



# St Monica's Church

Sharp Avenue, Coatbridge ML5 5RP

Telephone: 01236 421750

Diocese of Motherwell

Charity No. SC011041

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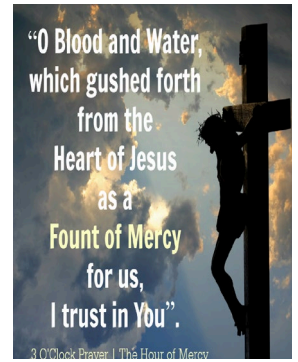
Website: <http://saint-monica.org.uk>

Facebook/You Tube: St Monica's Parish Coatbridge

Parish Hall: Email: [stmonicashall@outlook.com](mailto:stmonicashall@outlook.com)

Tele: - 07549042450 Mary Cope

Parish Priest: Father Ghislain B. Mulumanzi



## 7th Sunday of Easter– Year A. 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023

### World Communication Day

#### Holy Mass & Services

Mon - Fri: 10am

Saturday: 10am, 4pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 10am, 12 Noon & 5pm

Children's Liturgy 12 Noon Mass

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 152

- First Reading: Acts 1: 12-14
- Responsorial Psalm: *I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living*
- Second Reading: 1Pt 4: 13-16
- Gospel: Jn 17: 1-11

#### Weekly Collection

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

##### Last Week's Collection

First Collection: £862.20

There will be a special collection this weekend for World Communication Day.

Thank you for your generosity.

### **500 club Winners!**

1<sup>st</sup> prize - B McLean 508

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – J Gallagher 224

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – E Thompson 171

#### 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, Patricia McGhee, Margaret Wallace, Irene Leckie, Jenny Divine, Kay McDonagh, Daniel McAuley, Mary Glasgow.

**RIP:** John Dillon - Requiem Mass Tuesday 23rd May at 10am Toni Quigley

**Month's Mind:** Agnes Gordon, Joe Gordon, John, Isobel, Pat, Ronnie, Donnie Paul & Janet Daisley, Joan Keirnan, Margaret Callaghan, James Callaghan, Francis, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret, Rose & Anne McGeehan, Catherine & James McDonald, Sheila Kennedy, Charlotte Costello, Moira Skillin, Lila Williamson, Ann Sood, James, John, Margaret & Anne Marie Deigan, Mr & Mrs Tommy Deigan, Mr & Mrs Peter Deigan & Brian, Mr & Mrs William Deigan Snr & Jnr, Mr & Mrs Prost, Mr & Mrs Fagan, Mr & Mrs Frank Grant & Marie, Jack Gill, Ryan Brown, Bernard, Lily & Brian Loney, Ann Loney Jim Kane, Jenny Docherty, James & Margaret Smith, Danny Watson Jnr, John Clarke, Tom Kelly, Martin Coyle, Tommy Reynolds, Thomas Tiernan, Denis Tiernan, Rosemary O'Neill, Thomas & Janette Tiernan, Denis Leonard

**Anniversary:** Lynne Margaret Thomson, Alice Brown, Wullie Gordon, John Loney, Liam Loney, Jimmy Docherty, Allyn McCluskie, Danny Watson Snr, Mary Kelly, Elizabeth McParland, Margaret Ross, Jacqueline Jordan, Rose Tiernan, June Stewart, Gerry McNab

**Birthday Mass:** John Trower

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

## A NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE RENEWED LIFE OF OUR PARISH

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (St. Augustine)

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may  
be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit that my work, too, may be  
holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit, that I may love only  
what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit that I may defend all that  
is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit, that I may always be holy.  
*"Live by the Spirit...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy,  
peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness,  
gentleness and self-control.*

*And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified  
the flesh with its desires and passions. If we live by  
the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."*

*Galatians 5:22-25*

Holy and eternal Trinity, we pray for our Parish of St  
Monica and the whole Church.

Sanctify its life; empower its witness; heal its  
divisions; make visible its unity.

Lead us, brothers and sisters, towards communion in  
faith, life and witness, one in body and Spirit. Amen.



