

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: Gerald Cowan; Sr Patricia O'Hea; Edward O'Grady; Martin Gibney; Joseph McAleer.

We pray for the Anniversary of: Marion O'Donnell; Jim & Esther Oliver; Charles McAllister; Josephine McCrossan Hoey.



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 the Year (C)

27th January 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS Through our baptism we are members of the Christian community, the Body of Christ. Everything we do must work for the growth of this community, we must respond to the needs of the community from our inner motivation, not because the rules say so. Law is important for organising any society but it must become an expression of our own values. We pray therefore that through God's love within us our efforts may lead to a growth of peace and unity among men.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Neh 8:2-6, 8-10). Ezra reads the Law to the people, who listen closely and understand it. This understanding leads to penance, conversion and joy.

Responsorial Psalm: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Second Reading (1 Cor 12:12-30). Paul uses the analogy of the body to describe the Christian community, the Church. It is a living organism which works in harmony.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring Good News to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives. Alleluia!

Gospel (Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21). Luke opens his Gospel by giving the principles on which he is working. We then hear the beginning of the scene in the synagogue at Nazareth with Jesus proclaiming the nature of his mission; he is the fulfilment of a passage from Isaiah promising freedom to the poor and oppressed.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass	St Thomas Aquinas
Tuesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass	
Thursday:	9.30am	Mass	St John Bosco
Friday:	9.30am	Mass	
Saturday:	9.30am	Mass	Presentation of the Lord

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: ABOUT TO START

In some of our cities we have a church on almost every street corner. But in the whole of Israel there was only one Temple and that was in Jerusalem. The priests went there to offer sacrifices for people's sins and needs. But in every place where at least ten men could meet, no matter how small a village it might be, there was a synagogue. Every Sabbath there was a simple liturgical service that took place there and was led by the local community members. It was a plain affair with readings from the Jewish scriptures followed by a commentary on them in the form of a homily or sermon.

It was to one of these places that Jesus went when he returned to his hometown of Nazareth. He read a text from Isaiah about being anointed to bring freedom to those who were oppressed in different ways. Then he made the incredible claim that this text was being fulfilled here and now as his audience listened. Even though Jesus had gathered a reputation already as something of a preacher, this proved too much for his listeners and next Sunday we'll see what happened. But for today, what was Jesus really claiming?

In a nutshell he was claiming that a new age was beginning. In the Old Testament people had been waiting for "eschatological" times, times that would usher in a new age when God's kingdom would hold sway. There would be signs that this new age was about to begin: prisoners would be set free, the lame would walk, the deaf hear and the blind see again. Every fifty years the Jews held an amnesty year in which the slate was wiped clean, debts were settled and property returned to rightful owners. Jesus tells his audience that here and now one of these amnesties is about to start; it will be the Lord's year of favour.

Over the next few weeks, and throughout the gospel of Luke, we will see that Jesus has inaugurated this new age of favour between God and his people. And we'll discover that it was to last more than a year. Today as the gospel is proclaimed in our churches God still offers this favour. If you want to, you can make it happen for you even as you listen to God's word. Or you can wait and see how the people responded next week in Luke's gospel.

WORD FOR TODAY

We get ourselves into so many different tight corners, do things that we wish we hadn't and end up stressed out. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there could be a day set aside for wiping the slate clean for all our actions and setting right our relationship with God and others? There is. It's called the Lord's time of favour. And it's today.

Message from Clydesdale Food Bank

Dear Friends, As we start a new year, the Clydesdale Food Bank Board are taking this opportunity to thank all those in St Mary's Church who have supported the food bank over the past year. Please know how much your support for vulnerable people throughout Clydesdale is appreciated. Wishing you every blessing.



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

20.01.19 £1421 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £671 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner Andrew Dempsey No. 9

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.

St Mary's Monday Club

Could all members please note that the Monday Club's Burns Celebration Lunch will take place on 28 January 2019, and everyone is requested to attend promptly for the lunch to be served at 1.00pm.

Church Cleaning

After Holy Mass on Tuesday. All volunteers welcome!