



St Monica's Church

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

Telephone: 01236 421750 Mobile: 07747259800

Diocese of Motherwell

Charity No. SC011041

Email: stmonica@rcdom.org.uk

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Parish Hall: Email: stmonicashall@outlook.com

Tele: - 07464254377



Parish Priest: Father Ghislain B. Mulumanzi

1st Sunday of Lent - A 26th February, 2023

Holy Mass

Mon - Fri: - 10am

Saturday: - 10am, 4pm (Vigil)

Sunday: - 10am 12 Noon & 5pm

Children's Liturgy 12 Noon Mass

Earlier Mass during Lent:

St James: Wednesdays & Fridays 7.30am

St Monica's: Tuesdays & Thursdays 7.30am

Eucharistic Adoration: -Mon - Sat 9am - 9.55am

Divine Mercy Novena: Mon 2pm

Confessions: Mon - Sun 9.30am - 9.55am

Baptisms & Marriage: - To arrange a baptism or marriage please contact Father Ghislain

Mass Liturgy - Year A

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First Reading: Gn 2: 7-9.3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: **Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned**

Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19

Gospel: Mt 4: 1-11

Weekly Collection

Please support your parish through the weekly collection, our income relies solely on the donations of our parishioners.

Last Week's Collection - £937.22

There will be a second collection this weekend for our Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity

500 Club Winners

1st Prize - No. 59 E McNeill

2nd Prize - No. 236 A Starrs

3rd Prize- No. 667 A Dier

Please keep in your prayers

Sick: Ann & John McShane & Family, Linda Webb, Isobel Reilly, Carol McGuinness, Pauline O'Rourke, Anne Marie Snodden, James Donnelly, Patricia McGhee, Bernadette Homer, Kelly Noble, Michael McGarrity, Sadie McBride, Mary Torbett, Sharon, Elizabeth McKenna, Alex Cooper, Sr Kathleen Owens, Linda Webb, Ann Smith, Helen Smith, Margaret Gallagher, Alice Kilmurry, Danny Dick, Peter Alexander, Ann McAlinden, Mary Cunningham, Theresa Docherty, Jim Quin, Patricia McGhee, Margaret Wallace

RIP: Moira Hannaway, Brian Nicol, Timmy Starrs, Charles Toner

Month's Mind: John, Margaret, James & Anne Marie Deigan, Mr & Mrs Peter Deigan & Brian, Mr & Mrs Deigan Snr & Jnr, Mr & Mrs Prost, Mr & Mrs Fagan, Mr & Mrs Frank Grant & Marie, Mr & Mrs Tommy Deigan, Ryan Brown, Jack Gill, Tommy, Annie & Thomas Docherty, Tommy Gallagher, Sadie Slowey, Patsy Robertson, Lawrence, William & Mary Brankin, William, Ellen & Annie Brankin, Joseph, Agnes, Eddie & Joe Mina, Brian, Patricia & Brian Sharkey, John & Kevin McGrath, Kathleen Smith, David Hayton, Mary McSwiggan, Tom Sharp, Tommy McMullen, Paul McMullen Jnr, James & Cathie McCracken, John & Bessie McMullen, John & Betty McMullen, Mary, Jack & Brian Mairs, Agnes, Eddie & John McFadyen, John Reid, John Albert, Sallie Fulton

Anniversaries: Sarah Innes, Margaret Wilson, Anna McGrath, May McMullen,

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

St Andrew's Hospice Community Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Then please come along to our Community Choir on a Tuesday evening 7pm-8pm held with the Hospice Chapel

St Andrew's Hospice - Make a Will Month - March 2023

Make or update your Will and support St Andrew's Hospice during the month of March. Several Lanarkshire Legal Firms have agreed to write a basic Will or update an existing Will and waive their legal fee, in return for a donation to St Andrew's Hospice. For further information please contact Lorna McCafferty, Trusts, Legacy and Individual Giving Manager at St Andrew's Hospice on 01236 772087 or email lorna.mccafferty@standrews.scot.nhs.uk or visit the Hospice website :-www.st-andrews-hospice.com for details of the Solicitors taking part.

Stations of the Cross

Every Monday during the season of Lent
at 7pm

Letter from Bishop Toal

20th February 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish you all well. Thank you for your prayers and good wishes in recent times while I have been recuperating from hip surgery. I am feeling the benefit of the operation and I trust I will now be more mobile. Lent approaches, and I wish to offer my encouragement that we observe this Holy Season well through the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and thus prepare fully for the celebration of the mysteries of Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection in Holy Week and at Easter.

