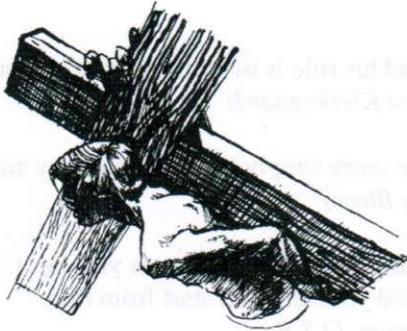


## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

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

[www.stmarysfortwilliam.org](http://www.stmarysfortwilliam.org)



### Noticeboard

#### Sunday Masses:

Vigil Mass, Saturday, 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Mass, 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.

*Thursday is the Memorial of the Martyrs of Korea. Friday is the Feast of St. Matthew.*

We are grateful to the men who continue **the repairs of the church** when our volatile weather permits!

There is a **Dementia Awareness Evening** next Saturday in the Caol Community Centre, beginning at 7.30 p.m. Music will be provided by the High School Ceilidh Band and there will be teas and coffees, a public bar, as well as light snacks and cakes. Come along and support this worthy cause! Last Sunday, we had a visitor at Mass whose research into Alzheimer's Disease has made great advances. He is Professor Claude Wischik, of Aberdeen University. So far, the feedback from his treatment of patients is very encouraging. Please keep his work in your prayers. It may help transform the lives of millions, patients and carers alike.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Janet MacDonald, Sheena McCulloch, David Donaldson, Alice McAuley, Frances Connochie, Brian Wynne, Alistair MacDonald, Sandy Morrison, John Shields, Carmela Boni, Joey MacMillan, Dorothy Campbell and Ronan MacLeod.** May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

This Saturday, we welcomed **Father Christopher** to St. Mary's, where he celebrated the Holy Liturgy of the Greek Orthodox Church. We ask God to bless him and our Orthodox brothers and sisters.

Christians of every church welcome **Pope Benedict** as he visits the Lebanon, as do people of good will from all the religions of the troubled Middle East. As long as we keep praying for them all, we will never lose hope.

The annual **Soup Kitchen**, or Family Lunches, in St. Andrew's Hall will soon be upon us. This year, St. Mary's has been given Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, as its day for serving, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The parishioners who have generously helped out in the past are invited to do so again. And we do need that extra help! Lochaber is not short of men, women and youngsters who volunteer for different works of charity. Let's all be among them!

On a similar note, we ask for volunteers for **the cleaning of the church** in the coming months. There is a sheet at the back of the church. There is also a sheet for those who would like to take part in the pilgrimage to **Pluscarden Abbey** on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

There will be a special collection for the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund** next week. If you are a tax payer, please take advantage of the special Gift Aid envelopes at the back of the church. That will ensure that we get a bit extra as you support this worthy cause. And please remember that **Mary's Meals** will be with us on the 29/30 September, to collect bags of fabric and to sell raffle tickets. This is a very special charity that always has your generous support.

**Deacon Stanislaw** will be away this week on Wednesday and Thursday.



This painting by Andrea del Verrocchio (c. 1435–1488) might not be to everyone's taste, but it does depict one of the few pet dogs found in the Bible. The dog belongs to Tobias, son of the good man Tobit who is now blind and is convinced that he will soon die. He sends Tobias on a long journey to collect a debt, thereby ensuring some future security for his family. The dog accompanies his master. God sends the angel Raphael, in human guise, to be Tobias's guardian on his mission. This painting's theme was popular with the merchants and bankers of Florence, who often sent their sons on journeys throughout Europe and beyond. Elsewhere in scripture, dogs are not exactly sentimentalized. Their association with the demise of Queen Jezebel should never be mentioned at table. No one could make pets out of these semi-wild animals that roamed in and around the cities and towns of Israel. Job does mention his sheep dogs, and no doubt the nobility had their hunting dogs. What about Our Lord? When speaking to the pagan Syrophenician woman (Cf. Mark 7:27-30), it is little, domesticated dogs that he is referring to. He also speaks of dogs in the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. He tells us that dogs came and licked the sores of the poor man who lay at the gate of the rich man's house. (Luke 16:22) This actually gives an element of tenderness to the story. It was believed in the ancient world that wounds healed more quickly when licked by dogs. Ignored by the rich man, Lazarus is cared for by his fierce guard dogs. Incidentally, Tobias's journey has a happy ending. The angel finds the cure for Tobit's blindness and Tobias falls in love with Sarah, the daughter of the man who owed the money. He returns home with a beautiful wife, and we can be sure that she was kind to the dog!

## Potpourri

Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change. (*Anon*)

The tyrant dies and his rule is over; the martyr dies and his rule begins. (*Soren Kierkegaard*)

The rich must live more simply than the poor may simply live. (*Dr. Charles Birch*)

Pray as you can, and do not try to pray as you can't. Take yourself as you find yourself, and start from that. (*Dom John Chapman, O.S.B.*)

Few sinners are saved after the first twenty minutes of a sermon. (*Mark Twain*)

Solitude is an ocean with wonderful places hidden in its depths. (*Isaac of Nineveh*)

Gratitude is born in hearts that take time to count up past mercies. (*Charles E. Jefferson*)

The cynic: the man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. (*Oscar Wilde*)

When we are out of sympathy for the young, then I think that our work in this world is over. (*George MacDonald*)

Anyone who looks for a friend without faults will be without friends. (*Anon*)

The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him. (*Ralph Waldo Emerson*)

AND ALSO....

I had lunch with a chess champion the other day. I knew he was a chess champion because it took him 20 minutes to pass the salt. (*Eric Sykes*)

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the holiday!

Approximately half of the people in the world are below average.

The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it.