

## TWENTY-NINTH IN ORDINARY TIME

20<sup>th</sup> October 2013

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

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



**“As long as Moses kept his arms raised,  
Israel had the advantage.”**

### Noticeboard

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

Weekday Masses: On Monday, Wednesday, Friday and  
Saturday Mass will be at 10.15  
Tuesday, Mass at 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Mass at 12 noon

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

October Devotions Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Exposition of the  
Blessed Sacrament from 6.30 p.m.)

*There are no Feasts or Memorials this week.*



**Faith is God's precious gift, which opens our mind to know and love him. He wants to enter into relationship with us and allow us to participate in his own life in order to make our life more meaningful, better and more beautiful. God loves us! Faith, however, needs to be accepted, it needs our personal response, the courage to entrust ourselves to God, to live his love and be grateful for his infinite mercy. (From Pope Francis's Letter for Mission Sunday)**

We know that you will be as generous as always on this **Mission Sunday**. There are sheets at the back of the church for those who would like to renew their membership of Missio-Scotland.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember very especially **Roddy MacLean**, who had died in the Highland Hospice in Inverness. We give thanks for all that was service, love and kindness in Roddy's life, and for the peace that he shared with so many. May he now find the fulfilment of his faith in the peace and joy of heaven. We extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to Agnes, Roddy, Maria and all the family. Roddy's Funeral Mass will be in St. Mary's on Thursday at 12 noon. We remember also our Faithful Departed whose anniversaries are about this time: **Mary MacNeil, John MacLeod, Mary MacIntyre, Alistair MacKellaig, Isabel MacKellaig, Robert Brown, Ewen MacLennan, Kathleen Timbrell, Simon MacKinnon, Jim McLaughlin, Rose Gardetto, Molly Cameron, Kenny Cairns, Ray Dryden, Angus Campbell, Sally MacPherson and George MacFarlane (Senior)**. May they rest in peace.

Tuesday's Mass has been moved from 10.15 to 7 p.m. This will allow Bishop Toal to confer the Ministry of Acolyte on **Thomas Wynne**. This is an important milestone on Thomas's journey to the Permanent Diaconate. Keep him in your prayers!

You will have noticed **the new lighting** in the church. These LED lights will be much more economic than the previous lighting. At the moment a new sound system is in the offing. Tests will let us know if this is suitable. And estimates have been given for a new heating system. We have money banked with the Diocese which we can call upon. But we really do need that bit extra. If any parishioners would like to give a special donation, it would indeed be appreciated!

Our thanks to all who have collected the new **Offering Envelopes!** And a special thanks to the Polish parishioners who have signed on for Gift Aid!

The traditional **November Lists** will be available next Sunday. It might be appropriate to meet for the Rosary in Kilmallie and Glen Nevis during the month of November. Weather permitting, of course!

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound from Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> October.



## The Eucharistic Miracle of Gona 1942

Fr. Charles Cunningham was an army chaplain with the Australian army as they fought the Japanese forces in New Guinea. He was present at Gona Beach, the scene of one of the bloodiest battles endured by the Australian soldiers. Knowing that many of the men of the 2/16 Battalion would soon be killed or wounded, he chose a site to offer Mass. About 120-150 men followed him to the spot. After giving a General Absolution, Padre Cunningham put aside the hosts he would need for the Mass. Remember that in these days, Mass was said back to the congregation.

When Padre Cunningham turned to face the soldiers and give out communion, he noticed that the number present had grown considerably in the course of the Mass. He said to himself, "Well, they probably won't all want to go to communion." He began to distribute the consecrated hosts, but the line of men coming to receive communion seemed to be endless. He started to break up the hosts into smaller pieces, but realised that this would not ensure that every man would receive communion.

Strangely, the supply of hosts had not seemed to lessen. He continued, giving each man the full host. The men continued coming, not just Catholics but men of other Christian denominations and soldiers with no obvious religious affiliation. The hosts continued to multiply. Later, Fr. Cunningham calculated that he has given communion to 450 men.

When the line of men came to an end, he noticed that he had three hosts left in the chalice that he was using as a ciborium. Then, out of the corner of his eye, he saw three men overcome their shyness and come towards him from the edge of the crowd. They were the last to receive communion.

Padre Cunningham finished the Mass overwhelmed with emotion. Clearly God had intervened to give each of these men the consolation of his presence in the Eucharist. The soldiers had felt the need of Christ and Christ had not denied them.

The chalice was used after the war in Albany, Western Australia, whenever Mass was celebrated at outstations. Before his death, Father Cunningham told this story to his friend Fr. Noel Fitzsimmons, who wrote it down. It was first made public in the 2/16 Battalion newsletter in June 2004. Fr. Cunningham's chalice is now housed in the Canberra War Memorial Museum.

*Our sincere thanks to Father Anthony Malone for telling us about this extraordinary event. You will remember Fr. Malone, the New Zealand Franciscan who helped in the parish some months ago.*

## Potpourri

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts. (*Mother Teresa*)

May God break my heart so completely that the whole world falls in. (*Mother Teresa*)

You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance. (*Kahlil Gibran*)

Those who have a strong sense of love and belonging have the courage to be imperfect. (*Brené Brown*)

God shapes the world by prayer. The more prayer there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces of good against evil. (*E.M. Bounds*)

Prayer does not use up artificial energy, doesn't burn up any fossil fuel, doesn't pollute. Neither does song, neither does love, neither does the dance. (*Margaret Mead*)

I offer my performance as prayer for someone I've worked with as an actor or someone who has died. The image that comes into my head as I walk to the stage, I offer that performance up for that person. (*Liam Neeson*)

Science may never come up with a better office communication system than the coffee break. (*Earl Wilson*)

Where do polar bears vote?  
The North Poll!

What kind of lights did Noah use in the Ark?  
Floodlights!

## AN APPEAL

**You may be a regular reader of our parish bulletin on the Internet.**

**Would you be able to help our parishioners as they raise money towards a new heating system in the church? Please help us!**

**Any donations received will be most gratefully acknowledged.**