

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9th September 2012

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

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Carlo Maria Cardinal Martini S.J.
1927-2012

Noticeboard

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

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m.
(THERE WILL BE NO MASS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9.45 to 10 a.m.
4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Thursday is the Memorial of St. John Chrysostom; Friday, the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross; Saturday, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

The repair of the church continues. Further examination has been of help as regards the leaks from the exterior. It should be remembered that the workmen involved are commuting between one place and another, and are trying to co-ordinate their activities – all this of course at the mercy of our weather.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Colin Clark, Teddy Brady, Emily MacDonell, Bernice and Eugene Pratt, Janie Taylor, Neil MacDonald, Donald MacNeil, Ena MacDonald, Allan Currie, Neil MacDonald, Margaret Chisholm and Allan Currie.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Bishop and clergy meet this week in Oban for several days of discussion. We pray that the Spirit of God be with them as they look to the future of our Diocese.

Congratulations to **Fr. Joe Calleja** on his appointment as Dean of our local Deanery. He has given much to our Diocese and is worthy of that honour. We wish him well. As Dean he is now a member of the Priests' Council and one of the Bishop's Consulters.

Please note that on Thursday and Friday there will be **no Mass** in St. Mary's.

The wonder of **Baby Wipes!** You may have noticed that some of the Stations of the Cross seem to be brighter than they were previously. They were cleaned with Baby Wipes! One of the parishioners has cleaned her windows with same! What other uses have been revealed? Apart from application to babies, that is!

There is a sheet at the back of the church for those who wish to take part in the **Deanery Pilgrimage to Pluscarden** on the 4th October.



Here are extracts from Pope Benedict's heartfelt message to the Church of Milan as it laid its former Archbishop to rest. Both Pope Benedict and Cardinal Martini shared a tremendous love of scripture and had great personal respect for each other.

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 118 [117], 105): the words of the psalmist capture the entire existence of this generous and faithful Pastor of the Church. He was a man of God, who not only studied the Sacred Scriptures, but loved them intensely and made them the light of his life....

This is precisely why he was able to teach believers and those in search of the truth that the only Word that is worthy of being listened to, embraced and followed, is that of God, because it guides everyone towards the path of truth and love. He did so with a great openness of soul, never rejecting contact and dialogue with everyone, actively fulfilling the Apostle's invitation to us to "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 4: 3-15). He did so with a spirit of profound pastoral charity... alert to all situations, especially the more difficult ones, showing his love and closeness to the lost, poor and suffering.

Extracts from Cardinal Martini's Final Interview
(Given two weeks before his death)
Prophetic Voice or Parthian Shot?

The Church is tired, in prosperous Europe and in America. Our culture is aged, our Churches are grand, our religious houses are empty and the bureaucratic structures are expanding, our rites are pompous. Do these express who we are today?....

...Like Bishop Romero and the Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador. Where are the heroes who inspire us? Under no circumstances should we limit ourselves to institutional bonds.

...Fr. Karl Rahner liked to use the image of hidden embers beneath ashes. He saw in the contemporary Church so many ashes over the coals that often I am bombarded with a sense of powerlessness. How can one free the coals from the ashes to in such a way as to reinvigorate the fire of love?

...For whom are the sacraments?They are not meant for discipline; rather a help men in the moments of life and in the weakness of life. Does our bringing of the sacraments to men need a new strength? I am thinking of all the divorced and remarried couples, of the extended families. These people have a need for special protection... a woman abandoned by her husband and finds a new companion who cares for her and her three children. The Church is 200 years behind. Why does it not shake itself? Are we afraid? Fear instead of courage? However, faith is the foundation of the Church. Faith, fidelity, courage.

... I am old and sick and dependent on the help of others. The good people around me enable me to experience love. This love is stronger than the feeling of discouragement that I sometimes feel in encountering the Church in Europe. Love alone conquers weariness. I have a question for you that remains: What can you do for the Church?

Orbiter dicta...

Looking at the conflicts from a contemporary standpoint, the situation may appear extremely dangerous. But from the perspective of history it may not be so bad. I'm inclined to think that it is a kind of healthy pluralism. My own opinion is that these differences may be unavoidable... Some Catholics are still mentally in 1963, some in 1940, and some even in the last century. It's inevitable that there will be a clash of mentalities... As long as we can keep quarrelling peacefully together, I am not anxious... I think variety is a healthy thing.

Do not think the bishop is able to effectively guide the people entrusted to him with a multitude of regulations and decrees, with prohibitions and negative judgements. Focus instead on interior formation, on a taste for and fascination with Sacred Scripture; show the positive reasons for our actions, inspired by the Gospel. One will gain so much more than one would by a rigid observance of rules and regulations

It is vital for the church not only to understand the ancient covenant (between God and the Jewish people) which has endured for centuries in order to launch a fruitful dialogue, but also to deepen our own understanding of who we are as the church.

Throw yourself into the hands of the Lord, because the Lord knows where to lead you.

I always thank God for how He has been with me through my life, for the many people whom He has put at my side along the journey. I always say that He also spoiled me.

I have had so very much, I also gave what I could. And really I'm happy, before Him.

Without a sincere feeling for the Jewish world, and a direct experience of it, one cannot fully understand Christianity.

Some Tributes

Like all great men he was a complex man and his words should not be simplified. His first love was the Word of God... He spoke about the importance for the Church and its followers to go back and give more importance to the Word of God.
(Fr Paul Pace, head of the Jesuit community in Malta)

Cardinal Martini managed to unite his expert knowledge of the scriptures with a profound understanding of modern culture and a genuine love for the Church and for humanity. His monthly reflections on the *Corriere della Sera*... were a joy to read. His answers revealed a great soul of a shepherd who could lead us, his readers, beyond our questions to a meeting with the Risen Lord. He also had the intellectual honesty to admit that we do not have all the answers. *(Mgr. Charles Scicluna, Vatican Official)*

Cardinal Martini was a free spirit and the Church needs them. He was brave enough to speak out but was very faithful to the Church. It did not keep him from voicing his mind... The Church should not be afraid of free spirits. Unfortunately, it is... because of insecurity. *(Father René Camilleri, Theologian)*

We sincerely hope that others in the Catholic Church will pick up the baton and continue Cardinal Martini's legacy of open-mindedness, a better mutual understanding, and friendship between Jews and Christians. *(Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress)*

..One of his great gifts, I think, was to be thoughtfully critical without being polemical. He could raise issues in a way that didn't make him any enemies, but he had a lot of interests in, first of all, his main big interest was to what he called decentralize a church which has become enormously Rome-centred in the last 200 years or so of Catholic history and to enlist the energy and creativity of all the different parts of the world. The Catholic Church is a universal church. There are Catholics on every continent now with growing numbers in Africa and Asia.

You know, I think in some ways the word "liberal" doesn't quite capture Martini. He avoided labels, and he wanted to be a voice in the Church for a very large segment, he thought, of the Church and not just one little, tiny wing. I would call it the open, ecumenical, forward-looking, visionary wing of the Church that doesn't always just look back to the way it was, but has a vision for the future. That was really his strength.

(Professor Harvey Cox, Harvard University)