

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

17th May 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



**“But now I am coming to you
and while still in the world I say
these things to share my joy
with them to the full.”**

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

10.15 a.m.
Except on Friday, when Mass will be at 12
noon (*Funeral Mass of Angus Kennedy
RIP*)

May Devotions

Wednesday, 7 p.m. (*Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 p.m.*)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, 9.30 to 9.50 a.m.
4.30 to 5 p.m. 5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Angus Kennedy**, of Inverlochry Place, who died very peacefully in the Belford Hospital on the Feast of the Ascension. Angus's faith was in the merciful love of his Saviour. May his Risen Lord now welcome him home. We extend our sincere prayer and sympathy to Mary, Joan and Kenny, Donnie and all the family. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Rosemary Archibald, Rhoda Fletcher, Mary Tully, Elizabeth Davidson, Ryan Laskey, Ann MacDonell, Bill Smillie, Mairi Girvan, Mary MacNeil, Angus MacAlister, Jock MacDonald, Gregory McKee, Duncan MacDonald, John Archie Gillies and Roddy Wright.** May they rest for ever in the peace and joy of Christ.

The baskets left at the back of the church in response the **SCIAF's Nepal appeal** raised a remarkable £593.92. We thank you for your generous support.

Our thanks to all who continue to work in the garden, which now has its own birdhouse! And **a very special thanks** to all who cleaned the church so thoroughly on Thursday.

Next Sunday sees our annual **Pentecost Walk**, which begins at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and ends at the Salvation Army. It begins at 6.30 p.m. Do come along!

There is a **male choir** which meets in the Duncansburgh Macintosh New Church Hall every Monday at 7.30 p.m. There is absolutely no need for men to be able to read music or have any experience at all: a love of singing and enjoying good company is all that's required! Not everyone can manage every week and that's not a problem either, it's just a great opportunity for everyone to get together and enjoy the gift of song.

It is not often that we have the chance to enjoy opera in Fort William. There is a small and dedicated Scottish opera company called "Opera Bohemia" which has been very well reviewed and which is determined to bring opera to every part of Scotland. Next Saturday it will stage Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" in the Nevis Centre, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Tickets cost £13 (£11 concessionary) and £5 for the under-18s. The performance will last for two hours, including the interval. As regards costume and stage props, it is set in modern Japan, but the singing remains that of Puccini's timeless masterpiece, including the famous soprano aria, "Un bel di" ("One Fine Day"). You will find "Opera Bohemia" flyers at the back of the church.

Our sincere thanks to those who support the parish through Gift Aid. This tax year's total was £18,029.86, for which we should receive 20%. We should also receive a similar percentage of £5000 of the loose cash in the Offertory collection.

This Sunday we have the annual **Catholic Communications** collection. Whatever you can give is greatly appreciated. Next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, is our “**Day for Life**”. There are leaflets at the back of the church for you to take home and read. These outline the Church’s teaching on “end of life issues”. These leaflets are both sensitive and clear about issues that will eventually affect us all. There will be a special collection for the Church in her mission to protect the sanctity of all human life.

Please remember our **May Devotions** and the half-hour of silent prayer and adoration before they begin.

Potpourri

The ascension of Elijah may be compared to the flight of a bird, which none can follow. The ascension of Christ is, as it were, a bridge between earth and heaven, laid down for all who are drawn to Him by His earthly existence.

(Michael Baumgarten)

Christ is already in that place of peace, which is all in all. He is on the right hand of God. He is hidden in the brightness of the radiance which issues from the everlasting throne.... He has entered into His rest. That is our home; here we are on a pilgrimage, and Christ calls us to His many mansions which He has prepared.

(Blessed John Henry Newman)

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: “If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.” For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies. *(St. Augustine)*

Both need each other: The agnostic cannot be content to not know, but must be in search of the great truth of faith; the Catholic cannot be content to have faith, but must be in search of God all the time, and in the dialogue with others, a Catholic can learn more about God in a deeper fashion. *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

Let him begin by treating the Patriotism or the Pacifism as a part of his religion. Then let him, under the influence of partisan spirit, come to regard it as the most important part. Then quietly and gradually nurse him on to the stage at which the religion becomes merely part of the “cause”... Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your man, and it makes very little difference what kind of worldly end he is pursuing. Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades, matter more to him than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours — and the more “religious” (on those terms) the more securely ours.

(CS Lewis. The Screwtape Letters, advice from a senior to a junior devil)

If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read “President Can't Swim”. *(US President Lyndon B. Johnson)*



In 2003, Bethany Hamilton, lost an arm in a shark attack. She was only thirteen. Despite her handicap, she was determined to continue her surfing and so became an inspiration to many.

Bethany is also a devout Christian. She has something to say to all of us: “It was Jesus who gave me peace when the shark severed my arm. I trust in Jesus whenever I’m going through a hard time. I see all the beautiful things that have come out of my situation. I’m able to share my story with young girls who have few role models, and I can help others cope with what they have been through.”