

St Monica's Parish

Diocese of Motherwell

Registered Charity SC011041

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

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Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

SUNDAY MASSES: 10am in private as our church is closed to the public

WEEKDAY MASSES: Mon – Sat 9 am in private as our church is closed to the public

CONFESSIONS: on appointment.

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

Hall Bookings: No bookings are being taken as the hall is currently closed

Sunday 29th March: 5th Sunday of Lent Year A

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption

2nd Reading: Romans: 8:8-11

Gospel: Jn 11: 1-18

Readings for next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Year A

Procession: Mt21: 1-11;

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Mt26:14-27:66

Last Sunday's collection - £315.50

Special Collection - SCIAF £185

Thank you for your generosity and support.

First communion:

The celebration of the First communion in St Monica's has been cancelled. A new date will be arranged as soon the crisis of coronavirus is over.

5th Sunday Lent A. We are not alone.

There is a saying that: "If you think it's your alarm clock that made you wake up this morning, try to put it next to a dead body, and you will realize that it is by the grace of God that you wake up". Each morning we wake from the little death of sleep to find that our life has been given back to us. Life is such a precious thing. But, alas, we tend to take it for granted. What we must try to do is to receive it daily as a gift from God. Then we will not cease to be amazed at the wonder and mystery of life.

The Gospel story presents us with a scene which is too familiar to us- people weeping over the death of a loved one. In the village of Bethany Jesus had three special friends: the sisters, Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus. Their house remained always open to him. When Lazarus got sick, the two sisters turned for help to Jesus. "Lord, the man you love is ill." Their hope was that he would drop everything and come and cure him. But surprisingly Jesus did not rush to the bedside of his dying friend. His delay in coming must have been heart-breaking, depressing for the sisters. Right in front of their eyes their brother's life was ebbing away. And the one they believed could do something about it wasn't there.

Well, Lazarus died. The desolation experienced by Martha and Mary is one many families are experiencing now. We can't help thinking that if God really cared about us, if he really loved us, then he wouldn't have allowed this thing to

happen. We feel abandoned by God. We feel he has left us alone, destroyed by this dreadful virus. So, what can we do? We must try to imitate Martha. The story presents her as a model of faith. In her hour of grief, she ran to the Lord and poured out her sorrow to him. We have to go on praying, to go on believing in God. Neither a good life, nor a close relationship with God, will necessarily save a person from such a tragic situation. In the face of our pain all we can do is commend ourselves to God and abandon ourselves in his care. God is with us as our hope in adversity, and our strength in weakness. Jesus is a faithful friend. Even in death we are not beyond the reach of his help. He didn't leave Martha and Mary to grieve alone. He came to them at the height of their grief, shared their sorrow, and gave them hope by announcing eternal life to those who believe in him. 'I am the resurrection and the life'

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

With confidence we raise up our prayers to God with whom there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Response: Lord, hear us in your love.

1. For the Church: that it may proclaim to all the good news of eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ. [Pause] We pray in faith.
2. For political leaders: that they may facilitate the work of Doctors and nurses engaged in caring for and in preserving life. [Pause] We pray in faith.
3. For those in this moment who care for the sick and the dying. [Pause] We pray in faith.
4. For all those who are grieving because of the death of a dear one. [Pause] We pray in faith.
5. For ourselves: that we may treasure the beautiful but fragile gift of life. [Pause] We pray in faith.
6. For our departed relatives and friends. [Pause] We pray in faith.
7. For our own special needs. [Pause] We pray in faith.

Please remember in your prayers:

Sick: Jacky Whelan, Maddy Kelly, Helen Watson, Jean Graham, Anne Doyle, Linda Slevin, Stephen Kelly, Alice Deas, Patricia McGhee, Marie Taylor, John Black, Peter Silvestro, Joe Cope, Margaret McAuley, Peter & Hugh Alexander & Macey McColl, John Tighe, Patsy Loney

Recently Dead: Mary Toal, Ian Ferrie

Months Mind: Sadie Slowey, Patsy Robertson

Anniversaries: Francis, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret, Rose & Anne McGeehan

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

Lord God, through the resurrection of your Son, you have kindled in our hearts the hope of eternal life. Guard this hope with your grace and bring it to fulfilment in the Kingdom of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.