

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: Canon Andrew Reen; Lisa Geddes; Marie Diplacito; Janette Irvine; Jean McGuinness; Teddy Kelly; Patrick Lennon.

We pray for the Anniversary of: Mary Kennedy; Patrick Grant.



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

6th Sunday of the Year (C)

17th February 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS We come from many different backgrounds and social situations. But God places the same choice before us all: to grow closer or to drift farther away from Our Lord. God blesses each of us from his great riches. We are called to share with each other, to overcome our differences and to stand together as one community.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Jer 17:5-8). Jeremiah places two images before us to illustrate the consequences of placing our trust in human strength or divine help. Which attracts us more?

Responsorial Psalm: Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Second Reading (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20). The resurrection of Jesus is absolutely fundamental to our faith. Paul moves quickly to correct any doubts which undermine our faith..

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

Gospel (Lk 6:17,20-26). The disciples are blessed because the Kingdom belongs to them. But being a disciple requires us to constantly check our attitudes to poverty and wealth.

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
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass
Thursday:	9.30am	Mass
Friday:	9.30am	Mass
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: KEEPING THE BALANCE

It's a tightrope. It really is. We have to walk the rope without falling off one side or the other. And today Jesus tells us that we are happy, fortunate and blessed if we manage to get the balance right.

The beatitudes are the most phenomenal promises ever made. If you are poor then you will own the kingdom of God; if at present you are experiencing hunger you will achieve complete satisfaction; if you weep now you will laugh forever. And so on.

To believe in these promises means you are either deeply committed to the gospel message or you are mad. There can be no in-between. And that's where it starts to get difficult in daily life.

What do we do? How do we live our daily life, earning and trying to prosper, when we also want to remain poor enough to have a share in the kingdom of God? How do we enjoy a really good meal when we are told that it is the hungry who will be satisfied? And how do we reconcile our belly laughs with the knowledge that those who mourn and weep are the ones who are praised by Jesus?

You can see why many people who listened to Jesus preaching about the beatitudes were singularly unimpressed. It's counter-cultural: it goes against everything that our world and society stands for and it asks us to refocus and downsize the values that we are supposed to take for granted and aspire to. So they simply wrote him off.

What the beatitudes remind us is that there is more to life than this world. This does not mean that we should not try to eradicate poverty. Nor does it mean that we should ask starving people to embrace their hunger and oppressed nations to stop their mourning and weeping. And it doesn't mean that our laughter, feasting and prosperity are wrong.

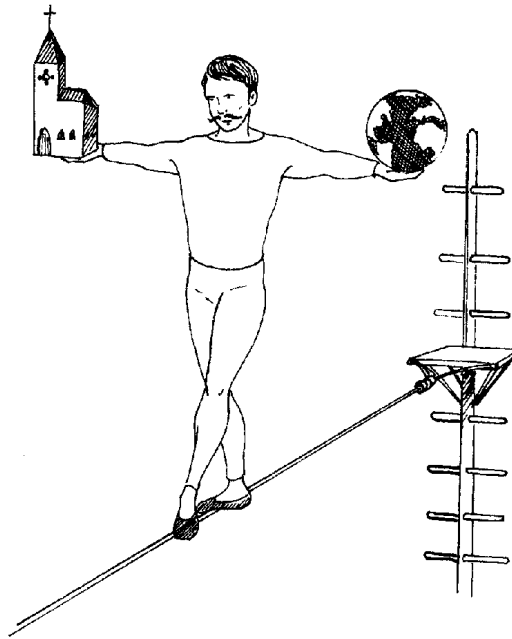
But what the beatitudes ask of us is that we view our lives under the microscope of eternity. All our actions here and now are to be weighed against what will become of us in perpetuity. If we come down too heavily on the laughing and feasting, we'll be neglecting our deeper reasons for being on this earth. And if we keep our eyes glued on the clouds of heaven, then we'll end up missing out on this wonderful life. It's a tightrope!

WORD FOR TODAY

It's easy to forget that whatever we have today, houses, cars, possessions etc, are only temporary. They do not last; but we do, forever. And the way we use what we own in this world affects us for eternity.

Let us treasure up in our soul some of those things which are permanent..., not those which will forsake us and be destroyed, and which only tickle our senses for a little while.

(Gregory of Nazianzus)



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

10.02.19 £1415 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £665 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner

Rosalind McConnell

No. 27

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.

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.

The Newman Association - Human Rights – Contemporary Challenges

The Newman Association has organised a meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th February 2019 in The Ogilvie Centre, St Aloysius' Church, Rose Street, Glasgow when Dr Patrick Riordan SJ, Dean of Discipline, Fellow in Political Philosophy and Catholic Social Thought, Campion Hall, University of Oxford will present the above talk.

Food Bank

Any donations will be gratefully received next weekend.

St Mary's Fabric & Finance Meeting

The Parish Fabric and Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday evening at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Rooms. We recently submitted our annual financial return to the Diocesan Finance Office for it to be checked and collated with the returns from all the other Parishes, prior to being submitted to OSCR. Once this has been done then a report of the finances of the Parish will be made available to parishioners. Many thanks for your continued support.

Visit to Ireland

Last week I travelled to Ireland with the Vicar General to visit the 10 priests from Motherwell Diocese who have retired back home. Combined, they gave over 500 years of service to the Church in Scotland. Canon O'Sullivan, who was with us last summer, sends his best wishes and you are asked to pray for Canon Reen who is very ill.