

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17th March 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Mass 10.30 a.m.

Weekday Masses: 10.15 a.m. except on Friday when
Mass will be at 7 p.m.,

Way of the Cross Wednesday, 7 p.m.
(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
6.30 p.m.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday : 9.45 to 10 a.m.
4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.50 p.m.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

We wish **Pope Francis** every blessing as both leader and servant of the universal Church. He now has a very special place in our heart-felt prayer. He has already touched the hearts of many people.

We thank you sincerely for your continued support of SCIAF. Last week's special collection came to a very generous £753.59. The traditional **Peter's Pence** collection is overdue. We will have it *next Sunday*. Given the character of our new Pope, we can be sure that much of it will be channelled to those in greatest need.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Robert Wright, Jeanie Wright, Daniel Wright, Mary Forsyth, Rose and Charlie Alexander, Mark Penman, John Currie, Christina MacDonald, Ellen Willmott, Jimmy MacBeth, George MacKinnon, Mary Alister MacDonald, Mary Brannigan, John MacLean, Kathleen Robertson, Sister Elizabeth MacLaren, Fred MacLaren, Sarah Kennedy Lena Maguire and Margaret Deeney.** May they rest in the peace and joy of their Lord.

Next Sunday is **Palm Sunday**, and the Passion will be read at both the Vigil Mass and the Sunday Morning Mass. Would our readers please collect the Passion narrative books. As usual, the palms will be blessed at the beginning of Mass. Please think of your housebound friends and neighbours when you pick up your palm crosses. These are from Africa and give valued support to villagers there.

Fr. Wynne will be our visiting confessor this Easter. He will be available for confessions a week this Monday, (Monday of Holy Week) from 7 to 8 p.m.

This Fifth Sunday of Lent has priority over our usual celebration of **St. Patrick**. But we can still wish those who venerate this very special saint a "Happy St. Patrick's Day!"

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by an announcement in last week's bulletin regarding the plans of the new school. The sheet handed over to Fr. MacKinnon via a parishioner did contain the information that was advertised. Perhaps location and dates were changed meantime. The plans can be seen in our Catholic Primary School, should anyone wish to view them. We remind you of the most important issue of all in the two years ahead: the formation of our children in the knowledge of their faith, in regular prayer and in their sacramental life. The partnership between school and the local priests will, of course, remain essential.

Fr. MacKinnon will be staying overnight in Oban after the **Chrism Mass** on Thursday. The Friday morning Mass will therefore be changed to 7 p.m. The bus for the Chrism Mass will leave from St. Mary's at 5.10 p.m.

The Lenten Pope

As you know well, the word "Lent" means the lengthening of the days: in other words, "Spring time". A New Spring in the Catholic Church is our hope and our prayer as Pope Francis becomes the "servant of the servants of God", that most ancient of papal titles. The simplicity of his life-style and communication has already touched many people. We might say of him: "This man has the mind of a Jesuit and the heart of a Franciscan." It may prove to be quite a combination!

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires on the 17th December 1936, the son of Mario José Bergoglio, a railway worker, and his wife Regina, immigrants from northern Italy. After gaining a degree in chemistry, he entered the Society of Jesus. His subsequent studies included philosophy, psychology and literature. He was ordained priest in 1969, thereafter holding different posts in the Jesuit ministry. It is very unusual for a Jesuit to be ordained a bishop, but Jorge Bergoglio was appointed first an auxiliary bishop then archbishop of Buenos Aires. In 2001, John Paul II created him cardinal.

