

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6th December 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



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses First Mass of Sunday (Vigil Mass) Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses 10.15 a.m. except on Monday, when Mass will be at 5 p.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 Memorial of St. Ambrose. Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

The customary ecumenical **Advent Service** takes place this Sunday evening in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, at 6.30 p.m. A warm welcome awaits you. Do come along!

Next Sunday, Fr. Joe Calleja, our Dean, will lead us in the **blessing of the Holy Door** in St. Mary's at 4 p.m. It will be followed by Evening Prayer in the church. The blessing and the opening of a door is an obvious symbol of entry into that time of special grace called a Jubilee or Holy Year. Such years are infrequent: the last one was in the year 2000. Normally they occur every 25 years. Traditionally, they are inaugurated by the opening of a special door in St. Peter's Basilica that can only be entered during a time of Jubilee. Pope Francis will open that door on Tuesday, thereby officially inaugurating the Year of Mercy he has decreed for the entire Church. A similar ceremony will take place at the Cathedral in Oban on Tuesday, at 7 p.m. It will be followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While the traditional opening of the Year of Mercy takes place on Tuesday, it began earlier in Africa when the Holy Father opened a Holy Door in the Central African Republic. This Pope can touch hearts in a very special way!

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Alister Semple, Angus MacDonald, Lachlan Wynne, Arthur McGinlay, Margaret MacDonald, Margaret B. MacDonald, Marion Wynne, Rose McTaggart, Mary MacKellaig, John MacDonald, John and Mary Alice Kelly, Margaret Culley, Annie O'Neill, Katherine MacKinnon, Mary Cameron, Joseph MacLeod, Neil MacEachen, Murdo MacLeod and Mary Ann Kennedy.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

More calendars are available for sale at the back of the church. They cost £2 each.

The **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** is celebrated on Tuesday. It is the patronal feast of this parish. If you are free, do come and share in the Mass.

The bench in memory of the men of the parish who died in the **First World War** is almost ready. Once installed outside the church, it will be blessed and prayer offered for all the war dead.

Next Sunday, there the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated during our Morning Mass. Please keep the young Confirmands in your personal prayers in the coming week.

Nobody can deny that the church is much warmer than it once was. Apart from repairs to the building, **the heating of the church** is top of the list when it comes to annual expenditure. Multiply your home's heating bills by many factors, and you will have a good idea of the cost involved. During the winter months, there will be a basket at the back of the church for any donations to our heating you may wish to make. Every coin that you give is of great help to the parish.

Pope Francis in the Central African Republic



The Pope opens the Holy Door of the Cathedral of Bangui, capital of the C.A.R.



Two photos of the Holy Father's visit to a refugee camp



Two Muslims girls welcome the Pope to a mosque in Bangui.

Some Scripture for the Year of Mercy

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (Psalm 23:6)

Remember your kindness, O Lord, your love that you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, but rather, with your love remember me. (Psalm 25:6-7)

What I want is mercy, not sacrifice; the knowledge of God, not burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6)

This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

What God can compare with you, taking fault away, pardoning sin, not cherishing anger for ever, but delighting in showing mercy? (Micah 7:18)

Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. (Colossians 3:12)

Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him when we are in need of help. (Hebrews 4:16)

Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside mercy and now you have been given mercy. (1 Peter 2:10)

Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. (Matthew 5:7)

Go and learn the meaning of the words: what I want is mercy not sacrifice. And indeed I did not come to call the virtuous but sinners, (Matthew 9:13)

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. (Luke 6:37)

In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. (Luke 15:7)

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. (Luke 15:20)

'Jesus', he said 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you' he replied 'today you will be with me in paradise.' (Luke 23:42-43)