

St Monica's Parish

Diocese of Motherwell

Registered Charity SC011041

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Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

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

WEEKDAY MASSES: Mon – Sat 10am

CONFESSIONS: Please contact Fr Ghislain to make an appointment.

Baptisms: Speak to Fr Ghislain.

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

Sunday 20th September: 25th Sunday, Year A

1st Reading: IS 55: 6-9

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is close to all who call him*

2nd Reading: Phil 1:20 -24.27

Gospel: Mt 20: 1-16

Last Sunday's collection - £756.51

Building Fund collection: £309.92

Thank you for your generosity and support.



1st Prize: No. 21 K Hannah

2nd Prize: No.91 J McGowan

3rd Prize: No.132 J Smith

First Communion: Saturday 3rd October at 12noon & 2pm. Sunday

4th October at 2pm

Confirmation

In regard to Confirmation, Bishop J.Toal intends to celebrate this sacrament in the parishes who missed out this year before Easter, and next year's after Easter. The diocese will send out a programme shortly. If the present restrictions in numbers attending extends into next year, the Bishop's celebration will not be sufficient in most parishes to cover all the candidates so it will probably be necessary for the PPs to confirm also at additional services.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	10am 6pm	Mass. St Matthew Feast. Adoration
Tuesday	10am	Mass
Wednesday	10am	Mass. St Pius of Pietrelcina . Memorial.
Thursday	10am	Mass
Friday	10am	Mass
Saturday	10am 4pm 5.30pm	Morning Mass Vigil Mass Vigil Mass
Sunday	10am 12noon 5pm	Masses. 26 th Sunday A

Letter from Cardinal Sarah

The Christian community has never sought isolation and has never made the Church a city with closed doors. Formed in the value of community life and in the search of the common good, Christians have always sought insertion into society, while being aware of an otherness – to be in the world without belonging to it and without being reduced to it (cf. Letter to Diognetus, 5-6). And even in the pandemic emergency, a great sense of responsibility has emerged. In listening to and collaborating with civil authorities and experts the Bishops and their territorial conferences were prompt to make difficult and painful decisions, even to the point of suspending the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist for a long period. This congregation is deeply grateful to the Bishops for their commitment and effort in trying to respond in the best possible way to an unforeseen and complex situation.

As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist as “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows” (Sacrosanctum Concillium 10).

Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord's altar as a time of Eucharist fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and measurable preciousness. As soon as is possible, however we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love and hope.

This time of deprivation gives us the grace to understand the heart of our brothers and sisters, the martyrs of Abitinae (beginning of the 4th century), who answered their judges with serene determination, despite a sure death sentence: “Sine Dominico non possumus”. The absolute verb non possumus (we cannot) and the significance of the neuter noun Dominicum (that which is the Lord's) cannot be translated with a single word. A very brief expression sums up a great wealth of nuances and meanings that are offered to our meditation today:

- We cannot live, be Christians, fully realizing our humanity and the desires for the good and happiness that dwell in our hearts without the Word of the Lord, which in the celebration of the liturgy takes shape and becomes a living word, spoken by God for those who today open their hearts to listen;
- We cannot live as Christians without participating in the Sacrifice of the Cross in which the Lord Jesus gives himself

unreservedly to save, by his death, humanity which has died because of sin; the Redeemer associates humanity with himself and leads it back to the Father: in the embrace of the Crucified One all human suffering finds light and comfort;

- We cannot be without the banquet of the Eucharist the table of the Lord to which we are invited as sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to receive the Risen Christ himself, present in body, blood, soul and divinity in that Bread of heaven which sustains us in the joys and labours of this earthly pilgrimage;
- We cannot be without the Christian community, the family of the Lord: we need to meet our brothers and sisters who share the sonship of God, the fraternity of Christ, the vocation and the search for holiness and the salvation of their souls in the rich diversity of ages, personal histories, charisms and vocations;
- We cannot be without the house of the Lord, which is our home, without the holy places where we were born to faith, where we discovered the provident presence of the Lord and discovered the merciful embrace that lifts up those who have fallen, where we consecrated our vocation to marriage or religious life, where we prayed and gave thanks, rejoiced and wept, where we entrusted to the Father our loved ones who had completed their earthly pilgrimage;
- We cannot be without the Lord's Day, without Sunday which gives light and meaning to the succession of days of work and to family and social responsibilities.

