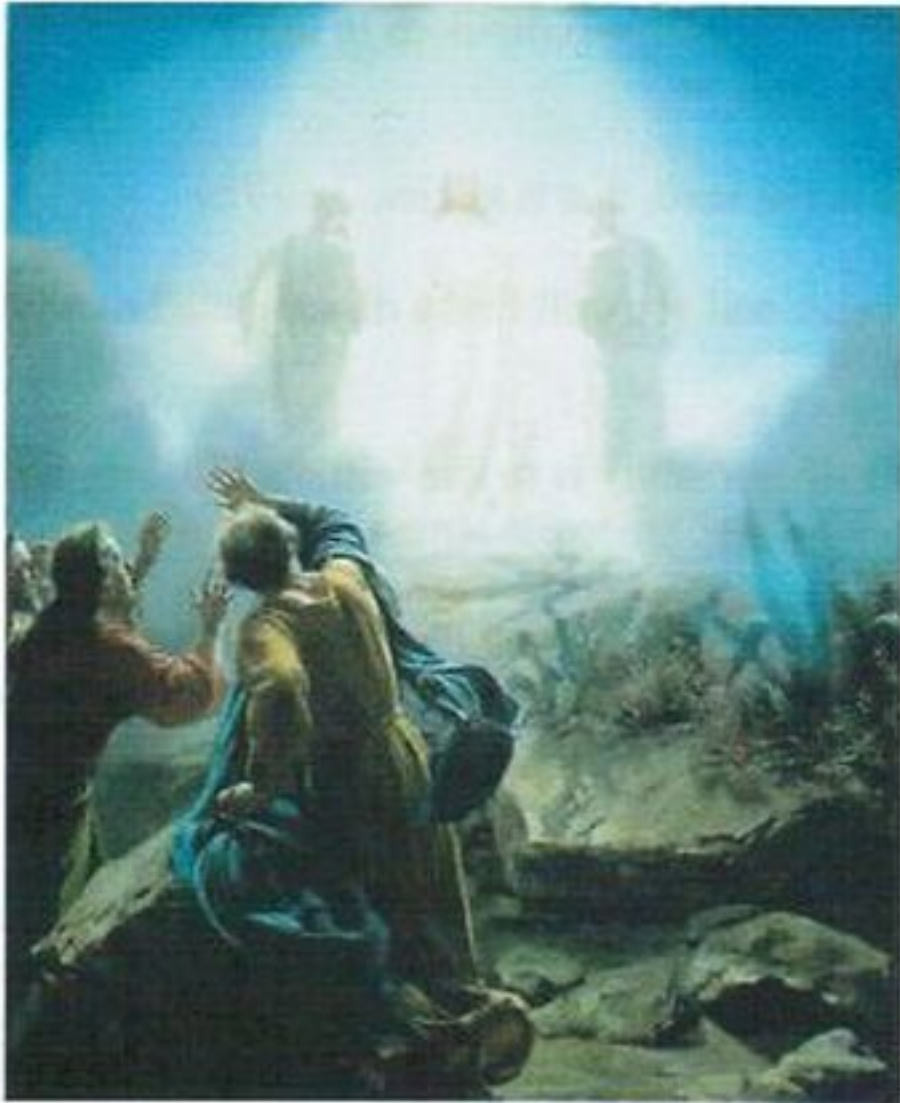


SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

24th 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.

There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.

"As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became as brilliant as lightning."

Bishop Toal has returned safely home. He had to make the journey from Salamanca by train, given that flying is as yet inadvisable. We wish him a full recovery after all that he has been through.

The World Day of Prayer is on Friday of this week. This year it will be celebrated in the Salvation Army Hall at 2 p.m. Do come along!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the **cardinals of the Church** as they prepare for the coming Conclave. There has been much speculation in the media about who should be or not be a future Pope. Perhaps we should concentrate on prayer and allow the Spirit to break through! After all, as Pope Benedict himself reminded us on the 13th February: "The Church belongs to Christ."

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary Delaney, Hugh McEleney, Alister MacDonald, George MacPherson, Lewis Faryma, Elizabeth Mulrooney, Anne MacKintosh, Jeanie Wright, Vera MacDonald, Calum MacLean, Neil Lindsay, Archie Lindsay, James Connochie, Adam MacPherson and Marion Gillies.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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

Membership of our **200 Club** is falling. Please think of joining or rejoining! Membership costs £15 a year. There is a monthly draw with a £50 prize, with two draws at Christmas and Easter. We thank those who are still members. Since 2005, the 200 Club has been a big help for the parish.

Our **First Communions** will be on Sunday, 16th June. Please keep our young First Communicants in your prayers.

Easter Sunday is on the 31st March. The Easter Vigil begins after sunset on Saturday. We follow a similar tradition to that of the Jewish people, whose Sabbath begins on Friday night. This year, Easter being earlier, *the Vigil will begin at 8 p.m.* It should be noted that the clocks go forward later that night, so those attending Mass on Easter Morning should take note! The Holy Thursday Mass will be at the usual time, 7 p.m. and the Good Friday Liturgy at 3 p.m. In recent years, the silence observed in St. Mary's from after the Holy Thursday Mass until after the Good Friday service has indeed been impressive. This reverent silence is part of the deep sacredness of what we commemorate. Thank you for that!