### Reflection

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter A. Our need of the Spirit.** St Paul tells us that no one can say, "Jesus is Lord" without the help of the Holy Spirit. We can't do anything in spiritual life without the help of the Holy Spirit. Anyone who has made serious attempts at living a spiritual life will know that without God's grace we are powerless. We need a strength we ourselves do not possess. In this 'do-it-yourself' age this truth will come as a blow to our pride.

What are the things that strengthen and nourish the spirit? Sadness weighs it down, joy lifts it up. Criticism erodes it, praise builds it up. Failure shrinks it; success enlarges it. Despair causes it to wilt; hope breathes new life into it. Rejection wounds it; acceptance heals it. Hatred poisons it; love purifies it. Fear cripples it; solitude calms it, prayer strengthens it.

During the nine days between the ascension and Pentecost the apostles, with Mary in their midst,

assembled in the upper room to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Their preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit was prayer. This is the oldest and most important novena in the church. We must try to make these days, days of prayer. Jesus prayed for those he left behind to carry on his work. He prays for us too.

### Month of May dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please join us for the Holy Rosary and Solemn Benediction on Monday 22nd of May at 7pm.



### CONFIRMATION

The children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 25th of May 2023 at 7pm, by Bishop Joe Toal. Please, join us to support and pray for our young parishioners.

If you would like to become a prayer partner for the confirmandi, please add your name to the board at the back of the church.



### Letter from Bishop on the World Communications Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend marks the fifty-seventh World Communications Day. In his annual address to mark the occasion, Pope Francis has asked all of us in the Church to redouble our efforts to ensure evangelical communication is at the heart of our mission at diocesan, parish and individual levels. The Holy Father also encourages us to make listening and dialogue key ingredients of our engagement with the new digital culture.

At the diocesan level, we have been listening to the feedback given at the recent Synod discussions. We have heard the voices of many who have asked for a renewed focus on Gospel

outreach and engagement through modern media methods. As a result, we have set up a new Diocesan Communications Commission which has already begun this important work. The Commission is led by Father Michael Kane and is made-up of committed lay men and women with a background or interest in communication, all united by a passion and drive for promoting the Gospel.

Of course, this is a task entrusted to all of us within the Body of the Church, and the message we all communicate is paramount. We want to share a joyful and life-giving message to help build strong Catholic families and vibrant faith communities in our parishes and schools, throughout our diocese, and across the national and universal Church. In a particular way, we want to support our local faith communities to come back together after the strain of living under the pandemic. With good communication at the heart of our renewed mission, we can be even stronger than before!

To date, the new Commission has set up a new monthly diocesan magazine *Fontes* which highlights and celebrates the spiritual wealth of our parishes and school communities. Its free printed and digital editions have been well received throughout the diocese. You are invited to give it your fullest support and to send-in local stories or photos for publication.

The Commission also works closely with Being Catholic Television, Scotland's Catholic television network, to broadcast important diocesan liturgies and events, including the annual Chrism Mass and the recent Diocesan Anniversary Mass. We are also using this platform to engage new audiences in teaching, prayer and catechesis. This new resource has been especially valued by our sick and housebound who are unable to engage in parish life in a regular way.

As well as writing policies to support safe and appropriate use of the digital space, the Commission has also been providing training days for parish social media managers and school digital champions to ensure we are maximising the reach of the Gospel online. The team also offers training and advice on church websites, social channels and effective content sharing. This is especially important as we seek to engage and re-engage

younger Catholics and those who may have lapsed in their faith. Parishes, schools and other groups are encouraged to link with these training opportunities and to support the inaugural Diocesan Communications Conference which will launch in September of this year.

Over the coming period, you'll hear more about the Commission's work to support you, your parishes, schools and groups. If you're interested in getting involved or simply want more information, contact [media@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:media@rcdom.org.uk)

Pope Francis continually reminds us that we are called to be a listening Church reading the signs of our times. He encourages us to act boldly by discovering fresh and dynamic ways to proclaim the Good News. The new digital space, which is now deeply embedded in the culture of our times, needs to be embraced rather than ignored, as a powerful and positive tool of evangelisation. I encourage you to do all you can to make this a reality in the communities we serve.

