

### **Prayer for Vocations:**

Loving and generous God, we are your people, the work of your hands. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love.

Grant to us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Church of the Diocese of Motherwell by raising up dedicated leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as priests.

Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear your call.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **We pray for the Sick:**

**We remember all of those who have died recently:** Harry Freel; Patrick Gribben; Eleanor Curran.

**We pray for the Anniversary of:** Catherine O'Leary; Anna McCool; Kate & Brian Higgins; Delia Drummond.



## **Parish Information**

### **Celebrating the Sacraments**

**Baptism:** by arrangement with the Parish Priest. In line with Diocesan policy, there is a preparation meeting for the celebration of this Sacrament.

**Marriage:** in line with Diocesan policy, a minimum of six months notice must be given, during which all couples will be expected to participate in Preparation Meetings for their celebration.

**Anointing of the Sick:** on request. Anyone with a planned stay in hospital, should arrange to celebrate this Sacrament before going into hospital.

**St Mary's Clubrooms:** For bookings contact: [clubrooms@outlook.com](mailto:clubrooms@outlook.com) or call 01555 662234

Contact us:

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Thomson



# **St. Mary's Church, Lanark**

### **1st Sunday of Advent (C)**

**2nd December 2018**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS** Today marks a new beginning in our life as God's people. As we look forward to the Christmas celebration of Christ's birth, let us start to prepare for his coming, in a new way, to our parish, our families and to each of us in our own hearts. In worshipping together this morning may we receive new hope and rejoice in knowing God as our Father, the source of our life and hope.



### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**First Reading** (Jer 33:14-16). The Lord, faithful to his word, will send a leader who will restore honesty and integrity among his people. Jesus fulfils this promise for us.

**Responsorial Psalm:** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**Second Reading** (1 Thess 3:12-4:2). Paul's prayer looks forward to Christ's coming and teaches us how to pray for those in our care.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

**Gospel** (Lk 21:25-28, 34-36). Life will come to an end for all of us in death. But this also means that Christ is coming to bring liberation to anyone who will accept him.

**Think Vocations:** "Strengthen your hearts in holiness." Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister? Call your diocesan Vocations Director or contact [www\\_priestsfor\\_scotland.org.uk](http://www_priestsfor_scotland.org.uk)

St. Mary's Gazette

### **SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday:</b>	9.30am	Service	St Francis Xavier
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am	Service	
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	Requiem for Patrick Gribben
<b>Saturday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	Immaculate Conception

### **SUNDAY MASS TIMES:**

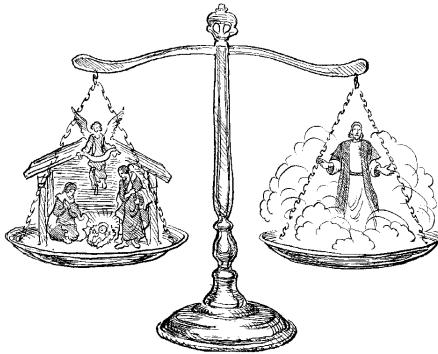
**Saturday Vigil Mass :** 5.00pm  
**Sunday:** 10.30am

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday: after 9.30am Mass;  
4.30pm - 4.50pm; and on request.

## FAITH IN FOCUS:WAITING-HOPING-TRUSTING

We're in the middle of two Advents. One has already happened 2,000 years ago when God came among us as a baby in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The second one is still to happen in the future when Christ will return and human history will come to an end. Today's liturgy concentrates on this future coming.

But in a world that doesn't even know that Advent exists and that has already flung itself fully into the festivities of a commercial Christmas, how can Christians celebrate Advent?



In Advent, Christians wait. We just wait. Every week in our Creed we speak of Jesus coming again to judge the living and the dead; and we talk about looking forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Advent reminds us that there is more to life than what we see with our eyes and hear with our ears. A promise of everlasting life is on offer. Advent is about maturing slowly, about allowing God's Spirit to form us and mould us so we're ready for Christ's coming.

