

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR


27<sup>th</sup> July 2014

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

A Parish of the R. C. Diocese of Argyll & the Isles Charitable Trust

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC002876

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)

	<b>Noticeboard</b>	
	<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.
<p><i>Tuesday is the Memorial of St. Martha; Thursday, the Memorial of St. Ignatius Loyola; Friday, the Memorial of St. Alphonsus Ligouri.</i></p>		

Thank you for last week's special collection for **Bishop Toal**, which came to £598.73. This will be part of the Diocese's gift to the Bishop in gratitude for all that he did for in the years he was entrusted with the pastoral care of our clergy and people.

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Duncan and Netta MacKellar, William MacDonald, Johanna Morrison, Michael Morrison, Kenneth MacDonald, Mary Teresa Cairney, Joan Morrison, Michael Morrison, Roderick MacDonald, John Frederick Lindsay and Mary Gillies**. May they rest in peace. We pray especially for Deirdre Coull's stepfather, **Bill Muir**, who has died peacefully in Inverness. Bill was a great servant of St. Ninian's parish in Inverness. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to his wife Violet and all the family. May Bill now rest in the peace and joy of his Saviour.

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound in the course of this week.

Our warm congratulations to **Jamie McConnell**, one of our altar servers, now taken on by Caley Thistle as a junior. This will allow Jamie to develop his skills. Well done, Jamie!

There are sheets at the back of the church giving the full programme for the **celebrations in Morar** on the 6<sup>th</sup> August. If you are interested in going, please take this programme, well prepared by Fr. Calleja.

There will be a special collection on the 10<sup>th</sup> August for the **Sick and Retired Priests** of the Diocese.



This is Bethany as it is today, very different from the little village in which St. Martha lived with her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. The Arabic name for the town is al-Azariya, meaning the "Place of Lazarus". Its mainly Arab population numbers over 17,000. Their circumstances could be a lot better.

Rejected by his own home village, Our Lord found a place of warm welcome and friendship in the home of Martha and her family. We look forward to her Feast Day on Tuesday.



The Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela



St. Jean-Pied-de-Port

The Feast of St. James some days ago reminds us of one of the most famous of all pilgrim routes: the *Camino de Santiago*, the Way of St. James. There are many ways to the shrine of St. James at Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, but the most popular begins in the French town of St. Jean-Pied-de-Port. Should a person choose to walk the whole way from this beautiful little Pyrenean town, the journey should take him or her 30 to 35 days, walking between 14 to 16 miles a day. En route there are many “*albergues*” or hostels, offering dormitory type accommodation for between 3 to 10 euros per night. A pilgrim’s passport is issued for the journey, stamped at each stop as evidence that one has actually travelled the *Camino*. When this is presented at the Cathedral of St. James, the pilgrim is given a certificate and a free meal in a nearby hostel, a custom centuries old. In 2012 the Cathedral issued 192,488 such certificates, on condition that a person has walked at least 100 kilometres of the *Camino* (200 kilometres for cyclists!).

Pilgrims from all over Europe have walked the *Camino* for at least a thousand years. On many churches and buildings on the way can be seen carved a scallop-shell, symbol of this particular pilgrimage. In the late Middle Ages there was an upsurge of Irish pilgrims who travelled by sea to La Corunna in northern Spain and continued the journey by foot. Those who made it home were often buried with their scallop-shell. Given the Bay of Biscay’s capacity for storms, the journey by boat could not be described as an easier option. Some of the Irish were lost at sea; others were captured and held to ransom by pirates.

The Confraternity of St. James helps people who wish to take the pilgrimage to Santiago. Among its publications is a paper by Phinella Henderson entitled, “Pre-Reformation Pilgrims from Scotland to Santiago de Compostela”, published as a pamphlet in 1997. Unfortunately, it is not easy to get hold of.

#### Potpourri

God, as Truth, has been for me a treasure beyond price.  
May He be so to every one of us. (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

You can either be a victim of the world or an adventurer in search of treasure. It all depends on how you view your life. (*Paulo Coelho*)

There is all the difference in the world between treasure and money. (*Roderick Townley*)

With age, gone are the forevers of youth. Gone is the willingness to procrastinate, delay, to play the waiting game. Now each day is a treasure beyond compare . . . because there are so few such diadems left.  
(*Joe L. Wheeler*)

Grant me the treasure of sublime poverty: permit the distinctive sign of our order to be that it does not possess anything of its own beneath the sun, for the glory of your name, and that it have no other patrimony than begging.  
(*St. Francis of Assisi*)

His Kingship, precisely because it is so broad, so total, is doomed to be rejected by anybody who is still into tribalism, or small belonging systems. We don't really like the big Kingdom if it gets in the way of our smaller kingdoms, and it always does. (*Fr. Richard Rohr*)

A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.  
(*Abraham Joshua Heschel*)

The Kingdom of God is a kingdom of love, and love is never a stagnant pool. (*Henry W. Du Bose*)

Liberty has never come from the government... The history of liberty is the history of the limitations of government power, not the increase of it.  
(*Woodrow Wilson, US President*)

Gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy.  
(*Jacques Maritain*)

AND ALSO... *the wit of Victor Borge*

- I'd like to thank my parents for making this night possible. And my children for making it necessary.
- I only know two pieces; one is 'Clair de Lune' and the other one isn't.
- Someone requested of Victor Borge that he play something by Bach, to which Borge replied, "Which one, Johann Sebastian or Offen?"