



## St Monica's Church

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

Telephone: 01236 421750

Diocese of Motherwell

Charity No. SC011041

Email: [stmonica@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stmonica@rcdom.org.uk)

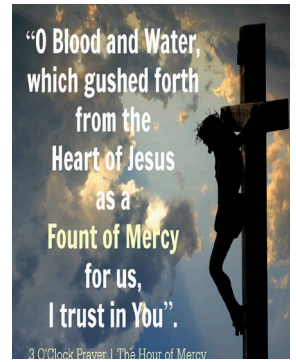
Website: <http://saint-monica.org.uk>

Facebook/You Tube: St Monica's Parish Coatbridge

Parish Hall: Email: [stmonicashall@outlook.com](mailto:stmonicashall@outlook.com)

Tele: - 07549042450 Mary Cope

Parish Priest: Father Ghislain B. Mulumanzi



### 26th Sunday, Year A. 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023

#### Holy Mass & Services

Mon - Fri: 10am

Saturday: 10am, 4pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 10am, 12 Noon & 5pm

Children's Liturgy 12 Noon Mass

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

#### Parish Mass Book, Page 77

- First Reading: Ez 18: 25-28
- **Responsorial Psalm: Remember your mercy, Lord**
- Second Reading: Phil 2: 1-11
- Gospel: Mt 21: 28-32

#### Weekly Collection

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

#### Last week's collection

First Collection : £750.78

Second Collection: £589.16

**There is a second collection next weekend for our Building Fund**

Thank you for your generosity.

#### 500 Club Winners!

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 63 M McKeegans

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 13 R McPhee

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: 224 J Gallagher

#### 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, Kelly Noble, Michael McGarrity, Sadie McBride, Mary Torbett, Sharon, Elizabeth McKenna, Alex Cooper, Sr Kathleen Owens, Ann Smith, Helen Smith, Margaret Gallagher, Alice Kilmurry, Danny Dick, Peter Alexander, Ann McAlinden, Mary Cunningham, Patricia McGhee, Margaret Wallace, Irene Leckie, Kay McDonagh, Daniel McAuley, Mary Glasgow, John Slevin, Cathie Wilson, Angela Quigley, Matthew Miller, Carrie Miller, Dorothy Burns, Sam McGovern, Margaret Trower, Andrew Maxwell

**RIP:** John Kane Requiem Mass Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 10am, John McGuinness Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, George McCann

**Month's Mind:** James, Elizabeth & Sadie Prunty, Sadie & Ann Craig, Fr Frank Kelly, Anne Holmes, Anthony McGowan, Lawrence, William, & Mary Brankin, William, Ellen & Annie Brankin, John, Anna, Kevin McGrath, Kathleen Smith, David Hayton, Joseph, Agnes, Eddie & Joe Mina, Brian, Patricia & Brian Jnr Sharkey, Tom Sharp, Anne Marie, John, Margaret, James, Mr & Mrs Peter Deigan & Brian, Mr & Mrs Deigan Snr & Jnr, Mr & Mrs Prost, Mr & Mrs John Fagan, Mr & Mrs Frank Grant & Marie, Mr & Mrs Tommy Deigan, Jack Gill, Ryan Brown, Margaret McAvoy, May & Jimmy McLaughlin, Kathleen & Peter Dolan, Mattie, Tommy & Thomas Collins, Tilly & Marie Clarke, Jim Boyle, Frank & Agnes Wilson

**Anniversary:** Arthur Craig, Margaret Harkins, Mary McSwiggan

**60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** David & Margaret Reilly

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



Diocesan Centre  
Coursington Road  
Motherwell  
ML1 1PP

**Rt Rev. Joseph Toal**  
**STB KC\*HS**

**Bishop of Motherwell**

26th September 2023

## **PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP TOAL**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the Assembly in Rome for the Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, and Mission, approaches this coming weekend, the Church everywhere prays for those present and asks the Holy Spirit to guide and bless their work on our behalf.

In the Synodal journey to date, much has been said about listening, and Jesus himself often encourages attentive listening – ‘Saying this he cried *“Listen anyone who has ears to hear”* (Lk.8:8)’. In his preaching he invited people to listen to God, firstly in the tradition of the Jewish people, then to his own words as the Son of God, and then also to the words of those he sends out to speak in his name. He recognises that listening is not easy as we are inclined to want to assert our own opinions and persuade others that we are right and that they should follow what we want.

