



St Monica's Church

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Diocese of Motherwell

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Parish Priest: Father Ghislain B. Mulumanzi

4th Sunday of Lent - A 19th March 2023

Holy Mass and Services

Mon - Fri: - 10am

Saturday: - 10am, 4pm (Vigil)

Sunday: - 10am, 12 Noon & 5pm

Children's Liturgy 12 Noon Mass

Earlier Mass during Lent:

Our early morning mass on Tuesday and Thursday is cancelled as the attendance is very poor

Eucharistic Adoration: - Mon - Sat 9am - 9.55am

Divine Mercy Novena: Mon 2pm

Confessions: Mon - Sun 9.30am - 9.55am

Baptisms & Marriage: - To arrange a baptism or marriage please contact Father Ghislain

Mass Liturgy - Year A

Parish Mass Book Page

First Reading: 1 Sm 16: 1.6-7.10-13

Responsorial Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want**

Second Reading: Eph 5: 8-14

Gospel: Jn 9:1-41

Weekly Collection

Please support your parish through the weekly collection, our income relies solely on the donations of our parishioners.

Last Week's Collection - £689.55

Building Fund: £694.57

There will be a second collection this weekend for SCIAF

There will be a second collection next weekend for our Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity.

Please keep in your prayers

Sick: Ann & John McShane & Family, Linda Webb, Isobel Reilly, Carol McGuinness, Pauline O'Rourke, Anne Marie Snodden, James Donnelly, Patricia McGhee, Bernadette Homer, Kelly Noble, Michael McGarrity, Sadie McBride, Mary Torbett, Sharon, Elizabeth McKenna, Alex Cooper, Sr Kathleen Owens, Ann Smith, Helen Smith, Margaret Gallagher, Alice Kilmurry, Danny Dick, Peter Alexander, Ann McAlinden, Mary Cunningham, Theresa Docherty, Jim Quinn, Patricia McGhee, Margaret Wallace

RIP: Charles Toner, Mary Rodger, Maureen Ramage, Ann Boden, Isobel Kane

Month's Mind: Beth & Matthew Miller, James, Caroline, Elizabeth, Mary, James (Jnr), Robert, & William McKinley, William Patrick, Agnes & Helen Docherty, Joseph, James & Peter Silvestro, Alex & David Thain, Anna & Joseph Pearson, Jenny Wright, Margaret & Andrew McKinlay, Anna, Brian & Joseph Tierney, Agnes & William McAuley, Rab Bannen, Tommy & Thomas Docherty, Tommy Gallagher, Bernard, Liam & Brian Loney, John & Anne Loney, Jim Kane

Anniversaries: Harry McNeilly, Kathleen McNeilly, Hugh Fisher, Margaret Traynor, Jimmy McNally, William Ure, Fay Stark, Margaret McStay, Annie Docherty, Robert McNeil

Mother's Day: Elizabeth Prunty, Catherine Smith, Margaret Docherty, Elizabeth Silvestro, Lily Loney

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

500 Club Winners

1st Prize - No.95 K Mitchelson

2nd Prize - No. 291 E Jordan

3rd Prize- No. 432 L Mullen

Letter from Rt. Rev. Brian Thomas McGee
Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write to you on this the fourth Sunday of Lent on behalf of the Bishops of Scotland to give thanks for your generosity and prayerful support of SCIAF – The official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland – at what is an uncertain and difficult time for many of us.

Despite this, you continue to show compassion for those in need, particularly our sisters and brothers affected by the recent Earthquake in Syria-Türkiye, and those who are suffering because of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Furthermore, during my recent visit to Ethiopia, I saw first-hand how countless lives have been transformed through your generosity.

With your loving support, SCIAF – The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund- continues to work in parts of the world where people are so dreadfully in need, to support people to build brighter futures.

In the Gospels, we hear of many occasions when Jesus heals the sick, reaching out with love and mercy to the most marginalised and the poorest people, both in action and in spirit. As Catholics we are called to follow his example to recognise that we are our sister or brother's keeper. To reach out to the poorest with love.

