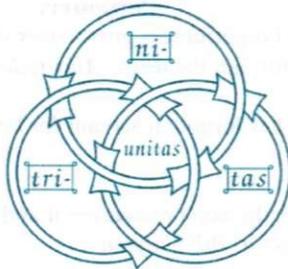


Parish Bulletin
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

3rd June 2012

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



**'Three Persons equal in majesty,
undivided in splendour,
yet one Lord, one God,
ever to be adored in your
everlasting glory.'**

Noticeboard

Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.
Sunday Morning Masses: 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 5.50 p.m.

Monday is the Memorial of the Martyrs of Uganda; Tuesday, the Memorial of St. Boniface. Saturday is the Solemnity of St. Columba.

Please remember that today we have a special collection in celebration of the **Day for Life**. Whatever you can give is really appreciated.

We remember our Faithful Departed. We pray very especially for **Fr John McQuade S.J.** who has died peacefully in Edinburgh, aged 92. Father John knew and loved our diocese from the very beginning of his priestly ministry. Fr. MacKinnon will never forget his kindness to him, especially when he helped out in the parish when Fr. MacKinnon was unwell. May Father John now receive the faithful servant's reward.

We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margharita Morrison, May MacDonald, Coila MacKintosh, Anne MacDonald, Norman MacInnes, Teresa Archibald, Tam McEwan, Linda Hunter, Tommy McKinney, Father Ted Murphy, Catherine MacDonald, Margaret Auty and Adam Ward.** *Requiescant in pace.*

Congratulations to **Tommy McKenna**, winner of last month's 200 Club draw. We thank all those who support the parish in this way. We also thank those who support the parish through Gift Aid. The total you gave during the recent tax year was £18,111.11. We await the tax rebate.

We also await a combination of scaffolding, slaters and a stone mason to attend to **the repair of the outside of the church**. For different reasons, previous attempts never materialized. Let's hope we have struck lucky with the offer from tradesmen in Oban. The funds are there, and soon to be increased. Getting workmen and suitable weather is much more difficult.

Our thanks to all those who have signed **the petition** in support of the two Catholic midwives! You still have the change to add further names.

As the nation gives thanks for the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**, we pray for her continued health and well-being. We give thanks for her example of commitment and for her dignity even in the most difficult of circumstances. She is a deeply Christian woman, who, incidentally, gives up chocolate for Lent!

The artist or composer always leaves an imprint of self. Look at the works of Leonardo and Michelangelo, and you see their very different personalities. Listen to Mozart's Horn Concertos, and you feel something of his bright and outgoing personality. Go to see the opera *Carmen*, and you experience something of Bizet's feelings and empathy for the woman who suffers through unrequited love. There is always an imprint.

Today, we proclaim our faith in the God who has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Where has this God left an imprint? Where are there traces of this unity and relationship left by this God which is Trinity?

We might look to the cosmos. Modern Quantum Physics reveals the unity and the interconnectedness of all things. The Universe is revealing itself as mysterious unity and relationship in a way we had never anticipated. Science is being turned upside down. Is this an imprint of the very nature of God, the supreme Artist and Composer? (Incidentally, how will our theology deal with the unfolding new cosmology?)

"*God is love*". - The words of the John, the beloved disciple. See him, in his great old age, perhaps on an island off the coast of modern Turkey. Over the years, he has remembered and pondered, and reduced all to its precious essence: "*God is love.*"

God is Love: eternal, infinite and perfect Love. Love must have its Beloved. It must seek and yearn for the Loved One. God is Love, and so the Father begets the Son - this in an eternity and infinity, in an unapproachable light, that is beyond our comprehension. The Father has his Beloved, and that love breaks through into our time and space because the Beloved Son has become one of us in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Go to the banks of the Jordan. See the heavens open and hear the Father's voice: "*This is my Son: I rejoice in Him*". Go with Peter, James and John to the top of the high mountain and see the Son transfigured by his inner aura, an aura like no other. Hear the Father's voice: "*This is my Beloved Son. Listen to Him*". Go with Christ in the darkness of the night to that quiet place where he can be alone with the Father in prayer. The Son yearns for the Father.

Two words come to my mind. "yearning" and "outpouring".

There is a very rare thing. It is something I have met only in certain couples. They are spiritual people, not always in the conventional sense. They have a very deep spiritual bond, one with the other. So much so that in times of separation, each can feel very powerfully indeed the presence of the other in their souls. Two distinct beings become one in that profound, almost transcendent soul bond.

In such couples, the Beloved yearns for the Beloved, each for the other, and the spiritual bond is born of that. And they find that they are transformed by this. Their love for each other leads to an outpouring of love for others and for all living beings: an outpouring of love for all creation.

In a very powerful way, does the experience of such couples not bear the imprint of the God who is Love and must therefore be Trinity?

God is Love and so the Father eternally begets the Son: the Beloved Son who is God from God, true God from true God, of one being with the Father. Their yearning for each other is of such an infinite order that it is a Divine Person, the Holy Spirit.

And the great outpouring takes place. That Spirit is poured out on all Creation. That Spirit seeks to be present in and transform every living being. And so we are drawn into the very life and nature of God.

God is Love, and where there is Love God is there, and that God can only be the God who is Holy Trinity, the wondrous truth that we proclaim today.

Potpourri

We bury love; Forgetfulness grows over it like grass: That is a thing to weep for, not the dead. *Alexander Smith*

All things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams. *Elias Canetti*

The folks you help won't remember it and the folks you hurt won't ever forget it. *Bill Clayton*

Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work. *William Arthur Ward*

Most people grow old within a small circle of ideas, which they have not discovered for themselves. There are perhaps less wrong-hearted people than thoughtless people. *The Marquis Vauvenargues*

Love may precede respect but it cannot survive the loss of it. *Joe L. Wheeler*

What love we've given, we'll have forever. What love we fail to give, will be lost for all eternity. *Leo Buscaglia*

How fast the flitting figures come!
The mild, the fierce, the stony face;
Some bright with thoughtless smiles, and some
Where secret tears have left their trace.
William Cullen Bryant

I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization. (*Petronius - in AD 60!!*)

Materialism coarsens and petrifies everything, making everything vulgar, and every truth false. *Henri Frederic Amiel*

AND ALSO.

COMPROMISE: The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes he got the biggest piece

ETC: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do

GRANDMOTHER: A baby-sitter who doesn't hang around the refrigerator.