An important lesson I have understood better in recent times is to listen attentively to people whose physical and mental health is declining. I was struck by the sense that words, and the ability to hear them, become more precious as people grow frailer and what they manage to say less distinct. Jesus himself dying on the Cross is an example of this – how precious his words from that pulpit of great suffering and approaching death have become for us. Think for a moment of his words to Mary and John – *“Woman, this is your Son”* and *“This is your Mother”* (Jn. 19:25-26). Mary and John heard these words because they were faithful to the end and had chosen to stand below the Cross. We would surmise that they were hyper-attentive to each gasp for breath and each word Jesus managed to get out. We have received their precious testimony and can hear the Lord speaking to each one of us as he gives us Mary as Our Mother also.

I read words recently from Pope Francis reflecting on meekness, and he emphasised that we are more likely to be aware of the Lord himself and his words to us when we are meek before him, and somewhat vulnerable. When we are inclined to be assertive and self-assured, we are less likely to hear Jesus. He invites us therefore to be humble of heart and ever

attentive, so that we can bear witness to others in a humble, respectful, and understanding manner.

Sometimes the Synodal process has been presented as a new way of being Church. I have wondered about this terminology as it can be seen as radically different from what has gone before. An alternate could be to talk of a renewed vision of what the Church is. In that sense we are being called to rediscover an important part of the Church’s nature and way of interacting and communicating which may have been dormant for some time.

When we read the Acts of the Apostles, sometimes we focus too quickly on the Day of Pentecost and the extraordinary manifestation of the Holy Spirit and the resulting boldness of the Apostles as they preached their faith in the crucified and risen Lord and baptised those who believed. However, the great descent of the Holy Spirit was preceded by nine days of intensive prayer in the wake of the Lord’s Ascension into Heaven. This period of reflection and prayer was shared by the community of believers in Jerusalem – “the Apostles (including Matthias), and a number of women, including Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and his brothers.” (Acts 1:16). It sounds synodal, in that all the faithful had space to participate and for their voices heard both in the prayer, and in the conversation and discussion which must have happened through these nine days. The result was that they experienced the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit, which confirmed the twelve Apostles in their particular ministry of preaching in Jesus’s name, but also the whole original community who remembered the Lord with such love and devotion and chose to live the Christian life to the full, as described throughout the Acts of the Apostle.

On many occasions when important decisions were required, the praying of the community for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and indeed their fasting, was an essential part of the process of discernment of the right path to choose. This discernment by the apostolic community would have been a feature of the Council of Jerusalem also. In being attentive therefore to the lived experience of the Church in Jerusalem in these early days, we can gain a renewed sense of the Church’s nature, in which the participation and contribution of the “lay members” accompanied the apostles and was an essential part of the apostolic discernment and leadership.

Looking at the terms presented in the preparation for the Synod – Communion, Participation, and Mission – there is reassurance that, through the lens of these words, we are living and operating as the Church, the People of God, in the way we have

always done and will continue to do so. We are a Communion of People, which has grown through the ages, and is spread across the whole world, which believes and celebrates the Faith we have received from the Lord and his followers from apostolic times. It has been passed down to us through Holy Scripture and our Sacred Tradition, guided and protected by the enduring presence of the Holy Spirit and the Apostolic Succession.

The participation of believers in this communion comes through our Baptism and the subsequent reception of the other Sacraments. We are continually encouraged to participate as fully as we can in the Church's life and worship, through the grace and mercy of God and with the support and encouragement of our fellow believers. The participation in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the high point of Christian worship, and the greatest gift left by the Lord for his followers. Through the Eucharist we are made aware of his abiding presence within and among us, and his constant invitation to receive his love and then share it with others.

Some questions arise though about participation, and throughout the Church's history it has been debated as to what limits be placed upon full participation in the Eucharist, both in being present at the celebration of the sacred mysteries, and then more particularly in being able to receive the Lord's Body and Blood. The Church has consistently favoured caution in not allowing those who are not in full communion with the Church, either in Catholic Faith or in their living of the Christian Moral Life, from receiving Holy Communion. Through the ages it has been a debated point, and remains so in the present day. In seeking discernment through the synodal path of praying, listening, and sharing, those participating in the Synod will take a close look at the theological truths and moral principles involved and their pastoral application in the lives of the faithful. We trust that, in adopting a renewed synodal approach, the Synod members will enhance pastoral understanding while preserving the teachings given to us by the Lord.

