

Our Lady of Lourdes

A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell Scottish Charity No. SC011041

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parish priest: Fr Stuart Parkes



1st Sunday of Lent C

14th February 2016

Services This Week

Monday	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
Tuesday	10.00am	Mass
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross
	7.30pm	Mass
Wednesday	10.00am	Mass
Thursday	10.00am	Mass
Friday	10.00am	Mass
Saturday	10.00am	Mass
	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sunday	9.00am	Mass
	11.00am	Mass

Confessions

Thursday	9.00 - 9.30am
Saturday	After 10.00am Mass 5.00-5.30pm;



Funerals celebrated in the afternoon in the coming months will be those from St Bride's & St Leonard's

The church is open for private prayer

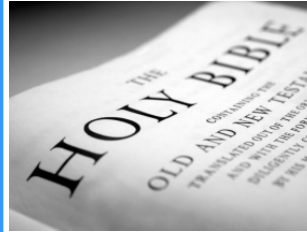
Monday to Friday: 9.00 am. - 6.00pm;
Saturday: 9.00 am. - 6.00 pm



On a Monday morning there will be Stations of the Cross at 10am. If you would like to lead a week please speak to Fr Parkes.

On a Tuesday evening there will be Stations of the Cross at 7pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm.

Each morning at 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed in the Church, starting Thursday.



Lenten Scripture Talks

We had a great turn out for our first talk on Thursday night. If you missed it why not join us for some of the others.

February

- Thursday 18th - Exodus and the Theology of Easter
Fr Stephen Reilly
- Thursday 25th - The Suffering Servant in Isaiah
Fr Tom Magill

March

- Thursday 3rd - Introduction to the Gospel of John
Fr Stuart Parkes
- Thursday 10th - Intro to the Acts of the Apostles
Fr Michael McMahon
- Thursday 17th - The Passion Narrative of Luke
Fr Frank Dougan

All talks start at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall
And should finish around 8.45pm.

Altar Servers



We are looking to recruit some new altar servers, boys and girls.

If anyone in Primary 5 or older is interested please come along to training on Thursday 18 & 25th February at 3.15pm in the Church or speak to Fr Parkes.

Second Collections

Next Sunday, 21st February, for Diocesan Needs
Sunday, 6th March, for SCIAF

Election Hustings - 21st April 2016

Do you have any questions that you think should be put to the candidates for the Scottish Parliament Elections. Please speak to Fr Parkes

Called to Priesthood?

If you are a single male, 18 years or more, and feel God may be calling you to serve His people in diocesan priesthood you are invited to come along to an informal 'First Discernment Evening' at the Holy Ghost Fathers, Carfin on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 7.30pm. For more information please contact Father Brian Lamb at St. Joseph's, Blantyre on 01698 823896.

What are you doing for Lent?

Why don't you join a discussion group to follow Jesus through the dusty towns and villages of Palestine for 1 hour a week during Lent? The group starts on Ash Wednesday, 10th February 2016, in the Oratory, every Wednesday for 6 weeks, from 11:00am till 12 midday.

Marriage Preparation Day

Saturday 5th March, 11.00am-3.30pm, Church Hall. All those intending to marry in the church in the coming year are invited to attend. Please give your name to Fr. Parkes.

40 Days for Life

The Forty Days for Life Worldwide Pro-Life Campaign is to be held in Scotland for the first time this year during Lent. The campaign is a prayerful vigil at the new Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Govan. To maintain a presence for 12 hours each day all through Lent they need 4 People to represent each hour, and to pledge the same hour each week. If anyone can help and is willing to pledge some time please see Ennis.

Please pray for the sick

Jessie Gillies; Katie Began; Baby Maria Zahara; George Kelly; Kerr Gildie; Jessie Gillies; May McCormack; Paulina McMaster (Canada); Gerry Kelly; Malcolm Docherty; Helen Sweeney; John Brown; Margaret Cavanagh; Michael Ramon; Gerald Keane; John Watson; Lesley Doherty; Linda Hogg; John McGuigan; Carol Mullen; Terry McLellan; Suzanne Green; Maureen Robertson; Annie Stevenson; Jenna Murray; Anne Gough; Kerry Halpin (child); Jan Fleming; Erin Gallagher; Nancy McLellan; Joseph Berry (child); Marie Docherty; Claire Orr; Shay Sweeney (child); Ann Adams; Ian McCall; Douglas Macdonald; June Thicke (Canada); Catherine Watson; Paul Gallagher; Patricia Whelan; Baby Ruadhan Phelan (Ireland); Daniel Sweeney; Evelyn Rafferty; Lilian McMeekin; Jake Sweeney (child); Gian Aduja; Mary McDonnell; Peter Smith; Peter & Norah Rankin; Susan Gough; Charles Hunter; Cathie McKague; Roseanne Dupree; Donna Boyd; Lena Connochie; Bill O'Neill; Dot Gray; John Peevor; Margaret & Joe Barrett; Elizabeth Hunter;

