

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

14th 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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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.

Next Sunday being **Good Shepherd Sunday**, vocations will be very much in our thoughts and prayers. The ESF collection formerly taken on that day now takes place in September.

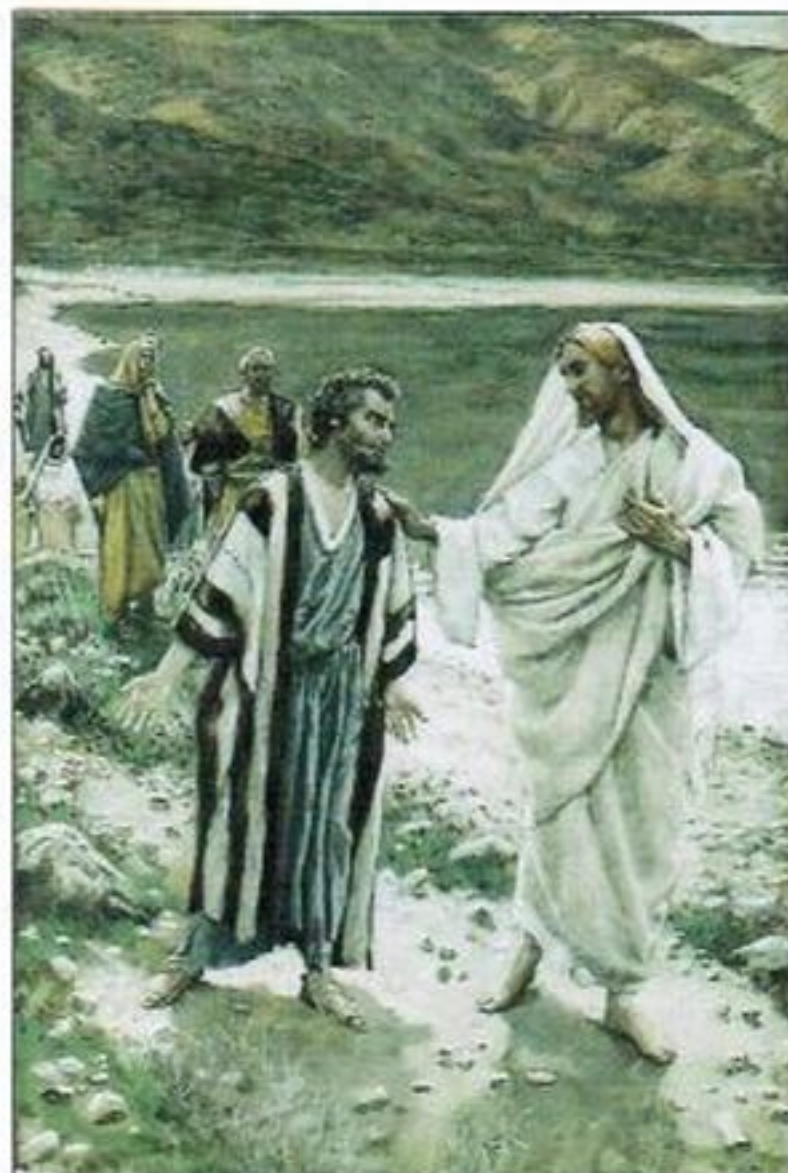
We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **John Paul Steele, Donald Angus Campbell, Mary Gillies, Charlie MacDonald, Father Graham Turner, Billie Corrigan, Dr. Charles Connochie, Mary Kate Philips, John Lindsay and Elizabeth Gribben.** May they rest in the peace and joy of the Risen Lord.

Please remember the new **Memorial Book** at the very back of the church. Enter the names of your beloved dead in the very near future.

We thank those who have been of great help in cleaning the church in recent months. If you would like to be part of this service to the parish, please let us know.

The Gift Aid totals for the past financial year have been sent into the Diocese. We thank those who support the parish in this way. In due course, we should benefit by over £4,000 in rebate.

It is always a pleasure to see **Fr. Donald Cumming**. He popped in for a cup of tea this Saturday. At present, Fr. Donald is padre to the 7 Armour Brigade at Hohne in Germany, but will be posted to Carrick in north Yorkshire on the 1st July, where he will have care of the Scots Guards. As always, we wish him well!



