

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: Mgr Robert McDonald; Irene Ring.

We pray for the Month's Mind & Anniversary of: Jim McAvoy; Jim McCulloch; Fie Duddy.



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 Lent (C)

17th March 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS On the mountain of Transfiguration the disciples of Jesus glimpsed his glory. His glory shines in us now because of the resurrection. If we will only look deeply, we will see his glory reflected everywhere, in the beauties of creation, in daily events, especially in the people God sends into our lives.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Gen 15:5-12, 17-18). God made a covenant with Abraham, a pure gift of goodness beyond Abraham's dreams. Abraham took it on faith.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my light and my help.

Second Reading (Phil 3:17-4:1). We are pilgrims and sojourners in this world. Our true home is heaven, where Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him!' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel (Lk 9:28-36). The three disciples were overwhelmed by the vision of Jesus' glory. They wanted to stay on the mountain forever. They did not yet understand about the Cross as the way to glory.

Think Vocations "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, call your diocesan Vocations Director or contact www.priestsforScotland.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

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

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

12.00noon Stations of the Cross

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

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

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

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

12.00noon Stations of the Cross

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: HANGING ON

There's an air of anxiety in our scripture readings at the liturgy today. God shows Abram (before he became Abraham) that he will stand at the top of a lineage with many descendants and that he will take possession of the land. But Abram is still worried about the future: "My Lord, how am I to know that I shall inherit it?" And God has to reassure Abram, to keep him persevering in faith.

The same is true with Peter, James and John. Jesus gives them a real boost to their faith by letting them see him

being transfigured on the mountain top, talking with Moses and Elijah... a sure sign that he is from God. But Peter, like Abram, is worried that things won't always be like this and so he tries to get three booths or tents set up to preserve the atmosphere of the moment.

Both Abram and Peter are privileged to be in the presence of God, yet they are worried about the road ahead and whether or not they will really see things through. Sound familiar? No matter how strong our faith is, we still have moments when we wonder what it's all about, whether we can cope with present difficulties and how we will match up to the demands of the future. Of course, that's what faith is all about. If faith were a manual of answers, an instruction book that couldn't fail, then it would no longer be faith. When we stop praying for perseverance in faith we have become muscular Christians who think they can reach heaven by religious effort.

But as we go through life we come across people and events that strengthen our faith. It seems that when everything is rumbling on in a mundane way we suddenly are given a glimpse of what lies beyond. These mountain-top experiences boost our faith because they redirect our hope and recharge our enthusiasm.

Last week we began Lent by looking at the temptations that lie in wait for us as we try to follow Christ. This week we are given a shot in the arm as we glimpse something of the glory of Jesus in the Transfiguration.

So Lent isn't just about sin. It's also about faith, promise, perseverance, hope, dreams, compassion, trust, reconciliation and renewal.

Have a Happy Lent!



WORD FOR TODAY

Faith wouldn't be faith if the route were signposted with certainties. It demands abandonment to and trust in God's promises. At this early stage of Lent we are once again given a glimpse of the glory that is on offer for those who persevere.

Christian Aid Lenten Lunches

On Thursdays between 12.00 - 2.00pm in St Nicholas Church Hall.



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

10.03.19	£1356	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£606 left to the Parish
300 Club Winner		Anne Lynas	No. 25

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.

2nd Collection Next Weekend - Sick & Retired Priests

There will be a 2nd Collection next weekend for the needs of the Diocese to help support our sick and retired priests. Please be generous.

Diocesan Bene Merenti Medal

Bishop Toal will celebrate the 10.30am Mass next Sunday and will present Anne Elder with the Diocesan Bene Merenti Medal in recognition of all her work on behalf of the parish of St Mary's. As well as all her fund-raising activities, Anne is a Special Minister of Holy Communion, helps with the signing at weekday Mass and at funerals and also helps to organise social events in the Parish. We send Anne our congratulations on being awarded the Diocesan Bene Merenti Medal.

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.

Dog Fouling

It has been noticed by some Parishioners that the grounds of the Church are being used by dog walkers to exercise their animals and use the grounds as a toilet. This is not acceptable! As well as concern for those who keep our grounds in an attractive condition, it is hoped that we will use the grounds for an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Palm Sunday. This will not be possible if the dog fouling continues as this would pose a health risk to our young people. If you see anyone using the grounds to exercise their dogs, please ask them to stop and also to clean up any mess.

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.

