



St Monica's Parish

Diocese of Motherwell

Registered Charity SC011041

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

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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 6pm

CONFESSIONS: Please contact Fr Ghislain

Baptisms: Speak to Fr Ghislain

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

Sunday 28th February 2nd Sunday Lent Year B

First Reading: Gen 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

Responsorial Psalm: *I will please the Lord in the land of the living*

Second Reading: Rom 8: 31-34

Gospel: Mk 9:2-10

Reflection 2nd Sunday Lent

Abraham was led to Mount Moriah to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. What God appears to ask of Abraham is so cruel and unjust. Abraham lived among the Canaanites who practiced human sacrifice. He must somehow have got the idea that God was demanding this deed from him. But God showed otherwise. The story was meant to put an end to human sacrifice to God. Sadly killing in the name of God has been widely practiced down the ages. Kings and heads of state have killed, claiming God's authority and God's blessing in their dark deeds. We have seen some religious fundamentalists killing innocent men, women and children. God does not take pleasure in hurt and pain we inflict to one another.

Jesus took Peter, James and John – the same three who were to witness his Agony in the Garden a few months later – to the top of a high mountain. "It was a wonderful for them to be there! But the purpose of this experience was to comfort and strengthen Jesus and the apostles so that they would be able to go back and face the mess and danger left behind. And how much they needed that strength. For there would come another day and another hill. This time the sky

would be dark. The face of Jesus would be covered with sweat and blood. His clothes would not dazzle- they would be taken from him. For companions he would have two criminals, one of them mocking him. There would be no voice from heaven, only the voice of those who mocked him. The disciples would be shattered and would want no part of what was happening. That is why Jesus felt abandoned and cried out: Father, why have you forsaken me!

The only thing in common would be that Jesus would once again be praying. From this it's clear that what sustained him in bright and dark moments alike was his special relationship with the Father. Hopefully, all of us have some experience of mount tabor, the hill of joy and exaltation. But we are probably more familiar with the Mount of Calvary. What happens is that we tend to go from one to another. On "Tabor" we have glimpsed the beauty of heaven: encouraged, elated, we have thought, "It is good for us to be here" in this working place, with lovely my wife and husband and children. Then we have been plunged into the sorrow of Calvary. Life becomes dark for us. On Calvary by the grace of God we learn to say, "thy will be done". All of us can experience moment of great joy, because in his goodness God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. However, flitting moments of joy, no matter how wonderful, never satisfy the human heart. What we long for is a permanent state of happiness. But that is impossible on earth. God has a homeland prepared for us at the end of our journey.



Monday	10am	Holy Mass
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	10am	Requiem of Edward McGonigal Holy Mass
Wednesday	10am	Holy Mass
Thursday	10am	Holy Mass
Friday	10am	Holy Mass
	6pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	10am	Holy Mass
Sunday	10am	^{3rd} 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 & 6pm on a Monday and Friday for Stations of the Cross

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.

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.

Aid to the Church in Need in Scotland

Aid to the Church in Need in Scotland has produced its first parish newsletter (internet link below) which contains a number of excellent Lenten Resources, especially for children.

In this way, ACN hopes that you and your parish can work with ACN to support the suffering Church this Lent. They have come up with some virtual ways to generate prayer, pass on information about the work of ACN and fundraise as well. ACN would particularly like to highlight their virtual Sunday Lenten Lunch on 21st March.

The internet link for the bulletin is:

[http://bit.ly/ACN PARISH NEWSLETTER 1](http://bit.ly/ACN_PARISH_NEWSLETTER_1)

ACN wishes to thank all parishes for all for everything that you are doing to support the work of ACN in Scotland.

The Called and Gifted Discernment Process

Called and Gifted is designed to help clergy and laity discern the charisms God has given them for mission and service. It begins with a teaching workshop in which participants complete a Spiritual Gifts Inventory, then a one-to-one interview process, and a follow-up, in which participants learn how to develop and use the charisms identified. More details are given on the website, including an easy-to-use booking process.

The Called and Gifted Discernment Process of Sherry Weddell and the Catherine of Siena Institute is now available ONLINE.

<https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/>

Approval to teach in a Catholic School: COVID-19 Health Restrictions

We have been made aware of some possible challenges in completing references for approval, due to the current restrictions on places of worship and the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass. We would therefore recommend that you read the attached note if applying for approval to teach in a Catholic School.

