



St Monica's Parish

Diocese of Motherwell

Registered Charity SC011041

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

Tel: 01236 421750 Mobile: 07747259800

Email: stmonica@rcdom.org.uk

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

Facebook: St. Monica's Parish Coatbridge

You Tube: St. Monica's Parish Coatbridge

Twitter: @StMonicasParish

Parish Priest: Fr. Ghislain B. Mulumanzi.

SUNDAY MASSES: Livestream 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES: Livestream Mon – Sat 10am

Stations of the Cross: Livestream Mon & Fri 7pm

CONFESSIONS: Please contact Fr Ghislain

Baptisms: Speak to Fr Ghislain

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

Sunday 21st February 1st Sunday Lent Year B

First Reading: Genesis 9,8-15

Responsorial Psalm: *Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.*

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3,18-22

Gospel: Mark 1: 12-15

Reflection 1st Sunday Lent -Tempted by good

It is not only evil which can lead us astray. Good can do so just as effectively. All temptation comes under the guise of good. It is not only when the path is hard and strewn with obstacles that we fail to reach the goal, but also when it is easy and littered with attractions. We allow ourselves to get side-tracked, so that before we know it, we've forgotten our goal and wasted our strength. Earthly food dulls the appetite for heavenly food. There are many examples of this in the Gospels.

On one occasion Jesus invited a rich young man to become his disciple, but he refused. It wasn't evil which caused him to refuse - he had done no evil. It was something which is good in itself- wealth.

When Jesus went to the house of Martha and Mary, Martha was too busy to listen to him. It wasn't something bad which kept her from listening to him. It was something good, even praiseworthy- the details of hospitality.

Jesus told a story about guests who refused an invitation to a banquet. In refusing they were not acting from bad motives, but from perfectly good ones. One man wanted to inspect a piece of a land he had bought. Another wanted to try out some oxen he had bought. And a third was newly married. However, though their reasons for staying away were perfectly good, the effect was the same as if they had been perfectly vile -they allowed the banquet to pass them by. In his parable of the sower, Jesus said that some of the seed was choked by thorns. What did these 'thorns' consist of? 'The worries and cares of this world and the lure of riches.' Again, things not evil in themselves.

What are we to deduce from all of this? That we may have as much to fear from the good as from the bad. When we see something which is manifestly good, we are likely to be attracted by it. Hence, it poses more danger. The things that tempt us to abandon our goal are not always bad. More often they are good, and that is what makes it so hard to resist them. The most painful choices are often between the good and the best. The devil doesn't appear as a repulsive character. He appears as an attractive and charming character, even as a friend. He appears to have your best interest at heart-as when he offered Jesus bread and all the kingdoms of the world. We need wisdom and strength to be able to resist temptations, especially those who come under the guise of good.



Diocesan Centre
Coursington Road
Motherwell
ML1 1PP

Rt Rev. Joseph Toal STB KC*HS
Bishop of Motherwell

18th February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you and your family and friends well.

I heard someone remark in recent days that it has been a year-long Lent since last February. We have indeed come through an extraordinary period, marked for all of us by some deprivation and anxiety; an extended communal penance inflicted upon us by the coronavirus. For some the suffering has been more acute, because of personal illness, the illness of others, or the death of a loved one. We continue to hold each other in prayer, even when separated by the lockdowns, and we reach out to God for protection and healing. As we begin therefore the liturgical season of Lent and accompany the Lord in his suffering and death, we look forward to Easter and the hope of new life promised by his Resurrection.

The season of Lent mirrors the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting, and these days also reflect the forty years the Jewish people spent wandering in the desert before they were able to reach the "Promised Land". The Old Testament books tell us of the difficulties of these years – the deprivations of food and water, the tensions and conflicts, the crises of leadership,

the loss of hope for the future as they looked back to their past life, and, yes, anger at God and times of apostasy and loss of faith. It was a hard, almost brutal experience, but they survived it as a people and came at last to the “land of milk and honey”. My thought as we begin this Lent is that the reality of life for us in the times ahead may be more akin to the forty years than the forty days, and it may take a long time and a lot of hardship before we fully recover from the travails of the past year. Our faith encourages us not to lose hope, and indeed we have the Lord Jesus within and among us to help us persevere, strengthening and protecting us through the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

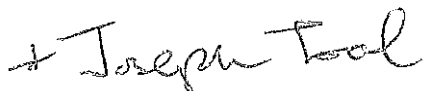
In the reading at Mass today from the Book of Deuteronomy Moses instructed the people as they were about to enter the promised land after their long years in the desert:

