

A very warm welcome to all visitors.

Parish News

Mgr. Tommy Wynne

Mgr. Tommy died on Friday morning in the Raigmore Hospital after a short illness. His Requiem Mass will be on Friday at 11.00 a.m. in St Mary's, Fort William.

Many of you will have fond memories of Mgr. Tommy and his service to the Diocese over a long life.

May he rest in peace.

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday of this coming week is Ash Wednesday, this is not a holyday of obligation, but is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.

SCIAF Boxes

There will be a series of Lenten talks in the Chapel House, Taynuilt for the six weeks of Lent. These will be held on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. and will start on March the 3rd. All are welcome to come along.

Preparation for Sacraments

The second session of preparation for the sacraments in St Mun's Chapel House on Friday at 4.00 p.m.

Ballachulish Parish Council Meeting

We are looking for some new members for the Parish Council – So, if you would like to join (it's only 4 meetings a year) then please do let me know.

School Assembly

There will be a School Assembly at St Bride's Primary School on Friday at 1.15 p.m.

Saturday Mass

I will be away in Motherwell on Saturday, my apologies, but this means that there will be no Mass in Taynuilt.

My grateful thanks to Fr Tim Byron who will celebrate Mass in Kinlochleven on Saturday evening.

Collection

Taynuilt – we raised £125.11 including £51.00 from Gift Aid, plus £245.00 from Direct Debits giving a total of £370.11 plus £5.00 for the building fund.

Ballachulish – we raised £215.70, of which £90.70 was Gift Aid, plus £55.00 from Direct Debits, giving a total of £270.70. There was also a donation of £25.00.

Many thanks to you.

The Visitation, Taynuilt and St Mun's, Ballachulish & The Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven

23rd February 2020 – 7th Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass times for the coming week

Monday	10.00 a.m.	Ballachulish – 7 th Week of the Year
Tuesday	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Taynuilt – 7 th Week of the Year Craig Lodge Ballachulish – Vigil of Ash Wednesday
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. 6.00 p.m.	Ballachulish – Ash Wednesday Taynuilt – Ash Wednesday
Thursday	10.00 a.m. 12.15 p.m.	Taynuilt – After Ash Wednesday Craig Lodge
Friday	11.00 a.m. 1.15 p.m.	Funeral Mass for Mgr T Wynne St Bride's Primary School
Saturday	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass – Kinlochleven
Sunday	10.00 a.m. 12.30 p.m.	Ballachulish – 1 st Sunday of Lent Taynuilt

Confession

Taynuilt – before Mass on Saturday, or Sunday
Ballachulish – 9.30 – 9.50 a.m. on Sundays
and at any other time on request.

Divine Office – Vol 1. Week 3 and from Wednesday, Vol 2. as indicated or with proper of season

Weekday readings: 7th Week of the Year (2) and from Wednesday as indicated

Please remember the sick of the parish in your prayers.

We remember all the faithful departed in our prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.



The Temple of God

Jesus knew the human heart and the laws that govern it.

The First Reading provides mild hints: he says, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself,” and, “Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.”

But what does God’s holiness look like? The Responsorial Psalm puts it this way:

The Lord is kind and merciful.
He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.
He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

This description of God sounds comforting, doesn’t it? We can try to love this way, if we work hard enough, can’t we?

Well, the Gospel has Jesus’ own guidelines for imitating God. As he did last week, he quotes the old laws, and then he opens them up, giving us a view of their insides.

- Old rule: “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” New rule: offer no resistance to one who is evil. ... If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. ... Do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.”

Difficult, difficult.

When I lived in Berkeley, California, some beggars admitted frankly that they had a syndicate quota to make before they could go home. And sometimes a large, expensive car would come pick them up at five or six pm! It was a conspiracy. Should I have peeled off my coat for a conspiracy?

Maybe so. They definitely are poor. I cannot turn my back on the poor, can I? I have to crown them with kindness and compassion. Yet wouldn’t I be a patsy if I did? Help!

- Old rule: “You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.” New rule: “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” The heavenly Father loves and rewards both the bad and the good, the just and the unjust. “Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Really, isn’t that just absurd? We are tiny ants compared to God, crawlers on stones that flew loose from the big bang. How are we supposed to be as big as God? Jesus had better have a very deep insight into the human heart and the laws that govern it.

And he does. He says,

you are the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Let me translate. When God built the human heart, he made it “with a hole in it.” This is an openness that can let others in if we don’t block it with selfishness, and if we grow into it. We can even let God’s own self in, and he will stretch our stunted outreach to others so that we will truly give, out of love.

A word of warning: should I give to a beggar employed by a syndicate? Probably not. It is not for his good. Should a wife stay in a home where her lover beats her up regularly? No is the answer, because this is not “giving out of love.” She is trying to cuddle a rabid dog. A judgment has to be made in each case, but in general if the care is ethically and/or physically harmful to the giver or the given to, it does not flow from God.

Real love is what we are after, the kind Jesus describes and which God pulls us toward.

John Foley, SJ

https://liturgy.slu.edu/7Ord0223020/relections_foley.html