

**St Monica's Parish**  
**Diocese of Motherwell**  
Registered Charity SCO11041  
Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP  
Tel: 01236 421750 Email: stmonica@rcdom.org.uk  
Website: <https://saint-monica.org.uk>  
Facebook: St. Monica's Parish Coatbridge  
Twitter: @StMonicasParish

Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> September: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year A**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** EZ 18:25-28

**Responsorial Psalm:** Remember your mercy, Lord

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** PHIL 2: 1-11

**Gospel:** Mt 21: 28-32

**Last Sunday's collection** – £836.36

Building Fund collection: £171.24

Thank you for your generosity and support.

**Please note there will be a special collection next weekend for the Building Fund.**



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** No. 449 B Burke

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** No.150 E Gillick

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** No.46 M Gallogly



**Hand in Hand we receive the Lord in the Sacrament of the Eucharist**  
**One Bread, One Body**

**What is the Eucharist?**

The "Breaking of Bread" – the name by which the rite known to us as the Mass was known in early Christian times (see Act 2:46 or 20:7) – recalls Jesus' action at the Last Supper in which he took bread and a cup of wine and spoke of it as his own body and blood given to the world for its salvation:

*While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take: this my body. Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many'"*

It was a Passover meal, celebrated the night before he died on the Cross. In Jewish tradition, the Passover meal is a family affair: Jesus spent his last Passover – our first Eucharist – with his closest friends. Together, they would have shared foods, symbols of the freedom from slavery won at the time of Moses, gifted by GOD, but celebrated as their gift in the present too. In this context, Jesus offered something new: freedom from sin and death, brought by his sacrifice on the Cross, and recalled in the breaking and sharing of bread by the community of his followers.

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (Lumen Gentium.11). Everything we do as Christians flows out of the Eucharist, as it nourishes us from the journey of faith we make. From the Eucharist in fact the Church itself finds its origin and meaning as a community – a "communion" of faith and love. It is the "source" of all our Christian life and living. However, everything we are and do also flows "into" the Eucharist, as we gather up and give thanks for our lives, as we come together to celebrate all that GOD has done for us in Jesus and what he does for us each day. It is, in this sense, the "summit" to which all our Christian living points, for our goal is perfect communion with



<b>Mass Schedule</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	10am 6pm	Mass. Adoration
<b>Tuesday</b>	10am	Mass. Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
<b>Wednesday</b>	10am	Mass. Saint Jerome - Memorial
<b>Thursday</b>	10am	Mass Saint Therese of the Child Jesus - Memorial
<b>Friday</b>	10am	Mass – The Holy Guardian Angels - Memorial
<b>Saturday</b>	10am 12 Noon & 2pm 4pm 5.30pm	Morning Mass First Communion Vigil Mass Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	10am 12noon 2pm 5pm	Masses. 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday A Mass First Communion Mass

the father, through Jesus, with each other, bound by the Holy Spirit, and we share in the Real Presence of Jesus as He himself promised.

### ***The Eucharist and the Sacrifice of the Mass***

The rite of Mass Celebrates the gift of Jesus, who comes into our lives, first through the Word we hear, and then in the Eucharist we share. During the Mass, we offer bread and wine which become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This offering is often termed "The Sacrifice of the Mass": our share in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. This has special meaning for the Catholic Christians. We do not merely share in a 'symbol' in the bread and wine: we receive Jesus himself, the Bread of Life, the one whose perfect sacrifice replaced all others, and whose sacrifice we share in the Sacrament. As a share in his sacrifice, it becomes also a challenge to us to offer ourselves as a 'sacrifice' for others. We do this through our acts of kindness, of service and of selfless love for others, and through our offering of our heart and mind to GOD in worship and prayer.

The change from bread and wine into the Real Presence of Christ is not a symbolic one, but is brought about through the power of the Holy Spirit, working through the action of the ordained priest using Jesus' words in the Last Supper, This moment - the heart of the Mass - is termed the "consecration".

