

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
(Candlemas)
2nd February 2014
St. Mary's, Belford Road, Fort William, PH33 6BT Tel. (01397) 702174
www.stmarysfortwilliam.org
Charity No. SC002876



The Presentation in the Temple
by Giotto

Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday	6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass	10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses:</u>	10.15 a.m.	
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday:	
	9.45 to 10 a.m.	4 to 4.30 p.m.
		5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Blaise (Blessing of the Throats);
Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Agatha; Thursday, the Memorial of
St. Paul Miki and Companions, the Martyrs of Japan.*

This Sunday, please collect **your candles** as you enter the church. There should be one for each household. If you have a housebound friend, please take a candle for him or her. The candles will be blessed at the beginning of Mass and are to be taken home for special family or personal prayer.

Next Sunday is the nearest to the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and we will have the **Sacrament of the Sick** as in previous years.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Sandy Kennedy, Michael Haggerty, Andrew George, Simon MacDonald, Ronald MacDonald, Roderick MacInnes, Donald MacKintosh, Ian Wynne and John MacMaster**, May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Our warmest congratulations to **John Paul Mair and Charlotte Burke**, recently married in St. Mary's. We wish the newly-weds every blessing in the years ahead.



The church has many visitors in the course of the day. This week, a young couple from Spain, **Luis and Eva**, bought a rosary from our Piety Stall. It was for Eva's father back in Madrid. He collects rosaries from all over the world, and has over 700 of them! It's nice to know that a rosary St. Mary's Fort William is now part of his collection. Eva's father is in the Spanish Guardia Civil and as such has served in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Those of you who have holidayed in Spain may have seen the Guards on parade wearing their traditional hat. Founded in 1844 as a national police force, the Guards' motto is, "El honor es mi divisa." ("Honour is my emblem")

We need more **rosaries** for the Piety Stall. These will be ordered soon.

If only we could help every charity! One that you may be interested in is called "**Clarity**" It helps blind people generate their own income. Senior parishioners will remember the baskets once made by the blind. Today, thanks to Clarity, a wide range of toiletries and household cleaning material is now produced by the blind. If you would like to know more about this deserving charity, www.clarityproducts.org will provide you with information.

In Giotto's fresco above, you will notice a scroll in Hannah's hand. In iconography this symbolises the prophet or **prophetess**. Who were the prophetic women of the history of the Church? Catherine of Siena was one of many. Who are the prophetic women of modern times, women whose voice must surely be heard?

A Song for Simeon by T.S. Eliot

Lord, the Roman hyacinths are blooming in bowls and
The winter sun creeps by the snow hills;
The stubborn season has made stand.
My life is light, waiting for the death wind,
Like a feather on the back of my hand.
Dust in sunlight and memory in corners
Wait for the wind that chills towards the dead land.

Grant us thy peace.
I have walked many years in this city,
Kept faith and fast, provided for the poor,
Have taken and given honour and ease.
There went never any rejected from my door.

Who shall remember my house,
where shall live my children's children
When the time of sorrow is come ?
They will take to the goat's path, and the fox's home,
Fleeing from the foreign faces and the foreign swords.

Before the time of cords and scourges and lamentation
Grant us thy peace.
Before the stations of the mountain of desolation,
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant, the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation
To one who has eighty years and no to-morrow.

According to thy word,
They shall praise Thee and suffer in every generation
With glory and derision,
Light upon light, mounting the saints' stair.
Not for me the martyrdom, the ecstasy of thought and
prayer,
Not for me the ultimate vision.
Grant me thy peace.
(And a sword shall pierce thy heart,
Thine also).

I am tired with my own life and the lives of those after me.
I am dying in my own death and the deaths of those after
me.
Let thy servant depart,
Having seen thy salvation



Simeon is honoured in the Eastern Churches as "St. Simeon the God-receiver".

Atheism is a religion itself, complete with fanatics and bigots. (*Vanna Bonta*)

Small amounts of philosophy lead to atheism, but larger amounts bring us back to God. (*Francis Bacon*)

If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing. (*Anatole France*)

No man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent. (*Abraham Lincoln*)

Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first. (*Charles de Gaulle*)

Traits like humility, courage, and empathy are easily overlooked - but it's immensely important to find them in your closest relationships. (*Laura Linney*)

Human morality is unthinkable without empathy. (*Frans de Waal*)

One of the greatest indicators of our own spiritual maturity is revealed in how we respond to the weaknesses, the inexperience, and the potentially offensive actions of others. (*David A. Bednar*)

I have to be alone very often. I'd be quite happy if I spent from Saturday night until Monday morning alone in my apartment. That's how I refuel. (*Audrey Hepburn*)

Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant thing. It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator. (*Confucius*)

Many believe - and I believe - that I have been designated for this work by God. In spite of my old age, I do not want to give it up; I work out of love for God and I put all my hope in Him. (*Michelangelo*)

The life of a mother is the life of a child: you are two blossoms on a single branch. (*Karen Maezen Miller*)

Every child that isn't born, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of Jesus Christ, has the face of the Lord. (*Pope Francis*)

When someone tells you that something defies description, you can be pretty sure he's going to have a go at it anyway.

Why was the opera singer arrested? He got into treble!

Some children were attending their first music lessons. The teacher was trying to teach them musical notation. She drew a staff on the blackboard and then asked a little girl to come up and write a note on it. The little girl went to the blackboard, looked thoughtful for a minute and wrote "Dear Aunt Emma, just a short note to tell you I'm fine."