

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24th December 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

The Mass of Christmas Night (Carol Service before at 9.45 p.m.)	10.p.m.
The Mass of Christmas Morning	10.30 a.m.
Mass on Tuesday	12 noon
Mass on Wednesday	5 p.m.
Mass from Thursday to Saturday	10.15 a.m.
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m.

Tuesday is the Feast of St. Stephen; Wednesday, the Feast of St. John;
Thursday, the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Normally, we have a special collection at the Christmas Masses for a designated charity, and people are always very generous. This Christmas, the special collection will be **for the parish**. Please be thoughtfully generous! We will support various charities in the coming year.

Please note the Mass times for the coming week.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Masses will be at the usual Sunday times. As Monday, 1st January, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, there will be a Vigil Mass next Sunday at 6 p.m. On New Year's Morning, Mass will be at 10.30 a.m.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those anniversaries are about this time: **Hugh MacNeil, Cathie MacDonald, Alex MacDonald, Anthony Adams, Ritu McLaughlin, Gerald Mulrooney, Charles McLaughlin, Jan Wegner, Margaret Wardrop, Margaret Pryce, Campbell Chilsholm, Harry Deeny, Michael McCartney and Duncan Kennedy**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

On Thursday, **Father Stanislaw** became a British citizen, Father MacKinnon being a witness. He found the ceremony in the Council Chambers very welcoming, dignified and rather moving.

Registration sheets for our young Confirmands are available on a small table near the church sanctuary. We thank those who have already filled in and returned these. Workbooks for First Confession and First Holy Communion are also available. These are much more user-friendly than the Confirmation workbooks. We can only depend on what is presently available. To cover the cost of these books, just put something extra in the collection basket at Mass or donate to the parish stall at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS 2017

**May the blessings and the peace of Christmas be with you
and all your loved ones.**

We sincerely thank 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 have cleaned the altar linens; and all who have counted and banked the parish collections. God bless you all! We are truly indebted to each and every one of you.

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.

The annual **Justice and Peace** collection will take place on the Feast of the Epiphany, the 7th January. And please remember the **Crib Collection**. It helps our children support our missionaries throughout the world.

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

