

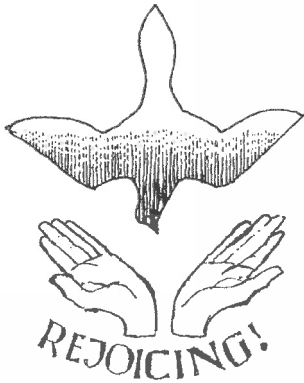
## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15<sup>th</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 Tuesday, when Mass will be at 7 p.m. and on Thursday when Mass will be at 12 noon (*Funeral Mass of Robert Meek*)

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Next Saturday: 9.30 to 10 a.m. 4 to 5 p.m. (*Please note changes in times*)

Blessing of the Crib and the Children next Sunday after the 10.30 a.m. Mass

*There are no Memorials or Feasts this week.*

We are grateful to those who have in recent years have set up our **Crib and Christmas tree**. Could we ask the same favour for next Sunday's Blessing of the Crib? If any other parishioners would like to help out, that would really be appreciated.

Please pray for our Faithful Departed, especially **Jean Green** who has died after many months in the Belford Hospital. May she now rest in the peace of her merciful Saviour. We extend our sympathy and prayer to Bill, her husband, and to Billy, Russell, Tracy and all the family. We pray also for the eternal peace of **Robert Meek**, husband of Margaret, who has also died. May the Lord welcome him into eternal peace and comfort Margaret and all of Robert's loved ones. And we pray, too, for **Rose Ann MacTaggart**, who has died suddenly at home. May she now rest in peace, and may God be close to Scott, James and all who loved and cared for her.

We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Effie Gillies, Georgia Thomson, John MacDonald, Michael Nicholson, Cathie Boyd, Christina Stage, Steven Haggerty, Patricia Argue, Alick MacLean, John MacDonald, Margaret Gallacher, Mary MacPherson** and **Angus MacDonald**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

We welcome the **weary pilgrims** back from Gdansk. What awaited them at the end of an arduous journey surely made it all worthwhile.

This Advent, our visiting confessor will be **Fr. Tony Wood** from St. Mary's in Arisaig. Please note that Father Tony will be able to hear confessions in Polish as well as in English. He will be in St. Mary's a week on Monday, between 7 and 8 p.m.

Those who wish to order **Pope Francis's *Evangelii Gaudium*** should write their names on the order sheet no later than this Sunday.

We thank those who attended the **Advent Service** in St. Andrew's Episcopal church last Sunday evening, and we thank the people of St. Andrew's for their hospitality.

**Holy Communion** will be taken to the housebound on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December.

Please say a special prayer for **Bishop Stephen Robson**, auxiliary Bishop in Edinburgh, who has been appointed as the new Bishop of Dunkeld.

Do remember to put the names of your **Faithful Departed** in the New Anniversary Book at the back of the church!

**Our thanks** to all those who supported the parish and the Carmelite Sisters by buying Christmas cards.

## TWO ADVENT POEMS

He will come like last leaf's fall.  
One night when the November wind  
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
wakes choking on the mould,  
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like child.

*(Rowan Williams, retired Archbishop of Canterbury)*

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go ye out  
With lighted lamps and garlands round about  
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

It may be at the midnight, black as pitch,  
Earth shall cast up her poor, cast up her rich.

It may be at the crowing of the cock  
Earth shall upheave her depth, uproot her rock.

For lo, the Bridegroom fetcheth home the Bride:  
His Hands are Hands she knows, she knows His Side.

Like pure Rebekah at the appointed place,  
Veiled, she unveils her face to meet His Face.

Like great Queen Esther in her triumphing,  
She triumphs in the Presence of her King.

His Eyes are as a Dove's, and she's Dove-eyed;  
He knows His lovely mirror, sister, Bride.

He speaks with Dove-voice of exceeding love,  
And she with love-voice of an answering Dove.

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh: go we out  
With lamps ablaze and garlands round about  
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.

*(Christina Rossetti, 1830-1894)*



Wisdom tends to grow in proportion to one's awareness of one's  
ignorance. *(Fr. Anthony de Mello)*

One could say that in case of need, every normal and healthy woman  
is able to hold a position. And there is no profession which cannot be  
practiced by a woman. *(Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)*

The nation... doesn't simply need what we have. It needs what we are.  
*(Edith Stein)*

A science which does not bring us nearer to God is worthless.  
*(Simone Weil)*

An atheist may be simply one whose faith and love are concentrated  
on the impersonal aspects of God. *(Simone Weil)*

I am not a Catholic, but I consider the Christian idea, which has its  
root in Greek thought and in the course of the centuries has nourished  
all of our European civilization, as something one cannot renounce  
without becoming degraded. *(Simone Weil)*

An atheist may be simply one whose faith and love are concentrated  
on the impersonal aspects of God. *(Simone Weil)*



*Of Jewish origin, Simone Weil was a French philosopher, social activist and, increasingly, an ascetic and mystic. She joined the Free French in London and there she died in 1943, aged only 34. She may have been baptised before her death. Albert Camus, another philosopher, described her as "the only great spirit of our time."*

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard and a German are walking  
down the street together. A juggler is performing on the street but  
there are so many people that the four men can't see the juggler. So  
the juggler goes on top of a platform and asks: "Can you see me  
now?" The four men answer: "Yes." "Oui." "Si." "Ja."

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every  
day always just exactly fits the newspaper. *(Jerry Seinfeld)*

A photon checks into a hotel and the porter asks him if he has any  
luggage. The photon replies: "No, I'm travelling light."

Why could Beethoven never find his teacher?  
Because he was Haydn!

How many eggs are there in a French omelet?  
Just one, because one egg is un oeuf.

No man is a hero to his valet!

### PLEASE NOTE!

**A book with the title "A Record of a Generous People" has just been published. It tells the history of the Catholic Church in Argyll and the Isles. Its author is John Watt, who begins with the ancient roots of our faith and ends with the events of recent times. From our point of view, it is a book worth acquiring. £20 is the retail price. If you would like a copy, please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church. It is important that the orders be sent in as soon as possible. When the books are ready for delivery they will be sent directly to us by Ovado Books, the publisher.**