

# The Isle of Lismore

## View from Barra Ferry

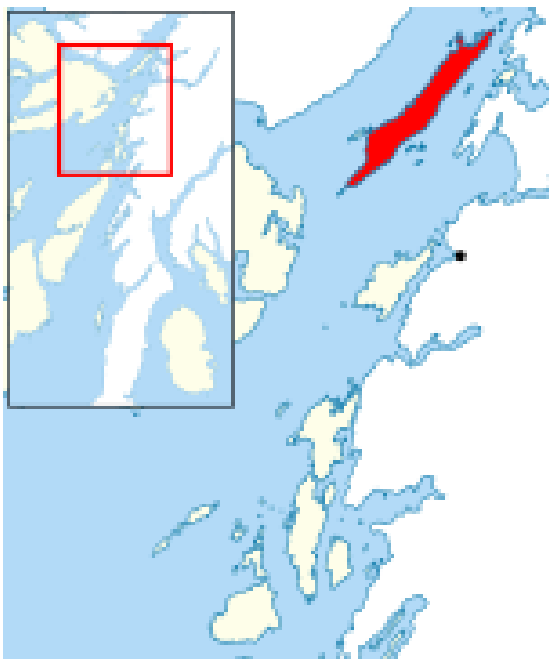


AlasdairW - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

## & the Cathedral Church of Saint Moluag

**Right** - Cropped from a larger map of the Diocese of Argyll and the Diocese of the Isles, in the Central Middle Age

Brianann MacAmhlaidh  
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**Left** - Lismore shown in the Firth of Lorn off Oban, Argyllshire

Hogweard - Public domain

On our pilgrimage we visit the Isle of Lismore, in Gaelic Lios Mor or the 'Great Garden'. It is an Inner Hebridean Island near Oban and is about 10 miles long and 1 mile wide with a population of under 200.

To travel from Iona to Lismore would involve a drive across the Isle of Mull, eastward, then a ferry to Oban and followed by a ferry from Oban to Lismore, a journey of just under an hour. There is also a smaller ferry from Port Appin for foot and bicycles.

More about the Community that lives on Lismore visit -

<https://isleoflismore.com/stories-people>

# The Isle of Lismore



View over the Sound of Mull of Loch Linnhe and Lismore from Duart Castle Mull  
Jo and Steve Turner - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0



Above - Reading Tom -Creative Commons Attribution 2.0  
Below - Alan Partridge - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0



# The Isle of Lismore

The rugged beauty of the setting in which the Isle of Lismore lays, the futile long narrow island, the Great Garden is the focus of our imaginative pilgrimage today. Thanks to the skill and generosity of photographers and Wikimedia Commons, we can appreciate the beauty of Lismore through their art.

There, St. Columba and St. Mo-luag were contemporaries. Traditional accounts describe them as rivals who both wished to establish a centre on Lismore. There is a myth that the *'winner would build a monastery here. St Columba was in the lead, so St Moluag cut off his finger and flung it on the shore ahead of him, thus 'reaching' the island first.'* (Britain's Pilgrim Places page 535)

Who was Moluag? (died 592), sometimes written as Mo-luag, the 'Mo' prefix is a term of endearment meaning 'My Dear'. It is thought that his birth, family name was Lugaidh (pronounced Lua). He came from a noble Irish family. It appears that Moluag was a pet or familiar form for Lugaidh. As is often the case, a number of different spellings are associated with medieval names.

The monastery founded by Moluag was to become a major centre for Christianity in Scotland, alongside Iona and Whithorn. This region was a hive of Christian activity. Moluag's missionary work was remarkable, he established two other centres of learning at Rosemarkie, on the Moray Firth and at Mortlach on Speyside. He is also associated with many monastic houses.

Later Moluag became a bishop and Lismore became the seat of the medieval bishopric of Argyll. This may appear to be an unusual location for a cathedral, but if we bear in mind that the most reliable mode of transport was by water.

In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, using modern parlance, the Cathedral Church of St Moluag was reordered and downsized. Following this re-ordering, it became the Parish Church of Lismore. One of the architectural features is the Sedilia, 3 alcoves in the west wall for three priests to sit, it is thought that the floor level was probably about 3 feet lower. Next to the Sedilia is the Piscina where the vessels were washed..



If you wish to know more of the architectural heritage of Cathedral Church, Parish Church of Lismore click the link below and visit the Lismore Heritage Centre's site

For more information of the Cathedral Church of Lismore follow this link  
From Lismore Heritage Centre explaining some of the architectural feature  
<https://www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org/the-cathedral-church-of-lismore/>

You can also gain access to more photographs by clicking the link below.

