

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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



**Jonah**  
by James Tissot

### Noticeboard

<b>Sunday Masses</b>	Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, 10.30 a.m.
<b>Weekday Masses</b>	10.15 a.m.
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	Saturday 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30 to 5.45 p.m.
<b>Christian Unity Service</b>	This Sunday, at 6.30 p.m. in St. John's, Caol

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas; Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas; Saturday, the Memorial of St. John Bosco.*

This Sunday, at St. John's in Caol, our **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** culminates in a service that unites many of the Christians of Lochaber. Do try to take part.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Lizzie MacBeth, Patrick Ryan, Frank Timbrell, Norah MacKinnon, Margaret Doyle, Margaret MacIntyre, Kathleen Gibson, Kenneth MacDonald, Flora MacKinnon, John Tully, Morag Fitzsimons, Norman Campbell, Christine Turner and Angus Morrison.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound in the course of this week.

Thank you to those who donated to our **Crib Collection**, which came to £163.22. This will be sent in the name of the children of the parish to Mission Matters (Scotland).

We have a special parish collection this Sunday to help meet the cost of **heating in the church**. Anything you give is deeply appreciated. The church is much warmer than it used to be!

You will find copies of last year's **Income and Expenditure** at the back of the church. If you wish Fr. MacKinnon to clarify any of its details, please do not hesitate to ask. The format of the report is that supplied to all the parishes of the Diocese. Please note that insurance in **\*25\*** covers both house and church. The collections for SCIAF last Christmas and for Fr. Pamula have been entered under parish donations in **\*7\***.

**Fr. MacKinnon** would like to take a break next week, from Monday to Thursday, leaving after the Candlemas Mass. *Please bring your own candles for blessing this year.*

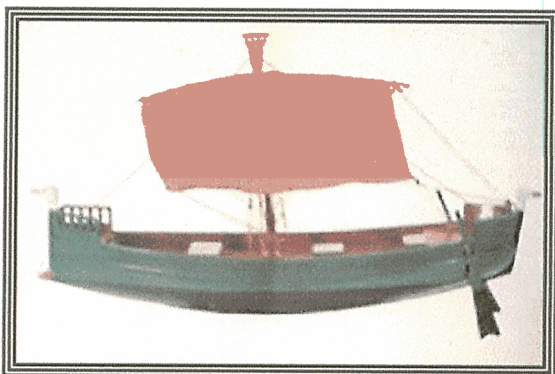
We do not normally see ancient Israel as a seafaring nation. In the story of Jonah the crew of the ship in which the prophet travelled to escape God's command are foreigners, as one would expect. However, there was a period in Israel's history when sea-voyages were given a new importance.

It was during the reign of King Solomon. He established a partnership with the trading cities of Tyre and Sidon (in modern day Lebanon). Their trade was centred on the Mediterranean, but Solomon was able to provide them with shared access to the Red Sea and all the trade that lay beyond. The king developed a ship-building port on the Gulf of Aqaba which leads into the Red Sea and thence into the Indian Ocean. The joint merchant-marine expeditions of King Hiram of Tyre and King Solomon sailed to distant parts the known world. Israelites would join with Phoenicians in voyages that sometimes lasted up to three years.

Trade lies behind the famous visit of the Queen of Sheba to Jerusalem. Her southern Arabian kingdom lay along the Red Sea route into the Indian Ocean, and her terrain was rich in gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Solomon needed her products and her trade routes for maintaining his commercial network; she needed Solomon's cooperation for marketing her goods in the Mediterranean via the ports used by the King of Israel and his allies.

By land and by sea, Solomon's kingdom was ideally placed as a conduit for trade. This included chariots from Egypt and horses from Kue (modern day Turkey); copper from Cyprus; lead from Sardinia; silver, tin, copper and iron from Tarshish (perhaps in modern Spain); gold, incense, precious stones, perfumes, exotic animals via Arabia and the Red Sea.

Artists have painted the story of Jonah in many ways. Some have been fairly accurate in their depiction of the ship from which the prophet was thrown into the sea. Here we see a model of a typical ship of the time:



Dear friends, let us therefore proceed towards full unity! History has separated us, but we are on the path towards reconciliation and communion! And this is true! And we must defend it! We are all on the path toward communion. And when the goal seems too distant, almost unreachable, and we feel gripped by despair, let us be comforted by the idea that God cannot close His ears to the voice of his Son Jesus or fail to grant his and our prayer: that all Christians truly be one.  
*(Pope Francis)*

The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless ... beyond speech ... beyond concept.  
*(Thomas Merton)*

Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family.  
*(George Bernard Shaw)*

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. *(Mahatma Gandhi)*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. *(Aesop)*

Computers are useless. They can only give you answers. *(Pablo Picasso)*

I make mistakes; I'll be the second to admit it.  
*(Jean Kerr)*

Forgiveness is a funny thing.  
It warms the heart and cools the sting.  
*(William Arthur Ward)*

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some hire public relations officers.  
*(Daniel J. Boorstin)*

There is an excellent poet started up in Ayrshire, where he has been a Ploughman; he has made many excellent Poems in old Scotch, which are now in the Press for the third time. I shall send them to you. His name is Burns. He is only twenty-eight years old; he is in town just now, and I supped with him once at Lord Monboddo's, where I conversed a good deal with him, and think him a man of uncommon genius; and he has, as yet, time, if he lives, to cultivate it.  
*(Bishop John Geddes, in a letter written to a friend in Rome, March, 1787)*