

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7th December 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



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses:

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

Weekday Masses and Services:

Monday, Mass at 10.15 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,
Liturgy of the Word and Holy
Communion at 10.15 a.m.
Friday and Saturday, Mass at 10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

*Monday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception;
Saturday, the Memorial of St. Lucy.*

The Feast of the **Immaculate Conception** is a very important day in our parish. It reminds us that we have a very special place in Our Lady's heart and prayer.

There is a **United Advent Service** in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church this Sunday evening, at 6.30 p.m. Do come along!

Five young people will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** next Sunday, during the 10.30 Mass. Please keep them in your prayers.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margaret MacDonald, Margaret B. MacDonald, Marion Wynne, Rose McTaggart, John and Mary Alice Kelly, Mary MacKellaig, John MacDonald, Margaret Culley, John Kearney, Annie O'Neil, Katherine MacKinnon, Mary Cameron, Joseph MacLeod, Arthur McGinlay, Neil MacEachen, Murdo MacLeod, Dougie MacRae, Sandra Vial, Christina Quinn and Robert Meek.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Our sincere thanks to all the parishioners who joined together to give the church a thorough clean after Mass on Monday. Please note the sheet at the back of the church asking for volunteers on a regular basis.

There are **Christmas cards** for sale at the back of the church. Let's keep Christ in Christmas!

Fr. MacKinnon will be away from Monday until Thursday. Deacon Thomas will look after the parish in his absence.

Our **Mass of Christmas Night** will be on Wednesday, 24th December, at 10 p.m. It will be preceded by a short Carol Service beginning at 9.45 p.m. Our **Christmas Morning Mass** will be at 10.30 a.m. The Blessing of the Crib will take place on Sunday, 21st December, after Mass.

Ross-shire, Caithness & Sutherland and **Lochaber Women's Aid** have launched a project to raise awareness of the help available to East European women in the Highlands made homeless because of domestic violence. Information is provided in the sheets at the back of the church. We must be always mindful of the most vulnerable among us.

On the back of this bulletin you will find different **Advent poems**. These may be of help in this deeply reflective season. Like song, poetry is meant to be heard and not read. Why not find a quiet time and a quiet place and read one of the poems aloud, slowly and thoughtfully, making it your Advent meditation?

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road
 pregnant with the Holy, and say,
 "I need shelter for the night,
 please take me inside your heart, my time is so close."
 Then, under the roof of your soul,
 you will witness the sublime intimacy,
 the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
 as she grasps your hand for help,
 for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
 Yes there, under the dome of your being
 does creation come into existence eternally,
 through your womb, dear pilgrim - the sacred womb of your
 soul,
 as God grasps our arms for help:
 for each of us is his beloved servant, never far.
 If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the street,
 pregnant with Light and sing.

*(St. John of the Cross – Spanish
 Carmelite Priest, Poet and Mystic)*



Making the House Ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
 still nothing is as shining as it should be
 for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
 uproar of mice –it is the season of their
 many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
 and through the walls the squirrels
 have gnawed their ragged entrances –but it is the season
 when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
 the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
 while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
 what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
 in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
 up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will
 come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
 the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
 that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
 as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

*(Mary Oliver – American Poet.
 Her love of nature and of
 animals, and her solitary walks,
 provide the inspiration for her
 poetry)*



In Mary-Darkness

I live my Advent in the womb of Mary,
 And on one night when a great star swings free
 From its high mooring and walks down the sky
 To be the dot above the Christus i,
 I shall be born of her by blessed grace.
 I wait in Mary-darkness, faith's walled place,
 With hope's expectance of nativity.
 I knew for long she carried me and fed me,
 Guarded and loved me, though I could not see,
 But only now, with inward jubilee,
 I come upon earth's most amazing knowledge:
 Someone is hidden in this dark with me.

*(Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit -
 Jessica Powers - Carmelite Sister and Poet)*



Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to
 destruction and loss—
 This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only
 begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish
 but have everlasting life;
 It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and
 discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—
 This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that
 abundantly.
 It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last
 word, and that war and destruction rule forever—
 This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall
 be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the Everlasting,
 the Prince of peace.
 It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil
 who seek to rule the world—
 This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
 and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.
 It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially
 gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be
 peacemakers—
 This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons
 and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see
 visions and your old men shall have dreams.
 It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of
 justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth
 and for this history—
 This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true
 worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.
 So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us
 see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with
 humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the
 life of the world

*(Fr. Daniel Berrigan – Jesuit and
 Peace Activist)*



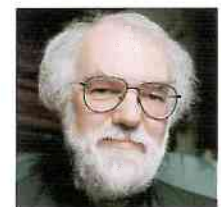
Advent Calendar

He will come like last leaf's fall.
 One night when the November wind
 has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
 wakes choking on the mould,
 the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
 One morning when the shrinking earth
 opens on mist, to find itself
 arrested in the net
 of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
 One evening when the bursting red
 December sun draws up the sheet
 and penny-masks its eye to yield
 the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
 will come like crying in the night,
 like blood, like breaking,
 as the earth writhes to toss him free.
 He will come like child.



*(Rowan Williams –
 Theologian, Poet and
 retired Archbishop of
 Canterbury)*