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**ST MARY'S LANARK
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**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
7th March 2021**

Encounter with Jesus

Today's Gospel passage, for Year B, is Jesus cleansing the Temple, however, the Gospel passage for Year A, which can be read as an alternative Gospel, presents Jesus's encounter with the Samaritan woman in Sicar, near an old well where the woman went to draw water daily. In our Lenten Journey it is surely worth while considering this encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.

The Samaritan woman found Jesus seated, "weary as he was with his journey" (Jn 4:6). He immediately says to her: "Give me a drink" (v. 7). In this way he overcomes the barriers of hostility that existed between Jews and Samaritans and breaks the mould of prejudice against women. This simple request from Jesus starts a frank dialogue, through which he enters with great delicacy into the interior world of a person to whom, according to social norms, he should not have spoken. But Jesus does! Jesus is not afraid. When Jesus sees a person he goes ahead, because he loves. He loves us all. He never hesitates before a person out of prejudice. Jesus sets her own situation before her, not by judging her but by making her feel worthy, acknowledged, and thus arousing in her the desire to go beyond the daily routine.

Jesus's thirst was not so much for water, but for the encounter with a parched soul. Jesus needed to encounter the Samaritan woman in order to open her heart: he asks for a drink so as to bring to light her own thirst. The woman is moved by this encounter: she asks Jesus several profound questions that we all cry within but often ignore. We, too, have many questions to ask, but we don't have the courage to ask Jesus! Lent, dear brothers and sisters, is the opportune time to look within ourselves, to understand our truest spiritual needs, and to ask the Lord's help in prayer. The example of the Samaritan woman invites us to exclaim: "Jesus, give me a drink that will quench my thirst forever."

The Gospel says that the disciples marvelled that their Master was speaking with a woman. But the Lord is greater than prejudice, which is why he was not afraid to address the Samaritan Woman: mercy is greater than prejudice. We must learn this well! Mercy is greater than prejudice, and Jesus is so very merciful, Very! The outcome of that encounter by the well was the woman's transformation: "the woman left her water jar" (v. 28), with which she had come to draw water, and ran to the city to tell people about her extraordinary experience. "I found a man who told me all I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She was excited. She had gone to draw water from the well, but she found another kind of water, the living water of mercy from which gushes forth eternal life. She found the water she had always sought! She runs to the village, that village which had judged her, condemned her and rejected her, and she announces that she has met the Messiah: the one who has changed her life. Because every encounter with Jesus changes our lives, always. It is a step forward, a step closer to God. And thus every encounter with Jesus changes our life. It is always, always this way.

In this Gospel passage we likewise find the impetus to "leave behind our water jar", the symbol of everything that is seemingly important, but loses all its value before the "love of God". We all have one, or more than one! I ask you, and myself: "What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?" Let us set it aside a little and with our hearts; let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord. We are called to rediscover the importance and the sense of our Christian life, initiated in Baptism and, like the Samaritan woman, to witness to our brothers. A witness of what? Joy! To witness to the joy of the encounter with Jesus; for, as I said, every encounter with Jesus change our life, and every encounter with Jesus also fills us with joy, the joy that comes from within. And the Lord is like this. And so we must tell of the marvellous the things the Lord can do in our hearts when we have the courage to set aside our own water jar.

Pope Francis

Weekly Schedule

Sunday 7th March

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

Monday 8th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 9th March

- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass
6.00pm Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 10th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday 11th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Novena in Honour of St Joseph - Week 8

Friday 12th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 13th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary

Sunday 14th March

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

All of the above will be Livestreamed through St Mary's Facebook Page.

To Thee o Blessed Joseph

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day.
Thou protected and cherished the Virgin;
loving the Child Jesus as thy son,
thou rescued Him from danger of death.

Defend the Church, the Household of God,
purchased by the Blood of Christ.
Guardian of the Holy Family,
be with us in our trials.

May thy prayers obtain for us the strength
to flee from error and wrestle with the powers
of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness
and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.
Amen.



