

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: Fr Paddy Hughes C.M; James O'Connor; Fr Patrick Walsh; Canon Michael Walsh; Eddie Welsh; Liz Rae.

We remember all of those who have died recently: John McGinn; Bernadette Keenan; Sr Mary Colgan.

We pray for the Month's Mind & Anniversary of: Mary Meahan; Beverley & Alan Milliken; Mary & Joseph Kelly; Stuart Gordon.



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 or call 01555 662234

Contact us:

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Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Thomson



St. Mary's Church, Lanark

1st Sunday of Lent (C)

10th March 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS On this First Sunday of Lent we make a new decision to accept the challenge of the Cross. Wednesday's ashes reminded us of our common human destiny and of the penitential nature of the season. Today Jesus goes ahead of us conquering the temptations to compromise with which all of us must struggle.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Deut 26:4-11). When the Israelites made their offering at the altar, they recalled past blessings from God and celebrated in his presence.

Responsorial Psalm: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

Second Reading (Rom 10:8-13). The word of the Lord comes in power, bringing salvation. It does not have to be sought far and wide, but is in our hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel (Lk 4:1-13). Led by the Spirit, Jesus confronts the devil in the wilderness and defeats him with the sword of God's word.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: 8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday: 8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass
12.00noon Stations of the Cross

Wednesday: 8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Service

Thursday: 8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass
7.00pm First Reconciliation

Friday: 8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass

Saturday: 9.30am Mass

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.

St. Mary's Gazette

FAITH IN FOCUS: JUST TESTING

We tend to think of temptation in terms of a sin magnet. It's the opposite pole to where we should be and like all magnetic opposites we're attracted to it even though we know it's wrong. The cake on the plate just seems to have a power that draws us; it attracts us because that's what temptation does.

It surprises a lot of people that this is not really the meaning of temptation in the scriptures. The Greek word that we call temptation means something rather different. It means a "testing" or a "proving" of a person's fidelity, integrity, virtue or constancy. So if I tempt you, I'm not simply trying to get you to eat the cake; what I am really doing is measuring your ability to remain faithful to your principles, seeing whether you really are the person you claim to be.

That's what the devil did with Jesus in the desert. He put him to the test by first getting him to doubt himself (offering him greater status and power) and then getting him to be over-confident (jumping off the roof of the temple, sure that the angels would catch him).

The point of this episode is not that Jesus didn't fancy jumping off. It's that he didn't allow himself to be deflected from being the person he knew he was. The devil tested him but Jesus didn't budge.

In a strange way temptations can be constructive things because they can become growth points in our relationship with God and other people. I can "prove" my true qualities when I am offered the choice to reject God. Of course, it's important to remember that no temptation, however repulsive to us, is ever a sin. In order to redeem us, as a human being Jesus was tempted at the roots of our human nature and yet he never sinned.

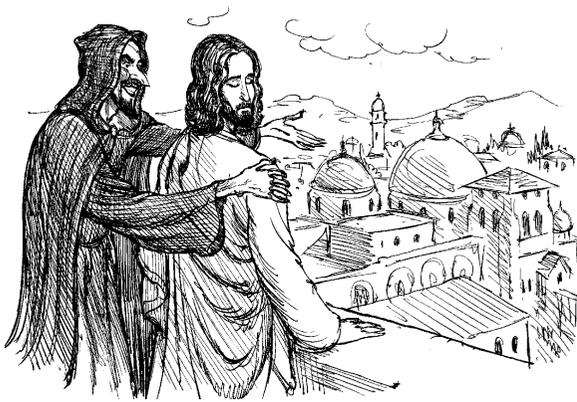
Temptation strengthened Jesus' resolve to carry out the mission he received from the Father. As we begin our Lenten journey this week can see temptations either as a threat to us or else as moments when we can reaffirm our commitment to following Christ. Why not put it to the test?

WORD FOR TODAY

Jesus was tempted in all the classic areas: for possessions, for power for status. We too suffer the same fate as he did and we have the same chance to keep our sights not on what is fleeting and fickle, but on what endures and enriches.

Easter Raffle

Please take some books of raffle tickets to sell to family & friends. Tickets cost £1, 1st prize is £100 cash; 2nd prize is £30 Morrison's vouchers and there a number of other great prizes! The draw will take place at the Coffee Morning after 10.30am Mass on Palm Sunday. Please return counterfoils and money to the box at the back of the church.



What's on @ St. Mary's

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

Church Collections

03.03.19	£1320	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£570 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner		Agnes Hanwell	No. 127

What are you doing for Lent?

Why not come along to morning Mass either in the school at 8.30am or in the Church at 9.30am. If you can't make Holy Mass then you could come along to Stations of the Cross on Monday at 7.00pm and Tuesday at 12.00noon.

St Mary's - Justice and Peace

As a community, we continue to give our support to the local food bank and recently we have donated a large quantity of clothing to the Wayside Club.

This is faith in action, but we are all called to do more. By setting ourselves up as a community committed to Justice and Peace, as part of the wider Justice and Peace movement, we can make a significant difference to our environment and to the world.

The scope of Justice and Peace reaches topics wider than the obvious title suggests; Education, Poverty, Human Rights, Environmental Issues, Abortion and Euthanasia laws, Water, Press Freedom, Inter-Faith and Culture, Slavery. The list is almost endless.

There must be a topic which you feel strongly about, to this end please make your name known to Jim Moynagh on 07940 516461 so that we can start to carry out what God is asking us to do.

This message is to all parishioners, children, teenagers, adults, families, singles, married or otherwise!

Lenten Retreat

St Mary's will be participating in the Ignatian Spirituality Centre online retreat again this year. If you would like to join us you can book online at www.lentretreat.uk There are books available with the daily meditations for those who do not want to access it online. We will be meeting every Wednesday during Lent at 7.30 in the church meeting rooms. If you are interested in joining us or getting a book contact Gemma 07891918374.

Lenten Encounters

The diocesan Mission & Evangelisation Team has arranged three Lenten Encounters during the coming weeks: a Lenten Day of Reflection, a Lenten Saturday Day of Prayer and 4 sessions of Contemplative Theology. Please see the posters for more information.

Fundraiser for Lanark Celtic Supporters Club & St Mary's

Saturday 16th March 7.30 - 11.45 Tickets cost £10. Live music from "The Words". Raffle and auction of Celtic Memorabilia. Please contact Frank Keenan on 664865 or 07484218363.

St Mary's Monday Club

Could all members please note that the Monday Club's St. Patrick's Celebration Lunch will take place on 11 March 2019. All members are requested to attend promptly for the meal to be served at 1.00 pm."

Church Cleaning

Tuesday morning after Holy Mass. All volunteers welcome!

