

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1<sup>st</sup> February 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)



"Here is a teaching that is new" they said "and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him."

### Noticeboard

#### Sunday Masses

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

#### Weekday Masses

Monday Mass at 10.15 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
Service of the Word and Holy  
Communion at 10.15 a.m.  
Friday Mass at 10.15 a.m.  
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 5.45 p.m.

*Monday is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; Tuesday, the Optional Memorial of St. Blaise; Thursday, the Memorial of St. Agatha; Friday, the Memorial of St. Paul Miki and Companions, the Martyrs of Japan.*

On Monday, we celebrate the lovely **Feast of Candlemas**. Please bring your own candles this year. These will be blessed at the beginning of Mass. On Tuesday, the Memorial of St. Blaise, Deacon Thomas will give the traditional Blessing of the Throat.



We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Angus Morrison, Margaret Campbell, Donald Kearney (Senior), William Brannigan, Angus MacDougall, Margaret McKeown, Sandy Kennedy, Michael Haggerty, Andrew George, Ian Wynne, Donald MacKintosh, Simon MacDonald, Ronald MacDonald, Roderick MacInnes, John MacMaster and Albert Timbrell.** May they rest in the peace of their Saviour.

We have received a very appreciative letter from the National Director of **Aid to the Church in Need**. He writes: "Thank you for your special gift which brings light and hope to those in the darkness of suffering and need. We are extremely grateful for this donation of £1,328.42 to Aid to the Church in Need which we are assigning according to your wishes to help Sister Hanna and the Good Shepherd sisters in Syria." The Good Shepherd Sisters were once part of our parish life, and it seems so appropriate that their Sisters are now benefitting from your generosity. Well done, St. Mary's!

And thank you for your very encouraging response to the appeal for help with **the church heating**. The collection came to £587.10. The annual collection for the **Scottish Catholic Education Services** is due next Sunday. Whatever you can give at this time of the year is really appreciated.

Those who use the **Day-by-Day booklets** at Mass will have noticed that the January edition continues until Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, taking us up to the Lenten edition, which will be posted to us next week.

We thank those who support the parish through the **200 Club**. Your £15 per annum does indeed help! Why not join, or renew your membership? December's winners were Jean Bryans and Pat Haggerty, and Mary MacDougall was our lucky January winner. Congratulations to all three!

**Fr. MacKinnon** will be taking a break from Monday to Thursday. Deacon Thomas will look after the parish.

Next Sunday is the Sunday nearest the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. We will have the **Sacrament of the Sick** as in previous years.

The first days of January 1942 brought enormous amounts of snow. The reader already knows what snow meant for the clergy. But this time the torture surpassed the bounds of the endurable. At the same time the thermometer hovered between 5 and 15 degrees below zero. From morning till night we scraped, shovelled, and pushed wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of snow to the brook. The work detail consisted of more than 1,000 clergymen, forced to keep moving by SS men and Capos who kicked us and beat us with truncheons.

We had to make rounds with the wheelbarrows from the assembly square to the brook and back. Not a moment of rest was allowed, and much of the time we were forced to run.

At one point I tripped over my barrow and fell, and it took me a while to get up again. An SS man dashed over and ordered me to turn with the full load. He ran beside me, beating me constantly with a leather strap. When I got to the brook I was not allowed to dump out the heavy snow, but had to make a second complete round with it instead.

When the guard finally went off and I tried to let go of the wheelbarrow, I found that one of my hands was frozen fast to it. I had to blow on it with warm breath to get it free.

*(From "Priestblock 25487: a memoir of Dachau", by Father Jean Bernard, a priest from Luxembourg)*

Racism is man's gravest threat to man - the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason.

*(Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, theologian)*

The true mystic is always both humble and compassionate, for she knows that she does not know.  
*(Fr. Richard Rohr, Franciscan author and speaker)*

In every crowd are certain persons who seem just like the rest, yet they bear amazing messages.  
*(Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Free French pilot, author of 'The Little Prince')*

I am not a Christian because God changed my life; I am a Christian because of my convictions about who Jesus Christ is.

*(Josh McDowell, Evangelical Christian convert)*

If all the nations in the world are in debt, where did all the money go?

*(Steven Wright, comedian)*

The rich run a global system that allows them to accumulate capital and pay the lowest possible price for labour. The freedom that results applies only to them. The many simply have to work harder, in conditions that grow ever more insecure, to enrich the few. Democratic politics, which purports to enrich the many, is actually in the pocket of those bankers, media barons and other moguls who run and own everything.

*(Charles Moore, journalist, former editor of the Daily Telegraph, Catholic convert)*



**Children's Shoes  
Auschwitz-Birkenau**

**"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly:  
it is Rachel weeping for her children,  
refusing to be comforted for her children,  
because they are no more."**

**(Jeremiah 31:15)**