New Dawn in Scotland

New Dawn in Scotland invites you to a healing service at the Augustinian Clare Priory, Clare, Suffolk, on Friday 12th March 2021, 19.30-21.00, led by Fr Stefan Park. The theme is "Repent and believe the Good News" Mk 1:15. To join the event please login at newdawninscotland.com

New Dawn in Scotland is part of a "worldwide association of people who desire to display the Catholic church in all Her splendour. It is Eucharistic-centred, Sacramental, Marian and Spirit-filled". You can discover more through New Dawn in Scotland YouTube channel or Facebook Page.



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Last weekend we had our Monthly Foodbank Collection, to help support the Clydesdale Foodbank.



Thank you so much, once again, for your generosity and support to the Foodbank!! In total we collected £450 and over 25 bags of shopping. A truly staggering amount, for one month!

Paper Copy of Bulletin

Each week during Lockdown there will be paper copies of the bulletin available for collection. Every **Sunday & Monday 12noon - 1pm**, St Mary's church porch will be open for those, who on their daily exercise, would like to collect a copy.

It may also be worthwhile thinking of neighbours or others who cannot get out and do not have access to the internet, if they would benefit from a copy being posted through their door.

Gift Aid Envelopes

At present we are currently ordering in the new Gift Aid Envelopes for the new financial year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contribute through the Gift Aid Scheme, which allows us to claim back 25% (from the taxman) of each pound donated. This year we are changing the system slightly and both parishes will now be using the same envelopes, this in turn will mean that your number most probably will change. We understand that many people have a fondness for their number and have had it for many years, however, we feel this is the fairest way to join both system together. There are some people who have contacted the parish to advise their circumstances have changed and they no longer pay tax and therefore do not require envelopes this year. If you are in the same position and no longer require envelopes, we would be most grateful if you could email the parish to advise us, or note it on your next donation envelope so we know how many boxes we require to order. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme please email the parish for more information. Once again thank you for your continued support to our parishes.

Votive Candles St Mary's

Many people have commented that they miss lighting a candle in the church. If you would like a candle lit in St Mary's you can put your intention on an envelope, with the number of candles you require, and post it through the chapel house door, or hand it into the church porch on a Sunday or Monday, 12noon-1pm. If you wish your intention to be private please just write 'candle' on the envelope. Candles will be lit and placed before the altar.



Reopening

The First Minister of Scotland has indicated that Places of Worship will hopefully be allowed to open around Holy Week. Of course this is welcomed news, and gives us something to look forward to. We are unsure at this time of the restriction that will be in place in the church, however, the Bishops' Conference of Scotland have petitioned the Government to raise the limit of worshippers allow to attend Mass/Services. We hope an update will be available soon.

Wee Box Appeal

Once again SCIAF are rolling out their Wee Box Appeal this Lent. Wee Boxes are available from St Mary's church porch on a Sunday or Monday between 12noon and 1pm, when the porch will be opened for those who wish a paper copy of the bulletin. SCIAF are also offering other ways to support the charity and make donations. For more information please visit the SCIAF website: www.sciaf.org.uk





Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - William Reilly Kenilworth Road
Sister Anne Lamb D.C.; Alys Scott; Stuart Shankey; Matt Hislop; James Gallagher (Coatbridge).

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Mary & James Kelly; Joe Kelly; Joseph Doolan; Tokic Family; Peter Brannan (Blantyre); Stuart Gordon.

*May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you
and lead you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem.*

Parish Finances for February

St Mary's Collection and Donations: **£4,979.00**

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

St Isidore's & St Mary Magdalene's Collection & Donations: **£650.00**

Parish of St Isidore's
83-16-11 00235026

Thank you for your continued support to our parishes!!

A Prayer For Protection In Time Of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,
you know what we need, and we are confident
you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee.
Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician,
for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable,
and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged
with protecting the health and safety of others
and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows,
so as to lead us, through the Cross,
to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.



An Act Of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