May They Rest in Peace

Recently Dead: Chic Scully; Cathy Little; Eleanor McDowell;

Months Mind: Mrs Annie McClure; Moira McClure; Robert Scotland

Anniversary: Annie & Jimmy Kyle; Frank McMahan; Davidia Hamill; Martin Breen; James McGinn; Bridget & James Gardyne



Many thanks for your very generous donations of 62 bags and £42 in cash for last week's collection. Our running total for 2016 is 109 bags and £182. Our next collection is the weekend of 5th/6th March.

"Hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"

During Lent, inspired by these words of Pope Francis, we will offer various ways in which parishioners can help both the environment and the poor. This weekend you will find attached to your bulletin some **ideas from SCIAF**—if we each took up one suggestion, together we could make a big difference. Next weekend, we ask that you **bring to church any old, unused spectacles you have at home, regardless of condition**—these will be recycled to generate money for the charity Vision Aid Overseas.

Acknowledgement—Paul Murphy

Anne and all the family would like to thank all friends and parishioners for their support after their recent bereavement. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

Eucharistic Ministers—New Rota

Could all Eucharistic Ministers please uplift a copy of the new rota from the Sacristy this weekend.

Cabaret Night with Kirk James

Friday 8th April, 7.30-11.30pm, Church Hall
Evening to include light supper, Irish bingo, Raffles etc.
Tickets £10, on sale now at stall and from Ennis

LOL SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GROUP

Ladies Night

Saturday 5 March, LOL Church Hall, 7.30pm-11.30pm
Games, Raffle, Disco
Tickets £5 from school office BYOB & Nibbles

Please take home a SCIAF wee box

Friendship Club

Next Thursday, 18 Feb, 1.30 pm. In the hall, talk from the Fire Safety Officer.
All welcome, £2.00 donation to include tea/coffee

Rosary Times

As Father Parkes will be saying the Morning Prayer of the Church during Lent at 9.30am the Rosary will be at 9.00am and after 10.00am Mass on a Saturday.

Sunday Tearoom

after 11.00am Mass

Pancake Tuesday Tearoom 9th Feb after 10.00am mass

Prayers for Vocations

Each Friday in the Church at 2.00pm
Stations of the Cross, Prayers for Priests, 3 o'clock Prayer, "You expired Jesus",
Divine Mercy Rosary

Bingo

Bingo in the Hall every Tuesday at 7.30pm. New members always welcome.

Mother's Prayer Group

Meets Tuesday, after Mass, in the Oratory.

Readings for next Sunday

21 February 2016
2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C
Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18
Psalm: 27
Philippians 3: 17-4:1
Luke 13: 1-9

Mothers & Toddlers

Every Thursday at 10.30am in Hall





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



2nd February 2016

PASTORAL LETTER FOR LENT 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent has come very early this year and it may well take a special effort on our part to take up the spiritual, penitential and charitable activities associated with this holy season. I encourage you to do your best and to respond with faith and generosity as the Lord invites us again to *“Repent and Believe in the Gospel”* (From Ash Wednesday’s Liturgy).

We are well into the Jubilee Year of Mercy now and Pope Francis has encouraged us to live this Lent intensely *“as a privileged moment in which to celebrate and experience God’s mercy.”* The Holy Father commends to us meditation on the many pages of Sacred Scripture which *“help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father.”* He strongly commends to us the Sacrament of Reconciliation saying, *“Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent it will be a source of interior peace.”* Confessors are encouraged to take initiatives to make the sacrament available for their people in their parishes. Pope Francis asks that the initiative of *“24 Hours with the Lord”* be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday of Lent, with a special encouragement to young people to attend. It is good to encourage our young people to come on occasions to visit and worship in our Cathedral, and I think our *“24 Hours with Lord”* in the Cathedral would be a good opportunity for our youth groups and other young people to participate in. There is Eucharistic Adoration and times for the liturgies and set prayers as well as the opportunity to go to confession throughout the 24 hours.

