

SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

(Corpus Christi)

7th June 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: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses 10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday:
9.45 to 10 a.m.
4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

Monday is the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Cathedral; Tuesday, the Solemnity of St. Columba; Thursday, the Memorial of St. Barnabas; Friday, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart; Saturday, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Charles Kennedy**. Many tributes have been offered in recent days, and rightly so. They have all come from the heart and from people of every background and political allegiance. Now has come the time for prayer, the prayer of Charles Kennedy's family for generation after generation: "*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*" And may God grant comfort to all his loved ones. On New Year's Day, Charles was here at Mass with his young son Donald, asking God's blessing in the coming year. A very special and poignant memory. We pray that the New Year Blessing become for him an eternal one: "*May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face and bring you peace.*"

We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Tommy McKinney, Fr. Ted Murphy, Catherine MacDonald, Margaret Auty, Annie MacDougall, Adam Ward, Agnes MacAllister, Allan Campbell, Charlie Campbell, Alex Kennedy and Ellen Semple**. May the Lord welcome them home.

Next Sunday, four of our young people will receive the Lord for the first time in **Holy Communion**. We thank their families and the school staff for all the support they have given. Please keep the children in your prayers in the coming week.

This week, we have the two most important of our Diocesan Feasts: the **Dedication of the Cathedral** on Monday and the **Solemnity of our patron, St. Columba**, on Tuesday. Please remember our Diocese in your daily prayer.

Nor should we forget a Feast dear to the hearts of so many Catholics throughout the world, that of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** on Friday. A day to attend Mass perhaps?

Please remember the new selection of cards now available in the **Lady Chapel stall**, especially those that promise your prayers for a particular person.

As regards the **church porch**, the cement there should be painstakingly removed and replaced with traditional lime mortar, as was originally the case. Otherwise water will continue to be trapped deep within the walls.

St. Columba was, of course, the first abbot of Iona. Many were to follow him after his death in A.D. 597. The last abbot was the Benedictine John MacKinnon (Eóin MacFhionghain), abbot from 1467–1498. On his death the abbacy and its revenues passed to the Bishops of the Isles, who used the abbey church as a *de facto* cathedral, but without the monks serving as its chapter of canons. Here are photos of John MacKinnon's tomb effigy, now near the altar of the abbey church on Iona:



A century before John there had been another abbot from the MacKinnon clan. His name was Finghuine and he was known as the "Green Abbot". In 1386, he encouraged John Mòr of Clan Donald in his attempt to seize the Lordship of the Isles from his brother Donald. The abbot persuaded the MacLeans of Mull and the MacLeods of Harris to join in the revolt, along with his MacKinnon kinsmen. The revolt failed from the very start. John Mòr fled to Galloway, then to Ireland, but was later pardoned by his brother.

The Green Abbot was spared death because he was a churchman. However, he was ordered never to leave Iona. Later, a hostile chronicler would describe him as "a subtle and wicked councillor". We are told that he built "a stately tomb for himself". There is no trace of it on Iona.

Perhaps some Gaelic scholar somewhere may be able to tell us why he was called the "Green Abbot".

Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament ... There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves upon earth.

(J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the "Lord of the Rings")

For the whole Church observes this practice which was handed down by the Fathers: that it prays for those who have died in the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, when they are commemorated in their own place in the sacrifice itself; and the sacrifice is offered also in memory of them on their behalf.

(St. Augustine, in a sermon given c. 400 A.D.)

The bread and the wine of the Eucharist before the holy invocation of the adorable Trinity were simple bread and wine, but the invocation having been made, the bread becomes the body of Christ and the wine the blood of Christ.

(St. Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, c. 315-386 A.D.)

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the Living Heart of each of our parishes. *(Pope Paul VI)*

O Lord, we cannot go to the pool of Siloe to which you sent the blind man. But we have the chalice of Your Precious Blood, filled with life and light.

(St. Ephrem the Syrian)

What Christ gives us is quite explicit if his own words are interpreted according to their Aramaic meaning. The expression 'This is my body' means 'This is myself'. *(Fr. Karl Rahner)*

At Lourdes...each afternoon, in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, the bishop or priest, carrying the monstrance, walks among the sick, blessing them. It is then that the cures and the miracles of grace usually take place. Mary brings her children to her divine Son and it is he who works the miracles, just as he did at Cana. *(Fr. Paul Hinnebusch, O.P.)*

It is called the real presence, not in an exclusive sense, as though other forms of presence were not real, but by reason of its excellence. It is the substantial presence by which Christ is made present without doubt, whole and entire, God and man.

(Pope Paul VI)