As we await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, let's pray for the work of our new Commission and let's pray that we will all use the gifts of the Spirit for the upbuilding of the Church in our own times. May we be bold in casting out into the deep and bringing Christ to new places.

Yours sincerely,



+ Joseph Toal

**St Monica's Parishioners Activity Day**

Mondays 2pm to 4pm

Church Hall

Come along, have a game of bingo, dance, play dominoes & cards.

Soup, sandwiches & tea will be available

£3pp only

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

The First Communions will be taking place on Saturday 10th of June 2023 in St. Monica's Church. The service starts at 12pm. There will be a photographer available 1 hour before Mass. Please refrain from taking photographs during the service. If you choose not to have a photo, the children should be seated in the Church no later than 10 minutes before Mass begins. Communicants are encouraged to attend weekend mass.

All communicants and their families are invited to attend the procession and Adoration of Corpus Christi on **Sunday 11 June at 12 Noon**. Children are welcome to wear their communion attire for the procession.



### **Help needed**

In preparation for our Corpus Christi Procession, we are looking for volunteers to come and help tidy up the church grounds.

If you can spare some time, please come along any time you are free and help with some weeding, cutting the grass and general grounds maintenance.



## **Scottish Faith Leaders speak out against Assisted Suicide**

On Thursday 18th May Bishop John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley and Vice-President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, will join the Rt Rev Iain Greenshields, Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Imam Shaykh Hamza Khandwalla, Imam of Dundee Central Mosque, at the Scottish Parliament to sign a statement urging MSPs to vote down a proposal to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland.

The joint statement expresses "deep concern" that assisted suicide "inevitably undermines the dignity of the human person" and that it could "put pressure on vulnerable individuals to opt for assisted suicide."

The statement ends with a firm commitment by the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church, and the Scottish Association of Mosques to oppose assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Bishop John Keenan said: "Assisted suicide attacks human dignity and results in human life being increasingly valued on the basis of its efficiency and utility. Implicit in legal assisted suicide is that an individual can lose their value and worth.

"Evidence from countries where assisted suicide or euthanasia is legal shows that vulnerable people feel pressured to end their lives through fear of being a burden. In such situations the option of assisted suicide is less about having a 'right' to die and more about feeling the full weight and expectation of a duty to die.

"When vulnerable people, including the elderly and poor, express concerns about being a burden, the appropriate response is not to suggest that they have a duty to die; rather, it is to commit to meeting their needs and providing the care and compassion they need to help them live."

Later this year Liam McArthur MSP is expected to present a bill before the Scottish Parliament proposing the legalisation of assisted suicide.

In their Joint statement the faith leaders say: "On behalf of the faith communities we represent, we wish to express our deep concern about the proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill, which will shortly be considered by the Scottish Parliament. Our faith traditions are united in the principle that assisted dying in itself inevitably undermines the dignity of the human person, and to allow it would mean that our society as a whole loses its common humanity."

"The ways in which similar laws in other countries are being applied, and the effect that its introduction would have on some of the most vulnerable in our society, including the disabled and the elderly, would be extremely detrimental." The statement ends with a call to "Members of the Scottish Parliament to consider carefully the implications of this Bill, to express their concerns, and to vote against it."

Read more at: Scottish Faith Leaders speak out against Assisted Suicide | SCMO

[https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1684339680/article/scottish-faith-leaders-speak-out-against-assisted-.html?utm\\_source=blog\\_post&utm\\_medium=blog\\_copy&utm\\_campaign=blog\\_social\\_sharer](https://scmo.org/news-releases/perma/1684339680/article/scottish-faith-leaders-speak-out-against-assisted-.html?utm_source=blog_post&utm_medium=blog_copy&utm_campaign=blog_social_sharer)

*Wishing you all A HAPPY SUNDAY*