

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18th September 2016

St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William PH33 6BT.

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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

Monday, 5 p.m.
Other Weekdays, 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.

Tuesday is the Memorial of Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions, the Holy Martyrs of Korea; Wednesday, the Feast of St. Matthew; Friday, the Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Our sincere thanks for your very generous response to Fr. Declan McNaughton's missionary appeal last Sunday. £602.36 was raised for the **Columban Missions!**

Our thanks, too, to those who so thoroughly cleaned the church during the week.

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Alistair MacDonald, Carmela Boni, Sandy Morrison, John Shields, Joey MacMillan, Dorothy Campbell and Ronan MacLeod**. May they rest in the peace of their Saviour. We remember also **Neil Campbell** of South Uist, brother of Mary Kerr and Chrissie MacDonald, who has suddenly died. May he be welcomed by his Lord and may his loved ones be comforted by the promise that faith alone can give.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the priests who are spending their first Sunday in new parishes. May they and their people be blessed in each other!

The **annual assembly** of the priests of the Diocese will soon be upon us: from Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th September

The **parish phone** (01397 702174) has now been repaired.

Bishop McGee is in Rome, attending a course for newly appointed bishops. You will find a report about Pope Francis's address to these bishops on the other side of this bulletin.



Padre Pio, pray for us all



Pope Francis told a group of recently appointed bishops that the world “is tired of charming liars” and that they should embody mercy in their dioceses and not be men who promote their own “vain crusades.”

The pontiff also told them to be wary of seminarians “who take refuge in rigidity” of practices. “There’s always something ugly behind it,” he said.

Francis made his remarks on Friday in a speech to newly appointed bishops who have been taking part in an annual Vatican orientation course.

In his address, the pope focused mostly on the approach they should take as pastors, saying in effect that attitude would do more to build up the diocese than any special management techniques.

“Be bishops who are able to enchant and attract,” Francis said. “Make your ministry a symbol of mercy, the only force able to seduce and attract the human heart in a permanent way.”

But, he warned them, “Don’t make it all about yourself!”

“This is a danger! The world is tired of charming liars. And, I might say, of ‘trendy’ priests or bishops,” Francis said. “People can sniff out — the people of God have the perceptiveness of God — and run away when they recognize narcissists, manipulators, defenders of their own causes and hawkers of vain crusades.”

Trust in the mercy of God, let mercy “form and inform” every diocesan structure, he said, and don’t give up in frustration and “invent bitter speeches” to justify “laziness.”

With many bishops struggling with a shortage of priests, Francis also warned them not to be “tempted by numbers and quantity” of vocations but rather to focus on “quality.”

He added that they should help priests-in-training to be prepared for the rigours of their vocation.

In conclusion, the pope reminded the new bishops of the need to “make mercy pastoral” by using “prudence and responsibility” in staying close to families, especially those in difficulty. Be like the Good Samaritan, he said, who accompanies the many people who are “wounded” by life and in need of a helping hand.

Church leaders today often “ask too much fruit of trees that have not been sufficiently cultivated,” and he said bishops should accompany their priests and their people with patience in every difficulty. “I urge you be among them with discernment and understanding,” the pope said.

The pope referred to his Jubilee Year of Mercy as an opportunity for “a personal experience” of gratitude and reconciliation.

“The most precious richness you can bring from Rome at the beginning of your episcopal ministry is the awareness of the mercy with which you have been seen and chosen,” he said.