

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

4th January 2015

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

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| <u>Sunday Masses</u> | Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday Morning, 10.30 a.m. |
| <u>Weekday Masses</u> | 10.15 a.m. |
| <u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u> | Saturday, 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30p.m. 5.30 to 5.45 p.m. |

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.

We wish you every blessing in this New Year. The ancient benediction in the First Reading of Thursday's Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God is for each and every one of you:

**May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you
and bring you peace. Amen.**

And we thank you for the past year, for everything you have done for your parish!

We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Grace MacKinnon, Neil MacVarish, Michael McEleney, Flora Buchanan, Graham Goodman, Margaret Mitchell, Bobby Gribben, Catherine Kearney, David MacPherson, Ronald MacInnes, Dorothy Anderson, Roderick MacDonald, Neil Gillies, Iain Dubh Macdonald, Kate MacDougall, Bella MacHugh, Tony MacHugh, Ralph Bruce, Patricia MacGrail, Kathleen Slattery, Annie Argue, Mairi Gillies and Joe MacLean.** May they rest in the peace of their Saviour.

We thank you for your most generous support of **Aid to the Church in Need's** work in the Middle East, especially in the help they give the nuns who do so much to relieve the suffering of those in greatest need. Your Christmas special collection raised £1,328.42. God bless you for that.

Please remember that there is a special collection this Sunday for the Church's **Justice and Peace Commission.** Whatever you can give at this time of the year is truly appreciated. And please remember our **Crib Collection** for the Missions. There are only a few days left!

"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness,
and put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way.'"

(From King George VI's Christmas broadcast, 1939)



Take, O Child,
 The gift that I bring,
 Rich and rare as befits a King:
 Gold that glints as the star looks down -
 Gold to gleam in a great king's crown.
 When the kingdom comes, when the flags unfold,
 Remember me, and my gift of gold.

Take, O Child,
 The gift that I bring,
 Rich and rare as befits a King:
 I kneel as a king, to a King divine,
 Receive my praise, and this gift of mine
 Which is frankincense for the altar fire
 To burn in worship to the World's Desire.

Take, O Child,
 The gift that I bring,
 Rich and rare as befits a King:
 Costliest myrrh from the East afar
 For the tomb foretold by the travelling star.
 When they bear you slow to your kingly grave
 You shall lie at last with the gift I gave.

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Strange are the gifts that the Wise Men bring
 To so small a Child, to so strange a King.
 Sovereign gold, but his brow was torn
 When they hailed him King, with a crown of thorn;
 Frankincense, that they might provide
 Perpetual praise to a God who died;
 But none so strange as the myrrh they gave
 To anoint the clothes of a three-day grave.

*(Rt. Rev. Timothy Dudley-Smith, Anglican bishop,
 poet and hymn composer)*

Did you know that if you received all of the gifts listed in "The Twelve Days of Christmas", you would end up with 364 presents!

Every year, like a good Catholic, I wait for Christmas. Putting up the lights, decorating the tree, making sweets and then unwrapping gifts on Christmas morning... it's a tradition my family has followed since I was very little.

(Malaika Arora Khan, Indian actress)

Christmas in Bethlehem. The ancient dream: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love.

(Lucinda Franks)

Unlike the poor shepherds, the Magi had to travel a long road; they had to face adversity to reach their goal. It was anything but a romantic, sentimental pilgrimage that we often see in our manger scenes!...

...The experience of the Magi reminds us that all who make the tedious journey to the truth will finally encounter it and be changed in the process. They can never go back to a 'business as usual' way of life. When we meet Christ and see who he really is, we will never be the same – and only then can we hope to share in his mission....

(Father Thomas Rosica)

I do hope that your Christmas had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter patter and all. It always seems such a mixing of this world and the next – but that after all is the idea!

(Evelyn Underhill)

We pray for visions but seldom watch a sunset. We marvel at the gift of tongues but are bored listening to babies. We desire proofs for the existence of God even as life in all its marvels continues all around us. We tend to look for God everywhere, except in the place where Incarnation took place – our flesh.

(Fr. Ronald Rolheiser)

What is a parent's favourite carol?
 "Silent Night!"

Who says, "Oh, oh, oh!"?
 Santa walking backwards!