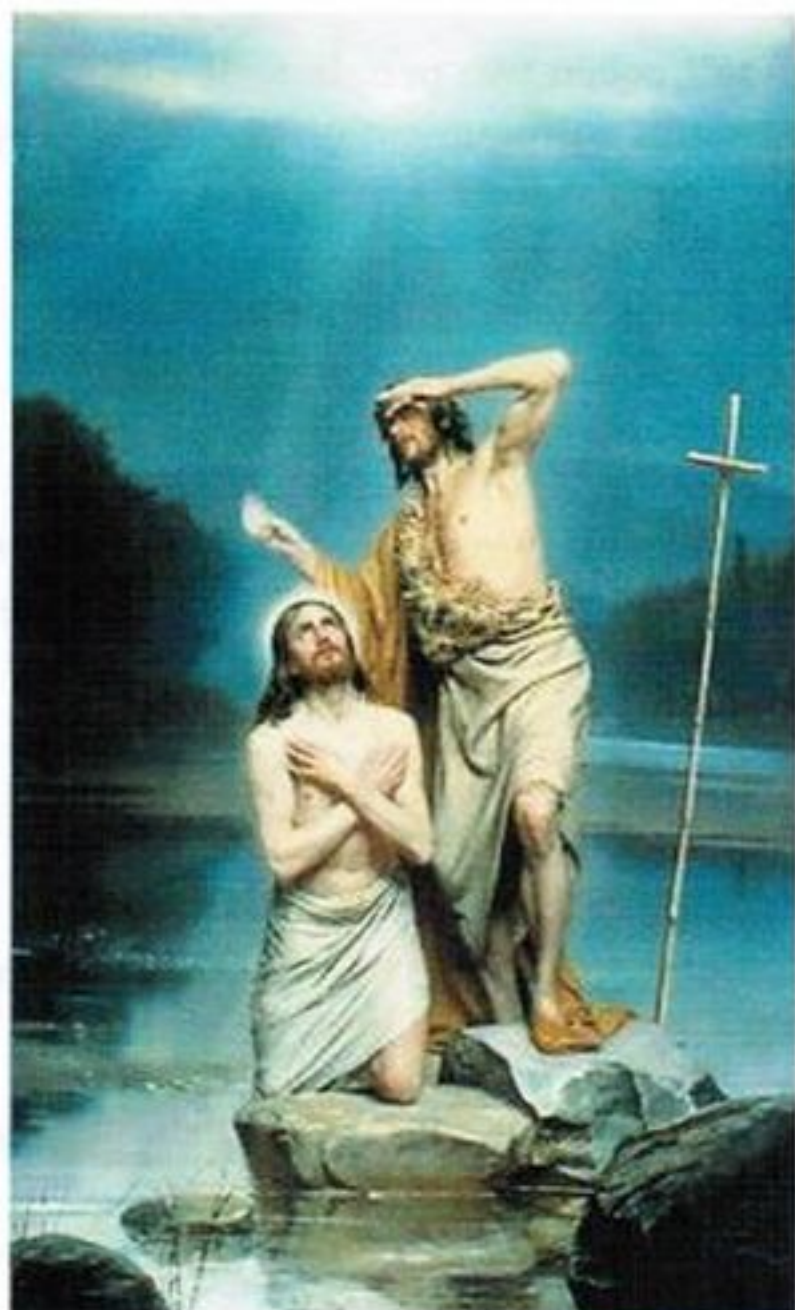


## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

13<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876



### 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.;  
6.30 to 6.50 p.m.

*Thursday is the Memorial of St. Antony of Egypt, the Father of Monasticism.*

“Jesus arrives at the Jordan, the profound experience of childhood and the long process of maturity behind him. He is fully aware of the stupendousness of the task before him and of the powers that rise to meet from the depths of his being. Yet his first gesture, first words are an expression of deep humility. No claims to special privileges; no: that may be the law for others, but not for me!”

*(Romano Guardini)*

This Sunday, we have our annual special collection for the Church's work for **justice and peace**. Whatever you are able to give is indeed appreciated.

**Our thanks** to those who removed the Christmas tree and the Crib. As always, it is sad to see them go. On Monday we will be back to porridge and green vestments! We will let you know how much was raised by the Crib Collection. This will be sent off in the name of the children of the parish.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember the parishioners and loved ones whose anniversaries are about this time: **Gerry Best, Danny Doherty, Annie McKinney, Mary MacDonald, Angus MacDonald, Captain Donald MacIntyre, Arthur Handy, John MacDonald, Peter MacLellan, Ronnie Harrison, Patrick Argue, James MacDougall** and **Elizabeth MacDougall**. May they rest in peace. We remember also **Duncan MacInnes** of Kinlochleven. May the Lord welcome him home and may he bless and comfort his wife Nellie and all the family. We have all been shocked by the death of **Dr. Barlas**. May the God who is the source and the end of all that is love and service grant him eternal peace. We pray for his wife, his children and his closest colleagues in their time of sorrow.