During the Year of Mercy I have heard mention of *“Ways of Mercy”* being set up at shrines and larger churches offering a journey of prayer and reflection round the focal points. Each of our churches has its own *“Way of Mercy”* in the Stations of the Cross, and it is important that they are promoted during Lent both for communal and private prayer. In praying the Stations of the Cross we are drawn closer to *“Our Merciful Saviour”* and in accompanying him on his journey to Calvary we remember those carrying heavy crosses and seek the grace to show mercy ourselves. In the Stations too and on our crucifixes and icons we contemplate the *“Face of Mercy”* and ask the Lord to look kindly upon us in our great need as we see in his eyes and his features the pain of suffering but also the tender love of the one who gives his life for us all.

We can think also of the *“Hands of Mercy”* often extended over those who sought the Lord’s healing and forgiving touch as he moved among his people here on earth.

These hands are stretched out also upon the Cross to embrace us all, reassuring us that we all benefit from his suffering and death. From the Cross also we hear “*Words of Mercy*”, offering pardon to those crucifying him (“*Father, Forgive them. They know not what they are doing*”), and forgiveness and eternal happiness to the repentant thief (“*Indeed I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise*”). The liturgical celebration of Holy Week is very important for us and in the Proclamation of the Passion from St Luke’s Gospel on Palm Sunday we will hear these great words of mercy. Inspired by them we will enter fully into our annual commemoration of the Lord’s Paschal Mystery, his saving Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Having mentioned the Proclamation of the Passion I would ask that when it is celebrated in a Children’s Liturgy of the Word during Sunday Mass that it be prepared very well. The children present will thus be offered a good understanding of how precious the words of Jesus at his crucifixion are, and how God’s mercy comes to us in his suffering and death.

As adults we also must enter fully into Holy Week. I have asked that communion under both kinds be offered to all the faithful at both the Mass of the Lord’s Supper and at the Easter Vigil. At the Last Supper the Lord raised the “*Cup of Mercy*”, in which is the Blood of the New and Eternal Covenant poured out for each one of us. He asked that we do this in his memory and that we drink from the chalice. Although it may not be possible to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at every Parish Mass it should happen sometimes, and by requiring that it does during the Easter Triduum I want to make that clear. It is important that the Liturgy is celebrated fully and well in all our parishes and that needs constant care and attention. Everywhere you go in Lanarkshire there are supermarkets of varying sizes providing many alternatives as to where and when we want to shop. A convenience mentality can affect our religious practice also and I think the faithful should be conscious of this and endeavour to support the celebration of the Church’s Liturgy in their own parishes as often as they can.

Through our Lenten almsgiving we extend the “*Hand of Mercy*” to those in need. I encourage your generous support for our Special Lenten Collections – for SCIAF on the 4th Sunday of Lent, and for the Church in the Holy Land through the Collection for Holy Places on Good Friday. A collection should also be taken up on one of the Sundays of Lent for Diocesan needs. I am linking this collection to the charities the Diocese supports which include St Margaret’s Family and Children’s Society, SPRED, The Innocents, The Family Life Project. The grants made to these groups last year amounted to £50,000 so it would be very good if these contributions could be met through the Lenten collection. I hope it will be well supported.

Thank you for reading or listening to this letter. I hope it offers some food for thought and some ideas for our Lenten journey. May the Holy Spirit inspire your prayer and good works as we seek to serve the Lord of goodness and mercy.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Joseph Toal". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

+ Joseph Toal

*'Hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor' (Pope Francis)
– how **you** can help the environment during Lent, and beyond*

Go Green with SCIAF

Travel

If everyone in Scotland drove just 5 miles less each week, over the course of a year that would be equivalent to taking 70,000 cars off the road

- If it's not far, leave the car
- Car pool to church, work or school
- Commute by bike or public transport at least one day a week
- Drive smart eg drive in a higher gear around 2000 rpm. Slow down – you use up to 15% more fuel driving at 70 mph than at 50 mph. See AA website

Home and Energy

The energy we use at home accounts for a fifth of Scotland's total carbon emissions. The good news is that there is so much we can do to cut this, and it definitely doesn't mean going without heat!

- Get free expert advice from Home Energy Scotland 0808 808 2282
- Change your energy source – replace your boiler, generate your own energy from wind or solar power, switch to a green energy supplier
- Lock your heat in – insulate, draught proof, double glazing
- Heat smart – turn down thermostats on heating to 18°C-21°C, hot water max 60°C
- Save electricity – wash at 30°C, when buying a new appliance opt for the most energy efficient option

Food

- Go meat free on Mondays (and Fridays!)
- Plan what you eat to keep food from the bin
- Eat local and seasonal food eg farmers' markets , local veg box scheme
- Grow your own

Other shopping

- Reduce – buy less, consider buying second hand, sharing purchases eg powertools
- Reuse – organise a swap party, if something is broken fix it instead of replacing it
- Recycle