

Parish Bulletin
SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
10th June 2012

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

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Masses: 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.
 6.30 to 6.50 p.m.

Monday is the Feast of St. Barnabas; Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua; Friday, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart; Saturday, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



Please keep a very special place in your prayers for the young parishioners who will be making their **First Holy Communion** next Sunday. We will have special readings for the Mass, read by two of the children. They will all lead us in the Prayer of the Faithful. Holy Communion will be their final step into full membership of the Church, and we all rejoice in this. The greatest joy will be that of Christ himself, as he joins with them in the sacrament of his immense love.

Thank you for your generous support for the Church's apostolate for **the sanctity of life**. Last week's collection raised a very generous £389.10.

We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially **John Fraser**, a good servant of the Church of Scotland and a warm-hearted friend to so many people throughout Lochaber. May he now rest in the peace of his Saviour. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Agnes MacAlister, Allan Cameron, Charlie Campbell, Charles Kerr, Joseph Mulrooney, Catriona MacDonald, John Cameron and Mary Brady**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed rest in peace.

Fr. Joseph Kasule will be with us on the 25th June. He is about to sit a very demanding exam in accountancy, so please remember him in your prayers. St. Matthew might be a good contact!

We remind you that the bus to **Carfin** leaves a week on Monday at 9 a.m. The cost of the whole trip, including a meal, will be £45.

As part of our celebration of the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, from 7 to 8 p.m. There will be prayers and periods of silence.

You loved me from all eternity,
 therefore you created me.
 You loved me after you had made me,
 therefore you became man for me.
 You loved me after you became man for me,
 therefore you lived and died for me.
 You loved me after you had died for me,
 therefore you rose again for me.

You loved me after you had risen for me,
 therefore you went to prepare a place for me.
 You loved me after you had gone to prepare a place for me,
 therefore you came back to me.
 You loved me after you came back to me,
 therefore you desired to enter into me and be united to me.
 This is the meaning of the Blessed Sacrament.
 The mystery of love.

(Archbishop Goodier)

The Catholic papers, and other publications have alerted us to the so-called "Vatileaks." This affair is distressing for many Catholics. The headline, "The Butler Did It" would sound like something from a Whitehall farce if it were not so tragic for all concerned. Everyone has a right to his or her privacy and that includes Pope Benedict XVI. No matter what trend in Catholicism people might follow, this principle must be defended. Trust in individuals close to us is all too often the last vestige of innocence left in adults. Violation of trust and personal "space" would have a very painful effect on any of us. Whatever lies behind all this has to be dealt with as soon as possible: if there is serious division in the Papal Curia, then this has to be resolved in a way that is both just and transparent. Those who work alongside the Pope are not akin to the courtiers of the Forbidden City in Peking or the Imperial court of Constantinople: they are simply the servants of God's People and of his Kingdom. If the leaks continue, then the person or persons involved have forgotten something very important to the integrity of a human soul: the end does not justify the means.

However, it should be noted that in a time of deep recession when so many individuals and families are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet, there is a heightened sensitivity as regards financial accountability in every institution. Rumours, even if eventually proved to be unfounded, concerning the Institute for Works of Religion (the "Vatican Bank") and the Holy See's expenditure, are not helping us. There are sinister forces in Italy and Europe that can infiltrate and contaminate even the most august of institutions. Extreme vigilance is demanded, as is some form of auditing accessible to all the Faithful. We pray that what has become a real debacle be resolved in such a way that the Pope can carry out the task first entrusted to St. Peter, to "confirm the brethren in their faith". The Petrine ministry to the great communion of dioceses that is the Catholic Church must be allowed to carry out its mission in freedom, fruitful dialogue, mutual respect and peace.

Interestingly, there may have been another, very different "leak" several centuries ago! It involved the young Mozart, of all people. He was 14 years old when he and his father, Leopold, attended a Holy Week service in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A beautiful piece of polyphony was sung during that service. It was Gregorio Allegri's "Miserere Mei" (Psalm 50). Under pain of excommunication, it was forbidden to write down the music for this work or to sing it in any place but the Vatican. Legend has it that the young Mozart did write down its composition and smuggled his notes out of the Chapel in his hat! A letter later written by his father indicates that there may be some truth to this legend. In any case, Mozart never used his copy in public. Eventually the ban would be lifted and everyone could have access to what may be one of the most beautiful and exquisite of all polyphonic masterpieces. Mozart – a child prodigy known throughout Europe – was later made a papal knight. He is Benedict XVI's favourite composer, no doubt providing him with some consolation in this difficult time.



Mozart aged 14



Detail from Raphael's "Disputation of the Most Blessed Sacrament"

I hunger for the bread of God, the flesh of Jesus Christ ...; I long to drink of his blood, the gift of unending love.
St. Ignatius of Antioch

In each of our lives Jesus comes as the Bread of Life - to be eaten, to be consumed by us. This is how He loves us. Then Jesus comes in our human life as the hungry one, the other, hoping to be fed with the Bread of our life, our hearts by loving, and our hands by serving. In loving and serving, we prove that we have been created in the likeness of God, for God is Love and when we love we are like God. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses.
C.S. Lewis

Spiritually good people, pure in heart, who long for the Blessed Sacrament but cannot receive at the time, can receive spiritually... even a hundred times a day, in sickness and in health, with immeasurable grace and profit.
Johannes Tauler

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

I adore and venerate you as much as ever I can, though my love is so cold, my devotion so poor. Thank you for the good gift of this your holy Body and Blood, which I desire to receive.
St. Anselm



AND ALSO

Conference: The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

Tears: The means by which masculine will-power is defeated by feminine water-power.

Infantry: A small, immature tree.

The human brain: The wonderful thing which starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.