

### 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:** Andrew Muir; Margaret Mulholland; Michael McMahon; Frank Cullen;

**We pray for the Anniversary of:** Joe Hughes; Sadie Palmer; Cassie Sweeney; William Kennedy; Tom, Kathleen, David, Steven & Joanne Flannigan and all others who died in the Lockerbie Disaster; Mary Jane Doolan; Nessie McEwan.



## 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:

**St. Mary's Church**  
**SCO 11041**

70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

t: 01555 662234

m: 07850 348773

Email: lanarkpp@outlook.com

Parish Priest: Fr. Jim Thomson



# St. Mary's Church, Lanark

4th Sunday of Advent (C)

23rd December 2018

**INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS** We spend our last Sunday of preparation and waiting with Mary in our readings and thoughts. In spite of the rush before Christmas we thank God for this time of prayer and quiet and companionship.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** (Micah. 5 :1-4). A proclamation that the Prince of Peace will come. Those who accept him will be well cared for.

**Responsorial Psalm:** God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading** (Heb. 10 :5-10). A reminder that Jesus replaced outward and symbolic observances by a reality-the sacrifice in obedience, of his life. God wants the same from us. Outward, formal worship without radical conversion 'leaves God cold'.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

**Gospel** (Lk 1:39-44). With Mary, as we prepare for the coming of Christ we 'believe that the promise made by the Lord will be fulfilled'.

### SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

<b>Monday:</b>	9.30am	Mass Carols & Mass through Midnight 11.00pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	10.30am	Mass of Christmas Day
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9.30am	Mass
<b>Thursday:</b>	9.30am	Mass
<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: LEAPING FOR JOY

As soon as Mary found out that her cousin Elizabeth was expecting a baby she set out to go and visit her in the hill country. And we know that as Mary greeted Elizabeth the child in Elizabeth's womb, the future John the Baptist, leapt for joy.

Bringing a child into the world at any time is beset with challenges, but for the two pregnant women in Judah there was much more at stake. Mary had already had to come to terms with the fact that her child was not Joseph's son, and Elizabeth's husband Zachary had been struck dumb for not believing that his child would be special. Yet the words Elizabeth chooses to use of Mary are not words of sympathy but of joy and praise: "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Mary and Elizabeth were open to the future and were able to trust in God's providence for them both, come what may. They saw the birth of their children not as a burden but as an opportunity to praise God for what he promised for their future.

Christmas is an invitation to us to allow God to be born in us once more, to become open to the endless possibilities that God can provide in our lives. Our ability to celebrate the heart of Christmas is linked with our ability to invite God fully into our lives, to ask God to be reborn in us and to work his wonders in whatever way he sees fit.

When we think of Christmas we don't remain in the past; we call God here and now into our lives and ask him to lead us in all the future adventures of life, for Christmas celebrates life itself. The manger scene is nice and comforting, but our liturgy today challenges us to go much further: to let the Christ-child be born in each of us and to bring good news to our waiting world.

Are we ready to go beyond the mistletoe and tinsel, to become pregnant with God's word, to bear Christ to others? Do we approach Christmas with fear and trembling or do we leap for joy?

## St Mary's Primary School - registration of Children Starting School

Children who will be age 5 between 1st March 2019 and the end of February 2020 should be registered for school.

Registrations for St Mary's Primary Lanark will be taken by appointment only on the dates listed below. If you wish to register your child, please contact the School Office on 01555 663480 to arrange a suitable date. Appointments have been scheduled for the following dates:

Monday 14th January 2019 – 9.30am – 11.40am.

Tuesday 15th January 2019 – 9.30am – 2.20pm.

Wednesday 16th January 2019 – 1.15pm – 2.20pm.

Friday 18th January 2019 – 9.30am – 11.40am.

Please bring the following documentation with you for enrolment:

\* Your child's FULL Birth Certificate

\* 2 unrelated letters/ documents confirming your permanent home address. e.g. Utility Bill, Council Tax Notice, Tenancy Agreement, Lawyer's Letter, Child Benefit Award, Tax Credits Award, Driving Licence, Credit Card Statement etc. These are required to ensure you live within the School Catchment Area. Documentation should be less than 6 months old. Unfortunately we cannot accept mobile phone bills, catalogue bills or passports as proofs of address.

\* Baptismal Certificate (if available).

Should you have any enquiries, please contact the school.



## 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

16.12.18 £1216 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £575 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner John Russell No. 217

### Wayside Club

The concert by the Choir of St Mary's and the Carluke Orchestral Flutes at St Mary's Church last Sunday night raised £1,120 for the Wayside Club for the homeless in Glasgow.

The Choir and Orchestra thank all those who attended the concert and gave so generously to this very worthy cause. Many thanks also to those who have donated clothes for the Wayside Club. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### 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

### Diocesan Courage Apostolate for Catholics with Same Sex Attraction

Motherwell Diocese has set up a Courage Chapter of pastoral ministry for those in our Diocesan community with same sex attraction, who are looking to live faithfully their Catholic faith. Courage is an international apostolate with over 100 Chapters worldwide and endorsed by the Holy See. It aims to help members find peace through fellowship, prayer, the Sacraments, and an appreciation of the Church's teaching on chastity. It extends the Church's invitation to mature in Christ, seeking his grace and peace. For information or advice please email in confidence our Diocesan priest chaplain at [Courage@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:Courage@rcdom.org.uk)

### Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all who have handed in cards and gifts for me.

On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank all who give of their time and talents to help with the preparation of the liturgies, the cleaning and decoration of the church and those who help with the smooth running of the parish.

### Society of the Innocents

The Society is holding its annual Mass on Thursday 28th December 2017 in St Patrick's Church in Coatbridge at 10.00 am.

### Fundraising

Many thanks to all who have done so much to raise funds for the Parish. The raffle raised £1400 and the cakes and Ginger Wine raised £1070. Special thanks to Tony Coia for making and donating the cakes, Mary Yuill for making and decorating the Ginger Wine and Anne Elder and her team for organising things!

### Christmas Services

**Monday 24th December at 11.00pm**

Carols and Midnight Mass

**Tuesday 25th December at 10.30am**

Mass of Christmas Day.