Romano Guardini on the Transfiguration A Reflection for Lent

When we read the Synoptic accounts of the Transfiguration, we usually concentrate our attention on what happens to the Lord and on its relation to the Resurrection. All too easily we overlook the appearance of the two men who are seen conversing with him. What are they doing here, Moses and Elijah? One the lawgiver of the old covenant, the other the prophet who, according to the first Book of Kings, did not die, but was spirited away in to heaven. [...] Why Moses and not Abraham? Why Elijah and not Isaiah or one of the other prophets? [...]

[Moses] has well been called the most plagued of men. The story of the forty years' wandering through the desert is the story of a never-ending struggle, not only with the hardships of nature and the assaults of hostile tribes, but also with the apathy and stubbornness of those he was leading. At first the people are enthusiastic, but soon discouraged. They bind themselves with sacred vows, only to forget everything when it comes to the test. They start everything well, but see nothing through, and the moment they meet with difficulties, the experience of God's great and terrible signs is completely forgotten. [...] The record of the march to the Promised Land is the story of the desperately heavy struggle of a powerful, God-fearing will with the crushing burden of humanity. Moses had to carry the entire nation on his shoulders. He was, necessarily, the most patient of men. [...]

This then the man who appeared to Christ, to him who was to carry the cross of his people to the bitter end; Moses too they had failed to follow, in the flesh, into the new land of free divine dominion. Yet another leader had to die 'on the mountaintop' (this one for our sins, not his own) before the promised Country could become reality. [...]

And Elijah? It is not too much to call him the mightiest of the prophets. Not as a speaker; there is no record of exalted or path-blazing word from his lips. He left no book; hardly a sentence that in itself is anything out of the ordinary. Nor did he have any remarkable visions or revelations. Yet no other prophet looms as huge against the bottomless depths of divine mystery as Elijah; nowhere in the whole history of prophecy do we find an existence of such huge proportions. [...]

During Achab's reign darkness covered the land, the darkness of hell. It was against this dark that Elijah had been sent. He never was able to proclaim the tidings of the coming kingdom; he had to fight to the end against a wall of blackness, hardened disbelief; against the violence, blasphemy and bloodthirstiness that stalked through the land, Elijah's life is one titanic struggle against the powers of evil. The spirit of the Lord seethes in him, lifting him high above the human plane, spanning his strength far beyond the human breaking point. [...]

Moses who had known the hopelessness of all efforts to rip his people out of the captivity of their own hearts; Elijah, who with both sword and spirit had charged the satanic dark. It is as though the weight of one and a half millennia of sacred history had been bundled together and laid upon the shoulders of the Lord. All the enmity against God, heritage of a thousand years of intractability and blindness he must now bear to an end. No wonder we are shocked when Peter, seeing the radiance, says to Christ: "Master, it is good for us to be here. And let us set up three tents, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah, ..." (Luke 9:33). The Evangelist does well to add, "not knowing what he said." It is the comprehension of a child, who, witnessing something terrible and ignorant of what it is, thinks it beautiful because it shines.

Potpourri

If you thought that science was certain - well, that is just an error on your part. *Richard Feynman*

Science is the attempt to make the chaotic diversity of our sense experience correspond to a logically uniform system of thought. *Albert Einstein*

Great men are seldom over-scrupulous in the arrangement of their attire. *Charles Dickens*

To see things in the seed, that is genius. *Lao Tzu*

Scratch any cynic and you will find a disappointed idealist. *George Carlin*

The challenge of modernity is to live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned. *Antonio Gramsci*

Living in an age of advertisement, we are perpetually disillusioned. The perfect life is spread before us every day, but it changes and withers at a touch. *Joseph Priestley*

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*,

Prayer carries us half way to God, fasting brings us to the door of His palace, and alms-giving procures us admission. *Muslim Proverb*

Obscenity, which is ever blasphemy against the divine beauty in life, is a monster for which the corruption of society forever brings forth new food, which it devours in secret. *Shelley*

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. *Bob Hope*

Who gossips to you will gossip about you. *Turkish proverb*

I dislike blasphemy on purely rational grounds. If there is no God, blasphemy is stupid and unnecessary; if there is, then it's damned dangerous. *Flan O'Brien*.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is "thank you", it will be enough. *Meister Eckhart*

I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love. *Henry Ward Beecher*

Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is. *Mahatma Gandhi*

People take the longest possible paths, digress to numerous dead ends, and make all kinds of mistakes. Then historians come along and write summaries of this messy, nonlinear process and make it appear like a simple, straight line. *Dean Kamen*

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows; it empties today of its strength. *Corrie ten Boom*

How little people know who think that holiness is dull When one meets the real thing, it's irresistible! *C.S. Lewis*