

**St Monica's Parish**  
**Diocese of Motherwell**  
Registered Charity SC011041  
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Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

**SUNDAY MASSES:** Vigils at 4pm & 5.30pm, 10 am, 12Noon & 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** Mon – Sat 10am

**CONFESSIONS:** 30 min before the mass in the Sacristy

**Baptisms:** Speak to Fr Ghislain.

**Marriages:** Please speak to Fr Ghislain. Please note 6 months' notice is required.

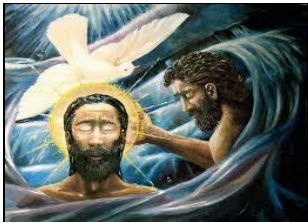
**Sunday 10th January 2021- Baptism of the Lord**

**First Reading:** Is 55,1-11

**Responsorial Psalm.** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation

**Second Reading** 1John 5:1-9

**Gospel:** Mk1:7-11



**Baptism**

The story of a Christian's life is the story of a relationship with Christ.

This relationship begins at the baptism. The life for each of us took on a completely different meaning when our parents decided to have us baptised. Christ meets us at the start of our earthly journey. He links his life to ours. Through him we become children of God and heirs to eternal life. But he does not leave us to struggle through life on our own. He offers himself to us through the Eucharist as the invisible companion of our journey. He also makes available to us the support of the Christian community. He will also come to meet us at the hour of our death. It sounds so simple and so wonderful. Yet complications can arise. Our knowledge of God, and the things of God, is so limited. Our vision is so clouded. Each of us is plagued with weaknesses, and our path is strewn with puzzles, temptation and difficulties of one kind or another. Little wonder then that we sometimes make mistakes. We go down roads that lead nowhere. Above all, we forget the Christ, who came to meet us at the start of our lives. However, we must not lose heart and hope. Christ understands us better than we understand ourselves. Even though we may forget him, he doesn't forget us.

The question for us today is: what have I done with the Baptism I received. Am I being true to the direction in which I was pointed at baptism?" The need is to believe with understanding; and to follow Christ out of personal conviction.



**500 Club, 27.12.20**

1<sup>st</sup>: B. McLean No.541 £30  
2<sup>nd</sup> K. Mitchellson No. 95 £15  
3<sup>rd</sup> M. McCann No.94 £10

**500 Club, 03.01.21**

1<sup>st</sup> H. O'Grady No .15 £30  
2<sup>nd</sup> W.Hay No. 471 £15  
3<sup>rd</sup> F. Haley No. 42 £10

**Last Sunday Collection: £ 602.63**

Thank you for your generosity.

Your financial support of the Parish in recent months has been appreciated and I would ask you to please continue to show your support during this latest lockdown.

If you wish to donate your weekly offering to the parish online below are the parish bank details.

**Account Name: RCDM St Monica's Coatbridge**

**Sort Code: 83 17 13**

**Account Number: 00163062**



During the lockdown you will still be able to join us daily by following the mass live via Facebook and You Tube at 10am.

8 January 2021.

**Rt Rev. Joseph Toal** STB KC\*HS  
**Bishop of Motherwell**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you well and safe at this very difficult time. I offer my prayerful support for all who are ill, and for those adversely affected by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our lives.

As we are well aware, the gravity of the threat posed by the more rapid spread of the virus in recent weeks led to the Scottish Government introducing a law telling us all to stay at home unless we have an essential reason for leaving our homes. My understanding of the need for such a law is the severity of the situation we are in and the resulting need to limit moments of physical social contact with one another as much as possible. Presented with this reality, it is right to assess whether we should gather together for services of public worship and my judgement as a Catholic Bishop is that we should not gather for Mass or other public services while we are required by law to stay at home for our own safety and that of other people. I recognise though that there will be critical moments during this extraordinary period for some people to leave their houses and gather in a church for an essential reason, most notably, but perhaps not exclusively, for the Funeral Mass of a loved one.

The Scottish Government, as well as requiring us to stay at home, has mandated that places of worship be closed, apart from services for the celebration of marriages and funerals. It is argued by some that the Government should not have imposed this regulation on religious bodies, and the Scottish Catholic Bishops have expressed this view, and it does feel that the Churches and others could have made this decision ourselves in a spirit of cooperation and understanding with the Government in of the difficulties

we face. Although some do object, I think the majority of Catholics in the Diocese of Motherwell, both lay faithful and clergy, agree that we would accept the closure of our churches for our regular acts of worship as a necessary consequence of being required to stay at home. There is a sacrifice in this, and a loss of the spiritual benefit and consolation we experience particularly in the Celebration of the Eucharist, but it has to be recognised that the previous limits in numbers at our services have restricted attendance and some have not felt able to return to church despite the precautions in place. The present closure of our churches means we all share in the gravity of our present vulnerability and have to rely on our personal and family resources of faith, which are often deeper than we realise, and the enhanced offering of on-line and audio services which our parishes have learned to facilitate in recent times. We can still receive much spiritual sustenance, and our prayer-life and our communion with the Lord, and with one another in his Body, should continue and perhaps grow in depths as we seek the Lord's help and the intercession of Mary and the Saints in our present need.

I and the clergy of the Diocese offer our prayers and support to you through our continued celebration of Mass, which we have the great privilege of offering daily. We hope and pray that the present physical separation may not be prolonged, and that we may return in due course to the normal liturgical, sacramental and social life in our parishes with renewed spiritual vigour and hope in the Lord's goodness, and in our compassion for one another and those most in need.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours in Christ,



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**Please remember in your prayers:**

**Recently Dead:** Patricia Lockett, John McEnaney, John McKay

**Sick:** Leigh McKennan, John Clenaghan, Jean Graham, James Carr, Linda Webb, James McLaughlin, Isabelle Marshall, Mrs Cecelia Greig, Mrs Ann & Mr John McShane, Mrs Elizabeth McKenna, Mr Jim Docherty, Mary Forsyth, Mary & Joseph Cope

**Months Mind:** Fr Cornelius Xavier O'Leary, Mrs Helen, Margaret & Agnes Docherty, Mr William & Patrick Docherty, Mrs Anna & Joseph Pearson, Mrs Mary & Mr Edward Drummond, Mr Alex Thain, Frank & Agnes Wilson, Bernard, Lily, Liam, John & Brian Loney, James, Elizabeth & Sadie Prunty

**Anniversaries:** Joseph Cullen Jukes, Catherine Tobin, Ellen Slevin, Betty Halliday



**Please also remember the souls who have no one to pray for them**