[COVID 19 Restrictions & Application for Approval to teach within a Catholic School](#)

Ecumenical Call to Prayer

Below is the internet link to the Ecumenical Call to Prayer for Sunday 28th February at 7.00pm

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/kirk-continues-weekly-prayer-initiative-this-sunday>

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.

Gift Aid

Is a government scheme which allows our parish to reclaim tax paid on donations.

We can claim from HMRC, the basic rate of tax on any donations which have been paid. Gift Aid increases the value of donations by 25%, so it means even more money goes to our church – and it won't cost you extra!

For anyone paying tax, please consider using Gift Aid as it means our parish will receive an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

If you are interested in joining the scheme, please complete the attached form and return it as soon as possible.

[Gift Aid Application Form](#)

Gift Aid Envelopes for year 2021/22 will be available for collection next weekend.

Motherwell Diocesan Choir

Just over two weeks ago, on 8th February, our Diocesan Choir marked the 40th Anniversary of its first meeting; this meeting was due to be held in the Diocesan Centre, but such was the level of interest in the venture – over 270 people turned up! – that the assembly had to be moved quickly to the cathedral. The numbers soon stabilised to around 90 and have remained fairly consistent ever since; there are currently 87 members on the register, with many of the founding members, including the director, still in harness! The choir's first official engagement was at the National Pilgrimage in Carfin Grotto on Sunday, 4 May 1981.

The original proposal to create a diocesan choir was mooted in 1980 by the late Bishop Francis Thomson, whose vision it was that singers from parishes across the diocese might come together in a central location to rehearse and share ideas on musical repertoire which might be taken back to their own parishes, always ensuring that there would be no conflict of interest between parish and diocesan commitments. The choir was founded on this guiding principle and has sought to uphold it ever since; indeed, the membership currently includes a number of singers, choir directors and organists from across the diocese.

During its 40-year lifespan the choir has participated in many national and diocesan events, including the two Papal Visits and the installations of Bishop Joseph Devine and Bishop Joseph Toal. The choir also sang for the International Pilgrims' Mass in St Peter's Basilica, Rome in 1985 and at the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square; indeed, this latter event is chronicled in the choir's

archive by photos of Pope John Paul II seated in the alto section and also playing a few notes on the keyboard which was used to accompany the ceremony!

The choir continues to serve the Diocese of Motherwell by providing musical accompaniment to the annual timetable of liturgical ceremonies; the lockdowns of the past year, however, have disrupted this timetable and created many challenges for the choir - but have failed to silence it! Rehearsals have continued online and only yesterday, during the Forty Days of Lent, the group notched up its 40th Digital Rehearsal, emphasising the testing times in which we live. Whilst these online rehearsals have succeeded in holding the group together and allowed for ongoing musical development, they fall far short of the enjoyable live rehearsals, at which members can interact and engage with colleagues. The Diocesan Choir therefore looks forward to the day when the normal liturgical life of our diocese can resume, and members can return to face-to-face rehearsals.

Please remember in your prayers:



Recently Dead: Frances McMahon, Hazel McLaughlin, Eddie McGonigal, Kieran O'Hagan

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, Nicolas Hardy

Months Mind: Rev Cornelious Xavior O'Leary, Mrs Helen, Margaret & Agnes Docherty, Mr William & Patrick Docherty, Mrs Anna & Joseph Pearson, Mrs Mary & Mr Edward Drummond, Mr Alex Thain, Sadie & Arthur Craig, Jeannie Craig, Fr Frank Kelly, Lawrence, William & Mary Brankin, William, Ellen & Annie Brankin, Joseph, Agnes, Eddie & Joe Mina, Patricia & Brian Sharkey Jnr, John & Kevin McGrath, Kathleen Smith & David Hayton, Sadie Slowey & Patsy Robertson, Jenny & Jimmy Docherty, Margaret & James Smith, May & Jimmy McLaughlin, Kathleen & Peter Dolan, Tilly & Marie Clarke, Mattie, Tommy & Thomas Collins, Alice Dillon, Francis Boyle, John Frank & Agnes Wilson, James Innes

Anniversaries: Margaret Wilson, Sarah Innes

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

Prayer to Saint Joseph

(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.