In Advent, Christians hope. If we celebrate Advent properly then we feel a sense of great longing. We find ourselves yearning for Christ to come again and to set up his everlasting kingdom where we shall see God face to face and enjoy the unending happiness of heaven. Advent hope sustains us amid all the comings and goings of a society intent on having and getting, one that mistakes pleasure for joy, consuming for concern and enjoyment for bliss. But Christians wait in joyful hope for Christ to return. In Advent, Christians recognise their trust and dependence on God. It's not all down to us. It is God who will unlock the gates of heaven for us. Our God will not come to condemn us but to set us free since Christ is not a predator but a liberator. Advent encourages us to recognise and acknowledge our dependence on God. Will we be around when Christ comes back again or will we see God face to face when we die? The chances are the latter. But because we are held in the palm of God's hand we await his coming in joyful hope. And our Advent cry is: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

## WORD FOR TODAY

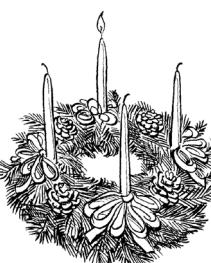
As the Church's year begins once more we look to the future and to the coming of Christ. To celebrate Advent is to increase our longing and yearning for being with our saviour, Jesus Christ, and to grow in love of our brothers and sisters. Our Advent prayer is that we may mature in faith and good works.

## Many Thanks from the Food Bank

The Food bank would like to thank the Parishioners of St Mary's for their generous donations of food stuff and money. Over the past couple of months over £200 has been donated as well as lots of food.

## QUIET PRAYER IN ADVENT

The Diocesan M&E Team offer some Quiet Space for Advent Prayer on Thursday 13th December from 10.30am-3.00pm at the Xaverian Missions Centre, Calder Ave., Coatbridge ML5 4JS Prayer, scripture, hymns, poetry, music, quiet space. Please indicate your attendance to [missions@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:missions@rcdom.org.uk) All welcome - bring a friend!



## What's on @ St. Mary's

### Church Collections

25.11.18	£1366	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£616 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner	David Anderson	No. 47	

### Special Christmas Offer from the former Village Bakery, Kilncadzow.

Madeira Cake	£3.90
Sultana Cake	£4.95
Cherry Cake	£5.55
Deep Filled Apple Tart	£3.95
Ginger Wine	£4.00

All proceeds to St Mary's Church. Please give your order to Anne Elder (663435)

### Prize Bingo

Many thanks to all who supported the Prize Bingo on Friday evening, donated prizes and worked to make it a success.

### Keep Christ in CHRISTmas

In our increasingly secular and humanist society the celebration of the Birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ is being marginalised - some call it the Winter Holiday or Winterfest rather than Christmas. Please do what you can to keep the religious element in our Christmas celebrations by sending Christmas Cards that have a religious theme even to those who are not religious. Also ask for religious Christmas stamps from the Post Office. Many Post Office branches will only sell them if we ask for them.

### St Mary's Primary School Christmas Fayre

The School are holding a Christmas Fayre on Friday 7th December from 4pm-7pm. All are welcome.

### A St Mary's Christmas Gift

Wondering what you can buy someone for Christmas? Why not the St Mary's DVD? Only £10 and already wrapped for Christmas. At sale at the back of the Church.

### Dedication of the Nativity Scene

A short service of dedication will take place this Sunday 2nd November, 1st Sunday of Advent, at 5.15pm at the bottom of the High Street. Please come along and help give witness to our Christian faith as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

### Congratulations to St Mary's Primary School & Nursery

St Mary's were successful in the Tesco 'Blue Tokens'. They have been awarded £4000 to improve the outdoor area. Many thanks to all who supported them.

### St Catherine's Residential Home, Lanark

Requires a Housekeeping / Kitchen Assistant Saturday & Sunday 11am-2pm, 6 hours per week at £8.42 per hour. Experienced in housekeeping preferred. For more information contact the Manager Tel: 01555 661671 or Email: [vacancy.stcatherinesoflanark@gmail.com](mailto:vacancy.stcatherinesoflanark@gmail.com)

### Mass for Sick and Housebound

Holy Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick, will be celebrated at 12.00 on Monday 10th December and there will be refreshments in the Clubrooms after Holy Mass.

**Church Cleaning** on Tuesday after 9.30am Mass. All volunteers welcome.

Items for inclusion in St. Mary's Gazette should be handed into the Presbytery in writing by Thursday.