SCIAF is the embodiment of the love our Church in Scotland, reaching out to our most vulnerable sisters and brothers around the world. It is why, during Lent, we ask you to give generously to SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal to support the vital work SCIAF does on our behalf.

Around the world, 811 million people are facing hunger- and 60% of those living with chronic hunger are women and children. Every day, families wake up hungry, not knowing what they will be forced to do to survive, or how long their children will live.

This year's Lenten appeal focusses on the lives of Ruth, Juliet, Catherine, Savita and their families in Zambia. We hear of how they are living and farming in the harshest of conditions; of the hardships they face when crops fail, and they are left without food.

Ruth was so hungry that she was too tired to work in the fields. Her crops failed and there was no food for her family. She could not afford to send her children to school; they cried for food that she did not have. She feared that the children would become scavengers or turn to prostitution.

Juliet, Ruth's 17-year-old daughter, dreams of being a nurse. Unable to concentrate at school because of hunger, she worried that she would have to leave school, like so many of her friends, and marry as a teenager to ensure her survival.

Hunger forced Catherine to search for mushrooms to feed her grandchildren. She mistakenly poisoned herself and her four grandchildren.

Savita boils roots and weeds to feed her young grandson – it is his only meal of the day. The failed harvests have left nothing for Savita to sell at market, and she cannot afford a school uniform or to send her grandson to school.

However, while hunger is the start of these stories, it does not have to be their end. Together, we can reach out in love and act against hunger.

Your donations make a real difference for so many of the people served by SCIAF and, so, for Ruth, Juliet and Catherine there is now hope. With the love and compassion of Catholic people across Scotland, we have witnessed change for these women and their families that will last a lifetime.

Yet for Savita, and many others, the future is uncertain. I ask you to give generously to support projects like this one in Zambia so that there can be hope, and an end to hunger and poverty.

Your donations will give families the ability to grow their own food by providing the training and tools they need. By ensuring they have the business skills they need to earn an income. And by providing access to women's groups and literacy classes so they can work themselves out of poverty.

When we act together – by giving to today's special Lenten collection and filling up our WEE BOXES – we can reach out in love and act against hunger, supporting women like Savita and their families.

As Lent continues and we look forward to the celebration of Christ's resurrection. I ask you to remember SCIAF and everyone they work with in your prayers.

We thank you for the continued generosity of your donations; know that it goes towards good work and that a just and green world is possible.

May God bless you and your families during the Holy season of Lent and throughout the year.

Bishop Brian McGee
Bishop President of SCIAF
On behalf of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland



Our Faith in Jesus Christ FACTS ABOUT JESUS

What are the historical facts of Christ's existence?

Apart from the historical content of the Gospels there are Roman and Jewish records which mention the activities of Christ and his followers. Two of the most famous Roman writers – Pliny (writing in AD112) and Tacitus (writing in the 2nd century) – both mention the Christians and clearly regarded them as troublemakers.

The Jewish historian Josephus writes about John the Baptist. He calls John “a strange creature”, but later adds, “the whole object of his life was to show evil in its true colours”. In the next chapter he writes at some length about Jesus Christ as the “miracle worker”. He describes his life, his death, and then writes about the “awe-inspiring signs” following the crucifixion. Josephus was born a Jew and worked for many years for the Romans as a politician, soldier and historian. He had no association with Christianity. His identity and writings are absolutely authentic and he provides an unbiased record of the reality of Christ's life and death

YESTERDAY MAN

What's the point of following someone who died 2,000 years ago?

Christians do not look upon Jesus as a dead historical character – similar to someone like Julius Caesar or Napoleon. The central belief of Christians is that after his death by crucifixion, Jesus was raised by God, his Father. So, it is not accurate to say that Christians follow someone who died 2,000 years ago. Christians believe that Jesus is alive now and through his Spirit still has an influence on the lives of his friends and followers. Over the last 2,000 years millions of people have experienced the living presence of

Jesus, and they have discovered the point of following him by experiencing the difference he makes in their lives.

