

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

5th April 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



Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday	6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass	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 4.30 p.m.	
	5.30 to 5.45 p.m.	

Christus resurrexit! Χριστός ἀνέστη!

Christ is risen!

Gaudia Pascalia!

Easter peace and joy to you all!

Our sincere thanks to all who helped during our Holy Week! We appreciate all that was done by our pass keepers, readers, Eucharistic ministers and our young servers. We thank Kevin and our cantors for all they did to enhance our Liturgy. We are most grateful to those who cleaned the church so thoroughly earlier this week, and to those who cleaned the albs for both priest and servers. As always, the Easter flowers have been beautifully arranged. Our thanks to our sacristan and other helpers for a very busy week! God bless you all!

Those who came to the Easter Vigil are asked to keep the **parish Easter candles** used during the service. Some will be put aside for the housebound.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Una Tully, Natalie Smith, Donald MacDonald, Mary Walker, Father Michael Lea, Donald MacIannan, Heber McMahon, Alasdair MacKintosh, Ian MacNaughton, Cathy Timbrell, Alistair MacDougall, Isobel O'Hare and Barney Delaney.** May they follow the Risen Lord into eternal peace. We pray also for the repose of the soul of **Winnie MacPherson**, whose life was dedicated to her parish of St. Mary's in Arisaig. May they Lord now welcome a good and faithful servant. At Easter, the loved ones who have died are all the closer to us in prayerful memory. May they all rest in peace.

Fr. MacKinnon thanks all those who handed in Easter cards and gifts. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

Our thanks to all involved in the relocation of our horizontally-challenged church notice board!

Please remember to hand in your **SCIAF Boxes** as soon as possible. Anything received by SCIAF before the 17th May will be doubled by the UK government.

Fr. Kasule has sent his Easter prayers and wishes to you all.

We wish our **school children and staff** a very pleasant Easter break. Hopefully there will be sunshine!

There is an ecumenical **Easter Service** next Sunday in the Church of Scotland in Caol, beginning at 6.30 p.m. Easter is surely the time to share our Christian faith.

Quotations for Easter

It is not easy to convey a sense of wonder, let alone resurrection wonder, to another. It's the very nature of wonder to catch us off guard, to circumvent expectations and assumptions. Wonder can't be packaged, and it can't be worked up. It requires some sense of being there and some sense of engagement. *(Eugene H. Peterson, pastor and author)*

A grieving son was given the opportunity to write parting words on a card at his mother's funeral. He quoted the verse, "And morning came and Jesus was standing on the shore." *(Megan McKenna, theologian, lecturer and author)*

The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. *(Cardinal Basil Hume)*

The best news of the Christian gospel is that the supremely glorious Creator of the universe has acted in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection to remove every obstacle between us and himself so that we may find everlasting joy in seeing and savouring his infinite beauty. *(John Piper, pastor and author)*

I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because twelve men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for forty years, never once denying it. Every one of them was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled twelve of the most powerful men in the world - and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me twelve apostles could keep a lie for forty years? Absolutely impossible.
(Charles Colson, imprisoned for his part in the Watergate cover up; converted to Christ)

But now the power of Easter has burst upon us with the resurrection of Christ. Now we find in ourselves a strength which is not our own, and which is freely given to us whenever we need it, raising us above the Law, giving us a new law which is hidden in Christ: the law of His merciful love for us. Now we no longer strive to be good because we have to, because it is a duty, but because our joy is to please Him who has given all His love to us! Now our life is full of meaning! *(Thomas Merton, Trappist monk, writer and poet)*

Let the risen Jesus enter your life, welcome him as a friend, with trust: he is life! If up till now you have kept him at a distance, step forward. He will receive you with open arms. If you have been indifferent, take a risk: you won't be disappointed. If following him seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do. *(Pope Francis)*

God is fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. And so, if we feel in our hearts coldness, which is from the devil — for the devil is cold — then let us call upon the Lord and He will come and warm our hearts with perfect love not only for Him but for our neighbour as well. *(Saint Seraphim of Sarov – the Easter Fire comes to mind)*

Part of a homily of St. John Chrysostom, traditionally read at the Easter Vigil in the Orthodox Church

Let none bewail his transgressions; for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the Saviour has set us free. He has destroyed death by undergoing death. He has despoiled hell by descending into hell. Hell was filled with bitterness when it met thee face to face below: filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing; filled with bitterness, for it was mocked; filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown; filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains. It received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven. O death where is thy sting? O hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art cast down. Christ is risen and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns in freedom. Christ is risen, and there is none left dead in the tomb. For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of those that slept. To him be glory and dominion to the ages of ages!