Through Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist, we become members of the Body of Christ, participating in his Priesthood. In this we offer our lives in Christ to the Father and receive the call to participate in the Mission he has given the Church on earth. All believers receive the call from the Lord to be joyful witnesses to Christ, at each stage in life and in every place. Whoever we are, the Lord asks us to give our lives in love to him and to show that love in our words and actions. This colossal on-going witness to the Lord is the living

heart of the Church, and it is the task of the Ordained Ministers to prepare and exhort all the baptised to play their fullest part in the Great Mission of witnessing to Christ to the end of the ages.

We carry a sense of awe and gratitude as we call to mind the rich tapestry of the Church's mission and growth since apostolic times. It is particularly fitting, and uplifting, that we recognise and uphold the outstanding example of the saints. This takes us back to Mary and St John at the foot of the Cross and the succession of faithful and loving witnesses to the Lord through the ages, who now share in the fullness of the Trinity's life in Heaven. We seek their intercession and pray that the Church in our day will be most attentive to the words of the Lord as we strive to do God's will today. We commend the work of the Synod particularly to the intercession of Mary and the Apostles, and invite your prayers throughout October, in your parishes and communities, for those attending the Synod, particularly for Bishop Brian McGee, our delegate from Scotland.

With my prayers and good wishes,  
Yours in Christ,



+ Joseph Toal



### **October - The Month of the Missions and devotion to the Holy Rosary**

The highlight of this month dedicated to the Missions is Mission Sunday - The World Day of Prayer for the Missions - on Sunday 22nd October.

Join us every **Monday at 7pm** for the prayer of the Holy Rosary in the church



#### **RCIA Programme**

It is time for the RCIA Programme to have begun in parishes. Anyone interested in becoming catholic or deepening their understanding of the faith, please speak to Fr Ghislain



#### **Baptism**

We welcome Sophia Grace Kennedy-Cooper who is to be Baptised this weekend. We implore God's blessing upon her and her family as we welcome her into our parish community.



Altar servers meeting on Friday 5pm.  
Would you like to become altar servers. Join us for  
the training on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm



**Notre Dame College of Education -50<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**

There will be a Day of Reunion on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>  
October 2023 in Turnbull Hall Chaplaincy with  
Mass at 12 noon to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the College. This will be followed by a finger-  
buffet upstairs in Turnbull Hall at 1.00 pm If  
any of your parishioners would like further  
information, they should email  
[eileenkidd@icloud.com](mailto:eileenkidd@icloud.com).



**ST MONICA'S SOCIAL EVENT - "Palais night"**

Much to our delight the tickets for this event are  
completely sold out. However, there are still a  
number of people looking for tickets. It would be  
much appreciated if anyone who has bought  
tickets but is unable to use them, would return  
then so that others who would like to attend may  
have the opportunity to do so.

Please return to either Fr Ghislain, or one of those  
who have been selling tickets. A refund will be  
given if requested. Thank you



The children's liturgy every Sunday at the  
**12noon** mass. All children who are due to  
make their Sacraments of Reconciliation, First  
Communion and Confirmation are  
encouraged to attend.

*Saints of the Week*

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** The Holy Guardian Angels  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** St Francis of Assisi  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** St Maria Faustina Kowalska  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October** Our Lady of the Rosary

**Participating in the Synod on Synodality in the  
Diocese of Motherwell**

As well as praying for the success of the Synod  
throughout the month of October in our parishes  
and communities, we will do so as a Diocese, led  
by Bishop Toal, at a special gathering for prayer  
and reflection on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**  
between **7 and 9pm in the Xavier Centre, Carfin.**

Delegates from each parish are invited, but  
anyone else who would like to attend is most  
welcome. Parish Priests are asked to nominate 3  
or 4 representatives from their parishes.

At this gathering, time will be spent in prayer  
followed by discussion and discernment on the  
three questions presented in the Working  
Document for the Synod. These questions are:

- How can we be more fully a sign and instrument  
of God and of the unity of all mankind?
- How can we better share gifts and tasks in the  
service of the Gospel?
- What processes, structures and institutions are  
needed in a Missionary Synodal Church?

Prayer Booklets and Prayer Cards have also been  
printed so that the whole People of God can make  
intercession for the success of the Synod. These  
booklets and prayer-cards can be found at the back  
of the church.

**Synod Prayer**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit as we  
gather together in Your Name.  
With you alone to guide us, make Yourself  
at home in our hearts; teach us the way we  
must go and how we are to pursue it.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the  
wrong path nor partiality influence our  
actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may  
journey together to eternal life and not  
stray from the way of the truth and what is  
right.

All of this week we ask You, who are at  
work in every place and time, in the  
communion of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen

*Wishing you all a  
**HAPPY SUNDAY***