

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

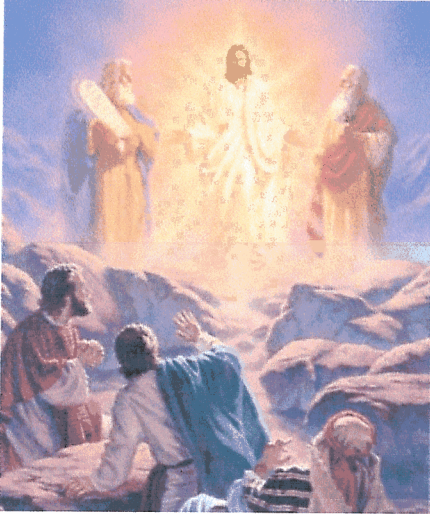
12th March 2017

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.
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.

Way of the Cross Wednesday 7 p.m. (*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6.30 to 7 p.m.*)

Friday is the Feast of St. Patrick.

It was indeed edifying to see the number that turned up for our first **Way of the Cross**. Please hold on to this devotion during the coming weeks of Lent. In a very special way, it unites us with the sacrificial love of Our Saviour.

And please remember that **weekday Mass** can also be very much part of our Lenten journey.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Catherine MacDonald, Lachlan MacLeod, Thora Finan, Thomas Buchanan, Laura Cameron, James Hurney, Flora MacDonald, William Coull, Jim Girvan, Margaret MacLaren, Tommy Naughton, Mark Penman, Tommy Stevenson, Robert Wright, Jeanie Wright, Daniel Wright, Lily MacDonald, Mary Forsyth, Bessie Jarvis, Sandra MacPherson, Iain Currie, Christina MacDonald, Ellen Willmott, Jimmy MacBeth, John Currie, Rose and Charlie Alexander.** We remember also those who have been laid to rest recently, especially **David MacDonald**, buried from St. John's, and **Joe Smith**, buried from St. Margaret's, Roy Bridge. May the Good Shepherd welcome them both into eternal peace. We remember all our loved ones and fellow parishioners. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen

Our sincere thanks to those who cleaned the church on Thursday morning!

Fr. Donald MacKay has returned to South Uist and is staying with one of his cousins. He has been given some relief from the great pain he has had to endure. Please give him a very special place in your prayers.

The **Lenten SCIAF collection** will be on the 26th March. We know that you will be as generous as ever!



Saint Patrick, pray for us

Potpourri

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy. *(Pope Francis)*

As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you.
(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go; whatever path we must take in life. *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

Nothing, how little so ever it be, if it is suffered for God's sake, can pass without merit in the sight of God.—
(Thomas à Kempis, author of the "Imitation of Christ")

Our sins are nothing but a grain of sand along the great mountain of the mercy of God.
(St. John Vianney, the Curé d'Ars)

Wretched are those who are vindictive and spiteful.
(Pope Francis)

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.
(Pope Francis)

No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.
(St. John Chrysostom, c.349-407))

O Lord,
the house of my soul is narrow;
enlarge it that you may enter in.
It is ruinous, Oh repair it!
It displeases your sight.
I confess it, I know.
But who shall cleanse it,
to whom shall I cry but to you?
Cleans me from my secret faults, O Lord,
and spare your servant from strange sins.
(Lenten Prayer of St. Augustine, 354-430)

Who was the best known financier of the Old Testament? Pharaoh's daughter. She went to the bank of the Nile and came home with a little prophet!

Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with Him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration. *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

I have a sweet tooth for song and music. This is my Polish sin. *(Pope John Paul II)*

For me, just as once the world of Catholic faith had cracked apart, I was losing my faith in the nonexistence of God.
(Anne Rice, who briefly returned to her Catholic faith)

There are books on our shelves we haven't read and doubtless never will, that each of us has probably put to one side in the belief that we will read them later on, perhaps even in another life. *(Umberto Eco, Italian author, philosopher and critic; an atheist open to dialogue. In his libraries he had 50,000 books!)*

I want neither a terrorist spirituality that keeps me in a perpetual state of fright about being in right relationship with my heavenly Father, nor a sappy spirituality that portrays God as such a benign teddy bear that there is no aberrant behaviour or desire of mine that he will not condone. I want a relationship with the Abba of Jesus, who is infinitely compassionate with my brokenness and at the same time an awesome, incomprehensible, and unwieldy Mystery.
(Father Brennan Manning)

It is to the Cross that the Christian is challenged to follow his Master: no path of redemption can make a detour around it. *(Fr. Hans Urs von Balthasar)*

And now brothers, I will ask you a terrible question, and God knows I ask it also of myself. Is the truth beyond all truths, beyond the stars, just this: that to live without him is the real death, that to die with him the only life? *(Frederick Buechner, American Presbyterian minister and best-selling spiritual author)*

A mother was driving to Mass with her children. She looked at them and asked, "And why do you need to be quiet in church?" Her bright little daughter replied, "Because people are sleeping."

A little boy's version of the Lord's Prayer was once overheard: "Our Father, who art in heaven, Harold is thy name..."

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.
(Mark Twain)