

# An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 38 (which corresponds to Litir 342). Ruairidh can be contacted at [roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:roddy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

Bha an Naomh Nachlan san Ròimh. Bha gàirdean aige glaiste ri a chois. Bha sin mar pheanas. Thilg e an iuchair airson na glaise don abhainn – Uisge Dè. Bha sin ann am *Poll na h-Iuchrach*.

Nuair a bha e san Ròimh, cheannaich Nachlan iasg. Am broinn an èisg lorg e iuchair. An aon iuchair a thilg e don abhainn ann an Alba. 'S e mìorbhail a bh' ann. Thug Nachlan taing do Dhia.

Chuala am Pàp mun mhìorbhail. Chuir e fios gu Nachlan dhol a chèilidh air. Chaidh Nachlan ann. Dh'iarr am Pàp air Nachlan fuireach san Ròimh greis. Rinn e easbaig dheth.

Nuair a thill e a dh'Alba, thog Nachlan eaglais anns an Tulaich. Thog e dà eaglais eile ann an Siorrachd Obair Dheathain cuideachd. Bha tè dhiubh ann am Mealdruim. Bha Nachlan cliùmhòr anns an sgìre sin. Shàbhail e na daoine an sin bho phlàigh. Rinn e sin le bhith a' cuairteachadh na paraiste air a ghlùinean.

Ach tha na ceanglaichean aige don Tulaich nas làidire. Ann an còig ceud deug, ceathrad 's a h-aon (1541), stèidhich Rìgh Seumas V fèill do Nachlan. Bha sin air an ochdamh là dhen Fhaoilleach anns an Tulaich.

Chaidh eaglais ùr a thogail air làrach seann eaglais an Naoimh Nachlain. An-diugh 's e tobhta a th' innte. Tha an eaglais sin ainmeil – airson port fìdhle. Didòmhnaich a bha seo, bha fìor dhroch shìde ann. Bha am ministear dhen bheachd nach biodh coitheanal ann. Bha e a' smaoinichadh gum biodh a h-uile duine a' fuireach aig an taigh. Dh'fhuirich esan sa mhansa. Cha deach e don eaglais.

Ach chaidh gu leòr eile don eaglais. Bha iad a' feitheamh ris a' mhinistear. Ach cha tàinig e. Bha i eagallach fuar anns an eaglais. Chaidh bonaid timcheall airson airgead. Chaidh feadhainn de na gillean sìos an rathad gu taigh-seinnse. Thug iad uisge-beatha air ais don eaglais. Thug iad fìdhlear cuideachd.

Thòisich feadhainn air dannsadh san eaglais. Bha port ùr aig an fhìdhlear. Agus bha dannsa ùr aig na daoine. 'S e an t-ainm a th' air a' phort "Ruidhle an Tulaich" – *the Reel of Tulloch* – agus 's ann mar sin a thòisich e.

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**Faclan is abairtean:** bha an Naomh Nachlan san Ròimh: *Saint Nachlan was in Rome*; bha gàirdean aige glaiste ri a chois: *an arm of his was tied to his leg*;

peanas: *punishment*; thilg e an iuchair ann an Uisge Dè: *he threw the key in the River Dee*; Poll na h-Iuchrach: *the pool of the key*; cheannaich Nachlan iasg: *Nachlan bought a fish*; am broinn an èisg lorg e iuchair: *inside the fish he found a key*; mìorbhail: *miracle*; chuir e fios gu Nachlan dhol a chèilidh air: *he sent a message to Nachlan to visit him*; dh'iarr am Pàp air Nachlan fuireach san Ròimh greis: *the Pope asked Nachlan to stay in Rome for a while*; rinn e easbaig dheth: *he made him a bishop*; thog e dà eaglais eile ann an Siorrachd Obair Dheathain: *he built two other churches in Aberdeenshire*; bha tè dhiubh ann am Mealdruim: *one of them was in Old Meldrum*; cliùmhor: *renowned*; shàbhail e na daoine bho phlàigh: *he saved the people from a plague*; a' cuairteachadh na paraiste air a ghlùinean: *circumnambulating the parish on his knees*; ceanglaichean: *ties*; stèidhich Rìgh Seumas V fèill: *King James V established a feast day*; air an ochdamh là dhen Fhaoilleach: *on 8 January*; 's e tobhta a th' innte: *it is a ruin*; airson port fìdhle: *for a fiddle tune*; Didòmhnaich a bha seo: *this particular Sunday*; bha fìor dhroch shìde ann: *there was terrible weather*; bha am ministear dhen bheachd nach biodh coitheanal ann: *the minister thought there would be no congregation*; sa mhansa: *in the manse*; a' feitheamh ris: *waiting for*; eagallach fuar: *terribly cold*; chaidh feadhainn de na gillean sìos an rathad gu taigh-seinnse: *some of the lads went down the road to an inn*; thug iad uisge-beatha air ais: *they took back whisky*; bha port ùr aig an fhìdhlear: *the fiddler had a new tune*; bha dannsa ùr aig na daoine: *the people had a new dance*.

ends