### ***Celebrating the Eucharist Together***

In the mass we engage all our senses: sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste

- We often use incense to bless the altar, the people, the Word of GOD.
- We use candles which represent light, joy, goodness and, of course, the presence of Christ as the Light of the World
- We listen to the Word of GOD in the Scripture readings, hearing again the stories of our Heritage. Our Faith Stories acknowledge Jesus as our Saviour, himself the Word of GOD (John 1:1) and celebrate GODs ongoing faithfulness to his covenant people.
- We share in the presence of our brothers and sisters, exchanging peace with those around us, a sign of the peace of Christ we receive and of our commitment to live the life the Gospel message demands.
- Finally, we receive the ultimate gift – Jesus himself in the Eucharistic food.

In the same way that we plan for the celebration, or just take time to sit together to share a meal, we prepare to receive the greatest gift – that of Jesus in the Eucharist. When we meet as a family, we might hear someone say, "remember when...." These are our lived family experiences. When we celebrate the Mass together, we tell our stories – stories of GOD's ever-revealing love – in the Liturgy of the Word, and do as Jesus

### **Please remember in your prayers:**

**Sick:** Leigh McKennan, John Clenaghan, Jean Graham,

**Recently Dead:** Martha Collins, Martin John Mead, Michael McAlinden, Agnes Plunkett, Vony Russell

**Months Mind:** Sadie Slowey, Patsy Robertson, Joseph Thomson, Edward & Annie McQuillan, Annie & Frank McCue,

Agnes McQuillan, Margaret Tiffney, Mary Crozier, Walter Clarke, George & Cathie Thomson, Edward McQuillan,

John Donohue, Christine Thomson, Alf & Flo Longyear, Meg & Annie Smith, John Brady, Mary Robertson, Betty Haney, John Harkins, Margaret Fallon, May & Jimmy McLaughlin, Kathleen & Peter Dolan, Tilly and Marie Clarke, Mattie & Tommy Collins, Sadie Craig, Fr Frank Kelly

**Anniversaries:** Mary Thomson, Ellan O'Rourke, Hugh & Mary Callaghan, Margaret Harkins, James Harkins, Arthur Craig

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

asked, offering the sacrifice in memory of him, in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### ***How do we prepare to receive the Eucharist?***

The Eucharist should be received with reverence as Jesus is truly present and we are to participate in the gift of GOD himself. The Church lays down fasting from food and drink of one hour before receiving the Eucharist (this has in the past been a fast from midnight or a fast of three hours), however the Church also recognises that not everyone is physically able to observe this fast. Moreover, Church tradition suggests that anyone conscious of serious sin should first approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. By being reconciled with GOD and the Church, we can be sure that we are receiving the Eucharist with greater grace and respect.

For those who are sick, at home or in hospital, receiving the Eucharist can be a source of great strength and peace, as well as being a sign that although they may be separated from the parish family physically, they are very close to them spiritually. Finally, for the dying, Communion is seen as the "Last Sacrament". Receiving Communion at the end of one's life is known as viaticum, (Latin for "with you on the way"), as the Lord comes to accompany the dying person into the fullest Communion possible: eternal life.

### ***So why do we need the Sacrament of the Eucharist?***

The Eucharist is at the very centre of the Catholic Church, its teachings and Tradition, as its source and summit. In the celebration of the Mass, the Eucharist is nourishment for our souls, a spiritual food for our journey through life towards salvation and Jesus' promise of eternal life.

How we live as family is reflected in how we live as a community of the faithful. Each reflects the other. If we live to be our best as family, then we will understand the power of the Eucharist. If we participate in the Eucharist it will help us in our family and wider relationships, helping us lead good lives in an ever secular and demanding material world. The communion we share in the Sacrament will help us build up community in our often isolating and fragmenting world today.



### ***Ivy Rose McGhee***

We keep Ivy Rose in our prayers as she joins our parish family through the sacrament of Baptism.

May her Baptism be filled with blessings and love and be a glimpse of the exciting Christian journey. May her parents help her in her relationship with GOD to grow stronger ever passing day.

