

### 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:** Nigel Diplacito; Paul Kelly; Betty Mason; Mgr Noel Woods.

**We pray for the Anniversary of:** Catherine Travers; Eddie & David Main; Joseph McGuire; Tom Oliver; Mary McCrossan; Margo Egan; James McCrossan.



## 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

3rd Sunday of Advent (C) {Gaudete Sunday}

16th December 2018

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS** The joy of Advent rings forth in this Sunday's Liturgy. We call it Gaudete 'Rejoice' Sunday. It is joy in God, our Father, who calls us to a future with him. He asks us in this, our earthly life, to follow the way of his Son, Jesus. John the Baptist, the prophet of Advent, tells us in today's Gospel, how we can do this: 'If anyone has two coats', he says, 'he must share with the person who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same'. We get many opportunities before Christmas of helping the deprived of our country and world. We should avail of them.



### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** (Zeph 3:14-18): Joy and renewal are the gifts of God to those who are open to his will.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading** (Phil 4:4-7). Followers of Jesus are marked with the gifts of joy and gentleness, with a spirit of thanksgiving which leads to inner peace.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel** (Lk 3:10-18): John the Baptist preaches a message of social justice, and prepares us for the coming of the Messiah, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday:</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass Requiem for Nigel Diplacito
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.30am	Mass Confessions 7.00pm
<b>Friday:</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Saturday:</b>	9.30am	Mass

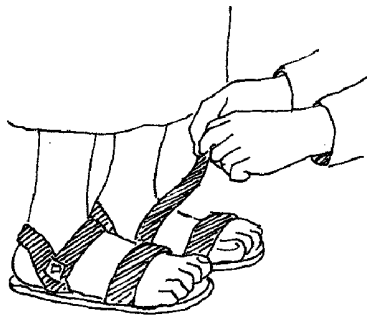
### SUNDAY MASS TIMES:

<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: HAPPILY EVER AFTER?



Today is known as Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday, and St Paul is quite insistent that we should know what we are doing: I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord!

Happy is a strange word. Some people think they are happy but they're really only content. To be content means that we put up with something without complaining too much because we know things could be a lot worse. So we're content with our lot.

Some people think they are happy but they're really only pleased. Something has happened that has given them a bit of a fillip. Perhaps their football team has won an unexpected

victory. But it's hardly ecstasy!

Some people think they are happy but they're really only in a good mood. Maybe they've been out to celebrate passing an exam or celebrating someone's birthday and they've had a lovely evening. But tomorrow this will only be a memory.

Content, pleased, glad, cheerful, jovial, merry...all of this is good but it's not actually the same as happiness.

To be happy means to be blessed. And to know that you are blessed makes you happy. Really happy. So at the root of happiness for a Christian is the knowledge that we are made in God's image, loved by him and held in that love every moment of our being. Although we stray from this image of God we are constantly called back to the joy of our relationship with God and are redeemed through Christ's death and resurrection. This is the greatest blessing we could wish for: to belong to God.

Pleasure is a fleeting thing. We can feel it today but it can desert us tomorrow. But Christian happiness is full of more than pleasure; it's coated with joy. And such happiness and joy can never be taken away from us, even though at times our vision of them may seem clouded.

As we continue our Advent journey Paul advises us to be happy, for our God is very near and is coming to set us free. This deep-down happiness at the approach of our God is something that doesn't waver with every gust of the wind because it is at the heart of our loving relationship with God. In fact it's a real blessing.

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. (Albert Schweitzer)

Gratefulness is the key to a happy life that we hold in our hands, because if we are not grateful, then no matter how much we have we will not be happy – because we will always want to have something else or something more. (David Steindl-Rast)

Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city. (George Burns)

### Preparation for Christmas

Please remember to make your spiritual preparations as well as the material preparations for Christmas. To help with this there will be a celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the opportunity for Confession on Thursday evening at 7.00pm. A number of other priests will be available to assist with Confession.

### Church Cleaning

Please come along and assist with cleaning the church in preparation for Christmas on Tuesday morning after holy Mass. All help is most welcome!

## 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

09.12.18    £1325    £750 to Diocese of Motherwell    £575 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner    Mark McKenzie    No. 259

### 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.

### 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

### 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 retiring 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-Song

Lanark Christian Aid Council would like to thank all who participated and supported the Sing a Song last Thursday. The event raised about £1275 for Christian Aid.

### Thank You

The family of the late Harry Freel would like to thank all parishioners for their prayers and Mass cards. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

### Christmas Remembrance

Please hand any names of those you wish to be remembered at Holy Mass over the Christmas Season by next Sunday at the latest.

### Christmas Services

#### Thursday 20th December at 7.00pm

Advent Service of Reconciliation and Confession

#### Monday 24th December at 11.00pm

Carols and Midnight Mass

#### Tuesday 25th December at 10.30am

Mass of Christmas Day.