

### 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 Freely; Patrick Gribben; David McCallum; Anne Woods.

**We pray for the Anniversary of:** Stephen Carbery; Sadie Littlejohn; Florence Kennedy; Michael Reilly; Agnes McQuade.



## 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

2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

9th December 2018

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS** Today's liturgy focuses on John the Baptist. Luke situates his coming in the secular history of his time pointing out that the salvation of which he speaks takes place in the reality of the human situation. This is true also for us in our own experiences of salvation.



### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** (Bar 5:1-9). A people returned from Exile in Babylon to their homeland in Jerusalem experiences afresh the joy of God's care for them.

**Responsorial Psalm:** What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Second Reading** (Phil 1:3-6, 8-11). Writing from prison, Paul praises the Christians of Philippi for the way in which they have accepted and lived up to their new-found faith.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel** (Lk 3:1-6). Emerging from the obscurity of the desert onto the stage of human history, John the Baptist calls for repentance and renewal of life.

**Think Vocations:** Are you seeking "knowledge and full insight to help you determine" your vocation in Christ as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life? Call your diocesan Vocations Director or contact [www.priestsforScotland.org.uk](http://www.priestsforScotland.org.uk)

### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Mass</b>	For sick & Housebound
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	St Lucy
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	Mass	St John of the Cross
<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: TWO REASONS TO HOPE

When God first agreed to be our ancestors' God, by signing the covenant, he said it would be based on two things: "hesed and emeth". These two Hebrew words mean "steadfast love and faithfulness".

Even a fool can see that our ancestors didn't take long to break their side of the agreement. They soon forgot that their "special relationship" with God depended on how they behaved, how they responded to God's favour by the way they treated him and other people.

So you might think that God would have torn up the covenant and declared it null and void. But God remembered his part of the bargain, those two things: steadfast love and faithfulness. God never stopped being loving and faithful, whatever his people got up to. No matter how far people strayed, God remained steadfast and faithful.

This dual characteristic of God, steadfastness and faithfulness, is the reason why Christians trust God. It is the basis of Christian hope.

Our Advent liturgy today invites us to deepen this sense of hope. Don't be miserable, says the prophet Baruch, don't go around sad and distressed because your God is coming to set things right. Advent looks forward to the fulfilment of the promises that God has made to us. And God is steadfast and faithful.

But Christian hope is not merely about the future. It's not like the vague hope that one day we might win the lottery. It affects how we live our lives today, because the seeds of the future are based on my relationships here and now. Hope shines a new light on this reality. It's a dynamic gift that stops us from closing in on ourselves and instead spurs us on to new beginnings, to new challenges and to new life. We live by faith; we continue through charity; we flourish in hope.

The hope we entertain is not simply an optimism that Jesus will return at the end of time, but is a conviction that here and now he can come into our lives as Messiah and can set us free from whatever weighs us down. And come he will if we invite him. For he is steadfast and faithful.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Take off your dress of sorrow and distress...

What marvels the Lord works for us...

Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...

Prepare a way for the Lord...



There are mountains that need to come down: mountains of racism, sexism, ageism, and any other "ism" that blocks our way to healthy relationships with one another and with our Lord. There are valleys to be filled, valleys of depression, despair, loneliness, grief, pain, any of which can keep us from the rich relationship the Saviour offers and that keep us from enjoying the fellowship of the faith. There are crooked places to be made straight. Yes, there is perversity, even among those we might never imagine. Fine exteriors mask rotten interiors of abuse, neglect, immorality, even violence. There are rough places to be made smooth, rough places that have come because of oppression and injustice. (James Westmoreland)

## 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

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

### Church Collections

02.12.18 £1586 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £836 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner Pat McCarrigle No. 88

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

Madeira Cake £3.90

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)

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### St Mary's Choir & Carluke Orchestral Flutes support the Wayside Club Sunday 16th December 7.00pm

Once again the Choir of St Mary's are delighted to join forces with Carluke Orchestral Flutes to bring an evening of musical favourites. Please come to listen, sing-a-long and in doing so help make this Christmas a better one for those less fortunate than ourselves. There will be a retiting collection for the Wayside Club, Glasgow.

### St Mary's Monday Club

Could all members please note that the Monday Club's Christmas Lunch will take place on 17th December and everyone is requested to attend promptly for the lunch to be served at 1.00pm

### Sing-A-Long

The traditional Christmas Sing-A-Long will take place on Thursday evening at 7.00pm in St Mary's Church. The proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Please give this event your support.