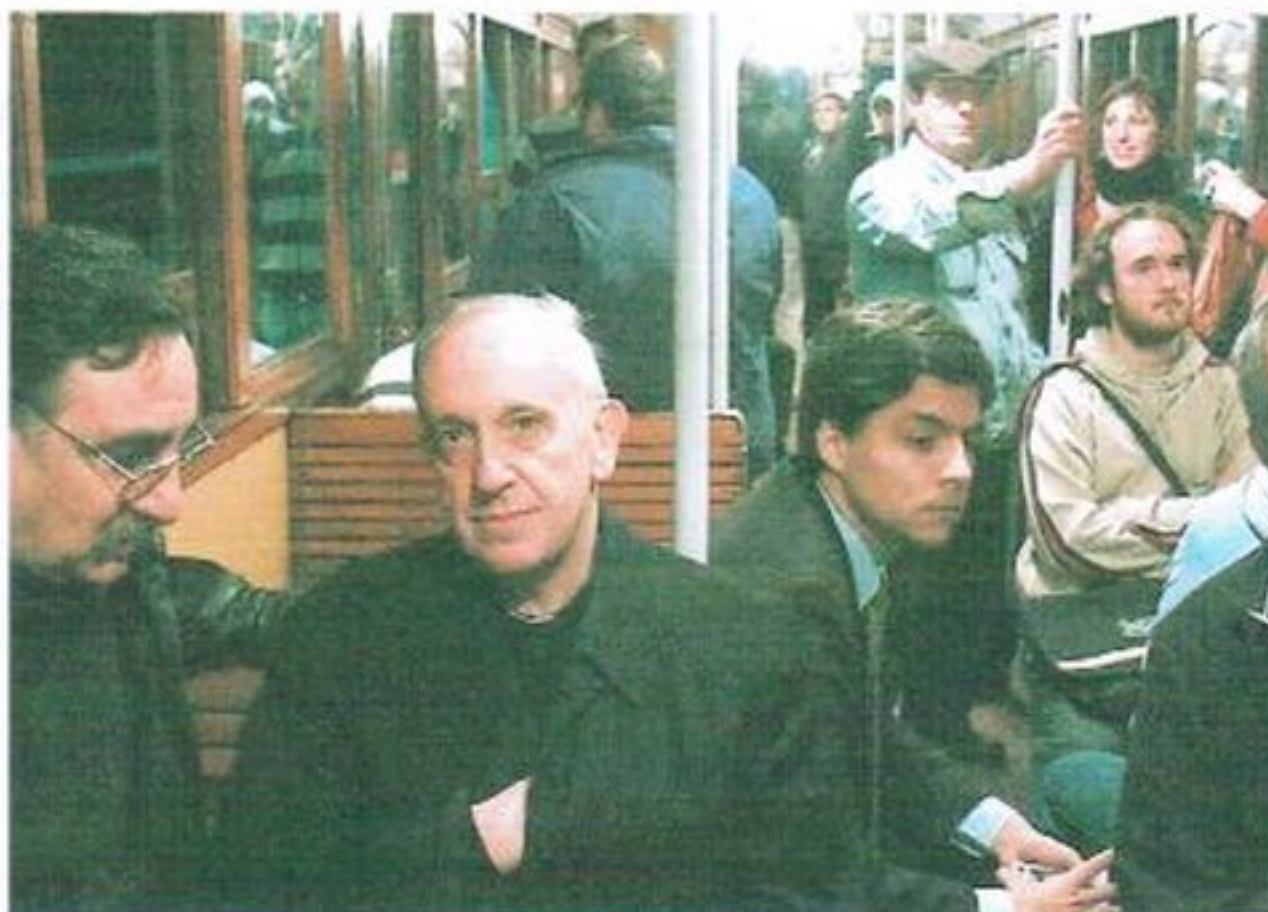
Cardinal Bergoglio's relationship with the present government of Argentina could be best described as "frosty". He strongly opposed its secularist agenda. He was also a fierce proponent of social justice, decrying the gulf between rich and poor not only in his own country but throughout Latin America. While strongly defending the enduring values that should be at the core of society and of the Church, he also showed great pastoral sensitivity to the most vulnerable and marginalized of his people. For the traditional Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday he chose HIV victims and drug addicts, sending out a clear message to his clergy. When he heard that some of his priests were refusing baptism to unmarried mothers, he spoke out publically.

He referred to a young unmarried mother who had the courage to bring her child into the world and who then found herself "on a pilgrimage," going from parish to parish, trying to find someone who would baptize her baby. The priests involved, he asserted, were showing a "rigorous and hypocritical neo-clericalism". Such men who refuse the sacraments to people because of their life circumstances were the "hypocrites of today", and the "followers of the Pharisees", the ones Jesus turned his back on.

Powerful and penetrating words from a compassionate heart, echoing something of the mercy of this Sunday's Gospel. We ask God to bless this humble man who is not afraid to speak from the heart.

Shortly after his election, Pope Francis returned without entourage to the less than luxurious hostel in Rome where he had been staying. He collected his belongings and then insisted on paying his bill. He also went to the basilica dedicated to Our Lady and asked her to watch over the people of Rome, whose shepherd he now is. He will miss his native land, which he loves deeply. He is a patriot, and that should not be denied him.

A keen supporter of the San Lorenzo de Almagro football team, his season ticket will no longer be used. He now belongs to us all. Let us give him time to get his bearings and settle in. He did not come to Rome with an agenda. He had bought a return ticket – economy class!



Archbishop Bergoglio travelling on the Buenos Aires Underground

Potpourri

When Christ at a symbolic moment was establishing His great society, He chose for its cornerstone neither the brilliant Paul nor the mystic John, but a shuffler, a snob, a coward – in a word, a man. And upon this rock He has built His Church, and the gates of Hell have not prevailed against it. All the empires and the kingdoms have failed, because of this inherent and continual weakness, that they were founded by strong men and upon strong men. But this one thing, the historic Christian Church, was founded on a weak man, and for that reason it is indestructible. For no chain is stronger than its weakest link. (G.K. Chesterton)

Cornelius was made bishop by the judgment of God and of His Christ. This was by the testimony of almost all the clergy, by the election of the people who were then present, and by the assembly of long-serving priests and good men.... This occurred when the place of Fabian, that is, when the place of Peter, was vacant. (St. Cyprian of Carthage on the election of Pope Cornelius, in a letter written about 250 A.D.)

I stand morally opposed to killing: war, executions, killing of the old and demented, the killing of children, unborn and born. . . . I believe that all of life is sacred and must be protected, especially in the vulnerable stages at the beginning of life and its end. (Sister Helen Prejean, author of 'Dead Man Walking')

The virtue of some people consists wholly in condemning the vices in others. (Herbert Samuel)

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures. (Lao Tzu)

If you can't explain it to a six year old, you don't understand it yourself. (Albert Einstein)

The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice we give to others. (Anon)

When asked how many people worked in the Vatican, Pope John XXIII answered: "About half of them."