

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

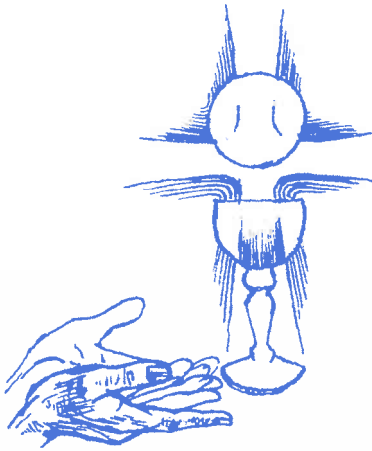
23rd August 2015

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



Sunday Masses

Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning, 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

10.15 a.m.

Tuesday 5 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday

9.45 to 10 a.m.

4 to 4.30 p.m.

5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday, 4 to 5 pm.

Monday is the Feast of the Apostle, St. Bartholomew; Thursday, the Memorial of St. Monica; Friday, the Memorial of St. Augustine; Saturday, the Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist.

There are leaflets at the back of the Church sent on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland. They are entitled, "*Safeguarding in the Catholic Church: a Response to the McLellan Commission.*" Please ensure that you take a leaflet home. Read it very carefully and take it to heart.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Isabel MacLean, Hamish MacPherson, Donald Smith, Anne O'Donnell, James Fairbairn, Alister MacAlister, Carlie Campbell, Eileen MacKinnon, Neil Gillies, Donnie Lamont, Mary MacLean, Theresa Harrison, Nora MacKay, Hugh MacKinnon, Mary Anne MacKintosh, Alistair MacMillan, Jim MacLeod, Catherine MacLeod and Charles McKinney.** May they rest in the peace of our merciful Saviour.

There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Friday, from 4 to 5 p.m. It will conclude with the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus and Benediction.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound this week, from Monday to Wednesday.

The annual Diocesan Collection for **Sick and Retired Priest** is now due. We will have it next Sunday. Please be as generous as always.

If anyone would like to **help clean the church**, please come along after the 10.15 Mass on Thursday. Your help is really appreciated!

The Assembly of the Priests of the Diocese will take place in Oban from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd September.



St. Monica and St. Augustine

"It is impossible for the son of such tears to perish."

(St. Ambrose of Milan's words to Monica)

Potpourri



There is no shortage of paintings of the beheading of John the Baptist, some of them unsparing in their detail. Perhaps it is better to look at the place of his martyrdom. It is called Machaerus. It is in the Kingdom of Jordan and is visited by pilgrims. It was a palace-fortress built on a commanding height, to the east of the Dead Sea. It was here that Herod Antipas, son of King Herod the Great, imprisoned and finally executed John the Baptist.

The photos show the ruins, the well-chosen site, and a reconstruction of the fortified palace. John was executed about 32 AD, after two years imprisonment.

The beheading of a human being is especially horrific. It is distressing to remember that as late as 1977 France still used the guillotine. (The death penalty was abolished by the French National Assembly in 1981.)

Nowadays, decapitation has become an instrument of terror used by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. As we commemorate the death of John the Baptist on Saturday, perhaps we should remember the victims of this brutal and nihilistic regime.

Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the men of old; seek what they sought. (*Matsuo Basho*)

Love all God's creations, both the whole and every grain of sand. Love every leaf, every ray of light. Love the animals, love the plants, love each separate thing. If you love each thing, you will perceive the mystery of God in All. (*Fyodor Dostoevsky*)

Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion. (*Brennan Manning*)

People change and forget to tell each other. (*Lillian Hellman*)

Allow children to be happy in their own way, for what better way will they find? (*Samuel Johnston*)

A friend hears the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails. (*Anon*)

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. (*Berthold Auerbach*)

If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito. (*Betty Reese*)

God is of no importance unless He is of supreme importance. (*Abraham Joshua Heschel*)

In a child's lunch box are a mother's thoughts. (*Japanese Proverb*)

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. (*Robert Louis Stevenson*)

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. (*Albert Einstein*)

Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light. (*Helen Keller*)

I call him religious who understands the suffering of others. (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake. (*Victor Hugo*)

It is not the strength of the body that counts, but the strength of the spirit. (*J.R.R. Tolkien*)

Most of the appearance of mirth in the world is not mirth, it is art. The wounded spirit is not seen, but walks under a disguise. (*Robert South*)