"Feed My Lambs"
by
James Tissot

Father Michael Lea R.I.P.

Fr. Michael was born in Canada ninety-two years ago, of an English father and a French mother. He was still an infant when his family moved to Pau in south-west France. French would always be his first language. As a teenager he entered to the seminary of the Fathers and Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Betherram (founded by St Michael Garicoits). Betherram is very close to Lourdes and there was a Marian shrine there prior to the apparitions to St Bernadette. Some parishioners have visited this shrine.

Fr Michael was sent by to do his theological studies in what was then known as Palestine, or the Holy Land. The Sacred Heart Fathers had been given the responsibility of running the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Jerusalem, and for that reason they sent some of their students to join the local seminarians. To live in the Holy Land where Jesus was born, lived, walked, suffered, died, rose from the dead was a great blessing for Fr Michael and, to the end of his life, he held precious the details, the memories, of these six years of formation.

He was ordained a priest in Bethlehem in 1944. His time in Palestine coincided with the Second World War, during which it was very difficult for him to have contact with his family. In fact for a long time he did not know what had happened to them. When the Germans invaded, his father decided they should flee from France and they managed to get a boat to Liverpool. After the war, the young Father Michael had the joy of being reunited with his loved ones.

He was appointed to teach at the Sacred Heart College in Droitwich, one of a number of places in England where the Sacred Heart Fathers and Brothers served. It seemed that it was planned to send him to the missions in China, but due to health problems this proved inadvisable. Fr. Michael found teaching quite arduous and after a number of years of struggle he was given leave in 1954 to go to our diocese. Bishop Grant made him most welcome, and so Fr Michael was to spend the rest of his life as one of our priests. His was to be a gentle, kindly presence and he did much good in his quiet and unassuming way, this despite recurring health problems.

Fr Michael served as a curate in Oban, Dunoon and Rothesay, and as parish priest in Kingussie (twice), Knoydart and the Small Isles (twice), and Campbeltown. His priestly service was spent far from the limelight, in the smaller and poorer missions of the Diocese. He always retained a very special love for Knoydart. After his retirement, many of his fellow priests were grateful for his supply work on their behalf.

At the peaceful Funeral Mass in Kingussie, Bishop Toal gave a special thanks to Iolanda Dominica, Father Michael's housekeeper for the last 35 years of his life. The Bishop concluded his lovely homily with these words: "*He was by nature a quiet, unassuming man and it may be fair to think that much of what was best about him as a priest was conveyed by his presence and kind disposition rather than by powerful or exceptional words. We commend his soul to the Lord's mercy and ask that he may share in the glory of the Risen Lord, with Mary, the saints, including St Michael Garicoits, in the company of the St Michael the Archangel and all the heavenly host. May he rest in peace.*"

Potpourri

It is the hour to rend thy chains,
The blossom time of souls.
(Katherine Lee Bates)

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and "Alleluia!" is our song. *(Pope John Paul II)*

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here. *(St. Augustine)*

Awake, thou wintry earth -
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers, laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
(Thomas Blackburn)

The risen Lord is the new Temple, the real meeting place between God and man. *(Pope Benedict XVI)*

My wife heard me say I love you a thousand times, but she never once heard me say sorry. *(Bruce Willis)*

Everyone suffers at least one bad betrayal in their lifetime. It's what unites us. The trick is not to let it destroy your trust in others when that happens. Don't let them take that from you. *(Sherrilyn Kenyon)*

Move on. It's just a chapter in the past. But don't close the book, just turn the page. *(Yashar Ibra)*

St. Peter announced the glad tidings of the Gospel to the people on the day of Pentecost, and converted, by the first Christian sermon ever preached, three thousand - which formed the primitive Church. *(John Strachan)*

Immature love says: 'I love you because I need you.'
Mature love says 'I need you because I love you.'
(Erich Fromm)

Once you stop saying "thank you" to another, then you are taking that person for granted, and that's a rather dangerous place for love to be. *(William Lewis)*

The most beautiful people are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people do not just happen.
(Anon)

There's nothing better than a good friend, except a good friend with CHOCOLATE. *(Linda Grayson)*