

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

3<sup>rd</sup> August 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)



## Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday: 9.45 to 10 a.m.  
4 to 4.30 p.m.  
5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

*Monday is the Memorial of St. John Vianney; Wednesday, the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord; Friday, the Memorial of St. Dominic; Saturday, the Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)*

A hundred years ago this Monday, as a guarantor of Belgium's neutrality, **Britain declared war in Germany**. Tuesday's Mass will be a Requiem for all those who died in the First World War.

The celebration of the **300<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the first seminary in Scotland takes place in Morar this Wednesday. There are many activities during the day, and these are detailed in the sheets at the back of the church. The most important event is, of course, the outdoor Mass at St. Cumin's at 1 p.m.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Finlay MacDonald, Joan MacDonald, Donald MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Ann MacDonald, Annie Cameron, Elspeth Cameron, Laurence Tumilty, Flora Nicholson, Ethel King, John MacKay, Margaret Mulrooney, Duncan MacDonald, Muriel Armstrong, Mathias Slattery, Jimmy Donaldson, Christina Cullen and Christopher O'Reilly**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Please remember the special collection next Sunday for the **sick and retired priests** of the Diocese. Anything you can give is greatly appreciated.

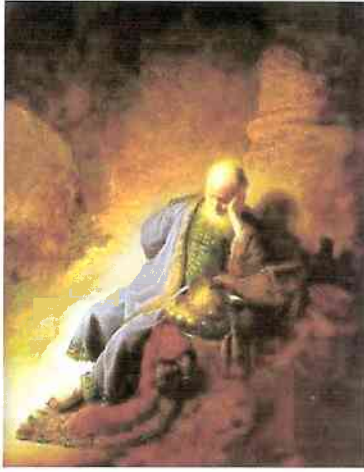
We have often given support to **Ballachulish parish** in its fundraising. We now have the opportunity to do so again, by purchasing the raffle tickets available at the back of the church.

For the Josephite Sisters in Caol, Friday is the **Feast of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop**. They have extended an open invitation to a 10 a.m. Mass in St. John's, Bishop Toal being the principal celebrant. At 12 noon there is a Garden Party Lunch at the convent. Those who come along for that are invited to bring a garden chair or two!

In response to a request from the Scottish Government, the Conforti Institute is involved in a programme to better understand and respond to **sectarianism in this country**. In order to hear as many Catholic voices as possible, representatives of the Institute have been carrying out listening exercises within parishes throughout Scotland. Our parishioners are invited to such an exercise on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> August, at 7 p.m. This meeting will take place in the Lady Chapel.



In this photo we see Loch Morar's Eilean Ban, the island where Bishop Gordon founded his seminary in 1714. There were seven students, but their stay was short. They left in 1716, after the failure of the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. Bishop Hugh MacDonald re-opened Eilean Ban in 1732, but it proved too small and was closed in 1738. The Highland seminarians moved from one location to the next, eventually settling in Samalaman, by Glenuig. In time, the political situation became much easier for Catholics and there was less need for secrecy. This made possible the move to Lismore in 1803. In 1829 both Highland and Lowland seminarians moved to Blairs, near Aberdeen. This became the national junior seminary.



**Jeremiah**



**Gaza by night**

**“Cry out in the night-time,  
in the early hours of darkness;  
pour out your hearts like water  
before the Lord.  
Stretch out your hands to him  
for the lives of your children.”**

*(The Lamentations of Jeremiah 2:19)*



**“Brothers and sisters, never war, never war! I am thinking above all of children who are deprived of the hope of a worthwhile life, of a future... Dead children, injured children, mutilated children, orphaned children, children whose toys are things left over from war, children who can't smile any more.”**

*(Pope Francis)*

For all sides to persist with their current strategy, be it threatening security by the indiscriminate firing of rockets at civilian areas or aerial bombing which increasingly fails to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, is self-defeating. The bombing of civilian areas, and their use to shelter rocket launches, are both breaches of age old customs for the conduct of war.

Further political impasse, acts of terror, economic blockades or sanctions and clashes over land and settlements, all increase the alienation of those affected. Populations condemned to hopelessness or living under fear will be violent. Such actions create more conflict, more deaths and will in the end lead to an even greater disaster than the one being faced today.

The road to reconciliation is hard, but ultimately the only route to security. It is the responsibility of all leaders to protect the innocent, not only in the conduct of war but in setting the circumstances for a just and sustainable peace. *(The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury)*

When you share your last crust of bread with a beggar, you mustn't behave as if you were throwing a bone to a dog. You must give humbly, and thank him for allowing you to have a part in his hunger. *(Giovanni Guareschi)*

Someone once told me that religion is like a knife: You can stab someone with it, or you can slice bread with it. *(Vera Farmiga)*

I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it. *(St. Thomas Aquinas)*

You may call God love, you may call God goodness. But the best name for God is compassion. *(Meister Eckhart)*

It's an interesting view of atheism: as a sort of crutch for those who can't stand the reality of God. *(Tom Stoppard)*

Why are the fingers tapered like pegs? So that if one hears improper language he may insert them in his ears. *(The Jewish Talmud)*

Man's inhumanity to man  
Makes countless thousands mourn. *(Robert Burns)*

A certain brother went to the Abbot and asked him for a good word. The Abbot said, "Go and sit in your cell. Your cell will tell you everything." *(Thomas Merton)*

A little boy once write to Pope John XXIII, wanting to know if he should be a pope or a policeman. In his reply, Pope John wrote: "Anyone can be pope. The proof of this is that I have become one."