

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: Mary McCabe; Barbara Ewing; Sr Catherine Tierney DC; Winifred Scott.

We pray for the Month's Mind & Anniversary of: Jean McPhail; Robert Kennedy.



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

5th Sunday of Lent (C)

7th April 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS We come together today in this Lenten season to renew our lives. The strength that comes from the Lord gives us confidence in our resolve to reform and re-dedicate ourselves. As we grow in our knowledge of the Lord, we know that God is our all. We gather, then, resolved once more to place ourselves in the hands of a loving and merciful God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Is 43:16-21). Isaiah proclaims that the reason for God's liberation of Israel is not anything they have done but simply the loving mercy of a saving God.

Responsorial Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading (Phil 3: 8-14). Paul tells us that we do not receive the saving grace of God by observing the law but that justification comes through faith in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of hosts may really be with you. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel (Jn 8:1 - 11). Jesus reminds those who have accused the woman of adultery that only the worthy may sit in judgement. God extends mercy to sinners so that they may turn from sin.

Think Vocations "They left everything and followed Jesus." If you are seeking greater simplicity of life and a closer following of the Lord in prayer and action, consider that He may be calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. Call your diocesan Vocations Director or contact www.priestsforScotland.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday:	9.30am	Mass
	12.00noon	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass
Thursday:	9.30am	Service 3.00pm Requiem for Sr Catherine
Friday:	9.30am	Mass
	12.00noon	Stations of the Cross
Saturday:	9.30am	Mass

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: FAULTY JUDGEMENT

If you commit the crime you should do the time. This is something we hear a lot today, along with suggestions that some people should be locked up and the key thrown away. For all our pretence at civilisation and sophistication, we find ourselves in a society that is very far from the values of Jesus and particularly the core Christian value of forgiveness.



Sideline forgiveness allows us to be judgemental. It allows us to make comments about other people as if we were better than them, as if we were never guilty of sin ourselves; yet all our judgment is faulty, for we have all sinned. This is the pitiful scene that Jesus faced when they brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. Jesus seems not to be dismayed by the woman's sin (and her partner whom we never meet). What does dismay him is the arrogance of the scribes and Pharisees who presume a "holier than thou" attitude towards the woman. And so, despite the carefully prepared trap to get him to be at odds with the Law, Jesus first sets about dismantling the judgemental hypocrisy of the accusers rather than tackling what the woman has done.

It's worth noting that forgiveness is not ours to give. Forgiveness comes from God and all we can do is to pass it on, just like love. God is love and our love is merely a sharing in his perfect love. God is forgiveness and when we forgive we are simply holding up a mirror to the God who has first forgiven each of us. "Our" forgiveness is simply a reflection. Of course, if we refuse to forgive then we cannot expect forgiveness for our trespasses. This has always been the simple message of the Our Father.

Very often when we judge others it is because we see the same fault in ourselves, and condemning the other person allows us to expiate our own frailty. Of course, Jesus did not praise the woman for what she had done; he told her to go away and sin no more. But what he did do is to prevent her from being judged by people who were as weak as she was but pretended to be better. Ring any bells?

WORD FOR TODAY

Do we have double standards? Often we expect to be forgiven ourselves but we are quick to judge other people for things that we consider to be wrong. And equally often the very thing that we judge them for is something that secretly we know is one of our own faults.

The Catholic App

"The Catholic App" is your smart Catholic companion that helps you find Mass, Confession, churches, online parish communities and more. It covers the whole diocese and works in English, Polish, French, Italian, German and Spanish. You can download it for iPhone/iPad or Android by searching for "The Catholic App, Musemantik" in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/catholicapp/

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

31.03.19	£1346	£750 to Diocese of Motherwell	£596 left to the Parish
Collection for SCIAF		£865	
300 Club Winner		Dan O'Donnell (Snr)	No. 189

Palm Sunday Activities

St Mary's Social Committee are planning some Easter Activities after Holy Mass on Palm Sunday, 14th April. Activities include Easter Egg Hunt, Face painting, Easter Arts & Crafts.

Coffee Morning

On Palm Sunday, 14th April we will have a Coffee Morning. Donations of home baking will be gratefully received. If you can donate then please contact Anne Elder on 01555 663435.

Easter Raffle

Please take some books of raffle tickets to sell to family & friends. Tickets cost £1, 1st prize is £100 cash; 2nd prize is £30 Morrison's vouchers and there a number of other great prizes! The draw will take place at the Coffee Morning after 10.30am Mass on Palm Sunday. Please return counterfoils and money to the box at the back of the church.



Collection Envelopes

The collection envelopes for the next year are available at the back of the Church. If you pay tax and give to St Mary's then we are able to claim back the tax you have paid on your donation but only if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration. This is a very valuable source of income for the Parish. Please remember to reassess your donation in the light of inflation. When did you last increase your donation and over that period how much have costs increased?

Easter Remembrance

If you would like someone to be prayed for and remembered at Holy Mass during the Easter season, then please hand in their names before Holy Thursday.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Wednesday	7.00pm	Service of Reconciliation and Individual Confession
Holy Thursday	7.00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
	10.00pm	Night Prayer
Good Friday	3.00pm	The passion of the Lord and veneration of the Cross
	7.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion and veneration of the Cross
Holy Saturday	8.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection - Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	10.30am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Confessions in the Deanery

Monday 15th April	7.00pm	St Ignatius, Wishaw
Tuesday 16th April	7.00pm	St Athanasius, Carluke
	7.00pm	St Brigid, Newmains