We begin Lent by accepting the blessed ashes on our foreheads as we hear the words Repent and believe in the Gospel. The call to repent is very direct and asks for a response. It requires a recognition that something is not right, sin has been committed, and that it is now time to change, to be sorry for what has happened and to be determined that it does not happen again. The Word of the Lord we hear on Ash Wednesday and through Lent tell us that listening to and believing in the Gospel will help bring about the change in our lives implied by repentance. There is a sense though that this does not happen easily or quickly, but requires a concerted effort and determination to keep going. Thus we have the six weeks of Lent through which the call to repentance is repeated and we are instructed to continually turn to God, listening to his Word and seeking his help in our weakness and our tendency not to persevere. Lent is then a time of spiritual struggle, sometimes called combat, in which we entrust our lives to God and ask his mercy and grace as we seek to truly repent, turn away from sin, and live stronger, better, lives as

believers and faithful followers of Christ, the Saviour who gave up his life for us and asks us to follow in his footsteps.

An important moment in our Lenten discipline is the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through which we confess our sins, expressing our awareness of personal failings and our need for repentance, promising to leave sin behind, and receiving the Lord's forgiveness in the words of Absolution. It is indeed a decisive moment in our lives when we come to the Sacrament, full of repentance, and there experience the welcome the Lord offers the sinner and the mercy he bestows on us when we seek his forgiveness. There is something deeply personal and reassuring in receiving the Lord's forgiveness having made what we call a good confession. I exhort and encourage you to make sure this is an important part of your Lent.

When the fear and disruption that Covid brought was at its height, I thought it pastorally good to offer

people the possibility of receiving the great comfort of the Lord's forgiveness through the words of Absolution in a communal manner. In this extraordinary time, during which faith has been challenged and people have needed encouragement to come back to its regular practice, I did feel it right to offer the faithful this opportunity of celebrating the Sacrament with General Absolution. I am aware, though, that it is not the norm and it cannot replace individual confession and Absolution.

During this Lent therefore I encourage you to make an individual confession and thus receive Absolution for your sins.

I am aware the recent services with General Absolution were well attended in a number of parishes and much appreciated spiritually by those who participated. I would recommend that Communal Services of Reconciliation continue to be celebrated, with individual confession offered when possible. Recent experience has brought the communal aspect of the Sacrament to the fore, and I think we need to continue to discern how and when that can be celebrated. I wish to reflect further on it, listen to others, both locally and across the Church, and pray for wisdom in following the Church's teaching and guiding its celebration in such a necessary sacrament here in Motherwell Diocese.

Wishing you a fruitful and blessed Lent,
Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Toal

+ Joseph Toal

ST.PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL COATBRIDGE

2023

Saturday 11th March - Dinner Dance. Georgian Hotel, Lefroy Street. 3 course meal and music from Quigley's Point. Seated by 7.30pm Tickets £40 from Columba Club, Candy Store Whifflet, and www.wegotickets.com

Sunday 12th March 7.30 pm. Annual Lecture. St. Patrick's Hall, St. John Street.

Dr. Michael Connolly will speak about Celtic's primary founder Brother Walfrid and Dr Joseph Bradley will reflect on the great hunger in Ireland, Irish immigration and what this meant for Catholicism in Scotland. £3 pay at door.

Sponsored by The Skinnider Centre, Academy Street. Saturday 18th March - Annual Family Street Event.

Coatbridge Town Centre. 10.30 to 2.30. Music and Dance in the Select Blinds Marquee and street events for all the family

SCIAF

The SCIAF wee boxes are now available to collect from the church porch.

Gas Bill for January

Our gas bill for heating the church for the month of January was £4,407.02.

Fontes

The brand new Diocesan Magazine is available from the porch from today. This is a free magazine sharing the life of our Diocese. It details history, news from our schools along with many other articles of interest.

Please take one and support this new initiative.

Lenten reflection:

CATHOLICS AND SUNDAY MASS

How do you survive being married to a very faithful Catholic?

TWO ALTERNATIVES

Why can't Catholics pray at home instead of going to Mass?

Catholics can and do pray at home. They don't do it as a substitute for going to Mass because it is a different from prayer and has a different purpose. It's not simply a question of choosing one of two alternatives. Christians are essentially a group of people who believe in Jesus Christ and try to follow his way. They are a community of believers. If the members of any family community never have any contact with one

another they soon cease to be united and disintegrate into isolation.

Catholics attend Mass because it is the culmination of their lives as Christians. In the Mass they are united to one another and to Christ in a unique and personal way. But they pray at home as well.

SUNDAY EXCUSE

My Catholic husband uses Sunday Mass as an excuse not to visit my family. Surely the Church shouldn't be used to cause trouble in families?