As much as the means of communication perform a valued service to the sick and those who are unable to go to church, and have performed a great service in the broadcast of Holy Mass at a time when there was no possibility of community celebrations, no broadcast is comparable to personal participation or can replace it. On the contrary, these broadcasts alone risk distancing us from a personal and intimate encounter with the incarnate God who gave himself to us in a virtual way, but really, saying: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him" (Jn 6.56). the physical contact with the Lord is vital, indispensable, irreplaceable. Once the concrete measures that can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus to a minimum have been identified and adopted, it is necessary that all resume their place in the assembly of brothers and sisters, rediscover the irreplaceable preciousness and beauty of the celebration of the liturgy, and invite and encourage again those brothers and sisters who have been discouraged, frightened, absent and uninvolved for too long.

The Dicastery intends to reaffirm some principles and suggest some courses of action to promote a rapid and safe return to the celebration of the Eucharist.

Due attention to hygiene and safety regulations cannot lead to the sterilization of gestures and rites, to the instilling, even unconsciously, of fear and insecurity in the faithful.

It is up to the prudent but firm action of the Bishops to ensure that the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist is not reduced by public authorities to a "gathering", and is not considered comparable or even subordinate to forms of recreational activities.

Liturgical norms are not matters on which civil authorities can legislate, but only the competent ecclesiastical authorities (cf Sacrosanctum Concilium 22).

The participation of the faithful in liturgical celebrations should be facilitated, but without improvised ritual experiments and in full respect of the norms contained in the liturgical books which govern their conduct. In the liturgy, an experience of Sacredness, holiness and beauty that transfigures gives a foretaste of the harmony of eternal blessedness. Care should therefore be taken to ensure the dignity of the places, the sacred furnishings, the manner of celebration, accordingly to the authoritative instruction of the Second Vatican Council: "The rites should be distinguished by a noble simplicity (Sacrosanctum Concilium 34).

The faithful should be recognized as having the right to receive the Body of Christ and to worship the Lord present in the Eucharist in the manner provided for, without limitations that go even beyond what is provided for by the norms, of hygiene issued public authorities or Bishops.

In the Eucharist celebration the faithful adore the Risen Jesus present: and we see with what ease the sense of adoration, the prayer of adoration, is lost. In their catechesis we ask Pastors to insist on the necessity of adoration.

A sure principle in order not to err is obedience. Obedience to the norms of the Church, obedience to the Bishops. In times of difficulty (e.g wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed. Obedience safeguards the treasure to the Church, these measures given by the Bishops and Episcopal Conferences expire when the situation returns to normal.

The Church will continue to cherish the human person as a whole. She bears witness to hope, invites us to trust in God, recalls that earthly existence is important, but much more important is eternal life: sharing the same life with God for eternity is our goal, our vocation. This is the faith of the Church, witnessed over the centuries by hosts of martyrs and saints, a positive proclamation that frees us from on-dimensional reductionisms and from ideologies. The Church unites proclamation and accompaniment towards the eternal salvation of souls with the necessary concern for public health. Let us therefore continue to entrust ourselves confidently to God's mercy, to invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Salus Infirmorum et auxilium christianorum*, for all those sorely tried by the pandemic and every other affliction, let us preserve in prayer for those who have left this life, and at the same time let us renew our intention to be witnesses of the Risen One and heralds of a sure hope, which transcends the limits of this world.

Baby Shawls

One of our parishioners has kindly offered to knit baby shawls for £25 and the proceeds will go to our Parish Building Fund. If you are interested, please call 07967112568.

Please remember in your prayers:

Sick: Leigh McKennan, John Clenaghan, Jean Graham

Recently Dead: Martha Collins, Randolph Wallace

Anniversaries: Gary Thomson, Matthew Thomson (Snr) & Matthew Thomson (Jnr) Mary McKeown, Francis, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret, Rose & Ann McGeehan, Catherine & Janes McDonald, Ann Sood, Peter Kelly, Annie Mulholland, Thomas Love, Agnes Love, William Charnley, Annie Charnley, Richard Tobin, John Slevin, Jaqueline McMahon



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