

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th December 2013

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

Charity No. SC002876

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 5 to 6 p.m.

*The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday.
Friday is the Memorial of St. Lucy; Saturday the Memorial of St.
John of the Cross.*

We congratulate **Father Stanislaw Pamula** on his ordination to the priesthood. The gathering in Oban was all that one could have hoped for: dignified and prayerful, with a quiet joy and with the warmth of hearts that wished Stanislaw every blessing as he received the sacrament with humility of heart and with trust in God. He is now on his way to his home parish in Gdansk, to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. He will return to Scotland on the 3rd January and will supply in Campbeltown for five weeks. We know that the "Wee Toon" will make him welcome!

Our sincere thanks to all who made last Sunday's **Confirmations** such a special day for our youngsters. It was certainly a new experience for all of us! A special thanks to all who contributed to and helped out at the reception in our school afterwards.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margaret MacDonald, Margaret B. MacDonald, Ronald MacDonald, Marion Wynne, Mary MacKellaig, John MacDonald, Margaret Culley, John Kearney, Annie O'Neill, Neil MacEachen, Katherine MacKinnon, Mary Cameron, Joseph MacLeod, Mary Anne Kennedy, Sandra Vial, Murdo MacLeod, Dougie MacRae, Christina Quinn, Ronald MacRae, and John MacDonell.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The Feast of the parish has been transferred to Monday. Please try to get to our Morning Mass!

Please note that there is an **ecumenical Advent Service** at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church this Sunday, beginning at 6.30 p.m.

Pope Francis's "Evangelii Gaudium" seems to be well worth acquiring. The CTS has produced it in booklet form, costing £5. If you would like to order a copy, please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

Our Christmas timetable:

The blessing of the Crib and of the Children, Sunday, 22nd December, after the 10.30 Mass

The Mass of Christmas Night, Tuesday, 24th December, at 10 p.m.
(There will be a short Carol Service beginning at 9.45 p.m.)

Mass of Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December, at 10.30 a.m.

At the Christmas Masses there will be a special collection for SCIAF's work in the Philippines.



Painted by the Italian artist Carlo Crivelli in 1492, this may be one of the first representations of the Immaculate Conception. Murillo's "Immaculate Conception" is perhaps better known. The moon recalls the woman seen in Revelation 12:1. It is also an archetypal symbol of the feminine. Murillo's little cherubs remind us that he was famous for painting children. Cute as these baby angels are, they do not communicate the majesty of the mysterious spiritual beings we call "angels". (Cf. Luke 1:19)



It was not until 1854 that the Immaculate Conception was declared a dogma of the Church. In the centuries before there had been much difference of opinion between theologians. The greatest advocate of this dogma was Blessed John Duns Scotus, the Scots-born Franciscan and Doctor of the Church.

After the Reformation, many ordinary Catholics proclaimed their faith in Mary's Immaculate Conception. Seville in Spain had many such supporters. So much so that in 1613 there was a huge demonstration in the city after a sermon was delivered casting doubt on what the people so fervently believed. 40,000 citizens took to the streets, loudly proclaiming that Mary was conceived without original sin.

After this the Immaculate Conception became even more popular in Spanish art, as seen for example in the work of Zurbaran and Velazquez, as well of course with Murillo. The Book of Revelation would provide the iconographic details: "A woman robed with the sun, beneath her feet the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

Concepts create idols; only wonder understands anything.
(*St. Gregory of Nyssa*)

If there are dreams about a beautiful South Africa, there are also roads that lead to their goal. Two of these roads could be named Goodness and Forgiveness. (*Nelson Mandela*)

I was not a Messiah, but an ordinary man who had become a leader because of extraordinary circumstances. (*Nelson Mandela*)

During the Advent season of 2005, Pope Benedict XVI presented St. Joseph as a model of recollection. Joseph's silence in the Gospel, the Holy Father said, "does not demonstrate an empty interior, but rather the fullness of faith that he carries in his heart. Let's allow ourselves to be 'infected' by the silence of St. Joseph!" Silence "is so lacking in this world which is often too noisy, which is not favourable to recollection and listening to the voice of God," Benedict XVI said. "In this time of preparation for Christmas, let us cultivate interior recollection so as to receive and keep Jesus in our lives." He suggested that the faithful establish in these days "a kind of spiritual dialogue with St. Joseph so that he helps us live to the fullest this mystery of faith."

I love tango, and I used to dance when I was young.
(*Pope Francis*)

For when two beings who are not friends are near each other there is no meeting, and when friends are far apart there is no separation. (*Simone Weil*)

God allows us to experience the low points of life in order to teach us lessons that we could learn in no other way.
(*C.S. Lewis*)

We do not remember days, we remember moments.
(*Cesare Pavese*)

Trust is the greatest joy in our relationship with God. Whoever trusts in has already covered the hardest part of the journey. God, you are my God, I can count on you. (*Carlo Carretto*)

John the Baptist was supposed to point the way to Christ. He was just the voice, not the Messiah. So everybody's calling has dignity to it and God seems to know better than we do what is in us that needs to be called forth. (*James Green Somerville*)

Happiness is not perfected until it is shared. (*Jane Porter*)



I know! I know! I know!