

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: Lisa Geddes; Marie Diplacito; Janette Irvine; Josephine Thompson.

We pray for the Anniversary of: Jean Carberry; James & Elizabeth Gilchrist; Eamonn McKenna.



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 the Year (C)

10th February 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS We hear in the readings today how Isaiah, Peter and Paul all experienced the power of God at work in their lives in very different ways as they answered his call. We are invited to reflect on how God has made himself present in our lives and further how he wishes us to witness to his Word. And for this, we pray that we will be safe in his care because we place all our hope in him.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Is 6:1-8). Isaiah's call to be a prophet. His vision of the all-holy God makes him very aware of his sinfulness. But God purifies him and he is ready and willing to be his messenger.

Responsorial Psalm: Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Second Reading (1 Cor 15:1-11). St Paul asserts the core of the Christian faith. Christ died for our sins, was buried, was raised to life on the third day, and appeared to many. Among them was Paul himself, a faithful apostle.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel (Lk 5:1-11). After a night of fruitless fishing, Peter once more lets down his nets at the bidding of Jesus. The result is an enormous catch of fish so that Peter realises his unworthiness. Jesus then calls Peter to be one of his followers.

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass	Requiem for Janette Irvine
Tuesday:	9.30am	Service	
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass	Requiem for Marie Diplacito
Thursday:	9.30am	Service	
Friday:	9.30am	Service	
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: DEEPER WATER

We all like to feel comfortable and we all have our own little ways of doing things that we've got used to. That's because by nature we're creatures of habit. We don't like to be put out or troubled by having to learn new ways. We like a quiet life.

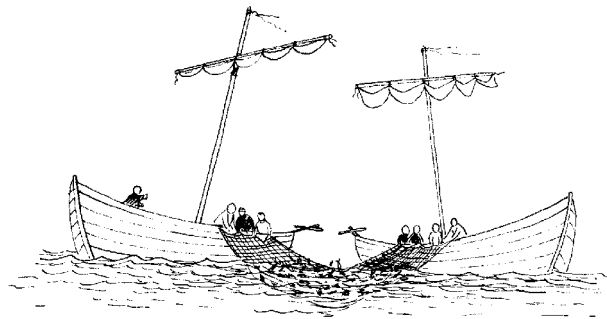
Religious people sometimes use their faith in the same way. It becomes a comfort and a crutch, a way of doing things that makes them feel secure and unthreatened. Faith becomes the spiritual insurance policy that guarantees peace of mind.

But at the heart of faith is risk. Faith involves making that leap, walking along the path with no signs, trusting when you know that everything could go wrong. Faith is an invitation not to remain where we are but to seek ever new and more enriching pastures, to stretch ourselves, to be challenged in ways that we cannot even suspect but which will carry their own rewards. Christian faith, in particular, is not an anaesthetic but an adventure.

In today's gospel we see Jesus telling Simon Peter to put out the boats into deeper water. Normally you don't catch many fish by the edge of a lake; you have to be bold and move into the middle. And, sure enough, having fished all night long and caught nothing, it was when the disciples obeyed Jesus' request to put out into deeper water that they not only caught fish but netted a catch that astounded them.

The deeper the water the more uncomfortable people feel, because you can't touch the bottom. But the deeper the water the greater the catch. Our sluggishness encourages us to remain static in faith. We're content to catch fish when Jesus promises us that we could be catching people, encouraging men and women to come to Christ. We're prepared to do the basic minimum in our faith, to enjoy the view close to the shore, when Jesus promises us a magnificent experience on the high seas.

Today's liturgy challenges us to be bolder in our relationship with God and with others, to grow in faith and trust, to move to areas in our lives that are as yet uncharted. Yes, we're bound to have doubts about our safety. But God does not promise us a calm passage...just a safe landing.



WORD FOR TODAY

Jesus tells Simon Peter to row his fishing boat a little further into deeper water. Then it happens. They catch so many fish that their nets begin to tear. Staying in a comfortable religious place is tempting, but our faith only grows if we're prepared to explore other waters.

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

03.02.19 £1221 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £471 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner Euan Sinton No. 226

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.

St Mary's PS Coffee Morning

The School are hosting a Coffee morning on Friday 8th February from (.15am in the School Hall. Entrance is £1.00 for tealcoffee and a cake. Please come along and support our Primary School..

Honouring Our Lady of Lourdes

On Sunday 10th February there will be a Rosary Torchlight Procession with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 7pm. On Monday 11th February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Rosary will be recited at 12.30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 1pm, during which the Sacrament of the Sick will be offered. Light refreshments will be served in the Xavier Centre afterwards. All welcome.

Proposed Rally of Craiglockhart Former Students

To celebrate the Centenary of the founding of Craiglockhart College of Education a Reunion Rally has been planned for Saturday 11th May 2019 in Napier University, Craiglockhart Campus.

10.30 Registration; 11.30 Holy Mass; 1.15 Lunch. Various events to follow.

Cost: £40 pp which includes a Welcome Drink, Three Course Lunch and Afternoon Tea/Coffee.

For Further Information & Application Form please email gripfast2019@gmail.com by 1st March.

Lanark & District U3A

will meet in the Memorial Hall, Lanark at 2pm. Tommy Lawton will give a talk about the Forth and Clyde Canal. Retired and semi-retired welcome. More info @ www.u3a-lanark.xyz

Fr Jim Away

I will be away from Sunday afternoon till Friday. I'm going with Fr Chromy, our Vicar General, to visit the retired priests of the Diocese who are now living in Ireland. We have 10 priests to visit, living in various different parts of Ireland. I'm grateful to the Spiritans for conducting the two funerals we have next week.

Church Cleaning

Tuesday morning after the 9.30am Service. All volunteers welcome.