

### 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:** Joseph Borthwick; Bridie Doyle; Kathleen Colbert.

**We pray for the Anniversary of:** Tom Reid; Mary Sweeney; Betty Thomson.



## 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

21st Sunday of the Year (B)

26th August 2018

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS** The living God calls us, in every age, into freedom and responsibility. We may walk away from the grace and gravity of life and love, or we can choose to walk the way of compassion and mercy. In this Eucharist we, again, have the opportunity to hear the voice of God speaking in history, in the Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus Christ.



### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** (Josh. 24:1-2, 15-18). Joshua calls on the people to serve the Lord their God. They can accept the challenge since they know that he cares for them.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Second Reading** (Eph. 5:21-32). Married Christians are told that their love for one another is to be a reflection of Christ's love for the Church.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel** (John 6:60-69). A moment of crisis in the ministry of Jesus. Some of his disciples leave him - they can no longer accept his claims. Others see clearly that only Jesus has the words of eternal life.

**Think Vocations:** "Choose this day whom you will serve." Consider as well how you are being called to serve the Lord! If you are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, call your diocesan Vocations Director or visit [www.priestsforScotland.org.uk](http://www.priestsforScotland.org.uk)

### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	St Monica
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	St Augustine
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	Passion of St John the Baptist
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Saturday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

<b>Saturday Vigil Mass :</b>	5.00pm
<b>Sunday:</b>	10.30am

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

St. Mary's Gazette

## FAITH IN FOCUS: DAILY CHOICE

Life's full of choices. Some are not earth-shattering, like the colour of the shoes you decide to put on in the morning or the filling for your sandwich at lunchtime. Others have a lasting if not permanent effect, like the person you ask to spend the rest of your life with or the career you make up your mind to embark upon.

In a spiritually restless society Joshua puts a blunt choice before the people of Israel. If they won't serve the Lord then who are they going to follow? They decide to follow the Lord their God.

When Jesus began to lose his followers as they defected elsewhere, he too offered the twelve apostles the same choice. "What about you, do you want to go away too?" He realised that his teaching on the bread of life was something that many could not stomach. It gave them indigestion and they preferred to take a less spicy diet.

It was Peter who spoke up for them all. There was no point in going anywhere else when Jesus had the message of eternal life. Their choice was for Jesus, the Holy One of God.

Every Christian has made the choice for Jesus. But this choice isn't something that's in the past. It's not something that we once made and can now sit back and be relaxed about. Because life has no script we have to face a new scene with each passing day. Choices face us every day of the week, some big, others small. We show our commitment to Christ by continuing to make the choice.

Most of us have made a fundamental option for Christ that we are unlikely to turn our backs on lightly. But we still have to keep that preference alive. We have to remind ourselves who it is who motivates us in our thinking and acting. We have to answer Jesus' question each day: Do you want to go away too?

When we gather together to celebrate the eucharist we give our reply to Jesus' question. The Christian community comes to the table of the Lord to eat and drink the food of life and thereby ratifies its unequivocal choice for Christ. After all, as Peter said, where else would we think of going?

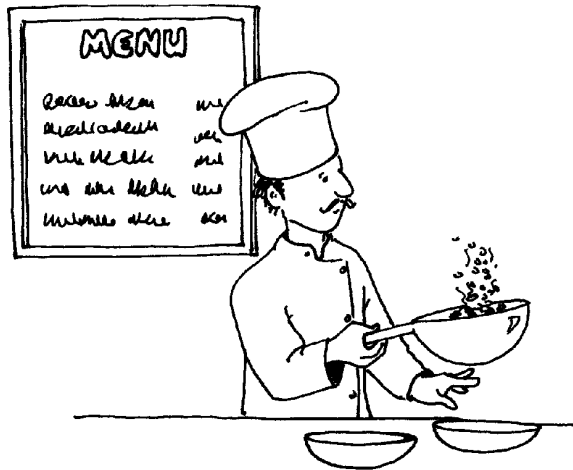
## WORD FOR TODAY

For Christians there can be no life without Christ. Any such existence would be pointless. As we celebrate Eucharist by eating and drinking the food of life we acknowledge Christ as the source and summit of our faith. Who else could take his place?

## Pilgrimage to Rome May 13 - 17th 2019

### St Athanasius', Carlisle

St Athanasius' Parish, Carlisle is organising a pilgrimage to Rome. Some places are still available. If you would like to find out more, please come to the meeting in St Athanasius' Hall on Thursday 30th August at 7.00pm.



## 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

19.08.18	£1345	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£595 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner		George Taylor	No. 271

There are about 6 places available in the 300 Club. It costs £1.00 per week with a chance of winning £100! The proceeds goes to help pay for the insurance of our Church and other buildings.

### Dates for Tour Diary

#### BBQ – Sunday 26th August

Many thanks to all who have worked so hard to organise the BBQ. Hopefully our prayers are answered and the weather is dry - though the forecast doesn't look too good!

**Tuesday 28th August - Diocesan Vocations Mass** - Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell at 7.00pm. Please come along and pray for more vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate and religious life.

#### National Pilgrimage in honour of St John Ogilvie

The National Pilgrimage in honour of St John Ogilvie will take place on Sunday 2nd September at 3.00 pm at the Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes at Carfin.

#### Holy Mass to Celebrate Marriage & Family Life

Bishop Toal will celebrate a special Mass in the cathedral, Motherwell on Wednesday 19th September at 7.00pm. All married couples are invited to attend this Mass and also to renew their Marriage Vows.

#### Dementia Awareness Group Support (D.A.G.S)

Are looking to recruit volunteers to assist their twice monthly group meeting. If you have a few hours to spare and are interested in helping with activities then please contact:- Mariane Bond on 01555 665675

#### St Catherine's Senior Care Assistant Vacancy

The above post has become available within St Catherine's Care Home. Care assistant required 4/5 shifts per week, 33.75 hours per week. £9.92 per hour. SVQ 3 Social Care Required. PVG Check and References required. Contact Manager for further information 01555 661671 or Application forms can be collected from the Main Office.

#### St Mary's Monday Club

Could all members please note that the Monday Club returns after the summer break on Monday 27th August at 1.00pm, when we will have our Silver Celebration party.

#### It's Finished!

The roof works and other repairs have now been completed. On Wednesday there will be a final inspection by our architect and the certificate of practical completion will be issued. Many thanks for your patience and cooperation during the works.

I'd like to thank all the contractors, especially the site manager, John, for all their efforts and work. The contractors have carried out the work to a high standard and the workers have been courteous and respectful while completing the job. A good number of people have mentioned to me about the quality of the work and also the positive attitude of the workers.