

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10th 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

<u>Sunday Masses</u>	First Mass of Sunday, Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday Morning Mass, 10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses</u>	Monday, 5 p.m. 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.
<u>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</u>	Friday, 4 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday is the Feast of St. Kentigern (St. Mungo), patron of the Archdiocese of Glasgow

Mgr. Brian McGee's Episcopal Ordination will take place in St Columba's Cathedral on Thursday the 18th of February, at 7.00 p.m. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this day. There is a sheet at the back of the church for those who would like to travel to Oban by bus. Please write your name as soon as possible so that Fr. MacKinnon can get in touch with Shiel Buses in good time.

Thank you for your very generous support for the Church's commitment to Justice and Peace. Last Sunday's collection came to a very generous £432.87.



We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Annie Argue, Mairi Gillies, Joe MacLean, Anne Dryden, Hamish Brogan, Bernard Dougan, Gerry Best, Danny Doherty, Annie McKinney, Mary MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Joan MacLean, Captain Donald MacIntyre, Gerald Mulrooney, Josephine MacLaren, Arthur Handy, Josephine Watters and Dan Ryan.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

We thank the parishioners who removed and stored the **Crib and the Christmas tree.** As always, the sojourn of the Christmas figures and decorations seem to have been all too brief.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the flooding in Scotland and elsewhere in Britain.

Please note that there is **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Friday from 4 to 5 p.m.

If, in the coming *three* weeks, you would like to help the local **Food Bank**, then please leave your gifts in front of the altar of the Lady Chapel. We will ensure that these be delivered as soon as possible. Please check the dates on the tins before you hand them in.

Glimpses of the Jordan



The River Jordan is 156 miles in length. It rises on the slopes of Mount Hermon, on the border between Syria and Lebanon, and flows southward through northern Israel to the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberius). Exiting the Sea, it continues south, dividing Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank to the west from Jordan to the east before emptying into the Dead Sea, the lowest land point on Earth. For Christians, the river has great spiritual significance. For the people of the region it provides water for irrigation. This had led to disputes between the different countries and a huge reduction in the volume of water that eventually reaches the Dead Sea, the surface of which is falling by a metre each year. The flow of sewage into parts of the Jordan also causes concern.



The part of the Jordan where John the Baptist is said to have baptised Christ



The Jordan north of the Sea of Galilee



The Jordan at the Dead Sea

Quotations

The Church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and to communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God. (*Hans Urs von Balthasar*)

Baptism is the door of the spiritual life and the gateway to the sacraments. (*St. Thomas Aquinas*)

The water in a vessel is sparkling; the water in the sea is dark. The small truth has words which are clear; the great truth has great silence. (*Rabindranath Tagore*)

The tree that is beside the running water is fresher and gives more fruit. (*Saint Teresa of Avila*)

Always be like a water. Float in the times of pain or dance like waves along the wind which touches its surface. (*Santosh Kalwar*)

Christian art will personify this river as an old man looking with awe at what is happening in his watery depths. For, as the Byzantine liturgy says, "Christ the Sun is washed" in it. This same liturgy, at Matins on the day of the Theophany or Epiphany of Christ, imagines a dialogue with the river: "What did you see, O Jordan, that disturbed you so deeply? I saw the Invisible One naked and I trembled. How can one not tremble and draw back before him? At his sight the angels trembled, the heavens leapt for joy, the earth shook, the sea turned back with all the visible and invisible beings. Christ appeared in the Jordan to bless all waters!" (*Pope John Paul II*)