

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

25th February 2018

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

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 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. (<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.</i>) |

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week

The World Day of Prayer takes place in St. Mary's on Friday at 2 p.m. You are all invited to take part. Our sincere thanks to the parishioners who have volunteered to be among the readers and to those who will provide refreshments afterwards. There is a rehearsal on Thursday at 2 p.m.

This year's **Chrism Mass** will be on Wednesday, 21st March, at 7 p.m. It is proposed that we have a single bus for parishioners from Caol, Fort William, Roy Bridge and Ballachulish. There is a sheet at the back of the church for the names of those who wish to take advantage of this offer.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those 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, James Connochie, Amy MacPherson, Ewan Eddie, Adam MacPherson, Marion Gillies, Agnes McCaffrey, Thomas Cameron, Johnnie Thompson and Canon John Archie MacNeil.** May they all rest in the peace of their Saviour.

As always, there was a great attendance at the parish **Way of the Cross** on Wednesday. We know that this will continue throughout Lent.

Our thanks to all who so thoroughly cleaned the church on Thursday!

Very cold weather is forecast in the coming week. It will be worse in the east of Scotland, but here in the west, it will be cold enough. We will try to keep the church as warm as economically possible. An extra pound or two in the collection basket will certainly help. And there is always the parish Bottle!

An Invitation from Bishop McGee

The SCES (Scottish Catholic Education Service) Open Forum will take place in St Columba's Cathedral Hall, Oban on Sunday 4th March from 11.45am. Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral at 10.30am.

The Open Forum moves around every diocese. This year Scotland celebrates 100 years of State Catholic Education. Of course, we only have four Catholic Primary Schools but we have many Catholic pupils attending non-denominational Primary and Secondary schools. They too have the right to catechesis. It would be helpful for SCES to hear our parents, pupils and parishioners reflections.

This is a translation of an Orthodox hymn about the Transfiguration of Christ.

When on the mount the Lord appeared
transfigured to the sight,
his countenance was like the sun,
his raiment glistened white.

But dull the minds, and dark the eyes,
on whom such glory shone;
they saw not God upon the mount,
they saw but man alone.

And when the dark and cloudy days
of death and sorrow came,
what were their thoughts of Him who hung
upon the cross of shame?

They knew not that the God of Life
an offering yielded there,
and of His will endured for all
the load of sin He bare.

Lord, to the mount where Thou art seen
in all Thy glory bright,
thy servants now would wend their way
to gaze upon the Light,

And there behold, in glory clad,
the Light to mortals given,
that in the night that hid the cross,
shone with the light of heaven.

Our Lord's descent from the holy heights of the Mount of Transfiguration was more than a physical return from greater to lesser altitudes; it was a passing from sunshine into shadow, from the effulgent glory of heaven to the mists of worldly passions and human unbelief; it was the beginning of His rapid descent into the valley of humiliation.

(James E. Talmage)

God does not make the mountains in order to be inhabited. God does not make the mountaintops for us to live on the mountaintops. It is not God's desire that we live on the mountaintops. We only ascend to the heights to catch a broader vision of the earthly surroundings below. But we don't live there. We don't tarry there. The streams begin in the uplands, but these streams descend quickly to gladden the valleys below.

(Henry Drummond)