

# SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

31<sup>st</sup> May 2015

St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William PH33 6BT. Tel. (01397) 702174

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



**The Trinity**  
Andrei Rublev (c.1360-1430)

## 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.

*(There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, from 6 to 6.50 p.m.  
ending with the Litany of the Sacred Heart)*

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday, 9.30 to 9.50 a.m.

4.30 to 5 p.m. 5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Justin, Martyr; Wednesday, the  
Memorial of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, the Martyrs of  
Uganda; Friday, the Memorial of St. Boniface, Missionary and  
Martyr*



**I will lie down this night with God,  
and God will lie down with me;  
I will lie down this night with Christ,  
and Christ will lie down with me;  
I will lie down this night with the Spirit,  
and the Spirit will lie down with me;  
God and Christ and the Spirit,  
be lying down with me.  
(Ancient Celtic Night Prayer)**

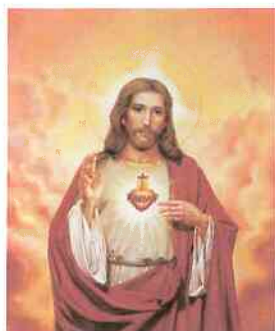


We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **George O'Neill, Joan Bremner, May MacDonald, Coila MacKintosh, Anne MacDonald, Linda Hunter, Martin Stokes, Norman MacInnes, Teresa Archibald, Margharita Morrison and Tam McEwan.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Thank you for your very generous response to last Sunday's **Day for Life** appeal. The special collection came to £426.71

Earlier this week, MSPs rejected the **Assisted Suicide Scotland Bill** by 82 votes to 36, following a debate at Holyrood. The bill would have allowed those with terminal illnesses to seek the help of a doctor to end their own life. MSPs were given a free vote. The Scottish government did not advocate a change in the law.

Our thanks to all who took part in our May Devotions. The month of June is, of course, dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus.**



We welcome our **Lourdes pilgrims** home. It was a time of very special blessing for them, and we can be sure that we were remembered at the Grotto.

Please remember **Fr. Stanislaw** in your prayers as he prepares for his Licence in Theology exam on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Many of you will remember **Fr. John McLaughlin**, the Kiltegan Father who made the missionary appeal in September, 2011. Fr. John died suddenly in February. You will find copies of a tribute to him at the back of the church.

### Quotations for Trinity Sunday

O eternal Trinity, You are a deep sea in which the more I seek the more I find, and the more I find, the more I seek to know You. You fill us insatiably, because the soul, before the abyss which You are, is always famished; and hungering for You, O eternal Trinity, it desires to behold truth in Your light. As the thirsty hart pants after the fount of living water, so does my soul long to leave this gloomy body and see You as You are, in truth.

O unfathomable depth! O Deity eternal! O deep ocean! What more could You give me than to give me Yourself? You are an ever-burning Fire; You consume and are not consumed. By Your fire, You consume every trace of self-love in the soul. You are a Fire which drives away all coldness and illumines minds with its light, and with this light You have made known Your truth. Truly this light is a sea which feeds the soul until it is all immersed in You, O peaceful Sea, eternal Trinity! The water of this sea is never turbid; it never causes fear, but gives knowledge of the truth. This water is transparent and discloses hidden things; and a living faith gives such abundance of light that the soul almost attains to certitude in what it believes.

You are the supreme and infinite Good, good above all good; good which is joyful, incomprehensible, inestimable; beauty exceeding all other beauty; wisdom surpassing all wisdom, because You are Wisdom itself. Food of angels, giving Yourself with fire of love to men! You are the garment which covers our nakedness; You feed us, hungry as we are, with Your sweetness, because You are all sweetness, with no bitterness. Clothe me, O eternal Trinity, clothe me with Yourself, so that I may pass this mortal life in true obedience and in the light of the most holy faith with which You have inebriated my soul. (*St. Catherine of Siena's Prayer of Thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity*)

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All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that "God is love." But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love. (*C.S. Lewis*)

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O Lord God almighty . . . I bless you and glorify you through the eternal and heavenly high priest Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, through whom be glory to you, with Him and the Holy Spirit, both now and forever. (*St. Polycarp, A.D. 70-155/160, Bishop of Smyrna. Disciple of John the Apostle*)

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I like the musical analogy proposed by theologian Jeremy S. Begbie. A musical chord is essentially composed of three different notes (to be a chord all three notes must be present), namely the first, third and fifth notes of a given musical scale. For example, the chord of C major is composed of the notes C (the root of the chord), E (the third from the root) and G (the fifth from the root). Each individual note is 'a sound', and all three notes played together are likewise 'a sound'. Hence a chord is essentially three sounds in one sound, or one sound essentially composed of three different sounds (each of which has an individual identity as well as a corporate identity).

By analogy, God is three divine persons in one divine personal being, or one divine personal being essentially composed of three divine persons. Moreover, when middle C (the root of the chord) is played it 'fills' the entire 'heard space'. When the E above middle C is played at the same time, that second note simultaneously 'fills' the whole of the 'heard space'; yet one can still hear both notes distinctly. When the G above middle C is added as well, a complete chord exists; one sound composed of three distinct sounds:

"What could be more apt than to speak of the Trinity as a three-note-resonance of life, mutually indwelling, without mutual exclusion and yet without merger, each occupying the same 'space,' yet recognizably and irreducibly distinct, mutually enhancing and establishing each other?" (*Professor Peter S Williams, Christian philosopher and apologist*)