

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

22nd June 2014

St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William PH33 6BT. Tel. (01397) 702174

Charity No. SC002876

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Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses</u>	Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, 10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses</u>	10.15 a.m. (<i>Except on Wednesday, when Raymond Vallely's Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon</i>)
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u>	Saturday 9.45-10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30-5.45 p.m.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist; Friday, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart; Saturday, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We keep **Bishop Toal** in our prayers as he moves to the Diocese of Motherwell. May God bless, guide and inspire him in his service and leadership of its Faithful. And we continue to pray that we be granted a successor who will be close to God and to our people, a man who will be truly a shepherd, a friend and a brother to us all.

On this Feast of Corpus Christi, we renew our faith in the **Real Presence** of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Please take time to reflect on some of the quotations in this week's bulletin.

Deacon Thomas had begun his ministry with visits to the Belford Hospital, Victoria Court and Invernevis House. Gradually he will take up the other duties entrusted to the Diaconate.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, we remember especially **Raymond Vallely**, who has died peacefully at home in Key Housing. We give thanks for all the love and joy that Raymond gave and received. May his innocent soul now rest in peace with Christ. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to John, his father, to Noel, Maurice, Rosaleen, to all the family and to Raymond's dearest friends. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary Moore, Charles Kerr, Richard Reilly, Nellie Burns, Maisie Grant, Anne MacLaren, Flora Currie, Mary Fitzsimons, Donald MacDonald, Janie Wilson, Joan Morrison, Johnny MacBeth and Shirley MacLean.** May they all rest in eternal peace and joy.

Would our readers please note that next Sunday is the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Our sincere thanks to the three parishioners whose kind donations have helped us purchase two new chalices, allowing us to have the four we require for communion under both kinds at our Sunday Mass. The new chalices should be with us in a few weeks.



There is very little uniformity in the chairs used in our sanctuary! **New chairs** have been ordered, identical to the one in this photograph. They should be ready in about two months, and will certainly make things a lot tidier than at present. The chairs would also be very useful at weddings. Our thanks to all who help the parish through Gift Aid. This year's rebate has made this purchase possible.

Jesus didn't say, 'Blessed are those who care for the poor.' He said, 'Blessed are we where we are poor, where we are broken.' It is there that God loves us deeply and pulls us into deeper communion with himself. (*Henri Nouwen*)

For faithful Catholics, communion is not just a nice ritual: It is the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and the ultimate sign of our willingness to be incorporated into the church. (*Maggie Gallagher*)

The Church's teaching isn't an official statement, but the cumulative understanding of all the people who have loved and experienced Jesus through time. (*Frederica Mathewes-Green*)

I hope I do not offend God by making my Communion in the frame of mind I have been describing. The command, after all, was Take, eat: not Take, understand. (*C.S. Lewis*)

The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless ... beyond speech ... beyond concept. (*Thomas Merton*)

Go with Him, as His inseparable companion, to the wedding feast of Cana, and drink of the wine of His blessing. Let you have ever before you the Face of the Lord, and look upon His beauty, and let your earnest gaze turn nowhere away from His most sweet countenance. Go before Him into a desert place and see the wonder of His works, where He multiplied in His own Holy Hands the bread that sufficed the great multitude. Go, my brother, go forward, and with all the love of your soul follow Christ wherever He may go... And lovingly behold Him as taking bread into His hands, He blesses it, and breaks it, as the outward form of His own Immaculate Body; and the chalice which He blessed as the outward form of His Precious Blood, and gave to His Disciples; and be you also a partaker of His sacraments. (*St. Ephraim of Syria*)

At the very outset it must be said that the Church accepts the real presence as a matter of faith, because it contained in the word of God, as attested by Scripture and tradition. Jesus said clearly, "This is my body ... this is my blood", and in controversy with the Jews He insisted that He was not just using metaphors. "My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him". (Jn 6:55-56) Many of the disciples found this a hard saying and parted from His company; but Jesus did not moderate His statements to win them back. (*Cardinal Dulles, SJ*)

Why did Our Blessed Lord use bread and wine as the elements of this Memorial? First of all, because no two substances in nature better symbolize unity than bread and wine. As bread is made from a multiplicity of grains of wheat, and wine is made from a multiplicity of grapes, so the many who believe are one in Christ.

Second, no two substances in nature have to suffer more to become what they are than bread and wine. Wheat has to pass through the rigors of winter, be ground beneath the Calvary of a mill, and then subjected to purging fire before it can become bread. Grapes in their turn must be subjected to the Gethsemane of a wine press and have their life crushed from them to become wine. Thus, do they symbolize the Passion and Sufferings of Christ, and the condition of Salvation, for Our Lord said unless we die to ourselves we cannot live in Him.

A third reason is that there are no two substances in nature which have more traditionally nourished man than bread and wine. In bringing these elements to the altar, men are equivalently bringing themselves. When bread and wine are taken or consumed, they are changed into man's body and blood. But when He took bread and wine, He changed them into Himself. (*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen*)

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host. (*Bishop Fulton J. Sheen*)

AND ALSO.....

