

# THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

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.

WEDNESDAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS,  
AND A HOLIDAY OF OBLIGATION.

Masses will be at 10.15 a.m., 1.15 p.m. and 7 p.m.

THURSDAY IS THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE  
FAITHFUL DEPARTED.

Masses will be at 10.15 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, Masses at 10.15 a.m.

*Saturday is the Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo, one of the great reformers of the Catholic Church. He was archbishop of Milan 1538-84.*

The **November Lists** are available at the back of the church. Please fill them in and return them in time for the month of the Holy Souls.

Available also are the forms for renewing **the membership of Missio**. If you would like to renew your membership, please take one and hand it in with your donation by next Sunday. If you are a tax payer, please feel free to use a Gift Aid envelope, if you wish to augment your donation. Cheques should be made to "Missio Scotland".

**Remembrance Sunday poppies** can be purchased at the back of the church.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary MacNeil, Henry MacLaren, Robert Brown, Charles McHugh, Jim McLaughlin, John Delaney, Michael Haggerty, Kenny Cairns, John Gilroy, Susan Keenan, Vincent MacLaren, Patrick Quinn, Rose Mary Moore, Margaret Reeve, Mona Timbrell, Ellen McGinlay, Roy Stirling, Teresa Dougan, Sarah Kelly, Irene Quinn, and Kathleen Kearney**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

**Father Iain MacMaster** lost his brother Ewan in July. Now he has had to lay to rest his sister Elizabeth, who recently died in Livingston. May she now rest in the peace of her Saviour. We extend our sincere prayer and sympathy to Elizabeth's daughter Tracy, to her sister Margaret, and to her brothers, Ronald and Father Iain.

Earlier this year, Fr. MacKinnon was asked to write the obituary of **Father Pat Kennedy**. Fr. Pat was briefly with us in Fort William when Fr. Colin MacPherson was parish priest. Some of us remember his great kindness. This includes Fr. MacKinnon, as a very young seminarian and for many years afterwards. The obituary concludes with the lovely homily given by Fr. Sandy Culley on the day when Fr. Pat was laid to rest in Dunoon. You will find a copy of that homily on the back of this week's bulletin. During the Second World War, Father Pat served with the 14<sup>th</sup> Army in Burma. They were often called the "Forgotten Army". Let's ensure that Father Pat will not be one of the "forgotten priests" of our Diocese. For those who remember him, copies of the full obituary are at the back of the church. Fr. Pat died 12 years ago: this obituary is long overdue!

The **Abortion Act** was passed fifty years ago. Since then, over 8,894,000 legalised abortions have taken place in the UK. In mid-2013, the population of Scotland was 5,327,700.

## Homily given by Fr. Sandy Culley at the Funeral Mass of Fr. Pat Kennedy

“Holiness, faithfulness and kindness!

These are the characteristics that spring to mind when I think of Father Pat Kennedy. And I am sure that you who knew him and loved him would not disagree with that. He was undoubtedly a holy and prayerful man. But he was also a very human person.

Pat was born the tenth and youngest child of Martha and Michael Kennedy, an Irish couple who resided in Port Glasgow. As a young man, Pat served his country in Burma during World War II.

I have so many stories that Pat told me over the years. But one that sums up the humanity of the man is this. The first time of leaving home was when he went to the war. And he could not have gone further from the Port – Burma! He had just arrived in Burma and he went to the toilet. And what was written on that toilet bowl? “Shanks of Barrhead”! Pat said, “I am not ashamed to tell you that I was so homesick, I cried.”

On his return to Scotland, he attended Glasgow University, where he gained his M.A. He then taught at a Salesian school in England. It was while he was there that he felt the call to try out his vocation to the priesthood. He applied to the Archdiocese of Glasgow and was turned down as too old at the age of 37. I really think that it was because they had so many vocations. How times have changed! Pat took this as a sign that the priesthood was not for him. But luckily, one of his priest friends persuaded him to apply to Bishop Grant, then Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. He was readily accepted.

He loved his priesthood so much that he found it difficult to understand how anyone could leave it. But I know for a fact that he prayed daily for the wellbeing for those who did. A great phrase of his was: “Sandy, keep your name out of the papers and in the Directory”.

Our reading from St. Paul to Timothy that we listened to today, I am going to repeat, for it sums up better than I can what I have been trying to say today.

“As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation. I have kept the faith, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end. I have run the race to the finish. I have kept the faith. All that is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who long for his appearing.”

The Diocese has lost a great priest. The people have lost a great pastor, and I have lost a great friend.

May his good soul rest in peace with the God he loved and served so well.”

