

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

3rd January 2016

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

Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning, 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 5.45 p.m.

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week. The Masses are those of the Christmas Season.

It is with gladness that we have received the long-awaited news of a Bishop-Elect. Please keep **Father Brian McGee** in your prayers as he prepares himself for the service of the people of our Diocese. We will soon get to know him, and we can be assured that this will be a true blessing for us all, clergy and Faithful alike.

We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are at this time: **Eithne MacNeill, Grace MacKinnon, Michael McEleney, Flora Buchanan, Graham Goodman, Margaret Anne Childs, Margaret Mitchell, Bobby Gribben, Catherine Kearney, David MacPherson, Ronald MacInnes, Dorothy Anderson, Roderick MacDonald, Neil Gillies, Iain Dubh Macdonald, Kate MacDougall, Bella MacHugh, Tony MacHugh, Ralph Bruce, Patricia MacGrail and Kathleen Slattery.** May they rest in the peace of their Saviour.

We thank you for your most generous support of **Mary's Meals**. Our Christmas collection came to £1,295. This has been sent in time to benefit from the UK government's promise to double whatever we give to such charities. Well done, St. Mary's!

Please remember that there is a special collection this Sunday for the Church's **Justice and Peace Commission**. Whatever you can give at this time of the year is truly appreciated.

And please remember our **Crib Collection**. Our thanks to those who have already donated so generously.

THE NEW YEAR'S BLESSING FOR YOU ALL

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

**May the Lord let his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.**

**May the Lord uncover his face to you
and bring you peace.**

Amen.

ETIPHANY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD



The Epiphany Procession in Warsaw



The Three Wise Men in the Philippines



Epiphany Procession in Prague



In Germany the children go from house to house, singing and collecting money for charity



The Feast of the Three Kings is a major event in Spain



In France, special pastries are made, called “galettes des rois” (“pastries of the kings”). They come with a paper golden crown. Inside each galette is hidden a little trinket. The person in whose piece the trinket is found has the right to wear the crown. It seems that when the President of the French Republic is given a galette, no golden crown is provided!



The Orthodox Churches follow the old Julian Calendar, and so their Christmas celebration is later than ours. One widespread custom is the throwing of a wooden cross into a river or the sea. The man who is the first to retrieve the cross will be blessed in the coming year. Here we see a man do just that in the Bosphorus that flows by Istanbul. The Orthodox Faithful put more emphasis on the Baptism of Christ than on the Three Wise Men.