

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22nd March 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



“Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.”

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

Monday
Tuesday and Wednesday
Thursday
Friday and Saturday

Mass at 10.15 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word and
Holy Communion at 10.15 a.m.
Mass at 5 p.m.
Mass at 10.15 a.m.

Way of the Cross

Friday, 7 p.m. (*Exposition from
6.30 to 7 p.m.*)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 9.45 – 10 a.m.
4 to 4.30 p.m. 6.30 to 6.45 p.m.

Wednesday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation

Thank you all for your very generous support of the **Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund**. Last Sunday's special collection came to a remarkable £858.33. God bless you!

The bus for the **Chrism Mass** will leave from St. Mary's on Wednesday at 5 p.m. You will be given plenty time for tea in the Cathedral Hall after the Mass. The trip will cost £15. The money will be collected by one of the parishioners and given to Fr. MacKinnon later in the week. He will then pay Shiel Buses through the parish account. If you wish to pay for the journey by cheque, please make it out to "St. Mary's, Fort William".

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember very especially **Polly MacInnes** whose funeral took place in St. Margaret's, Roy Bridge, this Saturday. Polly's years of devoted care and service in the Belford Hospital have never been forgotten. She was a person of great character and strong faith. May the Lord now welcome home a good and faithful servant. We extend our sincere prayer and sympathy to Mary, Katie and all of Polly's loved ones. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary Brannigan, John MacLean, Kathleen Robertson, Sister Elizabeth MacLaren, Fred MacLaren, Mary Allister MacDonald, Lena Maguire, Margaret Deeny, Sarah Kennedy, Hugh Davidson, Bishop Colin MacPherson, Flora MacInnes, Sheena MacConnachie, Agnes Maguire, Simon MacKinnon and Marianne Brooks**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Such was your support of the **Carmelite Sisters** of Dysart that their Easter cards were very quickly sold. Another order was made and the cards are now available at the back of the church. We all have friends who appreciate a Christian Easter card.

We are sure that parishioners will band together, as previously, to **clean the church** before our Holy Week liturgy begins. If asked, please, please help out.

The role of **our readers** is all the more important during Holy Week, beginning with the reading of the Passion next Sunday. There is a sheet at the back of the church for our readers to fill in. Please do so as soon as possible. What you do for our Liturgy is deeply appreciated, especially during Holy Week..

Fr. Tony Wood, the parish priest of Arisaig, will be our visiting confessor in preparation for Easter. He will be here on Monday, 30th March, from 7 to 8 p.m. We are most grateful to Fr. Tony, who is looking after Moidart as well as Arisaig and also ensures our monthly Mass in Polish.

Our thanks to all those who support the parish through their membership of the **200 Club**. If you would like to join or renew your membership, then please do so in the very near future. Membership costs £15 per annum, and there is a monthly £50 draw, doubled at Christmas and at Easter. Congratulations to James MacDonald, last month's winner!

After all the excitement, it was disappointing that our children did not experience **Friday's eclipse** as they had hoped. It was even more disappointing for those who travelled all the way to the Faroes only to have the same overcast weather.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound from Monday, 30th March to Wednesday, 1st April.

Few of us have forgotten the wonderful voice and repertoire of **Martin Aelred**. Martin will be with us once again on Sunday, 13th September. The retiring collection will be for the residents of Invernevis House and Moss Park. We do have something to look forward to!

Fr. MacKinnon will be going to Oban early this year, hence the changes in our weekly schedule. Please note these carefully. The Way of the Cross will be on Friday. It continues to be well attended and shared in a very prayerful way, and the time of silent contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament has been a very special time for many of you.

The **card stall** in the Lady Chapel has been replenished. Please note that there are sympathy cards which are not Mass cards. There are some new items available, for example, "Birthday Blessing" cards for the friends or loved ones who welcome your prayers. There are also a few "I have lit a candle and prayed for you" cards. If such cards prove popular, we can order more in the future.

The traditional "Peter's Pence" collection for the Holy Father has now been moved to the end of April. We still have the Good Friday collection for the **African Missions and the Holy Places**. Because of work and other commitments, some parishioners cannot be there on Good Friday, leaving this collection rather disadvantaged. The collection for the Holy Places supports the work and the guardianship of the Franciscans in the Middle East. It gives moral as well as financial support in a time of great distress. Baskets will be left at the back of the church *next Sunday* as well as on Good Friday for those who would like to make a personal donation, for Africa but especially for the priests, brothers, sisters and Faithful of the Holy Land.

Holy Week is very near. Those involved in the different ministries will give their time to preparation, be it as cantors and musicians, as readers, Eucharistic ministers or altar servers. Others will prepare the church and the Easter flowers, symbols of our paschal joy. Pass keepers will ready to give a warm welcome to our Holy Week visitors. For all of us, there is the spiritual preparation, as we put aside all that circumstances can demand of us and concentrate on what is at the heart of our Catholic and Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The most sublime act is to set another before you.
(William Blake, Painter and Poet, 1757-1827)

Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self.
(St. Francis of Assisi, 1181/1182 – 1226)

Sacrifice, which is the passion of great souls, has never been the law of societies.
(Henri Amiel, Swiss philosopher and critic, 1821-1881)

He who knows how to flatter also knows how to slander.
(Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769-1821)

There is no gambling like politics.
(Benjamin Disraeli, British statesman, 1804- 1881)

Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.
(Saint Augustine, 254-430)

But there was no need to be ashamed of tears, for tears bore witness that a man had the greatest of courage, the courage to suffer.

(Viktor E. Frankl, Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor, 1905-1997)

It is a great consolation for me to remember that the Lord, to whom I had drawn near in humble and child-like faith, has suffered and died for me, and that He will look on me in love and compassion.
(Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756-1791)

Wretched are those who are vindictive and spiteful.
(Pope Francis, 1936 -)

The suicide bomber's imagination leads him to believe in a brilliant act of heroism, when in fact he is simply blowing himself up pointlessly and taking other people's lives.
(Salman Rushdie, author, 1947 -)