Two important books are now on the table at the very back of the church: the **visitors' book** and the **book for our anniversaries**. This makes it easier to spot them and write in them accordingly. Please, please continue to fill in the new anniversary book!

**Fr Joseph** has e-mailed us from Uganda to let us know that he is safely home. He did enjoy his less-than-white Christmas in Fort William and he got a good rest. We wish him every blessing in his pastoral and administrative work in the Archdiocese of Kampala. We offer a very special prayer for one of his sisters, who is close to death.

**Deacon Stanislaw** will be leaving for Poland this Sunday for a holiday. We wish him a pleasant and relaxing break. He will be back on the 1<sup>st</sup> February and thereafter will be helping out in other parishes as well as in Fort William.

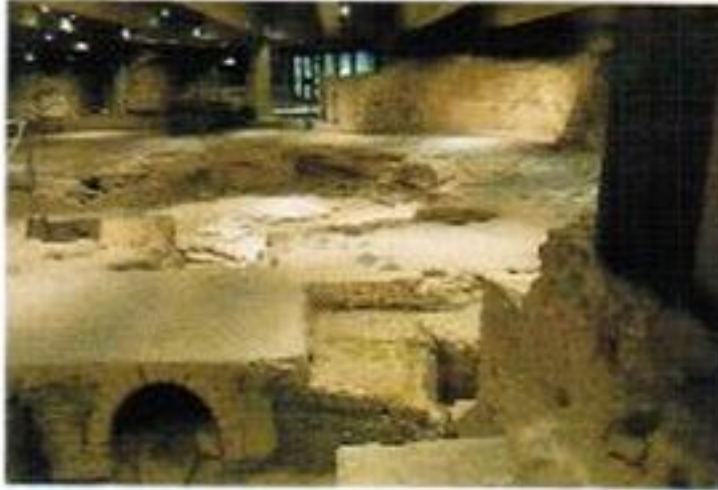
This year, **Ash Wednesday** falls on the 13<sup>th</sup> February and **Easter Sunday** on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Ascension Day, the Assumption of Our Lady and All Saints are Holydays of Obligation.



## Forms of Baptism



Ancient Baptismal Pool in Aix-en-Provence, France



Ancient Baptismal Pool in the Cathedral, Milan

The two photographs above are evidence of the *immersion* form of baptism used in early churches. The catechumen entered the pool for baptism and emerged to receive the white baptismal robe of one who has died to sin and now rises to a new life in Christ. St. Augustine was most likely baptised in the pool in Milan Cathedral. The picture of the baptism of King Vladimir in Kiev shows a variation of this form of baptism by immersion. The white robe awaits him, replacing the golden royal tunic. Those queuing for baptism in the River Jordan will shortly undergo baptism by *submersion*, being plunged right under the water. There are two other ways of baptising: "*aspersion*", the sprinkling of water on the head, and "*affusion*", the pouring of water on the head. The latter is the form that is the custom in St. Mary's.



The Baptism of King Vladimir in Kiev



Waiting to be baptised in the River Jordan

## Potpourri

The Church does not dispense the sacrament of baptism in order to acquire for herself an increase in membership but in order to consecrate a human being to God and to communicate to that person the divine gift of birth from God. *Hans Urs von Balthasar,*

No one can tell, when two people walk closely together, what unconscious communication one mind may have with another. *Robert Barr*

Comparing yourself to others does nothing for you. Society has conditioned us to value people who fit a secular mould of perfection. *Michele Woolley*

It is requisite for the relaxation of the mind that we make use, from time to time, of playful deeds and jokes. *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Rich is the person who has a praying friend. *Janice Hughes*

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting. *Elizabeth Bibesco*

How rich is anyone who can simply see human faces. *Corrie Ten Boom*

The trouble with some of us is that we have been inoculated with small doses of Christianity which keep us from catching the real thing. *Leslie Weatherhead*

People who look down on other people don't end up being looked up to. *Robert Half*

The next time you think you're perfect, try walking on water! *Anon*

God does not believe in atheists. Therefore, atheists do not exist. *Anon*

My life has been filled with terrible misfortune; most of which never happened. *Montaigne*

Children really brighten up a household. They never turn the lights off. *Ralph Bus*

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. *Abraham Lincoln*

Whatever you are, be a good one. *Abraham Lincoln*

In baptism, the direction is indicated rather than the arrival. *Frederick Rest.*

We must be broken into life. *Charles E. Raven*