

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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



## Noticeboard

<u>Monday</u>	Mass at 5 p.m.
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mass at 10.15 a.m.
<u>Wednesday</u>	There will be no Mass or Communion Service
<u>Thursday</u>	Mass at 10.15 a.m. NEW YEAR VIGIL MASS AT 6 P.M.
<u>Friday</u>	NEW YEAR MASS AT 10.30 A.M.
<u>Saturday</u>	Mass at 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 Feast of the Holy Innocents; Friday, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; Saturday, the Memorial of St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazienzen.*

**Our sincere thanks** to all who helped make our Christmas Masses so special. Our gratitude is for all who have done so much for the parish in the past year: Thomas our Deacon; our organists and cantors; readers and Eucharistic ministers; Hector our sacristan and our pass keepers; our faithful young servers; Tommy for "the bells of St. Mary's"; those who have got together to clean the church or have done so individually; Cathy and those who have helped her prepare the flowers; those who have cleaned the altar linens; and all who have counted and banked the parish collections. God bless you all!

Thank you all for your support of **Mary's Meals**. We will give the total collected as soon as we can.

As always, you have shown great kindness to Fr. MacKinnon. **He thanks you most sincerely** for your cards and your gifts. Please accept his prayers and best wishes for the Christmas season and the coming New Year. May God be close to you all.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margaret Pryce (MacFarlane), Ritu McLaughlin, Gerald Mulrooney, Charles McLaughlin, Angus Ogilvy, Jan Wegner, Margaret Wardrop, Campbell Chisholm, Bella MacRae, Andrew Nesbitt, Harry Deeny, Duncan Kennedy, Eileen Cameron, Michael McCartney, Neil MacVarish, Peggy Cameron, Charles Fitzsimons, Alister Matheson, Archie MacDonald and John Maguire+**. May all our loved ones rest in Christ's eternal peace and joy.

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on New Year's Day** is not a Holiday of Obligation, but many Catholics like to begin the New Year by honouring Our Lady and celebrating the Eucharist. Please note this year's Mass times. They are as on Sundays, the Vigil Mass at 6 p.m. and Morning Mass at 10.30 am.

Please remember the **Crib's Missionary Children** collection! Encourage our youngsters to make their own modest contributions, something precious in the eyes of the Lord. *And next Sunday we have the annual collection for the Church's work in Justice and Peace.* Whatever you can give is really appreciated. .

**Please look at the Noticeboard carefully.** There will be no Mass or Service on Wednesday. Father MacKinnon will be absent from Tuesday afternoon. He would like to spend some time with Fr. Donald Cumming and his friends. Father Cumming greatly enjoyed being with you at the Mass of Christmas Night. We hope that he benefits from his well-deserved break, and we wish him every blessing when he returns to his duties as a highly respected army chaplain.

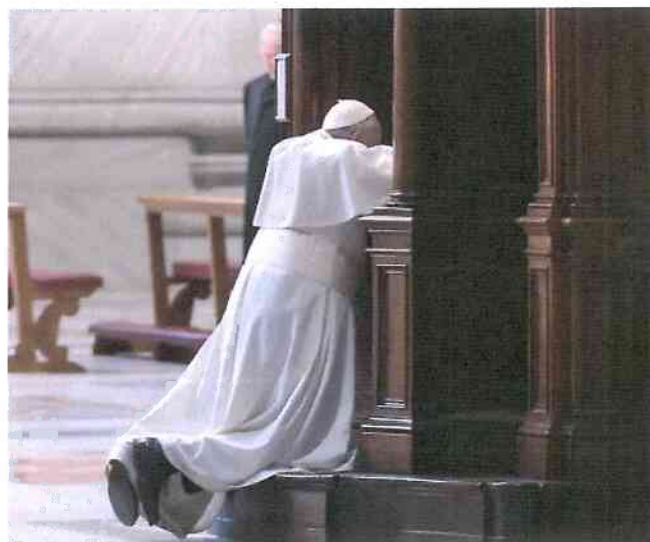


*We wholeheartedly congratulate you  
on the Nativity of Christ!  
Hope is fulfilled,  
The Universe is filled with joy,  
Christ is born to the world!*

*We wish you a blessed  
and wonderful Christmas.  
May the Lord fill our hearts  
with everlasting peace, so that they would become  
the Throne of God and the King's Palace!*

*With love in the Newborn Saviour,  
Abbess Euphrosinia and the sisters of St Elisabeth Convent*

**The Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Belarus have been most faithful in sending us their prayers and best wishes at Christmas and Easter. Here is their message for this Christmas. The image of our hearts as the “Throne of God and the King’s Palace” is especially beautiful. Please keep the Sisters in your prayers as they care for some of the most vulnerable of the people of Belarus.**



**Like all of us, Pope Francis has to make his personal journey through this Holy Year of Mercy.**

**He began it as did so many Catholics in recent weeks by seeking God’s mercy and grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

### *Bethlehem*

*... the height of God’s Power...  
... the expanse of God’s Love...  
... the depth of God’s Humility*

*(From a Carmelite Christmas card)*



**Detail from Sandro Botticelli’s “Mystical Nativity”  
Painted c. 1500-1501  
The only work he ever signed**