

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9<sup>th</sup> February 2014

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

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

Charity No. SC002876



## 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 5.45 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday, 4 to 5 p.m.,

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Scholastica; Tuesday, the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes; Friday, the Feast of St. Cyril and St. Methodius.*

As in previous years, this being the Sunday nearest the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we will have the **Sacrament of the Sick** at the end of both Masses. We ask those who are leaving the church to do so as quietly as possible, out of respect for the healing presence of the Holy Spirit in this Sacrament.

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray for the eternal rest of **Margaret McKeown** who was buried from St. Mary's on Friday. We give thanks for all that was blessing in Margaret's life and for the example of faith that she gave us. May she now rest in the peace and joy of her Saviour. We offer our sincere sympathy and prayer to John and Sharon and all the family. The news of **Albert Timbrell's** sudden death came as a great shock to all of us. Our heartfelt prayer is with all the family. Albert, too, gave us an example of faith and loyalty to Christ. He walked humbly before his God. May the Good Shepherd now lead him home. We remember also those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Elizabeth MacPherson, Bob Dryden, Dolly MacVarish, Ewen MacDonald, Willie Kennedy, Margaret Barr, Cyril Buchanan, Neil Campbell, Peggy Campbell and Margaret MacDougall.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The annual collection for **Catholic Education** is due about this time. We will have it next Sunday. Whatever you can give at this time of the year will indeed be appreciated!

Subscriptions to our **200 Club** are due about this time. Since it was started in 2005, we have lost many members. Please try to renew your membership or become a new member. It costs £15 per year, with a monthly draw for £50 (Two draws at Christmas and Easter). Renewed and new membership will greatly help the parish! Our thanks to all who have helped us in the last eight years.

The **parish candles** given out last Sunday seemed to have been appreciated. Only five are left out of two hundred. Fr. MacKinnon has been in touch with the company that produces these candles. It will contact him in a few weeks' time so that identical candles can be ordered for the Piety Stall. There is also the possibility of parish Easter candles, produced specially for our Easter Vigil.

We will have our monthly **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Friday, from 4 to 5 p.m. We will have the same format as last time: scripture passages read aloud, followed by silent prayer and then a decade of the rosary for a specific intention. This period of adoration and prayer will conclude with Benediction.



Earlier this week, our Primary School children came to Mass to honour the Martyrs of Japan. Their Mass sheet included these two pictures: one a Japanese painting of the martyrdom in 1597, and the other a detail from the impressive monument to the Martyrs in Nagasaki, the cradle of Japanese Catholicism



You will notice the two smaller figures. Some of the Martyrs were very young. Louis Ibaragi was only twelve years old. We are told that as he arrived at the place of execution, he cried out, "Where is my cross?" When they pointed out the smallest one to him, he immediately embraced it. The martyrs were raised on crosses and eventually pierced through with spears. Their leader, St. Paul Miki preached the Gospel as he hung upon his cross.

St. Francis Xavier was the first to bring the Gospel to the Japanese people. After some years in Japan, he set his eyes on the mission to China, only to die on an island off the Chinese coast.



St. Francis Xavier

