

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10th April 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



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses

First Mass of Sunday (Vigil) Saturday, 7 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses

Monday, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
Services led by Deacon Thomas
Friday, Mass at 5 p.m.
Saturday, 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.

Monday is the Memorial of St. Stanislaus

There is a letter from the Bishops of Scotland on the back of this bulletin. It concerns the forthcoming election to the **Scottish Parliament**. It is a succinct and challenging letter. Please read it very carefully

Some of the priests of the Deanery, including Fr. MacKinnon, will be on retreat in **Pluscarden Abbey** from Tuesday to Friday of this week. Please look carefully at this week's Noticeboard.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Ian Kennedy, James Treasurer, Peggy Johnston, John Paul Steele, George Dryden, Dave Williamson, Donald Angus Campbell, Annie MacPherson, Willie Howieson, Mary Gillies, Charlie MacDonald, Kate Lucas, Fr. Graham Turner, Betsy Wilkie, Billy Corrigan and Thomas MacKinnon**. May the Risen Christ welcome them, and all our loved ones, into eternal peace.

Thank you for your continuing support of **SCIAF**. So far, the Wee Boxes have raised boxes £650. This is the last call for remaining boxes to be handed in.

The church is due to be cleaned on Thursday, after the Morning Service. Please come and help! We are most grateful for all that you do for your parish.

Once again, beautiful (and unusual) **home-made candles** have been donated to the parish stall. Once again, we thank Trisha for her kindness. And we thank all the others who have contributed to the stall.

Who else will speak for them?

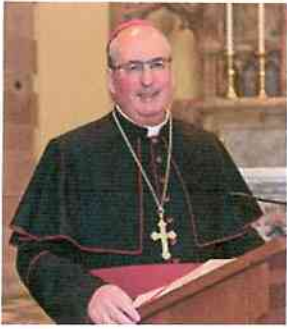


Pakistani Christians mourn those murdered on Easter Sunday

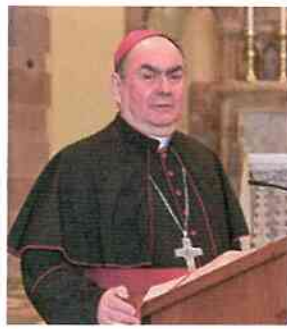
"The persecution of Christians throughout much of the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and elsewhere is one of the crimes against humanity of our time, and I am appalled at the lack of protest it has evoked. We have heard about this from many eloquent speakers today. What is happening to Christians in these places is the religious equivalent of ethnic cleansing. We must not forget either, as others have said, that the vast majority of victims of Islamist violence and terror are Muslim, and our hearts go out to them too, as they do to members of all other persecuted groups such as the Baha'i in Iran, and so many others..."

(From a speech in the House of Lords given by Lord Jonathan Sachs, former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain)

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND



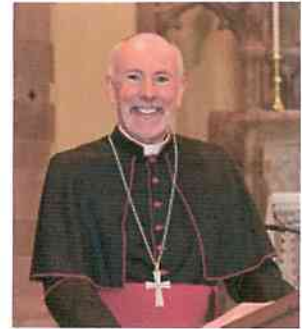
Archbishop Tartaglia



Bishop Toal



Bishop Gilbert



Bishop Nolan



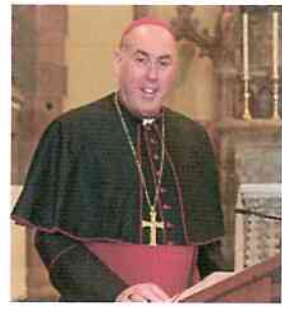
Bishop Robson



Archbishop Cushley



Bishop Keenan



Bishop McGee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

1. It is the duty of every Catholic to try to influence society for the better. The bishops urge you, therefore, to exercise your democratic right and responsibility to vote in the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections.
2. Keep in mind that the Scottish Parliament now has more powers than before and has a greater say, therefore, in determining the welfare of society. As well as existing powers over education and health, the parliament has been given more control of the economy, with greater ability to raise and lower taxes. It will also have responsibility for legislation regarding abortion in Scotland.
3. Please make your views known to the candidates and the parties. You have two votes in the election. One is for a constituency MSP, where your vote allows you to have a direct say in who is elected. So scrutinise the candidates so as to vote for the person most compatible with your views. The second vote is for a political party. The party controls who is on their list and who is at the top of that list. You have, therefore, less control over determining which individual is elected. This is a concern when it comes to matters of conscience, where parliament may give a free vote to MSPs. It is important, therefore, that you seek to influence political parties by making your views known to them.
4. Please bring to this election the benefits of the insight that your Christian faith gives: insight into the dignity of each person, particularly the weakest and most vulnerable; insight into the value of all human life from conception to natural death; insight into the family as the fundamental unit of our society; insight into social and economic justice for all; insight into the care of the common home we inhabit.
5. To further these values, you might well consider it worthwhile to join a political party. Do not leave it to others to determine the future of Scotland. Only if you use your vote can you make a difference and influence our political leaders. Catholics in Scotland should not simply be passive spectators but should be active participants in shaping a better society and in ensuring that we have a parliament that appreciates, understands and respects a Christian vision for Scotland.

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ Philip Tartaglia, President, Archbishop of Glasgow
+ Joseph Toal, Vice-President, Bishop of Motherwell
+ Hugh Gilbert, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Aberdeen
+ Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

+ Stephen Robson, Bishop of Dunkeld
+ John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley
+ William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway
+ Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles