

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: Martha Smith; May Scott; Betty McClair.

We pray for the Anniversary of: Catherine Grant; Margaret McTaggart; Louise Keenan; Matt Reilly snr; Mary O'Connor.



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 the Year (C)

20th January 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS

When Jesus turned the water into wine at the wedding at Cana, the first sign was given of his glory, confirming his friend's belief in him. As Mary was confident in her asking, so also can we be.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Is. 62:1-5). When we fail we feel depressed. But if we rise from our depression we can be united with God in everlasting love like bridegroom and bride. This promise is made by Isaiah in the first reading.

Responsorial Psalm: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Second Reading (1 Cor 12:4-11). The Spirit has given us all varying gifts to be used for good in the service of the Lord.

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

Gospel (John 2:1-12). According to St John the first sign of his divine mission given by Jesus was at a wedding at Cana in Galilee. He changed water into wine. This was a sign of Jesus' Messianic role. It refers to the Eucharist but also to the transformation of the world and mankind brought about by Christ, through his death and resurrection.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass	St Agnes
Tuesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Thursday:	9.30am	Mass	St Francis de Sales
Friday:	9.30am	Mass	Conversion of St Paul
Saturday:	9.30am	Mass	St Timothy & St Titus

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: AN ALL-SINGING ALL-DANCING SAVIOUR

Someone once said that the definition of a Puritan is a person who has a constant nagging feeling that someone, somewhere, is enjoying themselves!

We laugh, but actually it's quite easy to be taken for a Puritan when in fact you're simply a Christian. That's because we Christians have sometimes allowed ourselves to be painted into a corner where we're thought of as stuffed shirts or kill-joys. Rightly or wrongly we've taken on the image of censorious people who view pleasure with suspicion and whose first words are usually "Thou shalt not..." rather than "Oh, that looks good; can I have a go?"

Why should we be thought of as disapproving when our saviour was quite clearly at home eating and drinking, singing and dancing? Why should we want to reduce the glorious Middle Eastern nuptial festivity to a grape-juice Temperance affair?

Could it be because at heart we find it hard to believe fully in the incarnation? Yes, we accept that God took flesh in the person of the baby Jesus. But to accept that Jesus was identical to us in that he enjoyed a good day out, singing and dancing, eating and drinking...? Are we going too far here?

Are we uncomfortable thinking that Jesus actually provided more wine when the guests had already quaffed what the family had provided? Wasn't that a bit irresponsible, encouraging alcoholism perhaps? Are we put off by the tone of voice that Jesus uses for his mother, something that only a son would be allowed to get away with, something that demonstrated familiarity and mutual understanding?

Once God became a human being there was nothing about our human nature that was left unredeemed. The incarnation means that by becoming a man Jesus shows us how to become fully human. Jesus is God's way to be a man, God's way to be a woman.

Sometimes we need to open our eyes wide to the good things that God has put around us. We need to thank God for the wonder of life and love, for the many gifts that bless our rising and resting. Sometimes we need to take off our hair shirts, to set aside our dictionary of disapproval and simply take pleasure in what God wants us to enjoy. Why drink only water when your God wants to give you wine?

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WORD FOR TODAY

It's something of an indictment that society often views Christians as stuffed shirts, as kill-joys who look with suspicion on anyone who is having a good time. The marriage at Cana ought to remind us that celebration is at the heart of our faith, a faith whose very lifeblood is eating and drinking, singing and dancing.



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

06.01.19	£1411	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£661 left to the Parish
	£435	Justice & Peace Collection	
13.01.19	£1251	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£501 left to the Parish

06.01.19	300 Club Winner	Barbara Gunn	No. 183
13.01.19	300 Club Winner	Douglas Sinton	No. 109
20.01.19	300 Club Winner	Edward Gordon	No. 110

Invitation from the Parish Pastoral Council to All Church Workers

The Parish Pastoral Council is very conscious that St Mary's is blessed with many people who do great work about the Parish; whether it be those who help and work in the Church, the Administration of the Parish, the Clubrooms or the Grounds. To show the appreciation of the whole Parish Community for this great work, the PPC would like to invite you to a Social Evening of Appreciation in the Clubrooms on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm. It will not be an elaborate affair (Fr Jim still holds the purse strings!) but hopefully an enjoyable evening to show appreciation for all that you do. If you would like to attend then please give your name to one of the PPC who are at the back of the Church or to the person who organises your activity for the Parish.

Unwanted/Unneeded Christmas Gifts

We will be pleased to accept any unwanted or unneeded Christmas gifts, vouchers, bottles, toiletries etc for forthcoming Bingo & Raffles to raise funds for the Parish. Please give them to pass-keepers; Anne Elder or bring them to the presbytery.

Votive Candles

Please be careful with the lighting of Votive Candles on the stands in front of the Sacred Heart Altar and Our Lady's Altar. Votive candles should only be burnt on these stands, not anywhere else. Please do not overfill the stands. If the stand is full then please leave your votive candle to the side and it will be burnt later, for your intention, when there is space available.

The reason that I am bringing this to your attention is that around Christmas time a church was badly affected by a fire caused by the overloading of the votive candle stand. While the damage caused by fire wasn't great, the damage caused by smoke was great. The cost of repairs and clean-up of the church is estimated to be in excess of £75,000. There have been a number of church fires caused by candles over the past couple of years and the total cost of these repairs is well in excess of £1 million.

Newman Association

Ordered Freedom from Chaos – Education in the Holy Land. A talk by Professor Bart McGettrick -. The Ogilvie Centre, St Aloysius' Church, Rose Street, Glasgow, G3 6RE at 7.30pm on Thursday 31st January 2019 All welcome. Non-members: admission £3 - includes refreshments.