

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3rd March 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.

“Grazie! Buona notte! Grazie a voi tutti!”



“Thank you. Good night! Thank you all!” These were Pope Benedict’s final words before beginning the first stage of his retirement at Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer residence outside Rome. The people of the town have a very special affection for him, and it was fitting that his last public address should be to them. Now, in his own words, he is “a pilgrim beginning the last leg of his pilgrimage on this Earth.” His name will be no longer mentioned at Mass, but he will remain in our hearts and personal prayers. And we can be sure that he will be true to his promise to pray for us all.

As **Catholics and Christians**, we believe in the power of prayer, in good times and bad. There are times when those who truly love the Church have to carry the pain that so often comes with that love. May the Holy Spirit grant us all the more the gifts of endurance and courage, wisdom and compassion. Nor should we ever forget the good that people do.

As **the Cardinals** begin to gather in Rome, we turn to the same the Holy Spirit. There is also a prayer in this bulletin for the Election of a Pope. Please make it a daily prayer in the coming days.

We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Ella Mackin** who has died peacefully in Moss Park. Ella was a good servant of this parish and we pray that her Saviour grant her eternal peace and joy with him in heaven. We pray for her relatives and closest friends. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Canon John Archie MacNeil, Frank White, Tim Brady, Thomas Cameron, Peggy and Willie Downie, Mary MacLeod, Alasdair Martin, Ronnie MacDonald, Nicholas Griffin, Michel Masclet, Fraser MacPhee and Alistair MacKinnon**. May the Good Shepherd lead them to that place of eternal peace where, in the words of Isaiah, “every tear will be wiped away” by the hand of God Himself.

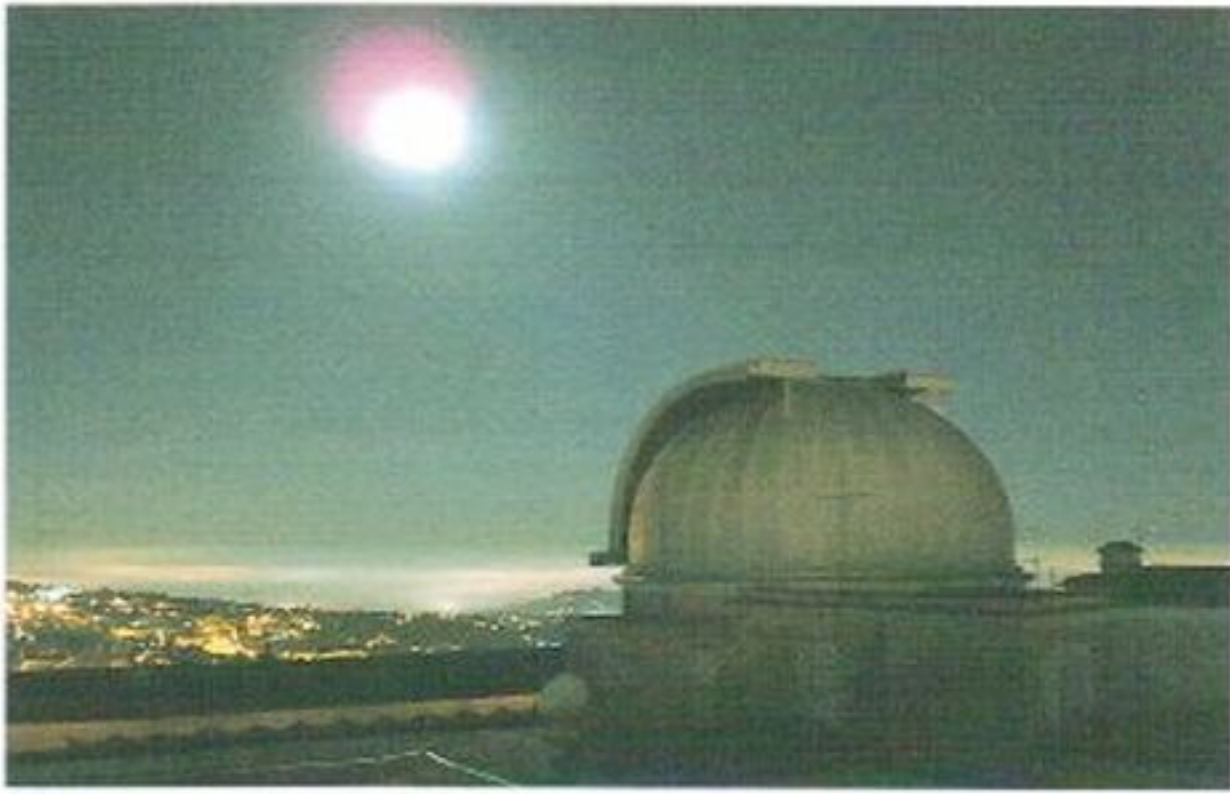
Next Sunday we will have the traditional Lenten collection for **SCIAF**. This is one of the most important collections of the year, and we know that you will be as generous as always.

