

## TWENTY- SEVENTH SUNDAY ON ORDINARY TIME

4<sup>th</sup> October 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](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



### Noticeboard

#### Sunday Masses

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

#### Weekday Masses

10.15 a.m., except on Monday, when Mass will be at 12 noon (*Funeral Mass of Cathie MacDonell RIP*)

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday  
9.45 to 10 a.m.  
4 to 4.30 p.m.  
5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

#### October Devotions

Wednesday, 6 p.m. (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour before.*)

*Wednesday is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.*

This Sunday we have a special collection in response to **SCIAF's Emergency Appeal** on behalf of the refugees of Syria. Whatever you give is deeply appreciated and will immediately be put to best use by SCIAF.

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray especially for **Cathie MacDonell** who has died peacefully. We all knew Cathie's gentleness and kindness, her integrity and the example of faith that she gave us. Her life was devoted above all else to her family, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayer to John Alistair, Marianne, Lesley, John, Stephen, Ali and all of Cathie's loved ones. May she now rest in the peace of her Saviour. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **John McAuley, Donald MacDonald, Teresa Mannion, Larry Lenkas, Ray Ann MacRae, Flora McManus, Charlene Masclat, Carmen Mages, Colin MacMillan and Maureen MacPherson**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Our warmest congratulations to **Tanya Paterson** and **Kevin Toye** who were married in St. Mary's this Saturday. We wish the newly-weds many years of happiness together.

Please note that our **October Devotions** begin this week, on Wednesday, at 6 p.m. For those who would like a time of quiet prayer beforehand, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30 p.m. The Exposition and Rosary will be offered for the Synod on the Family taking place in Rome.

### MISSION SUNDAY WILL BE IN TWO WEEKS' TIME

We will have the annual collection in support of *Missio Scotland*. Small Gift Aid envelopes will be available for the special collection taken at the end of Mass. Please put the details required in block capitals, apart, of course, from your signature. Remember to write the date.

*Please do not put Missio Membership money or cheques in these Gift Aid envelopes.* These should be separate from the special collection. There will be forms for renewing or initiating *Missio* membership. Please fill yours in carefully as required. Cheques should be made out to "*Missio Scotland*". Blank envelopes will be provided for your form and donation.

This parish has always been exceptionally generous in support of the Church's missions, and we know that this year will be no exception.

## "When God Created Mothers" by Erma Bombeck

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said. "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands."

The angel shook its head slowly and said. "Six pairs of hands.... no way." "It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. God nodded.

"One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."

"God", said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Get some rest tomorrow...." "I can't," said God, "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," it sighed. "But tough!" said God excitedly. "You can imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran its finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," it pronounced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord, "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride."

"You are a genius!" said the angel.

Sombrely, God said, "I didn't put it there."



*Erma Fiste was born in Ohio in 1927. While a student at the Marist University of Dayton, she converted to the Catholic faith. One of the Marists, Brother Tom Price, recognised and encouraged her gift for writing. In 1949, she married Bill Bombeck, once a fellow student.*

*Erma's "Wit's End" newspaper column would eventually attract 30 million readers in the USA and Canada. She also wrote best-selling books. She described the often zany rough and tumble of her life as a suburban housewife and mother. Her humour was sometimes robust, sometimes whimsical, but she was equally capable of deeply sensitive insights. Since the age of twenty, Erma suffered from a kidney disease requiring constant dialysis, but only made this public towards the end of her life. She died from complications after a kidney transplant in 1996.*

### Quotations from Erma Bombeck

A grandmother pretends she doesn't know who you are at Halloween.

My theory on housework is, if the item doesn't multiply, smell, catch fire, or block the refrigerator door, let it be. No one else cares. Why should you?

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me'.

It is not until you become a mother that your judgment slowly turns to compassion and understanding.

In two decades I've lost a total of 789 pounds. I should be hanging from a charm bracelet.

In general my children refuse to eat anything that hasn't danced in television.

I will buy any crème, cosmetic, or elixir from a woman with a European accent.

Youngsters of the age of two and three are endowed with extraordinary strength. They can lift a dog twice their own weight and dump him into the bathtub.

The odds of going to the store for a loaf of bread and coming out with only a loaf of bread are three billion to one.

Good kids are like sunsets. We take them for granted. Every evening they disappear. Most parents never imagine how hard they try to please us, and how miserable they feel when they think they have failed.

It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else.