

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25th 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



Christ and Bartimaeus

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday, 5 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday, 10.15 a.m.
Thursday, 12 noon (*Funeral Mass of Mary Gribben RIP*)
Friday & Saturday, 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.

October Devotions Wednesday, 6 p.m. (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30 p.m.*)

Wednesday is the Feast of the Apostles St. Simon and St. Jude.

Our sincere thanks for your very generous support of the Missions. Last Sunday's special collection raised £751.95 for **Missio Scotland**. Last year's total was £617.59. And our thanks to those who augmented their donation by using the Gift Aid envelopes. This should add about £60 to our parish collection. We invite those who are members of *Missio Scotland*, or wish to become such, to renew or begin their special support, as individuals or as families.



We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Mary Gribben**, who has died peacefully after a long illness borne with great courage. May the Lord now welcome her into eternal peace and joy. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to all the family. They will always treasure the great love that they shared with Mary. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Rose Gardetto, Mary Cameron, Angus MacPhee, John Delaney, Charlie McHugh, George MacFarlane (Senior), Anne Harrison, Michael Haggerty, Kenny Cairns, Sister Keenan, Ray Dryden, Angus Campbell, Anne Morrison, Angus MacPherson, Mary MacNeil, Sally MacPherson, Henry MacLaren, Susan Keenan, Patrick Quinn and John Delaney**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace

This year's **November List** leaflets are now available at the back of the church. Please write the names of the loved ones you would like remembered whenever Mass is offered during the month of the Holy Souls.

Next Sunday is the **Solemnity of All Saints**. This takes precedence over the Mass and Readings of Ordinary Time.



Queen of the Holy Rosary

MISSIONARY APPEAL

A Holy Ghost Father from Carfin will be here next Sunday to make the annual missionary appeal. The origin of the Holy Ghost Fathers, or Spiritans, goes back to 1703. They now work in over fifty countries.

Please be as welcoming and supportive as always.



This is a face that Fr. MacKinnon remembers well from his years in the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris. It is a photo of Joseph Chhmar Salas, from Cambodia. None of us could have guessed what lay ahead for Joseph.

Ordained in 1964, he had returned to Paris for further studies. In April, 1975, the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia. They founded a Communist state where all religion was forbidden. Joseph had been recalled from France and ordained as the first native Cambodian bishop in place of his French predecessor. He had been a bishop for only four days when the Khmer Rouge took over Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Those who have seen the film *The Killing Fields* will know what this involved.

The new bishop was sent by the Khmer Rouge to work in the rice fields of Kompong Thom. Again, *The Killing Fields* lets us know the terrible conditions Bishop Joseph and two million of his fellow countrymen had to endure. Joseph never ceased to give comfort to all those around him. He also celebrated Mass secretly on his wooden bed. The labour camp was his diocese. He died in September, 1977. He was quite simply worked and starved to death.

His parents managed to recover his pectoral cross, which became a focus of their prayer and that of their fellow Catholics who somehow managed to hold on to their faith in the worst of times.

On May 1, 2015, the Cambodian Catholic Church officially began the process that may lead one day to the canonisation of Joseph Chhmar Salas and 34 other Catholic leaders who died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. Once this process is completed in Cambodia, it will be passed on to Rome's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Perhaps one day, we will be honouring St. Joseph Chhmar Salas and the other Martyrs of Cambodia. It is a cause well worth praying for!

In 2013, the relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux were taken to Cambodia. At one point they were placed on the bed where Bishop Joseph had once celebrated Mass. On that day, 3000 Cambodian Catholics, now free to practise their religion, gathered to honour both Thérèse and Joseph: a saint and surely a future saint.



Last Sunday, for the first time in the history of the Church, a married couple were canonised together. They were Louis and Marie-Azélie ("Zélie") Martin: the parents of St Thérèse of Lisieux, but declared saints in their own right. In his homily, Pope Francis said of them: *"The holy spouses Louis Martin and Marie-Azélie Guérin practised Christian service in the family, creating day by day an environment of faith and love which nurtured the vocations of their daughters, among whom was Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus."*

As young people, both had felt drawn to the religious life, but this was not to be for them. Louis was asked to leave the famous monastery of St. Bernard in the Alps because he just could not get to grips with Latin. He trained to be a watchmaker. Zélie joined the Sisters of Charity, but soon had to leave for health reasons. She became a very skilled lace-maker, setting up her own business. Louis and Zélie met in 1858, fell in love, and were married three months later.

They would have nine children. Daily Mass at 5.30 a.m. was part of family life, but so were games, excursions and holidays. All the children were taught to treat others with equal respect, no matter what background they came from, and to have a special care for the poor and the elderly. Louis loved his billiards and his fishing! He had pet names for each of his children. Thérèse, the youngest, was his *"petite reine"* (his "little queen")

They had their moments of great sorrow: four of their children did not survive infancy. This they faced with a deep, shared faith. Thérèse was only four and half years old when her mother died of breast cancer. Louis moved with his five daughters to Lisieux. All five would eventually enter the religious life. Louis died in 1894. In her book, *The Hidden Face*, the Austrian-born author Ida Gorres wrote of him:

"From him Thérèse inherited her passion for flowers and meadows, for her native landscape, for clouds, thunderstorms, the sea and the stars. There was too... wanderlust... He made pilgrimages to Chartres and Lourdes, went to Germany and Austria, travelled twice to Rome and even to Constantinople, and planned but did not live to carry out a pilgrimage to the Holy Land."

One day, the self-offering and the prayer of his *"petite reine"* would reach out from her convent to the ends of the earth.