

# CHRISTMAS

25<sup>th</sup> December 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

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



## Noticeboard

<u>Monday</u>	Mass at 12 Noon
<u>Tuesday</u>	Mass at 5 p.m.
<u>Wednesday to Saturday</u>	Masses at 10.15 a.m.
<u>New Year Vigil Mass</u>	Saturday, 6 p.m.
<u>New Year Mass</u>	Sunday, 10.30 a.m.
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday: 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

*Friday is the Feast of the Holy Family. Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.*

## A HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND ALL YOUR LOVED ONES!

**Our sincere thanks** to all who helped make our Christmas Masses so special. Our gratitude is for all who have done so much for the parish in the past year: Thomas our Deacon; our organists and cantors; readers and Eucharistic ministers; Hector our sacristan and our pass keepers; our faithful young servers; Tommy our bell ringer; those who have got together to clean the church or have done so individually; those who have helped prepare the flowers; those who have cleaned the altar linens; and all who have counted and banked the parish collections. God bless you all! We could not do without your service and support!

Thank you all for your support of SCIAF's aid to Syria.

As always, you have shown great kindness to Fr. MacKinnon. **He thanks you most sincerely** for your cards and your gifts. Please accept his prayers and best wishes for the Christmas season and the coming New Year. May God be close to you and your loved ones, near and far.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Cathie MacDonald, Alex MacDonald, Anthony Adams, Ritu McLaughlin, Gerald Mulrooney, Charles McLaughlin, Jan Wegner, Margaret Wardrop, Campbell Chisholm, Margaret Pryce, Harry Deeny, Michael McCartney, Neil MacVarish, Canon Calum MacNeil, Duncan Kennedy and Eileen Cameron.** May their souls, and the souls of all our loved ones, rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

The annual **Justice and Peace** collection will take place next Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Peace. The **Crib Collection** is for the Missionary Children. It helps our children support our missionaries.

**The Feast of the Holy Innocents** on Wednesday invites us to pray for an end to the evil of abortion. .

Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.  
(Pope Francis)

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.  
(Pope Francis)

What I don't like about office Christmas parties is looking for a job the next day.  
(Phyllis Diller)

We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.  
(Pope Paul VI)

There has been only one Christmas — the rest are anniversaries.  
(W.J. Cameron)

Christmas is for children. But it is for grown-ups too. Even if it is a headache, a chore, and nightmare, it is a period of necessary defrosting of chill and hide-bound hearts.  
(Lenora Mattingly Weber)

Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money.  
(Anon)

Christ was born in the first century, yet he belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries.  
(George W. Truett)

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.  
(Janice Maeditere)

He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.  
(St. Augustine)

