

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

16th February 2014

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

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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. Except on Friday, when Mass will be at 11 a.m. (Funeral Mass of Albert Timbrell RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday:
9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m.
5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

Monday is the Optional Memorial of St. Finan, a Diocesan Saint. We will celebrate the Memorial. Saturday is the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle.

The annual collection for **Catholic Education** is due about this time; so we will have it this Sunday. Whatever you can give is indeed appreciated, and thank you for your constant generosity when it comes to special collections throughout the year.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Charlotte MacDonald, Gordon Turner, Jessie Shields, John MacDonald, Mary Donaldson, Ellen Mitchell, Mary Wegner and Donald Joseph Currie**. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

This year's **SCIAF** boxes have arrived already, reminding us that Lent is fast approaching! Ash Wednesday is on the 5th March this year. The Wee Boxes will be made available nearer the time.

Engineers have replaced the faulty unit at the back of the church. **Our background heating** is now as it should be, making the church that bit more comfortable during cold weather.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound next week, from Monday 24th February.

Fr. MacKinnon has asked **Fr. Pamula** to find out more about a series of books being published in Italy. These provide in a systematic way the comments of the Fathers of the Church on the Bible, book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. These volumes would be truly invaluable when it comes to the studies ahead of him, from September onwards. Once we have the necessary information, there will be a special collection to purchase what has been already published, not only in celebration of his ordination but as a gesture of support as he works towards his final degree.

There is another ordination that calls upon our prayerful support: that of **Thomas Wynne** to the diaconate in the summer. Thomas has worked hard through an often demanding course, and we wish him well in the final months of his diaconal formation.

Something else to look forward to in the summer is the visit of a **French youth choir** to Fort William. France is famous for such "petits chanteurs" and we look forward to hearing their wide repertoire sung in our church in July.

Please note that **Albert's Funeral Mass** is on Friday, at 11 a.m.

Our thoughts and prayers must surely be with all those affected by the **storms and floods** in the south of England.

The churning of a human mind is unpredictable, as is the anatomy of the human heart. (*Rudy Rucker*)

There is no surer sign of decay in a country than to see the rites of religion held in contempt. (*Niccolo Machiavelli*)

There is nothing that people bear more impatiently, or forgive less, than contempt: and an injury is much sooner forgotten than an insult. (*Lord Chesterfield*)

When you are offended at any man's fault, turn to yourself and study your own failings. Then you will forget your anger. (*Epictetus*)

.I will far rather see the race of man extinct than that we should become less than beasts by making the noblest of God's creation, woman, the object of our lust. (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

I love my computer because all my friends live inside it! (*Anon*)

The world today doesn't make sense, so why should I paint pictures that do? (*Pablo Picasso*)

Friends are chocolate chips in the cookie of life! (*Anon*)

Good Pope John XXIII was born Angelo Roncalli, in the small town of Sotto il Monte, near Bergamo. After he was elected pope, he met a little boy named Angelo and exclaimed, "That was my name, too!" Then, conspiratorially, "But then they made me change it!"



The Shrine of St. Valentine in Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin.

You can't make a circle of friends with a compass. (*Stanislaw Jerzy Lec*)

If you want to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe. (*Carl Sagan*)

There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread. (*Mahatma Gandhi*)

While we are postponing, life speeds by. (*Seneca, 3BC - 65AD*)

I am not young enough to know everything. (*Oscar Wilde*)

Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end. (*Igor Stravinsky*)

Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society. (*St. Francis of Assisi*)

God's love for the biggest sinner is greater than the love of the holiest man for God. (*Fr. Arsenie Boca*)

Pope John XXIII once visited a hospital in Rome called the Hospital of the Holy Spirit. Shortly after entering, he was introduced to the sister who ran the hospital. "Holy Father," she exclaimed, "I am the superior of the Holy Spirit." "Well, I must say, you're lucky," said the pope, delighted. "I'm only the Vicar of Christ!"



The relics of St. Valentine in the Church of Blessed John Duns Scotus in Glasgow.

St. Valentine was a Roman priest martyred about 370 AD. We are told that before his execution he sent a letter to a girl he had cured of blindness, signing it, "Your Valentine". How did a 4th century martyr of whom we know very little become the world-wide patron saint of romantic love? The medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer may have been partly responsible. Sometime around 1382, he wrote his "Parliament of Fowles", the first piece of literature to connect St Valentine with romantic love, and from there the idea took hold, however slowly, to the extent that William Shakespeare referenced St Valentine's Day a little over 200 years later. By the 18th century, love notes written on paper and lace became popular in England. In 1847, an American, Esther Howland, began producing Valentine cards. Chocolates came later, and large strawberries now seem to be part of it all.