

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

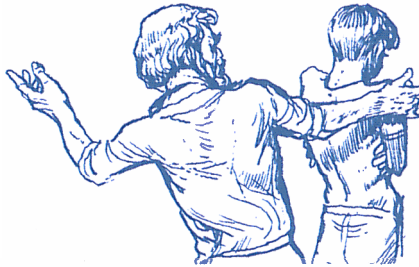
28th September 2014

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



**“He answered, ‘I will not go’,
but afterwards thought better of it
and went.”**

Noticeboard

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

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m. (*Thursday's 10.15 Mass will be
the Requiem Mass of Nicholas MacKellar
R.I.P.*)

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

October Devotions: Wednesday, 6 p.m.

*Monday is the Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael; Tuesday,
the Memorial of St. Jerome; Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Theresa
of Lisieux; Thursday, the Memorial of the Guardian Angels;
Saturday, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.*

A Message from Bishop Toal

Dear Parishioners and Friends in Argyll and the Isles,

I wish to pass on my thanks to you all for your very generous gift, presented to me at Mass in the Cathedral on September 4th. Thank you all very much indeed for this and for other earlier gifts. I appreciate very much the kindness shown to me, especially in the circumstances of my leaving you to go to another Diocese – it has been an abrupt end to my ministry as your Bishop and hard to accept.

Within the sadness of leaving I carry with me many good memories of the Diocese and of these last few years as Bishop. I loved visiting all the parishes and appreciated the faith and the good spirit of the people across the Diocese. It is important now to pray for the future Bishop and to give Mgr. MacNeil good support in his time as Diocesan Administrator. The Diocese has had a long and interesting history and we adapt to changing circumstances and personalities, so I am sure the future will be richly blessed and that the new Bishop will, like me, enjoy a happy ministry among you.

With renewed thanks, and the assurance of my prayers and best wishes.

+ Joseph Toal

Thank you for your very generous support of the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund**. Last Sunday's collection came to £476.21.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Sarah Sidgwick, Sandy MacFarlane, Margaret Cameron, Margaret MacDonald, George MacFarlane (Junior)** and **Jessie Fitzsimons**. May they rest in the peace and joy of their Saviour.

Our thanks to Norrie and James for the excellent job they did of cleaning the Chapel House garden wall and the walls of the Church grounds. Your good deed was really appreciated. And our thanks, too, to the men of the parish who “de-burached” the Chapel House garage!

Please note the first of our **October Devotions**, on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

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

Our thanks to James Bishop, from Somerset, an annual visitor to our parish, who did further research on Father John MacNeil, M.C. during the years when he was a WWI chaplain.

On arriving in France, Fr. MacNeil served with a battalion of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and also the 9th Division. He was mentioned in despatches, then received the Military Cross. The London Gazette of the 26th July, 1917 tells us that this was awarded

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed great bravery and devotion in going out in front of our lines and bringing in wounded. His fine action undoubtedly saved many lives at great personal risk."

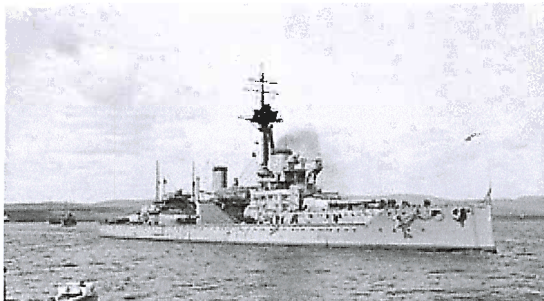
Later, a bar was added to that MC for further acts of bravery.

On the 13th October 1917, Fr. MacNeil was wounded during the 3rd Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. He was invalided back to the UK for a period of recovery.



Carrying a soldier through the mud of Passchendaele.

On the 25th March 1918, he resigned his commission. This was because he felt the call to care for Gaelic speakers in the Royal Navy. As a naval chaplain, he served on the North Sea with the 4th Battle Squadron on HMS Bellerophon and then HMS Hercules, on which he may have witnessed the surrender of the German Grand Fleet after the end of the War.



A photo of HMS Hercules. It had a reputation for very strict discipline. Disputes and misdemeanours among the crew often ended up in the ship's boxing ring, with many a bet placed on the outcome! Ironically, the ship was sold to a German breaker's yard in 1921.

Every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government, must ask themselves two questions: 'Do I love my people in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?' If you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good. (*Pope Francis*)

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At age 40, we don't care what they think of us. At age 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all. (*'Ann Landers', US columnists' pen name*)

Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway. (*Emory Austin, motivational speaker*)

The friendship that can cease has never been real. (*St. Jerome*)

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. (*St. Francis of Assisi*)

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. (*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*)

Peace is the first thing the angels sang. (*John Keble, saintly Anglican vicar and poet*)

When I die, I shall soar with angels, and when I die to the angels, what I shall become you cannot imagine. (*Rumi, Persian poet and mystic*)

AND ALSO...

A police recruit was asked during the exam, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He answered, "Call for backup."

A lovesick kayaker wrote to a dating service explaining that he had specific criteria for a potential mate and would not accept anyone that doesn't meet his standards. He went on to explain the young lady must be cute, short, enjoys cold water and paddling. He received a reply the following week. It contained a picture of a penguin.

How one pupil dealt with a question in his Maths exam!

3. Find x.

