

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1<sup>st</sup> December 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876

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



## 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: Mass 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.

Wednesday is a Day of Prayer for the people of Syria.

*Tuesday is the Memorial of St. Francis Xavier; Wednesday, the Optional Memorial of St. John Damascene; Friday, the Optional Memorial of St. Nicholas; Saturday, the Memorial of St. Ambrose.*

This Sunday afternoon, the following children will be confirmed by Bishop Toal. Please keep them in your prayers!

### Fort William

Faye MacKinnon  
Laura Robertson  
Roderick Steadwood  
Evan Patterson  
Tara Watson  
Jessica Choina  
Eliza Bakun  
Calum Mews  
Leon Lawrie  
Kian Cameron

### Morar

Grace Clare Henderson  
Corran Davis  
Megan Morrison  
Cailean MacLean

### Caol

Aaron Gall  
Michael O'Meara  
Caitlin Fraser  
Aiden Murphy  
Ellie Dennison  
Arran MacFadyen  
Kirsty Oliver  
Abbie MacKay  
Grace Wegner  
Danni MacLean  
Josephine McCormack



### Ballachulish

Lucy Fullerton  
Sophie Cameron  
Argyll Knox  
Precious Reid  
Cali Donald  
Coll MacInnes

### Roy Bridge

Gregor Mews  
Skye Spiers  
Cameron MacIsaac  
Ruaridh Poll  
Tyler Whyte  
Giorgio Berardelli

The bus for **Deacon Stanislaw's ordination Mass** will leave from St. Mary's on Thursday at 4 p.m. We wish Stanislaw happiness and fulfilment in his priestly ministry. One journey has ended, another begins. We thank him for all the help he has given both in the pastoral care of this parish and in the maintenance and renovation of church property.

**The British Legion** thanks you most sincerely for your support of the Poppy Appeal. The box in the church raised £88.36.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **John Kerr, Margaret Barron, Monsignor Roddy MacDonald, Allan MacLean, Thomas MacPherson, Angus MacDonald, Lachlan Wynne, Roderick Gemmel, Agnes Gemmel and Arthur McGinley.** We pray also for the eternal rest of **Mrs. Marion Cumming** and extend our sincere sympathy and prayer to Father Donald Cumming and all the family. May all our Departed rest in the peace of Christ the merciful Saviour.

**The church heating** is now as it should be. There will be long periods of background heating, augmented when necessary by the blowers. We are now ready for whatever winter has to offer.

After all that she has been through, we are delighted to see **Isobel MacKellaig** back with us! Thank you for all your prayers.



*We have received Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium". Here are just a few extracts from what must surely be his hope for the Church.*

....Who would claim to lock up in a church and silence the message of Saint Francis of Assisi or Blessed Teresa of Calcutta? They themselves would have found this unacceptable. An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters.

....The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open. One concrete sign of such openness is that our church doors should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door.

.....The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.

.....Every form of catechesis would do well to attend to the “way of beauty” (*via pulchritudinis*). Proclaiming Christ means showing that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendour and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties.

....Popular piety enables us to see how the faith, once received, becomes embodied in a culture and is constantly passed on. Once looked down upon, popular piety came to be appreciated once more in the decades following the Council.

.....I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor! It is vital that government leaders and financial leaders take heed and broaden their horizons, working to ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and healthcare. Why not turn to God and ask him to inspire their plans? I am firmly convinced that openness to the transcendent can bring about a new political and economic mindset which would help to break down the wall of separation between the economy and the common good of society.

...The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? If we do not feel an intense desire to share this love, we need to pray insistently that he will once more touch our hearts.

## Potpourri

Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last. (*Frederick Buechner*)

Every year we celebrate the holy season of Advent. .. Every year we pray those beautiful prayers of longing and waiting, and sing those lovely songs of hope and promise. (*Fr. Karl Rahner*)

The way to Christmas lies through an ancient gate....It is a little gate, child-high, child-wide, and there is a password: "Peace on earth to men of good will." May you, this Christmas, become as a little child again and enter into His kingdom. (*Angelo Patri*)

In the same manner in which we clean and prepare our homes in the anticipation of welcomed guests and family members this Christmas season, let us also prepare our hearts in anticipation of the Lord's coming. Christ, our most honoured and eagerly anticipated guest, desires to meet with us in a heart prepared for his arrival. So eager is he to meet with us that he offers to help us with our spiritual housecleaning, working with us; creating a resting place for Himself within our hearts. (*Katherine Walden*)

Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him. (*St. Clare of Assisi*)

Enemy-occupied territory - that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed...and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening-in to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going. (*C.S. Lewis*)

An old man went to the doctor complaining that his wife could barely hear. The doctor suggested a test to find out the extent of the problem. "Stand far behind her and ask her a question, and then slowly move up and see how far away you are when she first responds." The old man, excited to be near a solution to the problem, runs home and sees his wife preparing supper. "Pet!" the man asks standing around twenty feet away, "What's for supper?" After receiving no response he tries it again fifteen feet away, and again no response. Then at ten feet and no response. Finally he is just five feet away. "What's for supper?" he says. She replies, "For the fourth time, it's lasagna!"

A man went to the cinema to see a comedy and was surprised to find a woman with a big collie sitting in front of him. Even more amazing was the fact that the dog always reacted immediately whenever it heard funny dialogue in the film. "Excuse me," the man eventually said to the woman, "but I think it's astounding that your dog enjoys the film so much." "I'm surprised myself," she replied. "He hated the book."

E-mail is like coming home at night after a long day and finding seventy people in your kitchen.

"How lovely you look, my dear!" gushed a wedding guest to the bride. And then she whispered, "Whatever happened to that dizzy blonde your groom used to date?" "I dyed my hair," replied the bride.