RESURRECTION

How can anyone believe that Jesus Christ came back to life after dying on the cross?

Strictly speaking, Christians do not believe that Jesus “came back to life”. They believe that God, his Father, raised Jesus to a new kind of life – a life which is eternal and which death can no longer touch. If he had “come back to life” he would still be subject to death because death is an inevitable part of the present life. But Christians believe that the risen body of Jesus can never die again. He has conquered death. That is why Christians say that Jesus is alive now. The foundation for belief in the resurrection rests on the witness of the first disciples of Jesus. They saw him after the resurrection and ate and drank with him. This experience of meeting the risen Lord transformed them. They became witnesses – proclaiming that Jesus who was crucified had been raised to life. Many of those first witnesses were put to death for their belief. The resurrection of Jesus is a unique event. We cannot describe it or say how it happened. Nor can it be proved scientifically. We can only say it did happen. For 2,000 years Christians have proclaimed their faith in the resurrection of Jesus because they experience his abiding presence in their own lives.

TOO MANY CHURCHES

If Christians are followers of Jesus Christ, why are they divided into so many different Churches? Shouldn't they all belong to one Church?

The main divisions between the Christian Churches date from the 11th century (when Eastern and Western Churches split from each other) and from the Reformation in the 16th century – which led to the division between Catholics and Protestants. The reason for these divisions are complex. Some have their origin in doctrinal differences. But politics and prejudice also played a part.

Today nearly all Christians agree that disunity is a scandal and that everything possible must be done to overcome it. And much is being done, both at official level and among ordinary Christians. For example, it is becoming more and more common for members of different Churches to worship together on projects which express Christian concern. Suspicion and misunderstandings are gradually being broken down and Christians are much more willing than they once were to

recognise the truth and the value in each other's traditions. But it is a slow process. The divisions of centuries cannot be healed overnight, and firmly held beliefs cannot be brushed aside as being of no importance.

The Catholic Church is firmly committed to the search for unity among Christians. Every year there is a week of prayer for Christian unity which all the Christian Churches take part in. It usually takes place from 18th to 25th January.

LIFE AFTER DEATH

When my aunt's husband died, she made contact with him through a medium. Is this proof of life after death?

Many claims are made about what happens at seances and some spiritualist meetings where there is a medium. Sometimes people are taken advantage of or manipulated, and great suffering ensues, especially when people are distressed. Someone like your aunt, recently bereaved, is particularly vulnerable in her loneliness and sadness. The Catholic Church does not approve of such meetings. For Christians, faith in Jesus Christ is basis of their assurance that there is life after death.

Readers

We have our annual Meeting for readers on **Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 7pm.**



St Monica's Church Hall Community Hub

We are offering a warm space and a warm welcome to all every

Monday & Tuesday 11am to 2pm

Sunday 1pm to 4pm

Everyone is welcome to joins us at our community hub to sit, have a warm drink, bowl of soup, people to talk with and save a little on your energy bills.

Free to everyone!

Gift Aid

For those who have signed up to our Gift Aid Scheme, envelopes can now be collected from the table at the back of the Church.



Saints of the Week

Monday 20th St Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin

Mary is shown in the Gospels as the wise and just man, who had worked out the kindest way to deal with Our Blessed Lady's mysterious pregnancy, and who could then accept the will of God which pointed out a different path even when it contradicted his life plans. He has acquired many titles: Husband of Mary, Foster-Father of the Child Jesus, Guardian of the Holy Family, Protector of the Church, patron of a happy death

Saturday 25th The Annunciation of Our Lord by

the Archangel Gabriel of the imminent arrival of the long-awaited Messiah, born to the humble Virgin of Nazareth, shows us the Faith of Our Blessed Lady - Unsure of what was really involved, she nonetheless agreed to God's plan.



Stations of the Cross

Every Monday during the season of Lent
at 7pm



Baptism

We welcome Alexander McKee who is to be Baptised this weekend. We implore God's blessing upon him and his family as we welcome him into our parish community.