

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

17th February 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876



Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses:</u>	10.15 a.m.
<u>Way of the Cross</u>	Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6.30 p.m.)
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday : 9.45 to 10 a.m.;
	4 to 4.30 p.m.;
	5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Friday is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

Pope Benedict XVI is very much in your hearts and prayers this Sunday. He asks no more of you.

Today we have the annual collection for **Catholic Education** in Scotland. Whatever you can give to this essential part of the Church's mission and witness is indeed appreciated.

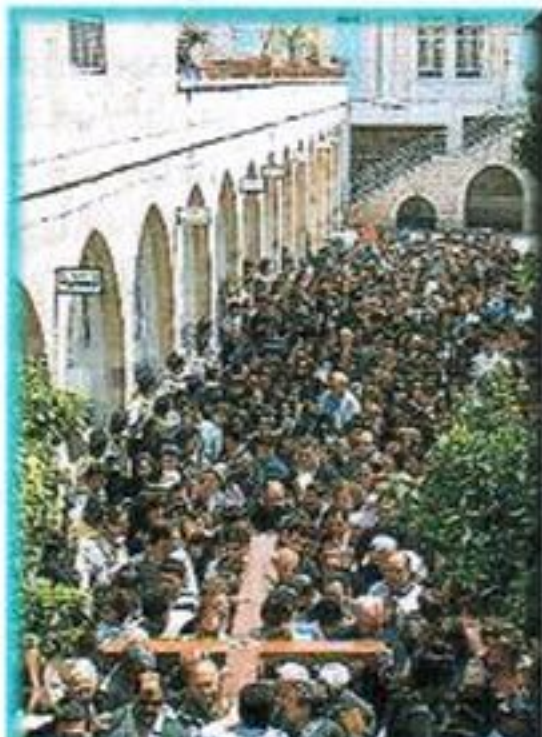
We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Charlotte MacDonald, Gordon Turner, Jessie Shields, Mary Donaldson, John MacDonald, Ellen Mitchell, Donald Joseph Currie, Mary Wegner, Alexander MacDonald, Jessie MacDonald and Eugene Leddy.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Please ensure that you have your **SCIAF boxes**. These should be handed in at Easter. There is also the SCIAF Lenten collection on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the 10th March.

There will be a screening of the new **Mary's Meals** film *Child 31* in Lochyside School this Friday at 7 p.m. The film is moving and inspiring and makes us all the more aware of what Mary's Meals does for deprived children throughout the world. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards. Do come along!

The Way of the Cross

Many of you will make the effort to be part of this devotion during Lent. Should you wish to learn more about the Stations of the Cross and even follow them on your computer, you may find an invaluable help in the Christus Rex website of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. All you have to do is enter "Christus Rex Way of the Cross" and it should be there for you. Those of you who have had the privilege of following the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem may recognise some of the places where you stopped and prayed. Here are some illustrations from the Christus Rex site.



An Extraordinary Lenten Journey Begins

Was it co-incidental that Pope Benedict announced his resignation on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the World Day of the Sick - a day when we remember those who carry the burdens of age as well as illness? We can see how tired and drawn he looks as he presides at the Ash Wednesday liturgy in St. Peter's. We also see him briefly energised by the warmth and affection directed at him as thousands gathered for a general audience earlier that day. One banner expresses the gratitude of millions. Reaction to his retirement has been mixed. The usual trolls and pundits are having their say on the internet. The ugliness of some of their comments is in stark contrast with the thoughts and words of a man so sensitive to the beauty of God and the aesthetic of goodness. After the surprise of his announcement, there has been from most people an outpouring of empathy, affection and of prayer. We join with them in wishing Benedict XVI the rest and tranquillity he both desires and deserves. We pray for him as surely as he will pray for us. And we pray for the cardinals as they prepare for the conclave that will elect a successor. May each of them put time aside for deep personal prayer, opening their hearts to what the Spirit is saying to the Church in our time.

Some Reactions

The Holy Father brought the tender heart of a pastor, the incisive mind of a scholar and the confidence of a soul united with His God in all he did. His resignation is but another sign of his great care for the Church. We are sad that he will be resigning but grateful for his eight years of selfless leadership as successor of St Peter. *(Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York)*

I send my best wishes to Pope Benedict following his announcement today. He has worked tirelessly to strengthen Britain's relations with the Holy See. His visit to Britain in 2010 is remembered with great respect and affection. He will be missed as a spiritual leader to millions. *(David Cameron)*

I was honoured to welcome Pope Benedict XVI to Britain on behalf of non-Christian faiths in 2010 and spend time with him during a visit to the Vatican in 2011. I saw him to be a man of gentleness, of quiet and of calm, a deeply thoughtful and compassionate individual who carried with him an aura of grace and wisdom. I wish him good health, blessings and best wishes for the future. *(Lord Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi)*

The choice of a successor is clearly an important one for the Catholic Church. Our thoughts are with those who must make such a critical decision on behalf of millions around the world. *(Ed Miliband, Labour Party Leader)*

The Scottish Government holds the Holy See in the utmost respect and is aware Pope Benedict's decision will be a great shock to the Catholic community in Scotland and internationally. We should respect the decision of His Holiness to pass on his ministry in a selfless gesture, on health grounds, in the best interests of the church. Like many Scots, I remember with great fondness the resounding success of Pope Benedict's visit to Scotland in 2010 and the papal Mass celebrated at Bellahouston Park. I wish him a very peaceful retirement. *(Alex Salmond)*

He is and remains one of the most significant religious thinkers of our time. *(Angela Merkel, German Chancellor)*

