

TWENTY- FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

13th September 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



“Peter spoke up and said to him,
‘You are the Christ.’”
“Jesus said, ‘If anyone wants to be a
follower of mine, let him take up his
cross and follow me.’”

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning, 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 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Tuesday, the
Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows; Wednesday, the Feast of St. Ninian.*

Martin Aelred will be with us this Sunday afternoon, at 3 p.m. His voice is certainly worth hearing once again! There will be a collection for the residents of Moss Park and Invernevis House. Do come along and give your support!

We pray for those who have died recently. We remember especially **Father Joe McShane** who died peacefully in hospital in Glasgow on Wednesday afternoon. The Diocese prays for one of its priests. Fr. Joe was a man of many gifts. For those to whom he brought healing and blessing, his memory will be very special, as will their prayer for his eternal peace with his Saviour. His funeral will take place in St. John's, Barrhead, on Thursday at 12 noon. We pray also for the repose of the soul of **Billy MacDonald**, who has died after a long illness borne with courage. May he now rest in peace, and may the Lord comfort Clare and all who mourn him. We pray for the eternal rest of **Chris Evans**, for many years our neighbour in St. Mary's. We all valued Chris as a skilled and dedicated vet, as a generous and humane man who was so much part of the life of Lochaber. May the Good Shepherd lead him home and comfort all his loved ones. We pray also for the Faithful Departed whose anniversaries are about this time: **Cathie Wood, Janie Taylor, Neil MacDonald, Ena MacDonald, Frank Gribben, Helen (Nellie) Hayes, Joe McHugh, Margaret Chisholm, Allan Currie, Donald MacNeill, Janet MacDonald, Sheena McCulloch, David Donaldson, Alice McAuley, Frances Connachie, Brian Wynne, Alistair MacDonald, Sandy Morrison, John Shields and Carmela Boni.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the **Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund**. There will be a special Mass, led by Mgr. James MacNeil, Administrator of the Diocese, at St. John's in Caol at 7 p.m. on Thursday, 17 September, to which you are all invited. Teas will be served in the school afterwards. St. John's will be having a Ceilidh Dance in the Caol Community Centre on Friday, starting at 7.30 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door: £10 for adults and £5 for children.

The Westminster Parliament has voted against the proposed Bill in favour of **assisted dying**, that is, assisted suicide. The Bill applied to England and Wales and was defeated by 330 votes to 118. In December, the Scottish Parliament rejected a similar motion by 84 to 16 votes. We cannot be complacent. The campaign for assisted suicide will continue, and it is for us to be informed as to what this would most certainly lead to. Meanwhile, palliative and hospice care remains our priority.

The money box for the candles in the Lady Chapel was recently broken into, with its interior box and padlock taken away. There is now a new padlock. A coffee tin replaces the box that was taken.

Now that the Queen has become the longest reigning British, the shortest reign in the history of France comes to mind: it lasted twenty minutes! On 2 August 1830, Charles X abdicated, and twenty minutes later his elder son Louis Antoine also abdicated in favour of his nephew Prince Henri, barely ten years old. Charles X urged his cousin Louis Philippe of Orleans to proclaim Henri as Henri V of France. Louis Philippe ignored him. On the 9 August the French National Assembly decreed that the throne should pass to Louis Philippe. The young Henri then went into exile. It was while residing in Holyrood Palace that he visited Fort William. Moved by the poverty and the piety of those at Mass in the old Catholic Chapel, he commissioned a painting of Our Lady. It now hangs at the back of our church.

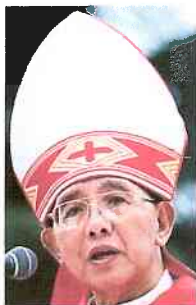


Prince Henri in his later years

Fr. John Monaghan, of the Diocese of Ballarat in Victoria, Australia, completed the West Highland Way and spent some days at St. Mary's. He enjoyed his visit to the West Highland Museum and his ascent of Ben Nevis. Fr. Monaghan's Diocese actually has three priests called MacKinnon, one of whom looks after a small town called "Donald", named after a Scotsman called William Donald. Now there's a thing!

Letters in journals and newspapers often pursue a theme. Under the heading "What's in a Name", we were recently told that there was a Protestant American chaplain based in Britain during the Second World War whose name was O.K. Bosse! *(The editor checked. It's true.)*

There was one Catholic leader who was willing to share the humour caused by the incongruity of his name. He was the late Cardinal Jaime Sin of the Philippines. "Welcome to the House of Sin" he would often greet his visitors. He was famous for his dry wit. He once said of the corruption which persisted after he helped oust President Ferdinand Marcos: "We got rid of Ali Baba but the forty thieves remain."



The experience of death is going to get more and more painful, contrary to what many people believe. The forthcoming euthanasia will make it more rather than less painful because it will put the emphasis on personal decision in a way which was blissfully alien to the whole problem of dying in former times. It will make death even more subjectively intolerable, for people will feel responsible for their own deaths and morally obligated to rid their relatives of their unwanted presence. Euthanasia will further intensify all the problems its advocates think it will solve. *(René Girard, French-born historian and philosopher)*

When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross and when we proclaim Christ without the cross, we are not disciples of the Lord. We are worldly. We may be bishops, priests, cardinals, popes, all of this, but we are not disciples of the Lord. *(Pope Francis)*

At one level "human respect" seems a good thing. After all we ought to respect, honor and appreciate one another. What then is meant by the "sin of human respect?" At its core, the sin of human respect is that sin wherein we fear man more than God; where we more concerned with what people think of us and what we do, than what God thinks. *(Monsignor Charles Pope)*

Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. *(St. Alphonsus Liguori)*

What we call public opinion is generally public sentiment. *(Benjamin Disraeli, 19th Century British Prime Minister)*

It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it. *(Hans Urs von Balthasar, Catholic theologian)*

I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before your face questions die away. What other answer would suffice? *(C.S. Lewis)*

Silent solitude makes true speech possible and personal. If I am not in touch with my own belovedness, then I cannot touch the sacredness of others. If I am estranged from myself, I am likewise a stranger to others. *(Fr. Brennan Manning)*

For some moments in life there are no words. *(David Seltzer, film director and screenwriter)*

He who has nothing to die for has nothing to live for. *(Moroccan Proverb)*

If you're all wrapped up in yourself then you are overdressed. *(Anon)*