

# SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

1<sup>st</sup> November 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

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday	6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass	10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses:</u>	Monday	10.15 a.m. and 7 p.m.
	Tuesday	12 noon ( <i>Funeral Mass of Ina MacDonald RIP</i> )
	Other Weekdays	10.15 a.m.
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday: 9.45 to 10 a.m.	
		4 to 4.30 p.m.
		5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

*Monday is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls); Tuesday, the Optional Memorial of St. Martin de Porres; Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo.*

Today and tomorrow we celebrate the **Communion of Saints**, the wondrous bond of love that unites the Church on earth with the Church in heaven and with the all the souls in that state of final purification and preparation we know as Purgatory. What we affirm in the Creed, we put into practice, especially in the prayers we offer during the month of November.

One of the **Holy Ghost Fathers** is with us this Saturday and Sunday. He will make the annual missionary appeal. When it comes to our missionaries, you have always been warm in your welcome and generous in your support.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Ina MacDonald**, who has died peacefully in the Lynn of Lorne Home in Barcaldine, at the great age of 95. A well-loved sister, aunt and great aunt, Ina was faithful all her days to her Saviour and his Church. May she now be welcomed by the all the saints and share in their eternal peace and joy. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to her sister Katie and to all the family. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Rose Mary Moore, Ellen McGinlay, Irene Quail, Roy Stirling, Teresa Dougan, Sarah Kelly, Sandra MacPherson, Margaret Reeve, Kathleen Kearney, Mona Timbrell, Antonio Jimenez Ayala, Mary MacDonald, Adam MacLean, James Findlay, Alice Findlay and Elizabeth Cameron**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

We thank you for your generous support of special collections in the past eleven months. There remains one more before the end of the Diocesan Financial Year on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. It is for the **Pastoral Fund** of the Diocese. We will have it in two weeks' time. . Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Next Sunday, at 3 p.m., we will have the rosary for our Faithful Departed in **Glen Nevis cemetery**.

**British Legion poppies** are on sale at the back of the church. Remember the good work that is done through your support.

The origin of the Holy Ghost Fathers is rather different from that of the other, more modern, missionary societies we also support. It goes back to this man, Claude des Places, born in Rennes in 1679.



Claude came from an aristocratic and wealthy background. His life began to change while he studied law in Paris. He became more aware of the poverty around him and used much of his allowance to help the poor. After his graduation, he abandoned the glittering career that would certainly have been his – he was very gifted- and entered a Jesuit seminary. There he came across some seminarians so poor that they struggled to make ends meet. He used his allowance to help them financially. From this there developed a fellowship that on Pentecost Sunday, 1703, dedicated themselves to the service of the poor in rural France and to the support of impoverished seminarians. They founded their own seminary. Claude would not live to see what would become of what he had started. He died of pleurisy in 1709, aged only thirty. He was buried in a pauper's grave. His community, also known as Spiritans, continued to grow. Its work began to extend beyond France. Then came the French Revolution. The Congregation lost its property and its priests were scattered. With Napoleon in power, peace was restored to the Church, but the Spiritans struggled to survive. Their community seemed destined for extinction. .

Then they were joined by a man seen as their "Second Founder". He was Francis Libermann, the son of a rabbi. He had converted to the Catholic faith and entered the seminary of St. Sulpice. Epilepsy would hold back his ordination to the priesthood for 15 years, but these were



Fr. Francis Libermann 1804-1852

spent fruitfully, preparing the way for a new Congregation that would care for the emancipated black slaves of the French colonies in the Caribbean. Because their apostolates was so similar, the Holy See requested that Francis Libermann join his community with what was left of the original Holy Ghost Congregation. Great missionary work would come of that amalgamation! Perhaps one day Claude des Places and Francis Libermann will be given their place in the Calendar of Saints.

### Potpourri

The peace of the celestial city is the perfectly ordered and harmonious enjoyment of God, and of one another in God. *(St. Augustine of Hippo)*

One of the challenges of secularism is that it's not something outside us. In too many instances, secularism has so permeated the church that sometimes it's the frame of reference even for very good people, people who have a strong allegiance to the church.

*(Fr. Donald Wuerl)*

In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints. *(Frederick Buechner)*

I'm a closet Catholic. I love the iconography of the saints. There was a point in my life when I was going to convert to Catholicism, but I didn't want my grandmother spinning around in her grave like a rotisserie chicken. *(Lynda Resnick)*

God himself took a day to rest in, and a good man's grave is his Sabbath. *(John Donne)*

This day in the Holy Scriptures is called the Sabbath, which means rest. And this day is indeed a Sabbath to me, for it is the last day of my present laborious life, and on it I rest after the fatigues of my labours; and this night at midnight, which commences the solemn Lord's Day, I shall, according to the sayings of Scripture, go the way of our fathers. For already my Lord Jesus Christ deigns to invite me; and to Him, I say, in the middle of this night shall I depart, at His invitation. For so it has been revealed to me by the Lord himself.

*(St. Columba of Iona)*

This, and this alone, is Christianity, a universal holiness in every part of life, a heavenly wisdom in all our actions, not conforming to the spirit and temper of the world but turning all worldly enjoyments into means of piety and devotion to God. *(William Law)*

I am an old man and have known many troubles. But most of them never happened. *(Mark Twain)*