*“Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of the Lord your God, obeying his voice, **clinging to him**; for in this your life consists, and on this depends on your long stay in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob he would give them.”*

God wants us to cling on to him, whatever happens, and in doing so we will experience and know his love within us and the life of grace and goodness he offers us when we obey his voice and place our hope in his promises. While we seek security and consolation here in our earthly homeland, we also trust that we will share eternal life with the Lord in our heavenly homeland, and that the way there is through, with, and in the Lord himself. Through Lent then let us cling to the Lord and ask him to cleanse and purify us of all that would keep us apart from him and from showing his love to all our brothers and sisters with whom we share our time here on Earth. This is our time – “The day of salvation” as St Paul told us on Ash Wednesday - and we must make the best of it. With the Lord Jesus we can do so, without him we may lose hope and patience. Let us cling on to Him!

Wishing you a fruitful and holy Lent, full of faith, hope and love,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Joseph Toal". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

+ Joseph Toal

Schoenstatt Scotland

During all of these Lockdowns it has been difficult for all of us to keep in touch and so Schoenstatt Scotland has undertaken the following: We have produced over 30 E-Retreats both small and more-lengthy, which are available through our website www.schoenstatt.co.uk. We now also now have a significant presence on Instagram. Simply log on to Instagram and key in [schoenstattscotlanduk](#) and you will have significant content. We also now have our Own YouTube Channel; and finally, from tomorrow we will have a Lenten E-Burst going out daily till Easter Sunday available on Instagram and on our Facebook site.

Lenten Zoom meetings - Journeying with Jesus

Fr Tom Magill is organising a series of four Zoom meetings during Lent, taking place on four Sunday evenings from 7.00 - 7.30 pm. Join people from throughout the diocese for 30 minutes of prayer and reflection on four Sundays of Lent. Please register your interest through the email on the flyer missions@rcdom.org.uk. You will then be sent a link for the meetings.

Sacraments for children

The parish has scheduled the celebration of sacraments for children, though we are still uncertain if our churches will be open.

First Reconciliation: Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th April 2021, at 6pm

[First Reconciliation Request Form](#)

First Communion: Saturday 22nd May 2021 at 11am and 1pm

Sunday 23rd May 2021 at 2pm.

[First Holy Communion Request Form](#)

Confirmation: Monday 24th May & Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7pm

[Confirmation Request Form](#)

To enrol your child for these sacraments, parents are advised to download the application form on the parish website www.saint-monica.org.uk, contact Fr Ghislain or St Monica's Primary School.

Weekly Offering

Your financial support of the Parish in recent months has been appreciated and I would ask you to please continue to show your support during this latest lockdown.

If you wish to donate your weekly offering to the parish online, below are the parish bank details.

Account Name: RCDM St Monica's

Sort Code: 83 17 13

Account Number: 00163062

Church Renovations

Despite COVID 19 the aim is to keep the Church refurbishments on track, and I am appealing to you to continue to financially support this project.

Your financial support over the last 11 months despite COVID 19 for our Building Fund has been greatly appreciated. Presently, we have raised £45K towards the £120K needed for this work. I am asking you again to support our Church renovations in any way you can.

Donations to the Building Fund can be made by handing in an envelope to the presbytery, by setting up a standing order or making a one-off donation.

If you know or work for a local company who would be willing to make a donation, please get in touch.

ST MONICA'S
PARISH
LENT
MASS SCHEDULE
22 - 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Monday	10am	Holy Mass. Chair of St Peter.
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday	10am	Holy Mass
Thursday	10am	Holy Mass
Friday	10am	Holy Mass
	7pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday	10am	2 nd Sunday of Lent Year B Holy Mass



During the lockdown you will still be able to join us daily by following the mass live via Facebook and You Tube at 10am & 7pm on a Monday and Friday for Stations of the Cross

Please remember in your prayers:



Recently Dead: Frances McMahon, Hazel McLaughlin, Eddie McGonigal

Sick: John Clenaghan, Jean Graham, James Carr, Linda Webb, James McLaughlin, Mrs Cecelia Greig, Ann & John McShane, Elizabeth McKenna, Jim Docherty, Mary Forsyth, Isabella Devine

Months Mind Margaret Fallon, John Nelson

Anniversaries: Jim Holiday, Annie Mulholland, Jim McAuley, Francis Boyle

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

Prayer to Saint Joseph

(Will be said every Monday after Stations of the Cross)

To you, O blessed Joseph,
do we come in our tribulation,
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be kind to us
and from heaven assist us in our struggle
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,
so now protect God's Holy Church
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,
so that, supported by your example and your aid,
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.