

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

30th December 2012

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

Charity No. SC002876



The Boy Jesus in the Temple
by James Tissot

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass at 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday 10.15 a.m.
New Year Vigil Mass: at 7 p.m.
Tuesday Mass at 12 noon
Wednesday to Saturday Mass at 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.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of Prayer for Peace; Wednesday is the Memorial of St. Basil and St. Gregory Nazianzen.

A sincere thank you to those who have helped not just at Christmas but throughout the past year:

those who prepare the church and the altar for our celebrations; our pass keepers, readers and Eucharistic ministers; those who co-ordinate reading and Eucharistic ministry; our organists and cantors; our young servers; those who clean the church each month; those who count the collections; the individuals who have helped in any way. God bless you all.

Thank you for the Christmas special collection! You raised £592.13 to be shared between **Aid to the Church in Need** and **Water Aid**. God bless you for your kindness,

We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially those who have died recently: **Margaret Pryce** (MacFarlane), **Andrew Nesbitt** and **Bella MacRae**. We entrust them to the infinite love and compassion of God. May he welcome them into eternal peace. We extend our sincere prayer and sympathy to all who now carry the heavy cross of bereavement. May their faith give them the strength they need at this time and may Christ be their light in the darkness of sorrow. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Peggy Cameron**, **Alistair Matheson**, **Charles Fitzsimons**, **Michael McEleney**, **Flora Buchanan**, **Margaret Mitchell**, **Ronald MacInnes** and **Bobby Gribben**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Please note the **New Year Masses!** While the 1st January is no longer a Holiday of Obligation, it remains a day when many Catholics come to ask God's blessing on the coming year. The first reading of Mass on that day contains the Blessing of Aaron. This blessing is ancient in its origin and endures for all time. Please accept it as our New Year prayer for you all, for your loved ones and for the dear relatives and friends who have died, especially in the past year:

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace.*



The commercial Christmas is over and we are now well into the traditional Twelve Days of this holy season. There is a theory about the carol, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. Some maintain that it was a "catechism song" to help young English Catholics remember elements of their faith during the times of persecution that followed the English Reformation. The "true love" in the song is God himself. Christ is symbolised by the partridge in a pear tree. The mother partridge feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. This evokes Christ's words over Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..." Other symbols attributed to this song include the following:

- 2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

It's an interesting theory, accepted by some, dismissed by others as an "urban myth".



Potpourri

I come from a great family. I've seen family life and I know how wonderful, how nurturing, and how wonderful it can be. *(Sidney Poitier)*

My parents taught me everything and set me up for life. I owe to them all the things I'm passionate about: music, art, the people I love, my career and family life, the fact that I have children and the way that I raise them. *(Olivia Williams)*

Only as far as a man is happily married to himself is he fit for married life and family life in general. *(Novalis)*

I have frequently been questioned, especially by women, of how I could reconcile family life with a scientific career. Well, it has not been easy. *(Marie Curie)*

The informality of family life is a blessed condition that allows us all to become our best while looking our worst. *(Marge Kennedy)*

A family is a unit composed not only of children but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold. *(Ogden Nash)*

Having a place to go - is a home. Having someone to love - is a family. Having both - is a blessing. *(Donna Hedges)*

Family life is a bit like a runny peach pie - not perfect but who's complaining? *(Robert Brault)*

In time of test, family is best. *(Burmese Proverb)*

The voice of parents is the voice of gods, for to their children they are heaven's lieutenants. *(William Shakespeare)*

Being a single parent is twice the work, twice the stress and twice the tears but also twice the hugs, twice the love and twice the pride. *(Anon)*

There is nothing wrong with today's teenager that twenty years won't cure. *(Anon)*

Being a teenager is as difficult as living with one. And we've all been there. Perhaps that's the reason we're so hard on them. *(Melvin Burgess)*

The mother-child relationship is paradoxical and, in a sense, tragic. It requires the most intense love on the mother's side, yet this very love must help the child grow away from the mother, and to become fully independent. *(Erich Fromm)*