

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

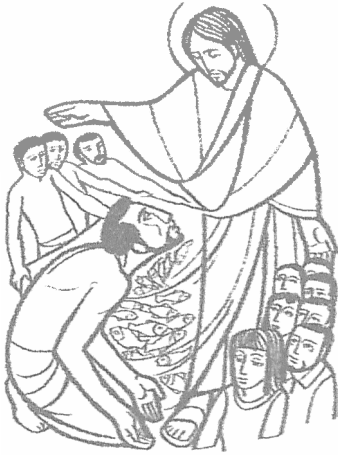
7th February 2016

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: Vigil Mass, Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY Masses at 10.15 a.m. 1.15 p.m.
and 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence

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.

**We wish you every blessing during Lent.
May it be a true springtime of heart and soul for all of us!**

The traditional **SCIAF Boxes** are available for collection at the back of the church. These should be returned at Easter. We know that you will be as generous as ever.



We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **John MacMaster, Albert Timbrell, Dolly MacVarish, Elizabeth MacPherson, Bob Dryden, Muriel MacLellan, Ewen MacDonald, Willie Kennedy, Cyril Buchanan and Margaret Barr.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The Food Bank has written a very appreciative letter, thanking all who have given their support in recent weeks.

Nest Sunday we will celebrate the **Sacrament of the Sick** as we have in previous years.

We regret to announce the termination of the **Parish 200 Club**. We no longer have the income required to make it viable. Many of those who supported us in the last ten years are sadly no longer with us. Our sincere thanks to all who have continued to renew their membership each year. And a big thank you to Morag MacKintosh for all she did to keep things going!

Please remember that **Ash Wednesday** is a Day of Fast and Abstinence.

Rembrandt's Nunc Dimittis



It was lovely to have so many pupils from our Catholic Primary School with us as we celebrated Candlemas. We thank Miss Smith for having arranged this, and Mrs. Murphy's music enhanced our liturgy. The Gospel of the day gave us the beautiful Song of Simeon:

"At last, all-powerful Master, you give leave to your servant, to go in peace according to your promise. For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentile, and give glory to Israel, your people." (Luke 2:29-32)

This Canticle or Song is part of the Night Prayer of the Church's Divine Office. It is often called the "Nunc Dimittis", these being its opening words in Latin.

Above you see the great artist Rembrandt's depiction of Simeon and the Child. It is an unfinished work, found in his studio after he died. It is very different from paintings with the same theme, completed when the artist was a younger man. There was great sadness as Rembrandt's life drew to its end. He was bankrupt. His work was no longer in demand. His eyesight was failing (Is his Simeon blind?). His wife and all but one of his children had gone before him.

Born of a Calvinist Protestant father and a Catholic mother, Rembrandt seems to have belonged to neither Church. But his works reveal a deep Christian faith. Perhaps that personal faith is symbolised by the Child in the arms of Simeon. As his life drew to its end, is this not what Rembrandt had to hold on to: all that is revealed in the Divine Child and the faith of an old man? Previous paintings had shown something of the Temple in all its magnificence. This painting goes to the heart of things. We could see it as Rembrandt's "Nunc Dimittis" and pray that the artist left this life in peace and now sees the glory of his God.

A Momentous Meeting

The Holy See and the patriarchate of Moscow are pleased to announce that, by the grace of God, His Holiness Pope Francis and His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia will meet on February 12th next. Their meeting will take place in Cuba, where the Pope will make a stop on his way to Mexico, and where the Patriarch will be on an official visit. It will include a personal conversation at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport, and will conclude with the signing of a joint declaration.

This meeting of the Primates of the Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church, after a long preparation, will be the first in history and will mark an important stage in relations between the two Churches. The Holy See and the Moscow Patriarchate hope that it will also be a sign of hope for all people of good will. They invite all Christians to pray fervently for God to bless this meeting, that it may bear good fruits.



Patriarch Kirill

