

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Good Shepherd Sunday)

21st 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.

Wednesday is the Memorial of St. Egbert (Diocesan Calendar). Thursday is the Feast of St. Mark.

On this **Good Shepherd Sunday** we pray especially for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate, the religious life and the other forms of service and mission needed in our time. We pay special attention to the Pastoral Letter sent by Bishop Toal.

Fr. MacKinnon will be taking a post-Easter break this week, from Tuesday to Friday. **Mgr. Basil Loftus** has very kindly offered to supply. Deacon Stanislaw is also having a short holiday and will back next Sunday.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Mary Kennedy**. We give thanks for the blessing she was for so many people and for her years of faithful and unassuming service to her parish in Caol. May those who mourn her find comfort in the loving presence of the Good Shepherd. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **John MacMaster, Bernard (Brian) Kearney, Sarah Brooks, Ann MacDonell, Sister Mary Harrison, Ronnie Gillies, Clement Kirby, Jessie Matheson and Patrick Toal**. May they now rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound from Monday, 29th April to Wednesday, 1st May.

Next Sunday must be the cut-off date for this year's **SC IAF boxes**. So far, £905.52 has been banked. Thank you for your faithful support of SCIAF!

And thank you for the **Good Friday Collection** for Africa and the Holy Places, which came to £259.06.



This is a photo taken last year, at the First Holy Communion of Martin Richard. Martin was the youngest of those killed at the Boston Marathon. His young sister was among the many maimed for life, and his mother was seriously injured. The dead and the maimed and the bereaved are very much in our thoughts and prayers this Sunday. We pray also for the relatives of the two Tsarnaev brothers. They came to America, grateful for the new beginning that was offered them. Now they are in a state of deep shock and shame. Pope Francis has sent a message to the people of Boston, asking them not to be "overcome by evil, but to combat evil with good."

Reflection on a Coin



Recently, one of our young parishioners showed me a crown coin she owned, and asked me about it. On a coin of this size, it is easy to see the abbreviated Latin inscriptions unique to British coinage:

D.G.	Dei Gratia	By the grace of God
REG.	Regina	Queen
F.D.	Fidei Defensor	Defender of the Faith

Some time ago we recorded the difficulty that Slovakia had regarding the demand by Brussels that haloes be removed from a coin depicting Sts. Cyril and Methodius. One wonders what our own secularists should make of something they handle every day: coins that proclaim belief in the Christian God, and, worse than that, which still carry a title conferred by the Pope on Henry VIII before he broke with Rome!

Like many of our coins, the crown has a milled edge. This was introduced some centuries ago, to prevent the "clipping" of coins; that is, shaving off and collecting tiny amounts of silver or gold. This obviously led to the debasement of currency. Sometimes things got so bad that coins had to be recalled by government and replaced: no easy task!

Sir Isaac Newton is credited with introducing the milled edge when he was in charge of the Royal Mint. He is, of course, one of the great icons of the history of mathematics and science, rivalling Einstein as the "greatest scientist of all time." Interestingly, he wrote far more about religion than he did about science, but often secretly, to avoid being accused of heresy by his Anglican contemporaries. While he believed fervently in God the Creator, he denied the divinity of Christ. He studied the Bible assiduously, convinced that it contained a prophetic code that he had been chosen to interpret correctly. He concluded that the world would not end before 2060. The Book of the Apocalypse fascinated him especially. He also searched for hidden meaning in the architecture of Solomon's Temple. In private, he practiced alchemy, the ancient attempt to produce gold from base metals. Nowadays, he would be described by some as an occultist. In 1924, John Maynard Keynes, the famous economist, acquired some of Newton's private writings. After studying these, he concluded that Isaac Newton "was not the first of the Age of Reason, but the last of the magicians."

Should Newton's experiments in alchemy be dismissed so easily? Were these not part of humankind's quest for the essence of matter, a quest continued today in our study of the sub-atomic, using information and techniques denied Newton? The modern search for a theory that explains the whole universe has something of the mystical about it: it is the Holy Grail of our time. Intuition as well as experiment has played its part in the advance of science. Elements of what is called "pseudoscience" may be a form of "proto-science".

Incidentally, cat-owners everywhere may be interested to know that Sir Isaac Newton is said to have invented the cat-flap!

Potpourri

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God. (*Thomas Merton*)

The place God calls you to is where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. (*Frederick Buechner*)

There's an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with a special act of love to bestow. No-one else can speak my message, or sing my song or offer my act of love. These are only entrusted to me. (*Francis Dewar*)

The wound is the place where the Light enters you. (*Rumi*)

Our wounds are often the openings into the best and most beautiful part of us. (*David Richo*)

A thought transfixed me: For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth that is love is the ultimate and highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart; the salvation of man is through love and in love. (*Viktor Frankl, Holocaust survivor*)

The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world. (*Marianne Williamson*)

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. (*Helen Keller*)

What separates us from the animals, what separates us from the chaos, is our ability to mourn people we've never met. (*David Levithan*)

The majority of the world's Muslims do not believe that terrorism is a legitimate strategy or that Islam is incompatible with democracy. (*Gijs de Vries*)

Terrorism is a psychological warfare. Terrorists try to manipulate us and change our behavior by creating fear, uncertainty, and division in society. (*Patrick J. Kennedy*)

The love that endures, encourages and heals: that is the true love in our lives. (*William Lewis*)

But let there be spaces in your togetherness and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another but make not a bond of love: let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls. (*Kahlil Gibran*)