

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

14th September 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



Statue of St. Helen
in St. Peter's Basilica

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.

Wednesday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from after Morning Mass until 5 p.m.

Monday is the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows; Saturday, the Memorial of St. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon and Companions, the Holy Martyrs of Korea.

Mary's Meals has written to thank you most sincerely for your great support last Sunday. You handed in one hundred bags of clothing and fabric and contributed £330.58, mainly through the raffle tickets you purchased. Well done, St. Mary's!

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Ena MacDonald, Frank Gribben, Helen Hayes, Margaret Chisholm, Allan Currie, Donald MacNeil, David Donaldson, Alice McAuley, Brian Wynne, Frances Connochie, Alistair MacDonald, Sandy Morrison and John Shields.** We remember also **John MacDonell**, Fort William born, who had died in Aberdeen aged 85. May all our Faithful Departed rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

On Wednesday, there will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in St. Mary's from after Mass until 5 p.m. It will be a time of personal visits to the church for silent prayer and reflection. We simply wish to ask for Our Lord's guidance and blessing as we prepare for Thursday's referendum.

The annual collection for the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund** will be taken next Sunday. We know that you will be as generous as always.

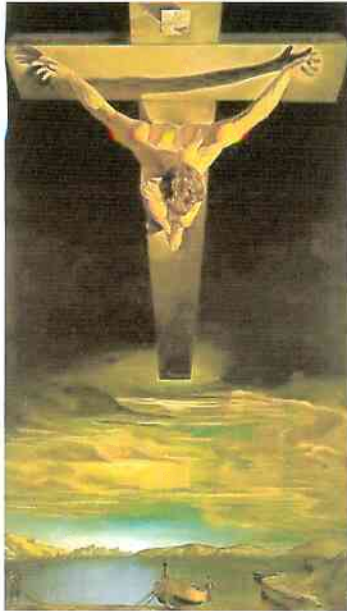
John MacKinnon and his co-workers are progressing well with internal and external repairs to the church. The Lady Chapel will be left for two weeks and then re-plastering will begin.

Please remember to write the names of your loved ones who have died in the **anniversary book** on the table at the back of the church. Our thanks to those who have already done so.



Scotland's Exaltation of the Cross of Christ

This is the Cross of St. Martin on Iona, one of the very few to survive the years after the Reformation. We are told that there were once hundreds on the island! Such crosses, lovingly and skilfully carved, are the primary Christian symbol of the Scottish people. Throughout the land, the Cross of Christ was lifted on high, exalted by our ancestors in faith. On Thursday of this week, we have perhaps the most important political, economic and social choice that we will ever make. The Church has always encouraged us to exercise our right and duty to vote. We pray that our individual decisions be calm and thoughtful, worthy of the dignity of citizenship. Whatever the future holds, one fact remains: redemption can only come from the love that died for us on the Cross.



This is Salvador Dalí's famous "Christ of St. John of the Cross" which belongs to the City of Glasgow. Instead of accentuating the suffering of Our Saviour, this most unusual of artists depicts him in all his beauty, in his own words "as the God he is". He wants us to experience the beauty and the splendour of Christ's sacrifice. Dalí's vision is of Jesus bathed in the light of the Father's love and triumphant in his death.

Today's Second Reading is a great hymn from the Letter to the Philippians. It begins with Christ as "the God he is" What follows is his descent to that place where he alone could save us: the utter desolation of Calvary. This is called the "kenosis" or "self-emptying" of God the Son.

For the Evangelist St. John, Christ's triumph begins not on Easter Sunday but on Good Friday when he is raised up on the cross, bringing salvation to all who look upon him and recognise in him the divine love that alone brings salvation. Resurrection would gloriously confirm that triumphant love.

Perhaps Salvador Dalí can help us see beyond the crushed, blood-stained man on the cross. Perhaps we can see something of the matchless beauty of the soul of Christ and the divinity that loved us even unto death, death on a cross. Our Saviour died in the serenity of unconquered love. That was his triumph, and ours, too, in our every act of self-emptying love.

Religion creates community, community creates altruism and altruism turns us away from self and towards the common good... **There is something about** the tenor of relationships within a religious community that makes it the best tutorial in citizenship and good neighbourliness. *(Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)*

Citizenship is a tough occupation which obliges the citizen to make his or her own informed opinion and stand by it. *(Martha Gellhorn)*

God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say 'thank you'? *(William Arthur Ward)*

We need to become good citizens in the global village, instead of competing. What are we competing for - to drive more cars, eat more steaks? That will destroy the world. *(Yuan T. Lee)*

You don't have true freedom until you allow a diversity of opinion and a diversity of voices. *(Don Lemon)*

The most important political office is that of the private citizen. *(Louis D. Brandeis)*

Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts. *(Daniel Patrick Moynihan)*

Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future. *(Robert H. Schuller)*

My philosophy comes from a worldview that looks at the world as one. It's a holistic view that sees the world as interconnected and interdependent and integrated in so many different ways, which informs my politics. *(Denis Kuchinich)*

Economics is extremely useful as a form of employment for economists. *(John Kenneth Galbraith)*

When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people. *(Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel)*

AND ALSO...

I've got very sensitive teeth. They'll probably be upset I've told you. *(Gordon Southern, Edinburgh Fringe)*

Hedgehogs - why can't they just share the hedge?

AIBOHPHOBIA - the fear of palindromes.