieve their aim. A daunting challenge! The fundraising was a lot of hard work but hugely successful.

As a barrister working at the Old Bailey, Anthony regularly commuted between London and the Isle of Skye. Anthony loved Skye and that is where he wanted to raise his family. He became well known and respected in the community and was well known for his generosity.

The plaque in the church is a fitting memory of Anthony's legacy. Twenty-five years on, as the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption & St. Maolrubha celebrate their Silver Jubilee Anniversary, we also celebrate Anthony's life and his valued contribution to our parish.

The opening Mass for the birth of the parish took place at St Maolrubha's on the 13th of October 2000 – just over 25 years to the day of the unveiling of the plaque and therefore it was a very fitting part of our Silver Jubilee celebrations this year.



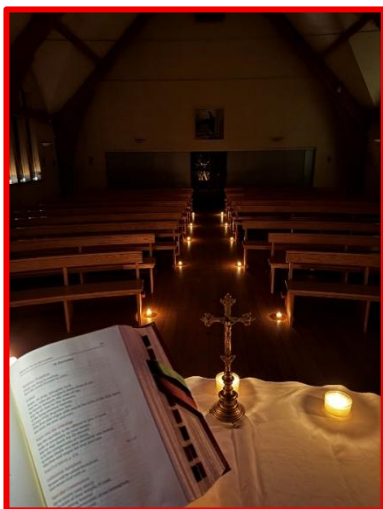
There was a great
turnout for St
Duthac's Soup and
Pudding afternoon in
November!





The
Travelling
Crib

Candlelit Mass &
Christmas



Skye Community Foodbank

By Roddy Beaton

We have these words in Revelation 7 verse 16. *'Never again will they hunger, never again will they thirst'*. We look forward to a future where God's original vision is restored in new creation – when hunger and thirst are no longer part of our broken world but where everyone's needs are met in God's heavenly kingdom.

We hear from time-to-time statements such as:

- *"I was worried whether our food would run out before we get money to buy more"*
- *"The food we received wasn't sufficient and we don't have money to get more."*
- *"I feel my children have little compared to others."*

These statements are the concerns people have on accessing food because they don't have the financial resources. Without financial means people cannot support their families. Economic opportunities and social support at present are a political hot potato. It is a commonly talked about topic where arguments are heatedly discussed. While we have no desire to spend a great deal of time here debating it, it is worth pointing out it is easier to talk from a position of strength than in a position of weakness, where one has to come with a statement like those above. IT IS NOT EASY TO COME SEEKING HELP.

Foodbanks really are a charitable response to food poverty, and we should look at it as a privilege to give. On the other hand, the recipients often look at the gift as a humiliating but necessary act.

As governments discuss welfare reform let us make it a matter of prayer that the weak in our community will be looked after. Life will always have people who abuse systems, but it is important that changes do not affect those most in need.

We have these words in Deuteronomy 15 V 7- *"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother"*.

Charity honours God and a person who helps the needy does God's will as well as God's work. God will repay those who are kind, be it in financial giving or their time, not necessarily with earthly wealth, but in spiritual blessing. When Jesus was speaking about the final judgement, and those who provided for the poor, he said *"Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did to me"*.

As Christians we have a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to basic material necessities which includes food. When you think of taking communion, no one is excluded, rich or poor. We should see this as a value emerging from the biblical notion of God's love for the poor and vulnerable. As Christians we should believe that helping the poor is an honourable and socially just endeavour. We believe that our actions have an effect on the common good of creation and that it is a privilege to help the needy.

The local Foodbank started in in a cupboard in the Community Centre, Portree. Items were dropped off and through the day people in need came and helped themselves.

In 2016 we were grateful to receive a small store in SLCVO offices. At that time we had about 5 volunteers.

By 2018 it became clear we needed larger premises and we were grateful when the Church of Scotland made rooms available in their church hall. We needed more funding and it was decided that it was necessary to formalise matters and in 2019 we became a registered charity.

We had no Facebook or Website presence, so bags were mainly delivered through agencies such as CAB, Am Fasgadh, The Housing Association, Family First, NHS, Social Work etc. From the outset we felt anonymity was an important factor in a small community and Agencies is still the preferred method of delivery.

We had no presence in the South End of the island apart from deliveries by agencies.

In 2020 the South end Group was established. A welcome blessing due to the pandemic.

The Pandemic was a challenging time. The agencies were no longer visiting homes so we needed an alternative way of reaching people. Our Facebook and Website were established from which anyone could request food. Because of covid we couldn't have people coming to our premises so we delivered to houses or agreed places. Blessing Boxes had been established, including at St Mary's.

The following is an illustration of bags given out over the last number of years:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
383	358	723	1076	3406	2766	2890	2337	1822

The impact of the pandemic is evident. To enable us to operate on a sound footing it was required to take difficult decisions in 2024 regarding frequency of food bags to regular users (we will always support those in need) and also additional treats given at Christmas time. We can also see despite restricting bags to regular users we are still showing a big increase compared to pre-pandemic.

We would like to thank you for your support and together we will continue to show what is possible when a community stands together with compassion and determination.

We do pray for those who are bound by what restricts them or damages them in life; be it addiction, ill health in body, mind or spirit, food shortage, poverty.

We pray that in you, Lord, they may find the answer and help to enable them to flourish. Amen.

Roddy Beaton is a Foodbank Trustee and Volunteer.

If you or someone you know is in need of help you can contact the Community Foodbank:

Email: info@skyefoodbank.co.uk



The Community Foodbank – Skye and Lochalsh

In Memoriam



Our Parishioners who died this year

Mary Matheson

Christopher MacRae



Pope Francis
1936 – 2025

Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they Rest In Peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.



2026 – Dates for your diary

Sunday, 5th July – Skye whole Parish Mass & Social.

Saturday, 8th November: Soup & Pudding Afternoon at Dornie Hall 1pm-3pm.

Saturday, 14th November: St Mary's cleaning of parish grounds.

More events announced throughout the year!

Holydays of Obligation 2026

Thursday, 14th May – The Ascension of the Lord.

Sunday, 28th June – St Peter and St Paul.

Sunday, 16th August – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sunday, 1st November – All Saints' Day.

Friday, 25th December – Christmas Day.

Other notable dates

Feast of St Duthac: 8th March

Feast of St Columba: 9th June

Feast of St Maolrubha: 27th August

Contact Us

Parish Priest: Fr. Ronald Campbell

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Anthony Livesey

St Mary's Chapel House

Viewfield Square

Portree

Isle of Skye

IV51 9HB

Email: portree@rcdai.org.uk

Tel: 01478 613 227

Website: www.rcskye.org



Donate to our Parishes

Skye Parish Bank Account details:

Account name: RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles – Skye

Account number: 65626953

Sort Code: 83-91-25

Scan the Skye Parish QR Code for a single, weekly or monthly donation:



Our Lady of the Assumption RC

Dornie Parish Bank Account Details:

Account Name: RCD Dornie St Duthac

Account Number: 00879175

Sort Code: 80-08-71

Thank you for your support!