Lent tends to accelerate as it goes on, so let us start preparing for **Holy Week**. There is a sheet at the back of the church for those who wish to volunteer as readers. Please fill it in as soon as possible.

The **200 Club** receipts are available in a basket at the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

We need volunteers for **church cleaning** in the coming months. Please, please help!

Sic itur ad astra



If you think that the dome in this photo might be an observatory, then you are right. Where is it? It is on top of the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, where Emeritus Pope Benedict now is! Most Catholics are unaware of the Vatican's work in astronomy. The Vatican Observatory is one of the oldest astronomical institutes in the world, going back to 1578. Initially, astronomical studies took place at various sites in Rome, but as more and more street lighting appeared in the city, it was decided to move to Castel Gandolfo in the mid-1930s. With the increase in Rome's population, the skies above the Observatory again became too bright. So, in 1981, the Vatican Observatory founded a second research centre in Tucson, Arizona. Its work continues, in partnership with astronomers all over the world. Every two years it holds a Summer School for students of astronomy.

The library in Castel Gandolfo contains some 22,000 books. Among these is a valuable collection of antique books by such Fathers of Astronomy as Copernicus, Galileo, Newton and Kepler.

Of all those in charge of the Observatory, the most famous was Father Angelo Secchi (1818-1878). He made contributions to many areas of astronomy. He invented the heliospectograph, for example. Through the use of prism he was able to analyse the spectra of the different stars. This helped determine the temperature and chemical make-up of a star, and much more. Fr. Secchi had a special interest in the Sun. He observed and made drawings of solar eruptions and sunspots. This area of study remains very important in our own time, as people become more and more aware of the effect of such things on our planet. How would a major flare from the sun affect our communications, so dependent on satellites, for example?



Fr. Angelo Secchi S.J.

Potpourri

The world never has had a good definition of the word liberty.
(Abraham Lincoln)

Great liturgies cannot be manufactured; they grow.
(Arnold Lunn)

We are shaped and fashioned by what we love.
(Goethe)

Loyalty is the holiest good in the human heart.
(Seneca)

If you want to destroy a nation, give it too much – make it greedy, miserable and sick. *(John Steinbeck)*

Do not think of the faults of others but of what is good in them and faulty in yourself. *(St. Teresa of Avila)*

The man who gives little with a smile gives more than the man who gives much with a frown. *(Yiddish Proverb)*

An act of goodness, the least act of true goodness, is indeed the best proof of the existence of God. *(Jacques Maritain)*

One kind word can warm three winter months.
(Japanese Proverb)

Christianity is not as religion; it is a relationship.
(Dr. Thieme)

AND ALSO..

Avoid clichés like the plague.

Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it!
You're only young once. After that you need a new excuse.

Prayer for the Papal Election

*Lord God,
you are our eternal shepherd and guide.
In your mercy grant your Church
a shepherd who will walk in your ways
and whose watchful care
will bring us your blessing.*

*We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and
ever. Amen.*