

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8th May 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, 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.

May Devotions

Wednesday, 7 p.m. (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 p.m.*)

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.

Our sincere thanks to all who have responded so quickly and generously to the appeal for hospitality for the Petits Chanteurs de St. André de Colmar. Accommodation for 39 has been assured. All that remains is to find a place for two of the young people. God bless you for your kindness!

There will be no **Pentecost Walk** next Sunday. Instead there will be a service in St. Andrew's Episcopal church at 6.30 p.m. Please come along!



We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mamie Trybis, Sarah Teresa Hayes, Kate Ann and Murdoch MacNeil, Craig Marshall, Angus MacDonald, Peter Doherty, Annie and Dugald MacDonald, Mary Brown, Ewen Morrison, Jack Borrill and Peter Kennedy.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, is our **Day for Life**. There will be the usual collection in support for all that the Church does to defend and promote the sanctity of human life. Please be generous.

Pope Francis has appealed to all the Catholics of Europe to join with him in helping the people of the Ukraine, where thousands have had to flee their homes and many others face severe hardship because of the unending conflict. Over the coming weeks, there will be a box at the back of the church for any donations you may wish to give.

We pray for all those newly elected to the **Scottish Parliament**. May they work together for the good of all the Scottish people, and may they respect all that is held dear by people of Christian faith.

Recently on television there were some fascinating images of the deepest part of the **Pacific Ocean**, some seven miles below the surface. There was sea life never seen before. There was also an empty Spam tin, surely a message for our times!

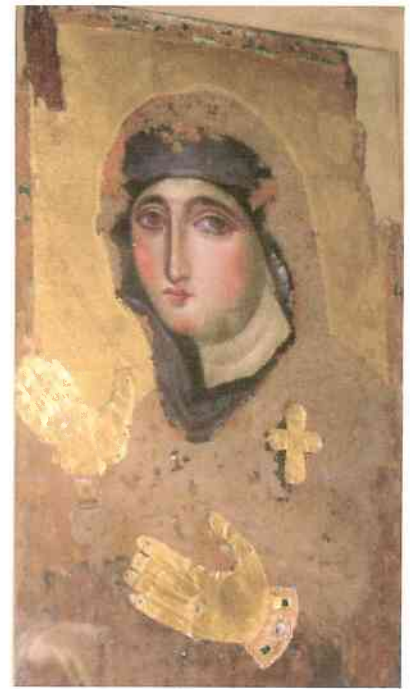
ANCIENT IMAGES OF MARY



Located in the Catacomb of Priscilla in Rome, Mary appears to be nursing the infant Jesus on her lap. It is dated to around A.D. 150.



Protectress of the Roman People
5th century



Originally from Constantinople, this 7th century icon is currently kept at the Santa Maria del Rosario a Monte Mario in Rome.



This is a picture of a cast of a sarcophagus that is in the Vatican museums. It shows the scene of the Magi adoring the Christ Child, who is held by Mary. It is dated to the 3rd century. The inscription reads: "Severa, in Deo vivas" ("Severa, may you live in God")

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Mary thus learns that the Most High has ever borne a Son in his bosom, and that this Son has now chosen her bosom as dwelling-place.

(Hans Urs von Balthasar)

In the early twelfth century the Virgin had been the supreme protectress of civilisation. She had taught a race of tough and ruthless barbarians the virtues of tenderness and compassion. The great cathedrals of the Middle Ages were her dwelling places upon earth. In the Renaissance, while remaining the Queen of Heaven, she became also the human mother in whom everyone could recognise qualities of warmth and love and approachability. *(Kenneth Clark, "Civilization")*

The world being unworthy to receive the Son of God directly from the hands of the Father, he gave his Son to Mary for the world to receive him from her. *(Saint Augustine of Hippo)*

If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me. *(Mother Teresa)*



This is the ivory cover of a copy of the Gospels created in Germany in the late 8th and early 9th century.

The Oldest Prayer to Our Lady

We fly to your patronage,
O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in our
necessities,
but deliver us always from all
dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary.
Amen.

(It is dated to the 3rd century)