

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876



Christ in the Synagogue of Nazareth  
by James Tissot

### 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.

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas; Thursday, the Memorial of St. John Bosco; Saturday, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas).*

**The Saturday morning Mass** will begin with the blessing of candles at the back of the church. We will then process to our places for Mass. You are invited to bring your own candles, either bought locally or previously at the Piety Stall before Christmas. You may wish to bring candles for housebound relatives or friends. This is a very special Feast, with final echoes of Christmastide before we start looking towards Lent, Ash Wednesday being on the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Holy Communion** will be brought to the housebound from Monday to Wednesday of this week.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margaret Doyle, Hugh Delaney, Margaret MacIntyre, Kathleen Gibson, Flora MacKinnon, John Tully, Morag Fitzsimons, Christina Turner, Angus Morrison, Margaret Campbell, Donald Kearney, Angus MacDougall and William Brannigan.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Please continue to fill in the new **Anniversary Book** at the back of the church. Just ignore the "2012". It is the month and the date that we are concerned with.

**Our thanks** to all who came along to the Christian Unity Week Service last Sunday!

**Fr. MacKinnon** enjoyed his stay with his friends in Bishopbriggs and he thanks them for their great kindness.

**WaterAid** has sent a very nice letter to thank you for your recent support. Copies can be found in the church porch.



Nazareth has come a long way from the village of perhaps 300 to 500 people in which Our Lord grew up. Its population in 2012 stood at 64,800. It is the largest community of Arab citizens of Israel. About 30% of its population is Christian, the rest being Muslim. Along with Orthodox Jews, Arab citizens of Israel are exempt from military service, although, remarkably, some, especially Bedouin, have volunteered. Arab citizens have representatives in Israel's Knesset or Parliament. This does not remove the tension between Arab and Jew, given the Arab affinity with Palestinians in the West Bank in particular. The presence of a large Jewish settlement adjacent to Nazareth can also cause unease, but violence is very rare. In this photograph, you can see the dome of the Basilica of the Annunciation. It is administered by the Franciscans, as are most of the Church's churches and shrines in the Holy Land.



## De Mello Extracts

These things will destroy the human race: politics without principle, progress without compassion, wealth without work, learning without silence, religion without fearlessness, and worship without awareness.

You see persons and things not as they are but as you are.

As soon as you look at the world through an ideology you are finished. No reality fits an ideology. Life is beyond that. ... That is why people are always searching for a meaning to life... Meaning is only found when you go beyond meaning. Life only makes sense when you perceive it as mystery and it makes no sense to the conceptualizing mind."

The philosopher Diogenes was eating bread and lentils for supper. He was seen by the philosopher Aristippus, who lived comfortably by flattering the king. Said Aristippus, "If you would learn to be subservient to the king you would not have to live on lentils."

Said Diogenes, "Learn to live on lentils and you will not have to be subservient to the king."

"Help us to find God."

"No one can help you there."

"Why not?"

"For the same reason that no one can help the fish to find the ocean."

Do you know what eternal life is? You think it's everlasting life. But your own theologians will tell you that that is crazy, because everlasting is still within time. It is time perduring forever. Eternal means timeless — no time. The human mind cannot understand that. The human mind can understand time and can deny time. What is timeless is beyond our comprehension. Yet the mystics tell us that eternity is right now. How's that for good news? It is right now.

People are so distressed when I tell them to forget their past. They're crazy! Just drop it! When you hear "Repent for your past," realize it's a great religious distraction from waking up. Wake up! That's what repent means. Not "weep for your sins.": Wake up! Understand, stop all the crying. Understand! Wake up!

A disciple, in his reverence for the Master, looked upon him as God incarnate.

"Tell me, O Master," he said, "why you have come into this world."

"To teach fools like you to stop wasting their time worshipping Masters."

Charity is never so lovely as when one has lost consciousness that one is practicing charity. 'You mean I helped you? I was enjoying myself. I was just doing my dance. It helped you, that's wonderful. Congratulations to you. No credit to me.

The disciple couldn't wait to tell the Master the rumour he had heard in the marketplace.

"Wait a minute," said the Master. "What you plan to tell us, is it true?"

"I don't think it is."

"Is it useful?"

"No, it isn't."

"Is it funny?"

"No."

"Then why should we be hearing it?"

To a disciple who was forever complaining about others the Master said, "If it is peace you want, seek to change yourself, not other people. It is easier to protect your feet with slippers than to carpet the whole of the earth."

**Anthony "Tony" de Mello was born in Bombay (Mumbai) in 1931. He was ordained a Jesuit priest and trained as a psychotherapist. He became widely known for his books and his world-wide conferences on spirituality.**

**It should be noted that he worked increasingly in a multi-religious context, helping the followers of other religions and even non-religious people in their spiritual search. The Thai Buddhist meditation master Ajahn Chah may have had a great influence on him. Whatever caveats may be required of us by Church authorities, Anthony de Mello often has something to say to Catholics, for at certain stages in our lives we are called to be "searchers" in a new and more radical way.**

**The "Master" Father de Mello writes about seems to be no specific person, but rather created as a mouthpiece of a wisdom and insight which frequently confronts our complacency and self-satisfaction. Anthony de Mello's teaching could be summarized in one phrase: "Wake up and be aware!" There is more than a touch of "metanoia" in that.**

**Anthony de Mello died in 1987, aged 56. His works are widely available.**

**If you have access to the internet, you can enter "You Tube Anthony de Mello" and see and hear him. He may well be worth your time!**

*"Out of the darkness of my life, so much frustrated, I put before you the one great thing to love on earth: the Blessed Sacrament ... There you will find romance, glory, honour, fidelity, and the true way of all your loves upon earth."*

*J.R.R. Tolkien, author of "The Hobbit"*