<https://isleoflismore.com/island-groups/parish-church>

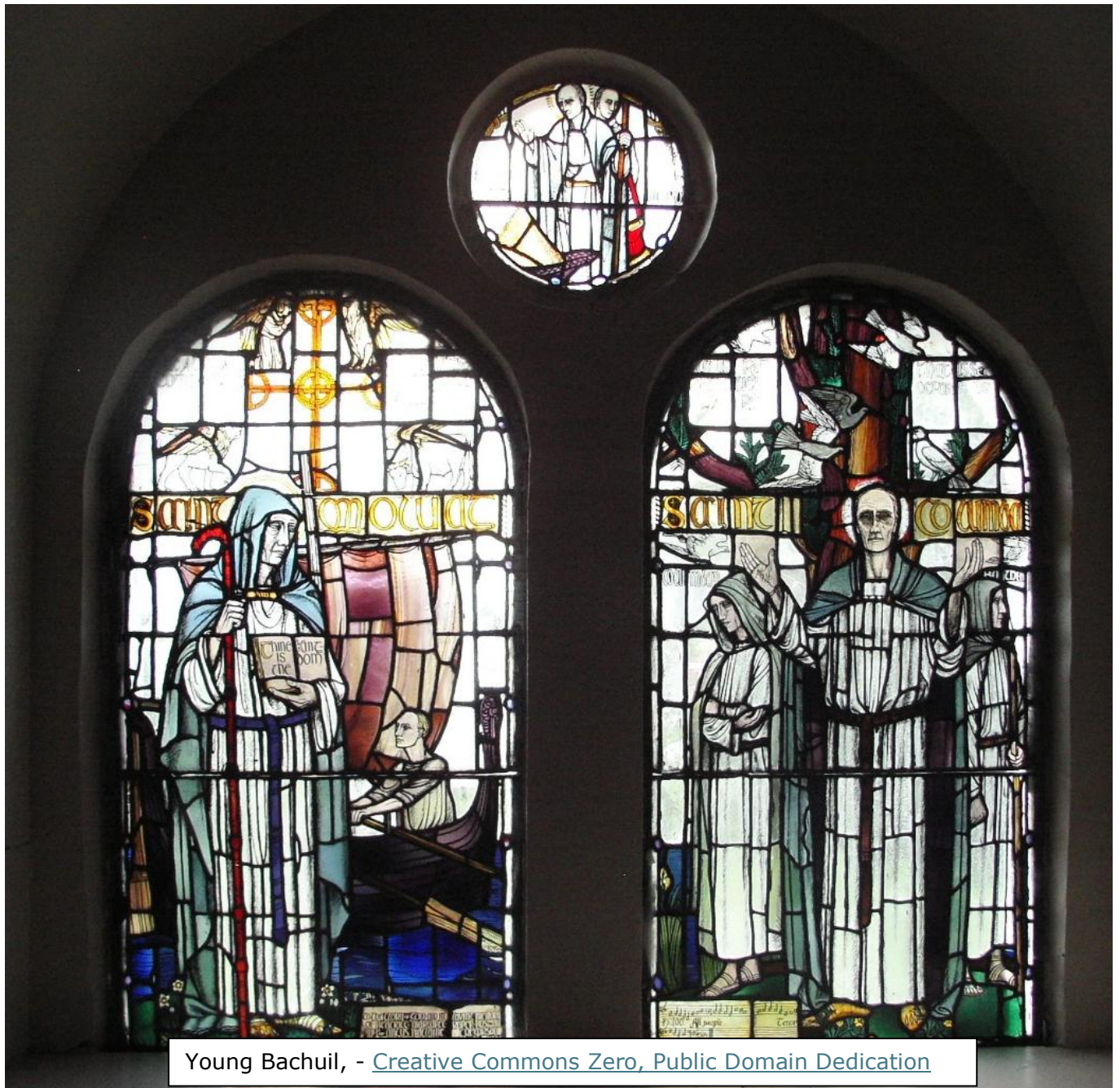


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Any pilgrimage is a time of absorption, we take in the landscapes, the sights, sounds and information. It is good before we move on to sit and take in this experience.


So just remain seated pause and take in the scenery, the magnificent landscapes. Take in the vast skies, the clouds, the stillness of the Loch and the peaks of the mountains in the background.

Or perhaps gaze at the early 20<sup>th</sup> century stained-glass windows by Mary Isobel Wood. The window at the east end of the church shows St Moluag on the left with someone row a boat and his contemporary St Columba on the right with his followers and doves flying above.



Young Bachuil, - [Creative Commons Zero, Public Domain Dedication](#)

This site was grounded in the Gospel and followers of Christ wishing to spread the good news and draw others into a relationship with Jesus.

Click the  **YouTube** link to hear: - Jesus Christ here among us  
From the Iona Community, the Wild Goose Collective & Malapela  
<https://youtu.be/zMbvUG4jn7Y?si=79zj7QZ0fntVLhjo>

You may wish to join the Iona Community in their Daily Worship. You can get today's worship by clicking the link below then pick today's date.

Daily Worship from the Iona Community is available through this link  **YouTube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwDTTUfoQ5YQRfA5bUi8ObQ>

Every blessing, Fr Derek

## **Acknowledgements.**

**My guide** for this series is Britain's Pilgrim Places (2021 by Nick Mayhew-Smith & Guy Hayward) from the British Pilgrimage Trust. Described as a 'treasure trove for the armchair pilgrim' (Phillip Carr-Comm)

The book contains over 600 pilgrim places and 100 routes for pilgrims.

Celtic cross, Iona - [Brian Gratwicke](#) - [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0](#)

While I seek to use only reliable sources when using websites, I cannot guarantee that the content on these websites is or will remain accurate or appropriate. I also have no control over the advertisements that accompany the YouTube links.

(Derek is a retired Anglican Parish Priest and a member of the congregations of All Saints & St James and St Stephen's, Elton Prior to his ordination he was accredited as a Methodist Preacher in 1968 and served within the Methodist Church until returning to the Anglican Church in the mid 1980's)

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Dual Parishes of Kirklees Valley, Bury, (All Saints, Elton & St James, Woolfold) and St Stephens, Elton are in the Diocese of Manchester.

Vicar of the two parishes - Br. Samuel Eccleston O.P. (Anglican Order of Preachers- Dominicans)