

St Monica's Parish Diocese of Motherwell

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Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

SUNDAY MASSES: Livestream 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES: Livestream Mon – Sat 10am

Stations of the Cross: Livestream Mon & Fri 6pm

CONFESSIONS: Please contact Fr Ghislain

Baptisms: Speak to Fr Ghislain

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

Sunday 21 March, 5th Sunday Lent Year B

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

Responsorial Psalm: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Second Reading: Hb 5:7-9 Gospel: Jn 12: 20-33

Reflection 5th Sunday Lent- The seed must die.

Just as a grain of wheat must die so as to produce a harvest, so we must die to self in order to bear the fruits of love and realise our full potential as human beings and children of God. This dying to self is a gradual process and happens in little ways. Every act of humility involves dying to pride. Every act of courage involves dying to cowardice. Every act of kindness involves dying to cruelty. Every act of love involves dying to selfishness. Thus, the false-self dies, and the true-self, made in God's image, in born and nurtured. It is by giving that we receive; it is by forgiving that we are forgiven. It is by dying that we are born to eternal life.

Death is part of life. We are born to die, to die that we may live more fully; born to die a little each day to selfishness, to pretence, and to sin. Every time we pass from one stage of life to another something is us dies and something new is born. We taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure. We are dying

before our time when we live in bitterness, in hatred, and isolation. Each day we are creating our own death by the way we live.

When Jesus says, "Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it," he is not telling us to hate ourselves or our lives. We have to learn to love ourselves. God want us to be merciful with ourselves. Nobody can love us if we do not love ourselves. Unless we love ourselves we won't be able to love anyone else. Of course, we have to distinguish between true love of self and selfishness. To forget self, to transcend self- that is what it means to lose oneself, to deny self, to die to self. It is when we forget ourselves that we are most free and most happy. It is getting out of ourselves, in dedicating ourselves to causes beyond ourselves, that we grow and bear fruit. We may live longer if we take things easy. What a poor world it would be if everyone put their own personal safety, security, and selfish advancement first and last-if no one was prepared to go beyond themselves. It is always because people have been prepared to die to self-interest that the most precious things humanity possesses have been born.

Church re- opening 26 March 2021

Although 'Places of Worship' can re-open for 'communal worship' from 26th March 2021 allowing up to 50 people to attend subject to social distancing, there is no change at this time regarding the following.

Funerals (maximum of 20 attending), Weddings (maximum of 5 attending). Baptisms will take place during the 12noon mass until further notice.

<u>Lenten Zoom meetings - Journeying with Jesus</u>

Fr Tom Magill is organising a series of four Zoom meetings during Lent, taking place on four Sunday evenings from 7.00 - 7.30 pm. Join people from throughout the diocese for 30 minutes of prayer and reflection on four Sundays of Lent. Please register your interest through the email on the flyer missions@rcdom.org.uk. You will then be sent a link for the meetings.

Aid to the Church in Need in Scotland

Aid to the Church in Need in Scotland has produced its first parish newsletter (internet link below) which contains a number of excellent Lenten Resources, especially for children.

In this way, ACN hopes that you and your parish can work with ACN to support the suffering Church this Lent. They have come up with some virtual ways to generate prayer, pass on information about the work of ACN and fundraise as well. ACN would particularly like to highlight their virtual Sunday Lenten Lunch on 21st March.

The internet link for the bulletin is: http://bit.ly/ACN_PARISH_NEWSLETTER_1

ACN wishes to thank all parishes for all for everything that you are doing to support the work of ACN in Scotland



Monday	10am	Requiem Mass for
		John (Jack) Whelan
		Stations of the Cross
	6pm	
Tuesday	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday	10am	Holy Mass
Thursday		The Annunciation of our Lord -
		Solemnity
	10am	Holy Mass
Friday	10am	Holy Mass
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday	10am	Palm Sunday - Holy Mass



During the lockdown you will still be able to join us daily by following the mass live via Facebook and You Tube at 10am & 6pm on a Monday and Friday for Stations of the Cross

Sponsor A Tile

The names of everyone who has been sponsored and the sponsor have been recorded in a "Book of Dedication" which will now become part of our parish history.

