

Stella Maris Church



Stella Maris and glebe house, circa 1899
Stella Maris woodpile, circa 1910.



Fr. Peter Rankin Parish Priest 1909-1955

Stella Maris, Star of the Sea

From the Highlands of Scotland to the hills of Creignish, the Gaels brought with them their strength of character, Gaelic language, culture, and a strong Catholic faith. Stella Maris Church was built in 1899, replacing a smaller St. James built in 1845.

In earlier days Mass was celebrated in a large barn owned by John and Angus McInnis or the faithful walked along the beach to Judique, a distance of 7 miles. It was said that they carried their shoes and stockings until they came in sight of the church. "Their good qualities came from hearts that were clean and lives that were humble." The faithful still come from Newtown to Long Point, and of course Creignish Rear.

Stella Maris was constructed by R. Gillis, a contractor from Mira CB. The interior was not completely finished for ten to fifteen years. Alexander McVarish from Creignish Rear designed and finished the ceilings in the church. He worked with the Burkes from Inverness who had the contract to complete the interior. Stella Maris remains today almost exactly as it was constructed in 1899 overlooking the water on the scenic hills of Creignish.

Piper Kimberly Burton



First Communion, circa 1988.



Stella Maris interior, 2008.



First Communion, circa 1958.



Stella Maris, 2008.



Church 2008 photos by Walter Delorey.



Text: Peggy Burke
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