

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

30<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

<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>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday 9.45 to 10 a.m. 4 to 4.30 p.m. 5.30 to 5.50 p.m.
<u>October Devotions:</u>	Wednesday, 7 p.m. (Exposition, 6.30 p.m.)

*Monday is the Memorial of St. Teresa of Lisieux; Tuesday, the Memorial of the Guardian Angels; Thursday, the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi.*

Thank you for your generous support of the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund**. Last Sunday's collection came to a very respectable £390.67

**Our sincere thanks** to all who helped out with the Harvest Lunches in St. Andrew's Hall, especially on Friday, and to all the parishioners who gave their support during the week. God bless you for your kindness and the time you gave.

This Sunday, we have the opportunity to support **Mary's Meals**. There is no need to talk at length about this charity: it gives dignity and hope, especially to children, and is highly regarded by other charities. Your bags of fabric and any raffle tickets you purchase will soon help even more of the world's poor.

Our warmest congratulations to **Christopher McIntosh** and **Claire MacNeil** who were married in the church at Glenfinnan last Saturday. It was a prayerful celebration blessed by family love, and that included loved ones from Norway. We wish Claire and Christopher many years together in faithful and fruitful love.

We pray for our Faithful Departed. We remember those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Margaret MacDonald, Eddie Campbell, George MacFarlane, Jessie Fitzsimons, John McAuley** and **Donald MacDonald**. May they rest in the peace of Christ. We remember also **Betty MacDougall**, a dear friend of Margaret MacLean and many others in the town. May her deep Christian faith find its fulfilment in the peace of heaven and may the Lord comfort all who mourn her.

The first of our **October Devotions** will be on Wednesday of this week, at 7 p.m. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour before, with periods of silence and sacred music. In a noisy, intrusive and often frenetic world, these quiet moments with Christ can be very precious indeed. Simply being with him is all that he asks of us.

Congratulations to the parish of **Our Lady and the Angels in Moidart** as they celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their church. A special thanks to Fr. Angus McLaughlin O.P. who has been their devoted priest in recent years. We remember them all in our prayers.

The Deanery pilgrimage to **Pluscarden** will set off on Thursday, leaving St. Mary's at 9 a.m. We wish the pilgrims a pleasant journey and know that they will return home with something of the peace of the Abbey in their hearts.

**Mission Sunday** will soon be upon us, on the 21<sup>st</sup> October to be exact. There will be the annual collection for the missions, as well as the opportunity to renew membership of *Missio* (Scotland). We know that you will continue this parish's great tradition of support for the missionaries of the Church.

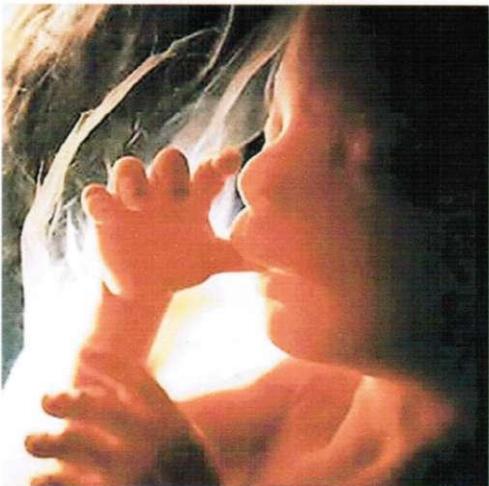
## Out of Africa

*It's always a great pleasure to welcome Mgr. Basil Loftus to the Chapel House. He called in last Saturday, and, as usual his visit was all too brief. Mgr. Basil was, for many years, a member of the Papal diplomatic service. Fr. MacKinnon's loves to hear his stories about his time in Rwanda. The combination of these memories and the theme of welcoming children in last Sunday's Gospel reminded Fr. MacKinnon of a beautiful tradition in a certain African tribe.*

When a woman in this community realises she is pregnant, she goes out to a deserted place with a few friends and together they pray and chant and meditate until they hear the song of the unborn child. For them, every soul has its own vibration that expresses its uniqueness and its special place in creation. When the women attune to the song, they sing it out loud. Then they return to their village and teach it to everyone there. When the child is born, the community gathers and sings the child's song to him or her. Later, when the child begins school, the village gathers and chants the child's song, as they do when child passes through the initiation into adulthood and at the marriage ceremony. Finally, when the soul is about to pass from this world, the family and friends gather at the deathbed, just as they did at his or her birth, and they sing the person into the next life.

There is another, rather different occasion upon which the villagers may sing to the Song of the Child. If at any time during his or her life, the person commits a crime or indulges in antisocial behaviour, the individual is called to the centre of the village and the whole community forms a circle around him or her and sing their song. For the villagers, correction for the antisocial behaviour is not punishment. It is love and the recalling of the identity first recognized by the mother and her friends.

Does this tradition not have a message for us in a culture that has advanced materially and technologically and lost so much in the process? And it does proclaim very powerfully the sacredness of the unborn child.



## Potpourri

Love consists in this, that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other. *Rainer Maria Rilke*

The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed. *Chamfort*

Young love is from the earth, and late love is from heaven. *Turkish Proverb*

Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke. *Benjamin Disraeli*

If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales. *Albert Einstein*

Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. *G. K. Chesterton*

If you can't believe in God, chances are your God is too small. *James Phillips*

An atheist is a man who believes himself an accident. *Francis Thompson*

The most powerful symptom of love is a tenderness which becomes at times almost insupportable. *Victor Hugo*

I went to the root of things, and found nothing but Him alone. *Mira Bai*

The Church has its problems, but the older I get, the more comfort I find there. *Bono*

Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese. *G. K. Chesterton*

You'd be surprised how much it costs to look this cheap. *Dolly Parton*

When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out. *Erma Bombeck*

Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

What's another word for "thesaurus"?

Can atheists get insurance for acts of God?

Why can't life's problems hit us when we're 17 and know everything?