

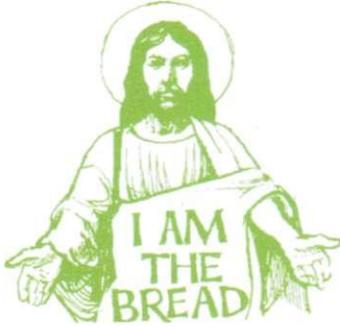
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5th August 2012

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

Charity No. SC002876

www.stmarysfortwilliam.org



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.
6.30 to 6.50 p.m.

Monday is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord; Wednesday, the Memorial of St. Dominic; Thursday, the Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein); Friday, the Feast of St. Lawrence; Saturday, the Memorial of St. Clare.

Once again, we bid farewell to **Fr. Kasule**. We wish him every blessing in the months ahead and we thank him for looking after the parish during Fr. MacKinnon's absences. This Sunday's special collection is to help him meet his travel expenses and also to support him in his ministry back home in Uganda. One day, he hopes to spend a holiday with us rather than a supply, and that in winter, so that he can have the experience of snow!

We pray for the Faithful Departed. We remember especially **Elspeth Cameron** who died suddenly but peacefully at home. We give thanks for her gentle goodness and warmth, for her devotion to Ronnie and her family, for her love of scholarship and above all for her faithfulness to her Saviour. May he now welcome her home, and may he comfort John, Elspeth, Ronald and Graham, the grandchildren, her sisters Maggie and Katie, and all who loved and valued her. At Elspeth's Funeral Mass, there was a retiring collection for our church repairs, and we thank the family for their thoughtfulness. We pray also for those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Agnes Curren, Flora Nicholson, Lawrence Tumilty, Alex MacLean, Ethel King, John MacKay, Margaret Mulrooney, Duncan MacDonald, Muriel Armstrong, Christina Cullen, Christopher O' Reilly and Michael Faryma**. May they, too, rest in the peace of their Saviour.

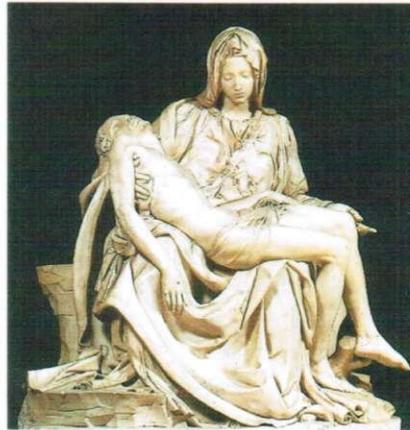
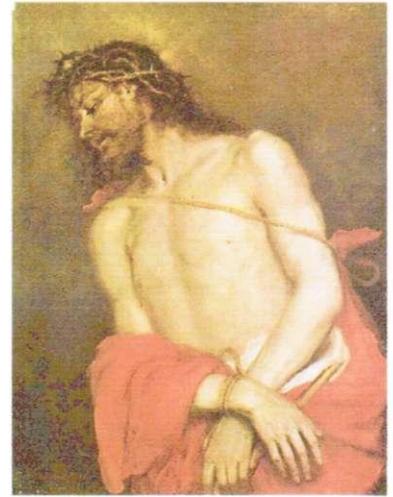
Regarding the **repairs to church**, the stonemason's work is finished. The scaffolding will be rearranged on Monday, allowing the slaters access. A hole has been discovered that may well be the main source of the damage to the wall at the back of the church. Once that work is done, the scaffolding will be moved indoors and the repairs required on the back wall and above the sanctuary arch will go ahead. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum.

It has been in the pipeline for a while and a decision has finally been made as regards **Communion Services** in the Diocese. These are no longer permitted. Deacons can conduct such services, but only on a Sunday or Holiday of Obligation when the priest is ill, for example, and only after seeking the Bishop's permission. In the absence of a priest during the week, a Liturgy of the Word can be celebrated, perhaps accompanied by the Divine Office said together or Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. There has been much debate throughout the Church as regards Communion Services. It is maintained by various people that such services can undermine the centrality, the irreplaceable necessity, of the Sacrifice of the Mass. Personally Fr. MacKinnon was never at ease with the term "Eucharistic Service" often applied to Communion Services. He preferred the more exact "Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion." He always ensured that he left homilies for such services and the feedback that he had was of parishioners taking part prayerfully and with great reverence. He had no doubt that there was no confusion in their minds. They saw such services as the gift – the "overflow" if you wish – of the Mass that will always be at the centre of their lives. He thanks all those who took part over the years, especially Peter MacFarlane when his health permitted.

Mary's Meals will be with us on the 29/30 September, to sell raffle tickets and collect textiles. Perhaps now is the time to go through the house, deciding what we can part with. Two bin bags of textile can generate enough money to feed a schoolchild in Malawi for a year!

Wednesday is also the Feast of **St. Mary MacKillop**. You are invited to a Mass in St. John's at 7 p.m. The Bishop will be leading the worship, and will have the late – and matchless! – Fr. Calum MacLellan very much in his thoughts and prayers.

A MONTAGE



THE CREED OF THE MASAI PEOPLE OF AFRICA

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created Man and wanted Man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the Earth. We have known this High God in darkness, and now we know Him in the light. God promised in the book of His word, the Bible, that He would save the world and all the nations and tribes.

We believe that God made good His promise by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left His home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven through Him. All who have faith in Him must be sorry for their sins, be baptised in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love and share the bread together in love, to announce the Good News to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.