

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9th March 2014

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Charity No. SC002876



Christ in the Desert
by Ivan Nikolaevich Kramskoi

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>Way of the Cross</u>	Wednesday, 7 p.m. (<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6.30 to 7 p.m.</i>)	
<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 Feast of St. John Ogilvie

Please remember to collect your **SCIAF boxes** as you leave the Church!

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Isobel O'Hare, Flora MacLean, Winnie Thompson, Charlie Fitzsimons, Catherine MacDonald, Lachlan MacLeod, Thora Finan, Thomas Buchanan, Laura Cameron, Flora MacDonald, James Hurney, Jim Girvan, Margaret MacLaren and William Coull.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Thomas Wynne will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate here in St. Mary's on the Feast of St. Columba, the 9th June. The final ceremony before ordination will take place on Sunday, 23rd March, when Bishop Toal will be visiting the parish. Please keep Thomas in your prayers. He has done well, given that the course has often been academically demanding. And we are grateful for all the quiet support that Sheena has given him.

Pope Francis is as refreshing as ever in what he says! He has no time for any personality cult attached to him. In a recent interview, he said, "*Portraying the Pope as a kind of Superman, as a type of star, seems offensive... The Pope is a man who laughs, cries, sleeps tranquilly and has friends like everyone else. A normal person.*" ... "*Sigmund Freud said, if I am not mistaken, that behind every idealization there is aggression.*" His reference to Freud touches upon a fascinating topic. There are so many undercurrents when we place people on a pedestal. For example, when we discover that they are as human and imperfect as the rest of us, the anger of disillusionment may come into play. Also, what we admire excessively in others are often qualities that we think we do not have ourselves, qualities we have still to discover and develop; otherwise our self-worth is undermined, and so subconscious resentment may develop. And do we not make ourselves subordinate to those we idealize, making equality, empathy and true friendship impossible? We are reminded by his comments that Pope Francis does have a degree in psychology. But his Gospel wisdom comes tops! (No idealization intended!)

Traditionally, we connect our Lent with **Our Lord's forty days in the desert.** There are of course more than forty days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday! Perhaps, it's best if we "go with the flow" and concentrate on the spirit of our individual Lent. The liturgical colours of the coming weeks might serve as a guide: purple for one's Lenten observance; white for a time of celebration and some moderate relaxation. The "white" days are the 17th March (the Feast of St. Patrick); 19th March (the Solemnity of St. Joseph); 25th March (The Solemnity of the Annunciation); 17th April (Holy Thursday, until the end of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper).

While preparing this year's **First Communicants**, Fr. MacKinnon did what he had done in previous years and introduced them to very simple meditation. It is guided and strongly visual. It involves the child meeting Jesus, who comes to them and blesses them by laying his hand on the young person's head. Afterwards, at least four of the children said they had actually felt the hand of Jesus. They also realised that they could pray without speaking. And we adults think that we are the deep ones!



One of our parishioners had noticed that Corrie ten Boom is often quoted in the parish bulletin and wanted to know more about her. She was born into a deeply Christian Dutch family in 1892. Care of the poor and needy was very much part of family life, and during the Nazi occupation this was extended to Jewish refugees, dozens of whom were hidden in the family home. Eventually, the family was arrested and sent to a death camp. Corrie's saintly father was among those who died, but Corrie survived. She continued to devote herself to good works and her writings and talks touched the hearts of millions. Here are some extracts:

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, a former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. "How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein." He said. "To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!" His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I prayed, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.

Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation. .

Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to faultfinding. .

This is what the past is for! Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.

If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest.

Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open.

What wings are to a bird, and sails to a ship, so is prayer to the soul.

Some knowledge is too heavy...you cannot bear it...your Father will carry it until you are able.

Love is larger than the walls which shut it in.

Faith is like radar that sees through the fog -- the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see



The young Corrie and her mother, Cornelia, who died in 1921. Corrie was named after her. The family name, "Ten Boom" seems unusual to us. It is actually the Dutch for "at the tree". When used with Christian names, "Ten" is changed to "ten"

AND ALSO...

One day in the South Pacific, a naval captain saw smoke coming from a hut on an uncharted island. Upon arriving at the shore he was met by a shipwreck survivor, who said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!" The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see THREE huts." The survivor said, "Well, I live in one, and go to church in another." "What about the THIRD hut?" asked the captain. "That's where I USED to go to church."