

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Good Shepherd Sunday)

11th May 2014

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Charity No. SC002876

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Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday	6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass	10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses:</u>	10.15 a.m.	
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday:	
	9.45 to 10 a.m.	4 to 4.30 p.m.
	5.30 to 5.45 p.m.	
<u>May Devotions</u>	Friday, 5 p.m.	

Wednesday is the Feast of the Apostle St. Matthias

The priests of Lochaber will be on retreat in Pluscarden this week, from Sunday to Friday. As it was not possible to find a supply priest to cover the area, Fr. MacKinnon has remained behind, hence the normal weekday Masses. We wish the local priests a peaceful and refreshing retreat.



We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember very specially **Theresa MacDonald**, whose funeral took place this Saturday. In her 98th year, Theresa was our senior parishioner. We celebrate almost a century of faithfulness. In her quiet and gentle way, Theresa was at the very centre of the life of our parish. She has left us an outstanding example of faith, friendship and generosity. May she now rest in the peace of her beloved Saviour. We extend our sympathy and prayer to all her relatives and dearest friends. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary Brown (Ballachulish), Ewen Morrison, Craig Marshall, Angus MacDonald, Peter Doherty, Jack Borrill, Peter Kennedy, Helen MacDonald, John Law and John MacLellan**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Copies of John's Watt's **history of the Diocese**, *A Record of Generous People*, have finally arrived. Those who ordered a copy will find them at the back of the church. These copies cost £15. Bishop Toal writes: "This is an important work ... thoroughly researched but very readable. I warmly recommend it."

Please keep **our Diocese** in your prayers as it awaits a replacement for Bishop Toal.

Please remember our **May Devotions** on Friday, at 5 p.m.

This is the last call for the **SCIAF boxes**. Our thanks to all those who have already handed theirs in.

St. Ephraim the Syrian (c.306-373)



While preparing for Thomas's ordination to the Diaconate, special attention is given to the composition of the Litany of Saints. Two of the great deacons of the early Church are there in our Litany: St. Lawrence and St. Vincent.

So, too, is a saint and deacon often forgotten in the West. He is St. Ephraim (or Ephrem) of Edessa. Pope Benedict XV declared him a Doctor of the Church in 1920.

Edessa is now in Turkey, but was once part of ancient Syria. It was an early centre of Christian teaching in the Middle East. Some of the heresies of the time used songs to spread their false doctrines. Ephraim countered this by composing his own songs and poems: hundreds of them, defending above all the divinity of Our Lord. Because of this he is called *The Harp of the Holy Spirit*. He is also referred to as the *Deacon of Edessa* and the *Sun of the Syrians*. The Jesuit scholar Fr. Robert Murray described Ephraim as "The greatest poet of the patristic age and, perhaps, the only theologian-poet to rank beside Dante."

Here is perhaps the most famous of the saint's prayers:

O Lord and Master of my life, do not give me the spirit of laziness, meddling, self-importance and idle talk. Instead, grace me, your servant, with the spirit of modesty, humility, patience, and love. Indeed, my Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults, and not condemn my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." (*Margaret Powers*)

The world takes us to a silver screen on which flickering images of passion and romance play, and as we watch, the world says, "This is love." God takes us to the foot of a tree on which a naked and bloodied man hangs and says, "This is love." (*Joshua Harris*)

I am a fool for Christ...whose fool are you?
(*Brother Andrew*)

If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe. (*Carl Sagan*)

Whether the angels play only Bach when praising God I am not quite sure. I am sure however that *en famille* they play Mozart. (*Karl Barth*)

AND ALSO... .

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

If Apple were to ever make a car... would it have Windows?

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.