

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19<sup>th</sup> August 2012

St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William PH33 6BT Tel. (01397) 702174

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Mass, 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 5.50 p.m.

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church;  
Tuesday, the Memorial of St. Pius X; Wednesday, the Memorial of the  
Queenhip of Our Lady; Friday, the Feast of St. Bartholomew.*

**The work** within the church is progressing well, with the minimum of disruption as regards access for Mass. Very soon a group of slaters will attend to the external sources of the leaks. This will require extra scaffolding. When the work is finished we will thank everyone involved.

**Fr Joseph** has sent us an e-mail. He has passed his exams. He nearly failed one of three paper, but thankfully got a borderline pass. He thanks you for your support and prayers. We extend our warmest congratulations! Please continue to remember him as he enters the last stage of one tough course. Success in this will give him a Chartered Accountancy qualification of international standard, and that for his archdiocese of Kampala. We have no doubt that his Archbishop will listen carefully to his advice!

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Matthias Slattery**, father of Liz Tangney, who has died peacefully after a long illness. May he now rest in the peace and joy of his Saviour, and may the Lord comfort Liz and all the family. We pray also for **Margaret Smith**, a faithful and beloved member of the parish of St. Mary MacKillop in Warnervale in Australia. Born and raised in Fort William, Margaret belonged to the Niven family. May her generous Lord now grant her the reward of the good servant. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Ann MacLeod** and **Darin Quail**. We remember them and all our loved ones and fellow parishioners.

Congratulations to **Peter Keil**, who was confirmed and who received his first Holy Communion at a peaceful family Mass on Friday evening. We warmly welcome Peter to full communion with the parish family and the Church throughout the world.

There will be a special collection next Sunday for the **Retired Priests of the Diocese**. Please be generous in your support, remembering the service these men gave to our people.

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound from Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> August to Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be other, ad hoc, housebound communions in the meantime.

Fr. MacKinnon has had his first meeting with this year's **Confirmands**. Please keep these children in your prayers.



We are now used to the seated statue at the West End of the town. It represents, of course, those who have completed the West Highland Way. Here is a photo of another seated statue. It can be found in the town of Terre Haute, Indiana, in the United States. It is in memory of that town's most famous son, Max Ehrmann (1872-1945). A Methodist of Bavarian descent, he was a lawyer, but also a writer and a poet. Below you can see his most famous work of prose poetry, the "Desiderata" (the Latin for "Things to be desired"). This has given comfort and direction to millions of people, bestowing posthumous fame on a man of quiet faith and wisdom.

*Go placidly amidst the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.*

*Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.*

*And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its shams, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful.*

*Strive to be happy.*