You are right, the Church shouldn't be used to cause trouble. In fact, the opposite is the truth: Christianity should be the means of healing over differences and divisions. You husband has an obligation to attend Sunday Mass, but he also has an equally serious obligation to share his life with you and to work towards unity and harmony within your marriage. He must work out, with your help and support, how he may best fulfil all his obligations. If he doesn't like your family and is seeking an excuse not to see them he is very wrong to use the Church as the reason. In doing so he is betraying the principles of his faith.

SELF-CONSCIOUS

When I go to Mass with my husband I feel left out and self-conscious because I am unfamiliar with the prayers. I am also uneasy in case I'll be expected to do something I'm, not ready for: I feel everyone's staring at me. Wouldn't it be better if I didn't go at all?

The feeling of being stared at in unfamiliar surroundings is understandable. But be assured that people are **not** staring at you. Most Catholics are not the least bit concerned about what anyone else is doing during Mass - and many of them have their own idiosyncrasies! Some Catholics do not join in the prayers, for example, so you won't be alone if you remain silent.

Ask your husband to show you the book or leaflet you need to follow the Mass - and also where the responses are indicated. Once you get used to the form the Mass takes you will feel much more relaxed.

There are a few days during the year when there are special ceremonies: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, for example. If you attend these ask your husband to run through the ceremony with you beforehand so that you'll know what to expect.

INSENSITIVE PRIESTS

I've been to Mass with my husband on a number of occasions and it never seems to occur to the priest that there might be people in the congregation who are not Catholics. Why are they so insensitive?

Most Catholic priests would be delighted to know that people who are not Catholics are present in their congregation, especially if they are husband or wife of a parishioner. You are probably right when you say, "It doesn't occur to them". It would undoubtedly help if you made yourself known to the parish priest, or perhaps your husband could introduce you.

FEAST DAYS

I can understand my wife going to Mass on Sundays but why does she have to go during the week as well if some special "feast day" crops up?

The days you refer to are called "holy-days of obligation". These are days of special solemnity in the Church's calendar which Catholics observe by going to Mass – rather in the same way that families celebrate birthdays or anniversaries.

DILEMA

Am I expected to take the children to Mass on Sunday if my wife is ill?

No, you are not expected to take them. If they are old enough, they can take themselves, if they are too young to do that then there is no obligation for them to attend Mass. If the problem is one of distance or transport then the decision is yours. Certainly, you have no obligation in this matter. It would simply be a question of whether you wished to take them on behalf of your wife.

BORING MASS

I have been to Mass a few times with my wife and two young children and it has always been boring. Why?

In some parishes, sadly the Mass nearly always is boring – even for Catholics. These are usually parishes where not very much care seems to be taken over the Mass by priest or people. Half-hearted signing, inaudible readers and dull, uninspiring sermons are some of the symptoms. Obviously, it should not be like that. The Mass is a celebration of Christ's presence among us. In the Mass Catholics believe they come into contact with Christ and that their prayers are united to his. This happens whether the ceremonies are "performed" well or not. Nevertheless, priest and people have a

responsibility to see that the meaning of the Mass is conveyed in the way it is celebrated.

In places where the Mass is celebrated in a lifeless and off-hand manner, some Catholics "shop around" for another parish where the Mass is celebrated with care, dignity and beauty. "Shopping around" is not ideal because everyone should worship with their own parish community. But it's sometimes very understandable – especially for families with young children.

LEFT OUT

Must my wife take our son to Mass every Sunday? I feel left out and he is beginning to as: "Why doesn't Daddy come to Mass"?

If your son has made his First Holy Communion your wife is expected to ensure that he practices his faith and attends Mass regularly. But it is important that she does not use your son to bring pressure on you to alter your views or to "blackmail" you into attending Mass.

You and you wife should explain to your son, as simply as you can, that you do not share the same faith. The mutual respect you show to each other in this matter will help him to understand your differences of belief.

When your son is old enough, he will be able to decide whether to go to Mass with your wife, or on his own, or with his friends.

FROM CHURCH TO PUB

Many Catholics go to Mass every Sunday and then straight across to the pub. Doesn't that indicate that the Mass doesn't mean a lot to them?

No. It could mean the opposite. Perhaps they so enjoyed meeting their friends at Mass that they didn't want to part company straight away! There's nothing wrong with social contact after religious service: coffee and biscuits in the hall, a glass of sherry at a friend's house or a pint at the pub or club. None of these lessens the sincerity of the religious service.

Christ's message is all about loving and caring for one **another** and the value of friendship. Of course, if we stay too long at such a gathering or neglect our families, causing disharmony at home as a result, then we do need to question our behaviour. But that would apply to attending the religious service too.