

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

26th February 2017

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

Noticeboard



Sunday Masses First Mass of Sunday (Vigil Mass), Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass, 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses Monday, 5 p.m.
Tuesday, 10.15 a.m.
ASH WEDNESDAY
Masses at 10.15 a.m. 1.15 p.m. 7 p.m.
Thursday, Mass at 10.15 a.m.
Friday, Requiem Mass at 11 a.m. (For
Dougie O'Halloran RIP)
Saturday, Mass at 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.

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Please note the Masses of this day. It is a Day of Fast and Abstinence. We abstain from meat and, except from the very young and the aged, we reduce our consumption of food. If nothing else, this is an act of solidarity with the starving millions of north-eastern Africa and the children of the refugee camps bordering Iraq and Syria. Many Catholics follow a similar fast on the Fridays of Lent. Lent is a springtime. We put behind us the darkness and depression of winter, and renew our commitment to Christ, his sacraments and his Gospel. We begin again, and so prepare for the joy and promise of Easter.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Dougie O'Halloran**, who has died recently May he now rest in the peace of our compassionate Saviour. We offer our sincere sympathy and prayer to his wife Roberta, their children Tracey and Douglas and all the family. Dougie's Funeral Mass will be on Friday at 11 a.m.

We pray for the Faithful Departed whose anniversaries are about this time: **Alister MacDonald, George MacPherson, Lewis Faryma, Elizabeth Mulrooney, Anne MacKintosh, Jeanie Wright, Vera MacDonald, Kay MacLeod, Calum MacLean, Neil Lindsay, Archie Lindsay, Sister Anne MacLaren, Adam MacPherson, Marion Gillies, James Connochie, Amy MacPherson, Euan Eddie, Agnes McCaffrey, Thomas Cameron, Canon John Archie MacNeil, Frank White, Tim Brady, Peggy and Willie Downie.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

There are no flowers in the church during Lent. The one exception will be flowers in the Lady Chapel. Many people, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, like to bring flowers to Mary in memory of loved ones.

The SCIAF "Wee Boxes" are available at the back of the church for collection. We know that you will be as generous as ever. SCIAF has already written to thank you all for your very generous collection at Christmas.

The World Day of Prayer will take place in St. Andrew's church on Friday at 2 p.m. The service is composed by the Christian women of The Philippines. A warm welcome is extended to everyone.



The Sleeping St Joseph

There are many images of St. Joseph. One less familiar to us that of the “Sleeping St. Joseph.” Remember how God spoke to St. Joseph in his dreams, and how Joseph awoke and immediately acted on what God has said to him.

Pope Francis has a great devotion to St. Joseph, and has an image of the “Sleeping St. Joseph” in his room. Before going to sleep he writes out his personal prayers and needs and places them under the little statuette. He always awakens with a sense of peace that carries him through the day ahead.

Quotes from Pope Francis:

"I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!"

"Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us."

Pope Francis suggests that we, too, leave a personal note under or near the image of the saint for help whenever they have a problem.

We all need the tangible, and this is a beautiful example of it. The Pope's is a simple, warm and authentic piety that speaks to us all.