

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

7<sup>th</sup> April 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876



### 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.

#### 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 Solemnity of the Annunciation (transferred from the 25<sup>th</sup> March). Thursday is the Memorial of St. Stanislaus*

Our traditional **Eastertide ecumenical service** takes place in St. Mary's this Sunday, beginning at 6.30 p.m. Please come along and join with our brothers and sisters in celebrating the Risen Lord!

We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember very especially **Fr. Michael Lea**, who died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital on Easter Sunday. Those who knew Fr. Michael were blessed by his gentle goodness. Ordained priest in Bethlehem, he eventually volunteered to serve in our diocese. We give thanks for his many years of priestly ministry in Oban, Rothesay, Campbeltown, Knoydart and Kingussie. May the Risen Lord now welcome his servant home. Fr. Michael's Funeral Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Toal in Kingussie, on Friday, at 12 noon. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Alasdair MacKintosh, Alastair MacDougall, Isobel O'Hare, Barney Delaney, George Dryden, Dave Williamson, Donald Angus Campbell and Annie MacPherson**. May they rest in peace.

We congratulate **Fr. Roddy McAuley** who this week celebrates his Silver Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving in St. John's on Tuesday, at 7 p.m. We wish him every blessing in the years ahead. Such milestones are indeed a deep time!

This Saturday, **Fr. Christopher**, the local Orthodox Priest, celebrated the Divine Liturgy in our Lady Chapel. He and his Faithful are always most welcome in St. Mary's. Pope Francis will continue the same dialogue with the Orthodox Churches as did John Paul II and Benedict XVI. It was significant that Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople attended the Pope's inaugural Mass in St. Peter's square, the first time that the leading Orthodox Patriarch has done so. It was also noteworthy that the Gospel of that Mass was sung in Greek only, and not in Latin, then Greek, as was the tradition in Papal Masses. We continue to pray for the healing and reconciliation that the Spirit desires in our time. We can be sure that this will be a priority in the ministry of our new Pope.

**Maggie's Monster Bike and Hike** will take place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> May. This is to help raise funds for this charity's great work across Britain for those with cancer. Volunteers are needed to help in this event. To find out more, please 'phone Sabina Pasokhy on 0207 386 3511. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

In two weeks time, we have the annual collection for the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund**. We know that you will be as supportive as always.



Pope Francis has still to move into the papal apartments in the Vatican palace. He remains in the building called the Domus Sanctae Marthae (the House of St. Martha) in the gardens behind St. Peter's. He likes it there, enjoying its simplicity and the company it provides.

During Holy Week, he celebrated Mass in its chapel. In the Gospel of the day, Our Lord predicted that Judas would betray him. The Pope's homily was short but powerful. He said that for Judas, "Jesus was like merchandise. He was sold. .. In the market of history, in the market of our own lives, when we choose thirty pieces of silver and cast Jesus aside, the Lord has been sold." Then he added that people often do the same with one other, especially when they gossip about each other. "I don't know why, but there is a dark joy in gossiping. Sometimes we say nice things about one another, but then we slip into gossip, making the object of our chatter merchandise to be bartered. Let us ask forgiveness when we do this to a friend. We do it to Jesus, because Jesus is in that friend."

As regards the Pope's Holy Week, some ultra-traditionalist Catholics have criticised Pope Francis for including women in the Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet in a young offenders' institution in Rome. One asks: Who was closer to Jesus at that moment, the Pope or his critics? There were Muslims among those whose feet were washed and kissed, which makes the humble gesture all the more moving.

It has also been noted that Pope Francis did not sing at the great ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter. It seems that he does not have the singing ability of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Thousands of priests throughout the world may draw some comfort from that – author included!

## Potpourri

Ye Heavens, how sang they in your courts,  
How sang the angelic choir that day,  
When from his tomb the imprisoned God,  
Like the strong sunrise, broke away?  
*(Fr. Frederick Faber)*

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, 'Christ is risen,' but 'I shall rise.'  
*(Phillip Brooks)*

Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.  
*(George Whitefield)*

Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ; we do not even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ.  
*(Blaise Pascal)*

The light of heaven is the face of Jesus Christ; the joy of heaven is the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ; the melody of heaven is the name of Jesus Christ. The theme of heaven is the work of Jesus Christ. The employment of heaven is the work of Jesus Christ. The fullness of heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ, himself.  
*(Anon)*

More than once Jesus deliberately addressed certain issues that quickly diminished the number of onlookers...it was commitment that thinned the ranks.  
*(Charles Swindoll)*

Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother. *(Khalil Gibran)*

Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith. *(Paul Tillich)*

We're not necessarily doubting that God will do the best for us; we are wondering how painful the best will turn out to be. *(C.S. Lewis)*

Ten thousand difficulties do not make one doubt.  
*(Blessed John Henry Newman)*

Christ never failed to distinguish between doubt and unbelief. Doubt is 'can't believe'. Unbelief is 'won't believe'. Doubt is honesty. Unbelief is obstinacy. Doubt is looking for light. Unbelief is content with darkness.  
*(Henry Drummond)*