Anyone who would like to sponsor a tile can still do so. As we are unable to give out sponsor forms at the moment simply write your name and address and the name of the intended on a piece of paper. Place this and your donation in an envelope and pop it through the door at the chapel house.

This is a lovely way to remember a loved one, celebrate a Sacramental event or remember a special event in your life. This appeal has already been a successful way to raise much needed funds to make improvements in our church.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Weekly Offering

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 Sort Code: 83 17 13
Account Number: 00163062

Church Renovations

Despite COVID 19 the aim is to keep the Church refurbishments on track, and I am appealing to you to continue to financially support this project.

Donations to the Building Fund can be made by handing in an envelope to the presbytery, by setting up a standing order or making a one-off donation.

If you know or work for a local company who would be willing to make a donation, please get in touch.

Gift Aid

Is a government scheme which allows our parish to reclaim tax paid on donations.

We can claim from HMRC, the basic rate of tax on any donations which have been paid. Gift Aid increases the value of donations by 25%, so it means even more money goes to our church – and it won't cost you extra!

For anyone paying tax, please consider using Gift Aid as it means our parish will receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, please complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible.

Gift Aid Application Form

Gift Aid Envelopes for year 2021/22 are now available for collection from the box at the front of the Presbytery.

SCIAF - Wee Box Big Change

Every Lent, the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, thousands of Scots save money in their SCIAF WEE BOX to help give a hand up to people living in poverty.

By giving up a treat and putting what you save into a WEE BOX or fundraising online, you can make a lasting difference to families in some of the world's poorest countries.

By raising money for the Wee Box Appeal, you can help children with disabilities in South Sudan to access the education and support they need to build a bright future.

This year £1=£2 from 12 February to 11 May, all public donations to the Wee Box Big Change Appeal will be doubled by the UK Government.

Boxes can be collected from the front of the Presbytery.

Sacraments for Children

The parish has scheduled the celebration of sacraments for children, though we are still uncertain if our churches will be open.

First Reconciliation: Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th April 2021, at 6pm First Reconciliation Request Form

First Communion: Saturday 22nd May 2021 at 11am and 1pm Sunday 23rd May 2021 at 2pm.

First Holy Communion Request Form

Confirmation: Monday 24th May & Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7pm Confirmation Request Form

To enrol your child for these sacraments, parents are advised to download the application form on the parish website www.saint-monica.org.uk, contact Fr Ghislain or St Monica's Primary School.

Please remember in your prayers:



Recently Dead: Agnes Cecelia Brennan, John (Jack) Whelan

<u>Sick:</u> John Clenaghan, Jean Graham, James Carr, Linda Webb, James McLaughlin, Mrs Cecelia Greig, Ann & John McShane, Elizabeth McKenna, Mary Forsyth, Isabella Devine, Nicolas Hardy, Joan Violet Mitchell

Months Mind: John & Bridie Docherty, Eddie McGonigal, Tommy & Thomas Docherty

Anniversaries: Annie Docherty

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

St Monica's Church Holy Week and Easter Services

OCI VICES		
Friday 26th March	† 8am & 10am: Holy Mass	
	† 6pm: Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 27 th	† 10am: Holy Mass	
Vigil Masses	† 4pm & 5.30pm: Vigil Mass	
Palm Sunday	† 8.30am, 10am, 12Noon & 5pm: Holy Mass	
Monday	† 8am & 10am: Holy Mass	
	† 6pm: Stations of the Cross	
Tuesday	† 8am & 10am: Holy Mass	
	† 7pm: Penitential Service & Confession	
Wednesday	† 8am &10am: Holy Mass	
	† 10.30am – 6pm: Exposition of the Holy	
	Sacrament & Confession	
The Easter Triduum		
Thursday	† 9.30am: Morning Prayer of the Church	
	† 7pm: Mass of the Last Supper	
	† 9pm: Night Prayer of the Church	
Good Friday	† 9.30am: Morning Prayer of the Church	
	† The Passion of the Lord Services 12Noon, 3pm & 7pm	
	† 9pm: Night Prayers	
Saturday	† 10am: Morning Prayer of the Church	
	† 6pm & 8pm: Easter Vigil	
Easter Sunday	† 9am,10.30am,12Noon There will be no evening mass	

Prayer to Saint Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;
O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us
and from heaven assist us in our struggle
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.