

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17th June 2012

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

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday: 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass: 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.
5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Thursday is the Memorial of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

We celebrate the First Holy Communion of:



**Jamie McConnell
Kathleen MacDonald
Lachlan MacKinnon
Sarah MacLeod
Ronnie MacNeil
Scarlett MacNeil
Karol Ziemski**

We thank their families and teachers for all that they have done to prepare these young brothers and sisters for this day. It is a very special moment in their lives, and they dress accordingly. But it is what is in their hearts that is most important of all. From all eternity, Christ, God the Son, has known them and loved them. At our Sunday morning Mass, he truly gives himself to them with immense love and with joy.

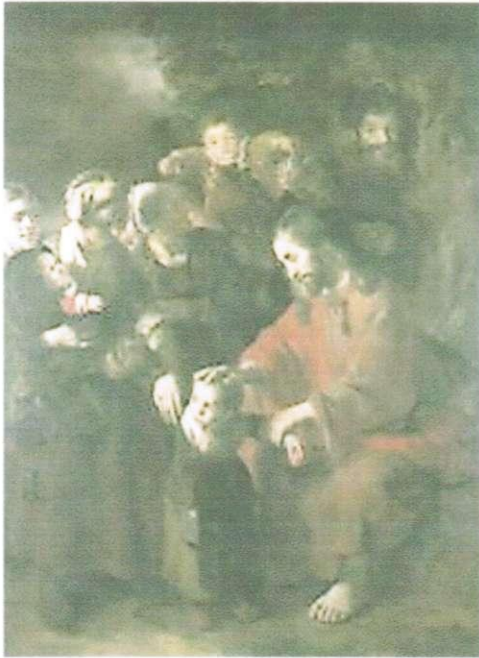
The Deanery **pilgrimage to Carfin** leaves from St. Mary's tomorrow (Monday) morning at 9 a.m. The parishioners from Caol will board the bus twenty minutes earlier. We wish all the pilgrims many blessings!

We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Allan Campbell, Charlie Campbell, Cardinal Thomas Winning, Joseph Tully, Canon John Morrison, John McConnell, Catherine MacKinnon, Barrie MacKinnon, Mary Clabby, Richard Reilly, Nellie Burns, Maisie Grant, Anne MacLaren, Flora Currie and Mary Fitzsimons.** May they rest in the peace of Christ.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound next week, from Monday 25th June to Wednesday, 27th.

Fr. Joachim Zok, the priest from Inverness who celebrates our monthly Mass in Polish, will shortly be heading off for Papua New Guinea. There he will teach for several months before coming back to Scotland. We wish him well in what must be a very exotic posting! Papua New Guinea has many very different tribal languages, and so many of its people use Pidgin English ("Tok Pisin") as a first or second language. Here is the Hail Mary in Pidgin. It is actually rather beautiful!

"Ave, Maria, you pulap long grasia. Lord, i stap long yu. Ol i onaim yu moa long ol meri, na ol i onaim Jisas, Em Pikinini bilong bel bilong yu. Santu Maria, Mama bilong God, pre bilong helpim mipela manmen bilong sin, nau na long taim milpela i dai. Amen."



The tender scene from the Gospel of our First Communion Mass does not appear to be represented in early Christian art. We have to wait until the 17th century to find paintings of Christ with the little children. One of the most beautiful hangs in the National Gallery in London. It is by the Dutch artist Nicolaes Maes. A pupil of Rembrandt, he lived from 1634 to 1693.

Today we are familiar with illustrations that show the children gazing intently and lovingly at Jesus. What makes the Maes painting especially charming is the apparent indifference of the little girl being blessed by the Lord. She looks away from him, her thumb in her mouth. This gives a lovely realism to the artist's masterpiece.

That was the reality that Jesus would have encountered. These would not have been children wearing their best clothes and made to be on their best behaviour. Our Lord would have been totally unconcerned if they had been grimy or smelly or ready for mischief. He rejoices in young life, with all its potential and energy. The children are trusting, yet playful and adventurous. They are open to the enchantment and the mystery of the world around them. They are simply bubbling with life.

The legend of the Fountain of Youth is thousands of years old and is found in many cultures. We do not need the legend. We have the reality of our baptismal life. It is like a well-spring within us, continuously bubbling to the surface; transforming the disillusioned, tired and arid world that adult years can create. We are continually renewed, becoming once again all that Christ recognised and loved in these children: all that marks us as belonging to the kingdom of God.

Normally, Fr. MacKinnon is especially attentive to the names of the **Faithful Departed** in the parish bulletin. Sometimes, however, he can be distracted while composing the bulletin. Last Saturday was such a day. If mistakes do occur, he deeply regrets any distress that might be caused.

A few people were quick to condemn the **Prime Minister and his wife** for leaving one of their children behind in a local pub. Most people are very understanding. It can happen to the best of families. If in doubt, please read Luke 2:41-50.

Potpourri

How lovely it was, that first kiss of Jesus in my heart -- it was truly a kiss of love. I knew that I was loved and said, "I love You, and I give myself to You forever." Jesus asked for nothing, He claimed no sacrifice. Long before that, He and little Thérèse had seen and understood one another well, but on that day it was more than a meeting -- it was a complete fusion. We were no longer two, for Thérèse had disappeared like a drop of water lost in the mighty ocean. *(Thérèse of Lisieux recalls her First Holy Communion)*

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable. *(C.S. Lewis)*

Patience with others is Love.
Patience with self is Hope.
Patience with God is Faith. *(Adel Bestavros)*

When the solution is simple, God is answering. *(Albert Einstein)*

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies. *(Mother Teresa)*

AND ALSO

The RE teacher told the children about Lot being commanded to take his wife and flee the city. "Lot got away, but his wife disobeyed God. She looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." The teacher explained. One little boy then asked, "What happened to the flea?"

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have the two as close together as possible. *(George Burns)*