

## SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

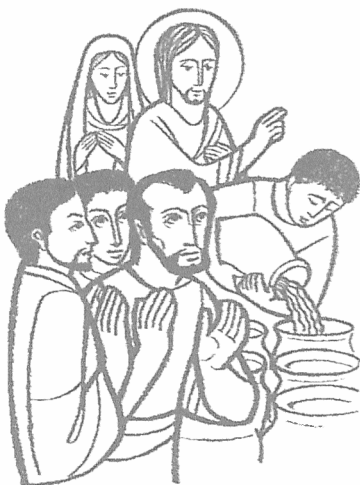
17<sup>th</sup> January 2016

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



### Noticeboard

#### Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday, 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 5.45 p.m.

*Thursday is the Memorial of St. Agnes.*

**Christian Unity Week** calls upon our prayer. This year, St. Mary's will host the annual ecumenical service. It will take place next Sunday, at 6.30 p.m. Do come along and share scripture, prayer and song with our Christian brothers and sisters.

If you would like to take advantage of the bus to **Mgr. McGee's episcopal ordination** on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church. This Sunday has to be the deadline for the numbers we require.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **James and Elizabeth MacDougall, Peggie Smith, Ronnie Harrison, Jessie MacFarlane, Bob Trybis, Coll MacDonald, Michael McEleney, Cathie Kennedy, John MacDonald, Peter MacLellan, Patrick Argue, Ann Gall, Luigi De Santis, Iain MacLean, Eilidh MacIntyre and Jan Stage.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Medjugorje** is a very special place for many of our parishioners. Three people from the town are already booked to take part in a pilgrimage there with Joe Walsh Tours, flying from Glasgow Airport. The dates are the 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May, and the cost is £599 per person for 7 nights, with half-board at a guest house. Insurance is an extra £25. There are sheets in the porch of the church with more information. If you are interested, please phone Carol Kelso at 07919024993 or e-mail [carol@delaney.ie](mailto:carol@delaney.ie).

There is also a **pilgrimage to Rome**, arranged by Fr. Roddy Johnston. It will be from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> October. Accommodation will be in two locations, both quite close to St. Peter's. There is the Hotel Olympia, with 10 single rooms and 20 double rooms, and the Casa Auxilium which is run by nuns and has 9 singles and 18 doubles. The Casa has an 11 p.m. curfew. Further details and prices will follow as soon as Fr. Johnston has them.

**Fr Kasule** has sent his prayers and very best wishes for the New Year, as well as his prayers for our new bishop, Mgr. Brian McGee.

**Candlemas** will soon be upon us. Special votive candles have been ordered for those who would like to take part in the Mass of the Feast on Tuesday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound, from Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January.

Global Language Services Ltd. is in need of **more Polish interpreters** in the Lochaber area, primarily as regards Council and NHS assignments. If anyone thinks that he or she might be able to do this freelance work, please look at the posters in the church porch. Interpreters are also needed in other East European languages.

The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless ... beyond speech ... beyond concept. *(Thomas Merton)*

Even if a unity of faith is not possible, a unity of love is. *(Hans Urs von Balthasar)*

Take heed, then, often to come together to give thanks to God, and show forth His praise. For when you assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith. *(St. Ignatius of Antioch)*

One of the main tasks of theology is to find words that do not divide but unite, that do not create conflict but unity, that do not hurt but heal. *(Henri Nouwen)*

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Magnus MacFarlane Barrow has written to thank you most sincerely for the £1,295 that you raised for Mary's Meals at Christmas. This will be doubled by the UK government. Among the children you will help is young Wilson Mapasamba, from Malawi. His home was destroyed by recent floods. His father, George, tells us: *"The Shire River had burst its banks, burying all of our maize fields – everything – in silt. I saw many homes ruined, lifeless livestock floating in the dirty water, and people who were hanging in trees washed away. It's like our entire village was wiped out."*

For three months Mary's Meals have provided basic hygiene items as well as food for George's family and for hundreds of others displaced by the flood. The local school is on higher ground, and so the children are able to continue their lessons, fed each day by Mary's Meals, George's son Wilson among them. The food crisis in Malawi continues, but George has not lost hope. *"There is no food, but at least my Wilson is in school eating porridge daily. During moments of despair, I think of this, and it makes me smile. If Mary's Meals continues to feed children at school so that they can grow to be the intelligent generation of Malawi, then all is not lost."* He hugged young Wilson as he spoke these words.

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**What event in the Old Testament is recalled by this icon's depiction of the miracle of Cana?**