

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: William McCardie; Fr Paddy Hughes C.M; James O'Connor; Fr Patrick Walsh; Canon Michael Walsh.

We remember all of those who have died recently: Simon Johnson; Mary Christie; Margaret Courtney.

We pray for the Anniversary of: James Vincent & Ella Lambert; Hugh Kennedy.



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

23rd Sunday of the Year (B)

9th September 2018

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS In this Mass we meet Christ the Healer. His hands reach out to touch our divisions and our weaknesses to new health. We must open our hands to his, open our community to his presence. He will make us one with ourselves and with others.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Is 35:4-7). Truly to hear the word of God is to find the earth blessed. We hear it and begin to see and hear sights and sounds of God everywhere. Under his word the world becomes creative.

Responsorial Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading (Jas 2:1-5). This reading is a hard challenge. If there are divisions, distinctions based on wealth and prestige, we are asked to see the poor as God's, and therefore our, special choice.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel (Mk 7:31-37). In this Gospel Christ heals a deaf-mute. Most of us are deaf to God and silent about God's presence in our lives. We do not witness. Let our ears be opened, our tongues freed.

Think Vocations: "Be strong, do not fear!" With every true vocation comes the strength and courage of the One who calls. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to follow Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, call your diocesan Vocations Director or visit www.priestsforscotland.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass	
Tuesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Thursday:	9.30am	Mass	7.00pm (St Catherine's)
Friday:	9.30am	Mass	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Saturday:	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady of Sorrows

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: HAPPY DAYS

The Jewish people couldn't wait for the Messiah to come. The prophets had promised that when he did arrive, things would be very different and it would be a time of great rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of blind people seeing once more, deaf people hearing again and disabled people jumping like deer. There was a tremendous feeling of longing and yearning for the Messiah, especially since the land was currently occupied by a foreign army.

So when Jesus appears on the scene people begin to wonder whether or not he might be the Messiah they were expecting. By the end of today's gospel they have made their minds up. "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak", they say, quoting what Isaiah had predicted would happen.

Jesus hasn't gone away. He's still with us till the end of time through the Spirit. So what about these "happy days", these Messianic signs? Have they disappeared? Or is Jesus still doing "all things well"?

To have faith means to see and hear things differently. We often speak about people having the eyes of faith. It doesn't mean that they see different things but that they are able to see things in a different perspective, from God's perspective. That's why when they see grief and suffering they feel the same pity as an atheist but they are able to see beyond the grave. When they walk in the countryside and listen to the singing of the birds they are aware of nature but they know that there is someone who created our natural world around us.

Faith in Jesus the Messiah opens our eyes to what lies beyond physical sight; it opens our ears to hear good news in the midst of the world's troubles; it provides us with a cause for joy because it reminds us that God will not abandon us.

The Jewish people did not fear the coming of the Messiah, because they had an expectant hope that he would set them free from all that prevented them from living the life that their God had promised them. Christians too welcome Jesus as Messiah, for he comes to set us free, to release us from a blurred vision of our world, from being deaf to the voice of God in our surroundings. He invites us to sing for joy!



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

02.09.18	£1195	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£445 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner		Ann McEwan	No. 290

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.

Mass for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

To mark this Vocations Awareness Week there will be a special Mass on Thursday evening at 7.00pm to pray for vocations. The Mass will be in St Catherine's Chapel. All welcome.

Tesco Bags of Help - St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Centre

We have been successful in being chosen for the Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme. The project we have applied for will help us to provide a better outdoor learning environment for the children in the school and nursery, with a maximum grant of £4000 available. We hope to buy gardening equipment and a poly tunnel to help us grow fruit and vegetables. But we need your help! During September and October could we ask that you put your blue tokens in the St Mary's box when shopping in the Tesco in Lanark. If you don't get a blue token, please ask the cashier when you are paying for your shopping. Tokens should be given every time you shop, regardless of how much you spend. Thank you for supporting us.

Upcoming Events in the Clubrooms

Sat 13th October - The Words (formerly losferwords) - tickets will be on sale soon
Sunday 11th November - Afternoon Tea in the Clubrooms.

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.

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.

Prize Bingo - Friday 21st September - In Aid of Church Roof Fund.

Any prizes for the Bingo, Tombola or Raffle. Shopping vouchers bottles etc will be most welcome. Please leave donations at the Chapel House, with the pass keepers at the back of the Church or with Anne Elder. Many thanks.

Church Cleaning

Tuesday morning after Mass. All volunteers welcome!

