

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd September 2012

St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William PH33 6BT Tel. (01397) 702174

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Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, 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 5.50 p.m.

Monday is the Memorial of St. Gregory the Great; Saturday is the Feast of the Birthday of Our Lady

We can now see **the result of the repairs** carried out on both the back wall of the church and the sanctuary arch. Again we thank Joe Kulaszewicz and his workers. However, what we can already see are the "cold sores" mentioned in last week's bulletin. The one above the Sacred Heart statue goes back to the very beginning of the church. We may have to think in terms of a thin, extended wall over the arch. The blemish near the cross at the back may be reduced by the repairs to the slating outside the church. What is required is a day without rain and slaters free to do the work: quite a combination in Lochaber! But what has been done is the replacement of the leading in the church porch and the application of sealing. We are most grateful to Morrison's Ltd. for their commitment to this work. Their men will now attend to lead work in other parts of the building. These repairs are a drawn-out process, and we are hostage to our weather.

Thank you for your response to last week's special collection for the **Retired Priests of the Diocese**. You raised a very generous £543.44. One retired priest we ask you to keep in your prayers is Fr. Michael Lea in Kingussie, whose health has deteriorated seriously. Fr. Lea is a man of quiet and refined goodness whom Fr. MacKinnon has always admired.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Annie O'Donnell, John Leddy, Patrick McKenna, Jimmy MacKinnon, Anne Clark, Donald Kearney, Peggy MacAskill, Peter MacDonald, Agnes Currie, Frank Gribben and Duncan Kennedy**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

We congratulate recent winners of the **200 Club**: Rosemary Matheson, Murdo MacLeod, Tommy McKenna. We thank all members of the Club for their support of the parish.

There will be a Deanery pilgrimage to **Pluscarden Abbey** on the 4th October, led by Fr. Roddy MacAulay and Deacon Stanislaw Pamula. There will be a sheet available for those who wish to take part.

Our Deacon's **sister and cousin** set off for Poland this Sunday. They greatly enjoyed their visit to Scotland, and were quiet and non-intrusive guests in the Chapel House, the sort of guests who are always most welcome. This week, Fr. MacKinnon's friends Tony and Margaret Valbonesi will be here for a short break. We look forward to seeing them once again! Deacon Stanislaw will be in Poland during their stay.

Copies of **Cardinal O'Brien's** letter regarding marriage as a sacred union between man and woman are available to take away and read carefully and prayerfully. A new Church Commission for the Church and the Family is to be founded. Time and time again over the past few months, people from other churches and from no church have stopped Fr. MacKinnon to tell him how much they agree with the Cardinal's defence of marriage as understood and/or experienced by most people. As regards the future, we will have to be especially attentive to what is conveyed to our schoolchildren. We hope that militant homosexuals will not target the Church. One person's "rights" can be another's unacceptable and unjust harassment.



This must surely be one of the most beautiful chalices in the world. It is called the “Ardagh Chalice” after the place in Ireland near where it was found in 1868. Standing 17.8 cm high and 19.5 cm in diameter excluding the handles, it belongs to the 8th Century. Its shape echoes ancient Roman tableware, but its decoration could not be more exquisitely Irish or Celtic.

“Its beauty lies in the contrast between the plain sheen of the polished silver and the finesse and complexity of the ornamentation: gold filigree of stylised beasts, studs of red enamel and blue glass, and beautifully engraved lettering that spells out the names of the Apostles.”

It can now be viewed in the National Museum of Ireland. What is of interest for us is that the size of the chalice, as well as its handles, is evidence of a Eucharistic cup designed for the Faithful and not the priest alone. Communion under both kinds is not “something new” introduced by the Second Vatican Council. For centuries, your Celtic ancestors in faith saw communion from the chalice as normal.

What Fr. MacKinnon finds of special interest is the supply of wine from the vineyards of Europe to the churches of Ireland, Iona and elsewhere. How were the casks of wine transported? Could that supply be always guaranteed, in time of war or Viking attack for example? This would make a fascinating PhD thesis, but as is often the case we will probably find that some academic has already dealt with it!

Potpourri

Most organisations have a serial bully. It never ceases to amaze me how one person's divisive dysfunctional behaviour can permeate the entire organisation like a cancer. *Tim Field*

Whenever I start feeling too arrogant about myself, I always take a trip to the U.S. The immigration guys kick the star out of my stardom. *Shahrukh Khan*

An unjust law is itself a species of violence. Arrest for its breach is more so. *Mahatma Gandhi*

All people are born alike - except Republicans and Democrats. *Groucho Marx*

Sorrow can be alleviated by good sleep, a bath and a glass of wine. *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Love is a binding force, by which another is joined to me and cherished by myself. *St. Thomas Aquinas*

I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb... and I also know that I'm not blonde. *Dolly Parton*

Much violence is based on the illusion that life is a property to be defended and not to be shared. *Henri Nouwen*

Fear has its use but cowardice has none. *Mahatma Gandhi*

And also....

What can you say about a society that says God is dead and Elvis is alive?
 Dolphins: Don't trust a species that's always smiling. It's up to something!
 As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in our High School.
 If God is watching us, the least we can do is be entertaining.
 Adults are just kids who owe money.
 The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.
 Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fibre and not the toy.

Et aussi...

Coup de grace - A lawnmower.
 J'y suis, j'y reste - I'm Swiss and I'm staying.
 Moi aussi - I'm Australian.
 A la carte - On the wagon.