

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st September 2013

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

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Noticeboard



“No, when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.”

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

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Mass at 10.15 a.m.
Thursday NO MASS
Friday Mass at 7 p.m.
Saturday Mass at 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.

Tuesday is the Memorial of St. Gregory the Great.

Thank you for your very generous support of **the retired priests of the Diocese**. Last Sunday's collection came to £511.51!

We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Neil Gillies, Eileen Bailey, John Leddy, Patrick McKenna, Jimmy MacKinnon, Anne Clark, Donald Kearney, Peggy MacAskill, Peter MacDonald** and **Agnes Currie**. As always, we remember our loved ones and fellow parishioners. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The **visitors' book** at the back of the church contains many prayer requests, and these from people of every nationality and background. It is also evidence that many visitors to Fort William like to find a church open for a short time of prayer, alone or with friends and relatives.

Pope Francis has his own Twitter page: "Pope Francis @ pontifex". Most days, he gives us a very short message to reflect upon. It was Pope Benedict that began this. The page now has 2,896,408 followers – and that following continues to grow. Pope Francis once again broke protocol earlier this week, by bowing to Queen Rania of Jordan as she accompanied her husband King Abdullah II. Obviously, the crisis in Syria was at the centre of discussion afterwards. As we see photos of Syrian children either dead or fighting for life, we feel both heartbreak and helplessness. We can understand the fear of any sort of military intervention, no matter how limited, and yet we all want to do something. Perhaps individuals could donate to the charities that are helping Syrian refugees in the Middle East. Jordan now has 440,000 to care for, with more arriving each day. Lebanon has more than a million; Turkey, 410,000; Iraq, 162,000; Egypt, 76,000. There are also tens of thousands of refugees who are not officially registered.



This week, we remember a pope who responded to the humanitarian crises of his time: Gregory the Great (c.540-604). He was from a very wealthy patrician family, but gave away all he possessed when he became a Benedictine monk. As Pope, he would insist that the estates that had been bequeathed to the papacy be administered honestly and efficiently, and this for one reason: the care of the destitute and the refugee, of whom there were many in 6th century Italy. He emptied the papal treasury. There are many reasons for the "Great" attached to his name: his care of the poor must surely be the most important of them all. No doubt, Pope Francis will continue this legacy, so central to the Petrine ministry.

POTPOURRI

All the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust.
(*J.M. Barrie, "Peter Pan"*)

There is no instance of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare. (*Sun Tzu, Chinese general, 6th century BC*)

In vast laboratories in the Ministry of Peace, and in experimental stations, teams of experts are indefatigably at work searching for new and deadlier gases; or for soluble poisons capable of being produced in such quantities as to destroy the vegetation of whole continents; or for breeds of disease germs immunised against all possible antibodies. (*George Orwell, "1984"*)

As I watch what is happening in the Middle East and the carnage that comes over our television screens every evening, I cannot help but ask myself, what is wrong with humankind that we cannot stop the killing? (*Marcy Kaptur US Congresswoman*)

When it comes to human dignity, we cannot make compromises.
(*Angela Merkel, German Chancellor*)

Terrorism is contempt for human dignity.
(*Kjell Magne Bondevik Norwegian Lutheran pastor and former PM*)

Sometimes people with low self-esteem will try to punish you for caring about them.
(*Wayne Gerard Trotman, filmmaker, author, musician*)

The most pitiful among men is he who turns his dreams into silver and gold. (*Khalil Gibran, Lebanese-American poet*)

One cannot be deeply responsive to the world without being saddened very often.
(*Erich Fromm, German psychologist and philosopher*)

Right now, we don't have a very good relation with creation.
(*Pope Francis*)

Hors d'oeuvre: A ham sandwich cut into forty pieces.
(*Jack Benny*)

I have read in Plato and Cicero sayings that are wise and very beautiful; but I have never read in either of them: Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. (*Saint Augustine*)

At its root, perfectionism isn't really about a deep love of being meticulous. It's about fear. Fear of making a mistake. Fear of disappointing others. Fear of failure. Fear of success.
(*Michael Law, Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin*)

A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.
(*Anon*)

But I like going to church. If you've been brought up in the Church of England, it feels like visiting an elderly relative. And I think it's important that part of the kids' education is knowing about the Bible. (*Jack Dee, British comedian*)

It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them.
(*Ralph Waldo Emerson, American essayist and poet*)

Snippets from Fr. Thomas Merton, Trappist monk:

Perhaps I am stronger than I think.
Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.
The very contradictions in my life are in some ways signs of God's mercy to me.
The least of the work of learning is done in the classroom.
The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.
(*Dolly Parton, singer*)

My songs are like my children - I expect them to support me when I'm old. (*The same Dolly Parton*)

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. (*Maya Angelou, Black American author and poet*)

God's love for the biggest sinner is greater than the love of the holiest man for God. (*Arsenie Boca, Orthodox Romanian monk*)

Grown-ups never understand anything by themselves, and it is tiresome for children to be always and forever explaining things to them.
(*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, French war hero. author of the "Little Prince"*)

The soul is healed by being with children.
(*Fyodor Dostoyevsky, VERY famous Russian author*)

We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future.
(*Franklin D. Roosevelt, American president*)

I raised my three teens with love, perseverance, tenacity, sweat, tears, prayers, lighting candles, and the list could go on.
(*Ana Monnar, teacher and author*)

It is better to lose your pride with someone you love rather than to lose that someone you love with your useless pride.
(*John Ruskin, English writer, art critic, social thinker*)