

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



The Nativity, Arthur Hughes, 1858

## Noticeboard

<u>Monday</u>	Mass at 10.15 a.m.	
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mass at 10.15 a.m.	
<u>Wednesday</u>	Mass at 10.15 a.m.	
	NEW YEAR VIGIL MASS	6 p.m.
<u>Thursday</u>	NEW YEAR MASS	10.30 a.m.
<u>Friday</u>	Mass at 12 noon	
<u>Saturday</u>	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.

*The 1<sup>st</sup> January is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Friday is the Memorial of St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazienzen.*

**Our sincere thanks** to all who helped make our Christmas Masses so special: our organists and cantors, readers and Eucharistic ministers, our sacristan and pass keepers, and our young servers. *Our thanks is not just for Christmas, but for all you have done in the past year.* We thank those who prepared and decorated the church so beautifully and all who donated to the flower displays. At our Mass of Christmas Night we heard for the first time the Mass composed for our parish by Kevin Cameron. We will all get to know it in time. God bless you all!

You have shown great kindness to Fr. MacKinnon. **He thanks you most sincerely** for your cards and your gifts. The illustration above is his Christmas card! It is accompanied by his prayers and best wishes for Christmas and the coming New Year. May God be close to you all.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Hugh MacNeil, Margaret Wardrop, Margaret Pryce (MacFarlane), Campbell Chisholm, Bella MacRae, Andrew Nesbitt, Harry Deeny, Duncan Kennedy, Eileen Cameron, Michael McCartney, Neil MacVarish, Peggy Cameron, Charles Fitzsimons, Alister Matheson, Archie MacDonald and John Maguire.** May all our loved ones rest in Christ's eternal peace and joy.

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God,** is not a Holiday of Obligation, but many Catholics like to begin the New Year by honouring Our Lady and celebrating the Eucharist. Please note this year's Mass times. They are as on Sundays, 6 p.m. and 10.30 am. Note also the 12 noon Mass on Friday.

Remember the **Crib's Missionary Children** collection! Please encourage our youngsters to make their own modest contributions. *And next Sunday we have the annual collection for the Church's work in Justice and Peace.* Whatever you can give is really appreciated. We will let you know soon how much you raised for Aid to the Church in Need's work in the Middle East.



St. Basil the Great



St. Gregory Nazienzen  
("The Theologian")

**26<sup>th</sup> December - St. Stephen**



**St. Stephen Preaching by Blessed Fra Angelico**

**27<sup>th</sup> December – St. John**



**St. John Running to the Tomb by James Tissot**

**28<sup>th</sup> December- The Holy Innocents**



**The Massacre of the Innocents by Giotto**



*Here are extracts from Pope Francis's Urbi et Orbi message on Christmas Day. We make the Holy Father's heartfelt prayer our own prayer.*

Today I ask him, the Saviour of the world, to look upon our brothers and sisters in Iraq and Syria, who for too long now have suffered the effects of ongoing conflict, and who, together with those belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, are suffering a brutal persecution. May Christmas bring them hope, as indeed also to the many displaced persons, exiles and refugees, children, adults and elderly, from this region and from the whole world. May indifference be changed into closeness and rejection into hospitality, so that all who now are suffering may receive the necessary humanitarian help to overcome the rigours of winter, return to their countries and live with dignity. May the Lord open hearts to trust, and may he bestow his peace upon the whole Middle East, beginning with the land blessed by his birth, thereby sustaining the efforts of those committed effectively to dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

.....May Jesus, Saviour of the world, protect all who suffer in Ukraine, and grant that their beloved land may overcome tensions, conquer hatred and violence, and set out on a new journey of fraternity and reconciliation.

.....May Christ the Saviour give peace to Nigeria, where [even in these hours] more blood is being shed and too many people are unjustly deprived of their possessions, held as hostages or killed. I invoke peace also on the other parts of the African continent, thinking especially of Libya, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and various regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I beseech all who have political responsibility to commit themselves through dialogue to overcoming differences and to building a lasting, fraternal coexistence.

.....May Jesus save the vast numbers of children who are victims of violence, made objects of trade and trafficking, or forced to become soldiers; children, so many abused children. May he give comfort to the families of the children killed in Pakistan last week. May he be close to all who suffer from illness, especially the victims of the Ebola epidemic, above all in Liberia, in Sierra Leone and in Guinea. As I thank all who are courageously dedicated to assisting the sick and their family members, I once more make an urgent appeal that the necessary assistance and treatment be provided. My thoughts turn to all those children today who are killed and ill-treated, be they infants killed in the womb, deprived of that generous love of their parents and then buried in the egoism of a culture that does not love life; be they children displaced due to war and persecution, abused and taken advantage of before our very eyes and our complicit silence. I think also of those infants massacred in bomb attacks, also those where the Son of God was born. Even today, their impotent silence cries out under the sword of so many Herods. On their blood stands the shadow of contemporary Herods. Truly there are so many tears this Christmas, together with the tears of the Infant Jesus.

