

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: Fr Paddy Hughes C.M; James O'Connor; Fr Patrick Walsh; Canon Michael Walsh; Eddie Welsh; Liz Rae.

We remember all of those who have died recently: Ileen Stevenson;

We pray for the Month's Mind & Anniversary of: Janette Irvine; Joseph Doolan; Lisa Katherine McAlavey; Marie Topping.

St. Mary's Church, Lanark

8th Sunday of the Year (C)

3rd March 2019

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS

Every Sunday Mass is a celebration of Easter, the central truth of our faith.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7)

As a tree's fruit bears witness to the care that has been lavished on it, so a person's speech reveals his or her heart and mind.

Responsorial Psalm: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)

Death will be swallowed up in victory, and none of our labours will be in vain.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 6:39-45)

The value of a tree is shown by what it produces, and our speech wells up from what is in our hearts.



St. Mary's Gazette

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday:	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday:	9.30am	Mass
Wednesday:	9.30am	Mass & 7.00pm (Day of Fast & Abstinence)
Thursday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass	7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Friday:	8.30am School & 9.30am (Church) Mass	7.00pm Service for Victims of Abuse
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.



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





ASH WEDNESDAY

In the Roman Catholic Church, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the season of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. In Eastern Rite Catholic churches, Lent begins two days earlier, on Clean Monday.

Ash Wednesday always falls 46 days before Easter. Since Easter falls on a different date each year, Ash Wednesday does, too.

While Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, all Roman Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass on this day and to receive ashes on their foreheads in order to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

During Mass, the ashes which give Ash Wednesday its name are distributed. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday; many churches ask

their parishioners to return any palms that they took home so that they can be burned.

After the priest blesses the ashes and sprinkles them with holy water, the faithful come forward to receive them. The priest dips his right thumb in the ashes and, making the Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead, says, "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return" Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (or a variation on those words).

The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned, and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. The ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many Catholics leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility.

The Church emphasizes the penitential nature of Ash Wednesday by calling us to fast and abstain from meat. Catholics who are over the age of 18 and under the age of 60 are required to fast, which means that they can eat only one complete meal and two smaller ones during the day, with no food in between. Catholics who are over the age of 14 are required to refrain from eating any meat, or any food made with meat, on Ash Wednesday.

This fasting and abstinence is not simply a form of penance, however; it is also a call for us to take stock of our spiritual lives. As Lent begins, we should set specific spiritual goals we would like to reach before Easter and decide how we will pursue them—for instance, by going to daily Mass when we can and receiving the Sacrament of Confession more often.

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

24.02.19 £1540 £750 to Diocese of Motherwell £790 left to the Parish

300 Club Winner Norman Edge No. 264

Gift Aid & Collection Envelopes

Towards the end of next month we will be distributing the Gift Aid Collection Envelopes.

If you pay tax and donate to St Mary's then the tax you have paid to earn that donation can be reclaimed by the Parish. This is a very useful source of income for the Parish. If you are eligible to Gift Aid and don't do it, then please consider sign a Gift Aid Declaration. These will be available in the next few weeks.

Please also re-examine your donations. How long have you been giving the same amount? If you donated £5 in 2010 then you would need to give £6.59 today for it to have the same buying power!

St Mary's - Justice and Peace

As a community, we continue to give our support to the local food bank and recently we have donated a large quantity of clothing to the Wayside Club.

This is faith in action, but we are all called to do more. By setting ourselves up as a community committed to Justice and Peace, as part of the wider Justice and Peace movement, we can make a significant difference to our environment and to the world.

The scope of Justice and Peace reaches topics wider than the obvious title suggests; Education, Poverty, Human Rights, Environmental Issues, Abortion and Euthanasia laws, Water, Press Freedom, Inter-Faith and Culture, Slavery. The list is almost endless.

There must be a topic which you feel strongly about, to this end please make your name known to Jim Moynagh on 07940 516461 so that we can start to carry out what God is asking us to do.

This message is to all parishioners, children, teenagers, adults, families, singles, married or otherwise!

Lenten Retreat

St Mary's will be participating in the Ignatian Spirituality Centre online retreat again this year. If you would like to join us you can book online at www.lentretreat.uk There are books available with the daily meditations for those who do not want to access it online. We will be meeting every Wednesday during Lent at 7.30 in the church meeting rooms. If you are interested in joining us or getting a book contact Gemma 07891918374.

Day of Prayer for those who have Suffered Abuse - Friday 8th March

The Bishops of Scotland have established A Day of Prayer for those who have suffered abuse to be marked each year on the Friday following Ash Wednesday. There will be a Service in St Mary's on Friday evening at 7.00pm, praying for all who have suffered from abuse in any setting and in any form.

Lenten Encounters

The diocesan Mission & Evangelisation Team has arranged three Lenten Encounters during the coming weeks: a Lenten Day of Reflection, a Lenten Saturday Day of Prayer and 4 sessions of Contemplative Theology. Please see the posters for more information.

Fundraiser for Lanark Celtic Supporters Club & St Mary's

Saturday 16th March 7.30 - 11.45 Tickets cost £10. Live music from "The Words". Raffle and auction of Celtic Memorabilia. Please contact Frank Keenan on 664865 or 07484218363.