

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

13th April 2014

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

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



Noticeboard

Monday Mass at 10.15
Sacrament of Reconciliation, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.
(Fr. Tony Wood)

Tuesday Mass at 10.15 Wednesday Mass at 10.15

THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Mass at 7 p.m.
Vigil at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 10 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

(Day of Fast and Abstinence)
Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord at 3 p.m.
Way of the Cross at 7 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10 to 10.45 a.m.; 4 to 4.30 p.m.
(Fr. MacKimon)

THE EASTER VIGIL WILL BEGIN AT 9 P.M.
THE EASTER MORNING MASS IS AT 10.30 A.M.

**MAY YOUR SHARING IN THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
BE A TIME OF SPECIAL BLESSING FOR ALL OF YOU!**

Fr Tony Wood, parish priest in Arisaig, will be our visiting confessor. He will be here from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. on Monday. We thank him for putting time aside for us.

We remember our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Annie MacPherson, Donald Angus Campbell, Mary Gillies, Betty Wilkie, Charles MacDonald, Father Graham Turner and Dr. Charles Connochie.** May they rest in the peace of the Lord who died and rose again for them all.

There will be special parish collection for **Fr. Stanislaw Pamula** on the Second Sunday of Easter. This is to help him when he begins his studies at the Catholic University of Warsaw in September. Your generosity will give him great moral support in all that will be demanded of him as he works for his doctorate.

Good Friday is the day set aside for a collection for the **Holy Places** in Israel and Palestine and the **African Missions**. As in previous years, baskets will be placed at the back of the church and we ask you to give your donations as you leave after the Good Friday Liturgy. Please be generous as ever in what you give.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound in the week after Easter.

The Polish community's traditional Blessing of the **Easter Baskets** will take place in St. Mary's on Holy Saturday at 11 a.m.

We thank all those who have volunteered to read during Holy Week. There are still some spaces left on the sheets at the back of the church. We ask our **altar servers** and **cantors** to be on standby for times of practice and we thank them for all that they will do to make our Holy Week so special.

In St. Mary's, **sacred silence** is very much part of Holy Thursday night and Good Friday. Please arrive in good time for all our services, especially on Good Friday. Votive lights will not be available from Holy Thursday night until the Easter Vigil, when the church will be filled with the light of the Risen Lord.



This stamp was issued in Spain some thirty years ago. It commemorates the Holy Land pilgrimage of a woman from Roman Spain called Egeria. While the stamp describes her as a "monja" or "nun", she may have been a lay person of independent means. She wrote home about her journeys and we have below an extract describing Palm Sunday in Jerusalem 1630 years ago. The great St. Cyril of Jerusalem (c.317-387) would have been the bishop she refers to.

"..At the seventh hour all the people go up to the Mount of Olives, that is, to Eleona, and the bishop with them, to the church, where hymns and antiphons suitable to the day and to the place are sung, and readings in like manner.

And when the ninth hour approaches they go up with hymns to the Imbomon, that is, to the place whence the Lord ascended into heaven, and there they sit down, for all the people are always bidden to sit when the bishop is present; the deacons alone always stand. Hymns and antiphons suitable to the day and to the place are sung, interspersed with readings and prayers.

And as the eleventh hour approaches, the passage from the Gospel is read, where the children, carrying branches and palms, met the Lord, saying: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!", and the bishop immediately rises, and all the people with him, and they all go on foot from the top of the Mount of Olives, all the people going before him with hymns and antiphons, answering one to another: "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!"

And all the children in the neighbourhood, even those who are too young to walk, are carried by their parents on their shoulders, all of them bearing branches, some of palms and some of olives, and thus the bishop is escorted in the same manner as the Lord was of old.

For all, even those of rank, both women and men, accompany the bishop all the way on foot in this manner, making these responses, from the top of the mount to the city, and thence through the whole city to the Anastasis, going very slowly lest the people should be wearied; and thus they arrive at the Anastasis at a late hour..."

(The Anastasis is the Church of the Resurrection)

Astride the colt and claimed as King
that Sunday morning in the spring,
he passed a thornbush flowering red
that one would plait to crown his head.

He passed a vineyard where the wine
was grown for men of royal line
and where the dregs were also brewed
into a gall for Calvary's rood.

A purple robe was cast his way,
then caught and kept until that day
when, with its use, a trial would be
profaned into a mockery.

His entourage was forced to wait
to let a timber through the gate,
a shaft that all there might have known
would be an altar and a throne.

(Marie J. Post)

If it has to choose who is to be crucified, the crowd will
always save Barabbas. *(Jean Cocteau)*

In a profound sense we may say that the crucifixion,
however else we may interpret it, accuses human
nature, accuses all of us in the very things that we think
are our righteousness. *(Sir Herbert Butterfield)*

Our tendency in the midst of suffering is to turn on
God. To get angry and bitter and shake our fist at the
sky and say, "God, you don't know what it's like! You
don't understand! You have no idea what I'm going
through. You don't have a clue how much this hurts."

The cross is God's way of taking away all of our
accusations, excuses, and arguments.

The cross is God taking on flesh and blood and saying,
"Me too."

(Rob Bell)

Skeptics always want miracles such as stepping down
from the Cross, but never the greater miracle of
forgiveness. *(Bishop Fulton J. Sheen)*

The cross stands high above the opinions of men and to
that cross all opinions must come at last for judgment.
(A.W. Tozer)