

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

24th 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

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

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

Weekday Masses

10.15 a.m., except on Monday, when Mass will be at 7 p.m.

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.

Tuesday is the Memorial of St. Philip Neri.

You are invited to the annual ecumenical **Pentecost Walk**. It begins this Sunday at 6.30 p.m. in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and is followed by short services in the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church of Scotland, St. Mary's, and finally at the Salvation Army, where refreshments will be served after song and prayer. There will be a collection for the Lochaber Foodbank.

This is our **Day for Life**. Please take home one of the leaflets at the back of the church. There is a special collection for the Church's work in advocating the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Bella MacKinnon, Stephen Archibald, Neil MacKinnon, Laurence Childs, Elizabeth (Baba) Laird, Moira Jones, Bridget Keenan, John MacLaren, Ian Wynne and Molly O'Shea**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

We pray also for the eternal rest of **John Keane**, one of the local taxi drivers, who has died peacefully after a brave struggle with cancer. John's family have asked that he be buried from St. Mary's. His Funeral Service will be on Monday at 11.30 a.m. followed by cremation in Inverness. Mass on Monday will be at 7 p.m. It will be a Mass for the Dead, for John and all who have died recently, for those whose anniversaries are about this time, and for the loved ones whose memories we treasure.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound by priest and deacon from Monday to Wednesday of this week.

Are you interested in becoming a **Dementia Friend**? If so, please spare an hour and attend one of two meetings at St. Andrew's Church Hall on Wednesday, at 11.15 or 2 p.m. For more detailed information, please take a copy of the Dementia Friends' letter at the back of the church.

We thank John, Kenny and Brian for their early morning work in re-plastering the **Lady Chapel!** Once the new plaster is thoroughly dry we will attend to re-painting the chapel. The back wall of the church gives us cause for concern, as does the radical interior work that has to be done in the stonework of the porch.

There are **new cards** in the Lady Chapel stall: "I have lit a candle and prayed for you" and "I have attended Mass for you." And please remember that we already have Christian "Birthday Blessing" cards. There are sympathy cards as well as sympathy Mass cards.

On Monday, we return to **Ordinary Time**, the Eighth Week. Next Sunday is **Trinity Sunday**.

To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good, because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable. (*Pope Francis*)

The Holy Spirit is not a blessing from God. He is God. (*Colin Urquhart*)

The Holy Spirit does not speak to a soul that is distracted and garrulous. He speaks by His quiet inspirations to a soul that is recollected, to a soul that knows how to keep silence. (*St. Maria Faustina Kowalska*)

The Holy Spirit is the most perfect gift of the Father to men, and yet He is the one gift which the Father gives most easily. (*Fr. Thomas Merton*)



El Greco's "Pentecost"

El Greco, born Doménikos Theotokópoulos (1541 – 1614), was a painter of the Spanish Renaissance. "El Greco" ("The Greek") was a nickname, a reference to his Greek origin, and the artist normally signed his paintings with his full birth name in Greek letters, Δομήνικος Θεοτοκόπουλος (*Doménikos Theotokópoulos*), often adding the word Κρής (*Krēs*, "Cretan").