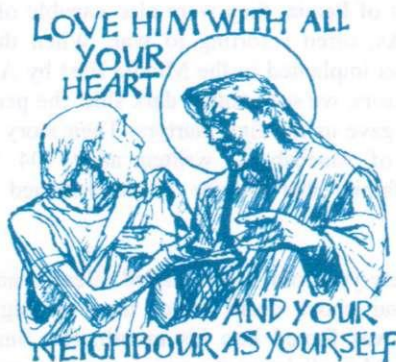


THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4th November 2012

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

www.stmarvfortwilliam.org



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses:

Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass, 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

10.15 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday:
9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Thursday is the Memorial of Blessed John Duns Scotus. Friday is the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; Saturday, the Memorial of Pope St. Leo the Great.

This month of November began with our great two-day celebration of the Communion of Saints, the bond of love and prayer between the Church on earth, the Church in heaven and the Church in that place or state of final purification that we call Purgatory. Our prayer continues in the traditional manner as we pray each day of November for all the Faithful Departed, especially those who were dear to us in this life.

We remember the Faithful Departed whose anniversaries are about this time: **Irene Quail, Kathleen Kearney, Mary MacDonald, Adam MacLean, Elizabeth Cameron, Mary Ellen Timbrell, Charlotte Turner, Una Brown (Tully), Jack Doyle and Esther Judge.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Christmas cards, candles and calendars are available for purchase at the back of the church. Any profit from these is for the parish. The candles could be used again at Candlemas, on the 2nd February. Fr. MacKinnon remembers being asked by a parishioner for five Advent Calendars. He has put five aside, but just cannot remember which parishioner it was! Let's call it a "pre-senior moment"! Would the good parishioner in question please contact him!

The pictures attached to the pulpit and to the wall around the Sacred Heart are by the very youngest of our school children. They depict St. Andrew in his fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. We thank Miss Hay, their teacher, and her assistants for their commitment to the children's formation in faith.

We thank the family of the late **Chrissie Oliver** for handing in Chrissie's £1000 bequest to our parish. It is always a blessing and an encouragement when people remember the parish-community in their will.

We still await the CTS cards on which are printed the **Apostles' Creed.**

.Deacon Stanislaw will be absent from Saturday until Tuesday evening of this week.

There will be a special collection for the Diocese's **Pastoral Fund** in two weeks time.



The Bishop has written to tell us that indulgences will be granted on special days during this Year of Faith, with the usual condition of repentance and conversion of heart. The history of indulgences is a long and, on occasion, a stormy one. It is an aspect of the Church's life that is often misunderstood, poorly communicated, and even abused. Where did it all begin? One has to go to the earliest centuries of the Church. Its discipline could be severe. For certain sins a period of public penance was demanded. This would involve fasting and almsgiving for example. Later, theologians would describe this as a "temporal punishment" for sin. Penitents were barred from full celebration of the Eucharist until the allotted penitential period was finished. Public penance completed, the Bishop would proclaim absolution and welcome the once wayward sinner back to the altar and communion. During times of persecution, Christians often awaited martyrdom in prison. These heroic witnesses would sometimes intercede on behalf of the penitents, asking that their time of penance be reduced or even annulled. Such was the honour given to martyrdom, their request was often granted. This is the historical root of all teaching on indulgences.

