



ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
SACRED HEART & ST GERARD
BELLSHILL ~ EST. 2018

1st Sunday of Lent B

21st February 2021

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Streamed Services this Week

Tuesday	7.00pm	Mass from Sacred Heart
Wednesday	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Michelle Miller RIP from Sacred Heart
Thursday	10.00am 7.00pm	Mass from St Gerard's Lenten Prayer & Exposition
Friday	10.00am	Mass from St Gerard's
Saturday	4.00pm	Vigil Mass from St Gerard's
Sunday	10.00am 11.30am	Mass celebrated by the Bishop from St Gerard's Mass from Sacred Heart

The Scriptures

First Reading
Genesis 9:8-15

Psalm 25
Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading
1 Peter 3:18-22

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what his call holds for us. *Alleluia.*

Gospel
Mark 1:12-15

Lent Online Retreat

During Lent, the Ignatian Spirituality Centre produces a Lent Online Retreat with daily prayers and reflections. The title of the retreat is Knowing Jesus. You can find the prayers at www.onlineprayer.net

Each of the daily prayers stands alone as well as part of the retreat so may prove useful prayer inspiration without committing to the retreat.

Zoom Sharing Group

The Online Retreat will form the basis of a weekly zoom parish group during Lent on a Wednesday evening at 7pm to reflect and share together.

To join the weekly parish group email frparkes@rcdom.org.uk for the link to join. It is as simple as clicking the link from a computer, smart phone or tablet with a camera and microphone.

Please Pray for those who have died recently

Michelle Miller RIP

Whose funeral will be celebrated on Wednesday 24th February at 10.00am in Sacred Heart

Francis Higgins RIP

Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

Please remember in your prayers

Sick:

Baby Felix Durnion, Matt McDonald, Kathleen Grant, Jackie Chinskie, Jane Downie, Betty McDermott, Betty McAuley, Anne Taggart, Martin Burns, Megan Carlin, Kirsty White, Gerard Foley, Tony Maschinsky, Elizabeth Ann Curtis, Maureen Griffin, May Dick, Lauren Nicol, Joseph Townsley, Peter Mitchell, Thomas O'Donnell, John Hamilton, Michael Rennie, Rosemary Walsh, Jayne Murphy, Jim McIlroy, Lorraine McCarthy, Mary McCardle, John McKendry (Coatbridge), Jane Curran, Nan McAtamney,

Recently Dead: Michelle Miller, Mary McKinstry, Betty Toal,

Months Minds: Margaret Collins, Christopher Bernard Collins, Patricia B Hughes, Kitty Curran,

Anniversaries: Victoria Miller, Christine Burns, George Steppie, Gail Kelly, Terry Grew,



www.sciaf.org.uk

SCIAF LENT APPEAL

SCIAF's Lent appeal is one again affected as many fundraising efforts are by the pandemic. The appeal through parishes in Lent and the wee box campaign are the major fundraiser for SCIAF which works on our behalf help those most in need.

Ways you can help:

You can collect a box from Fr Stuart at Sacred Heart, there will be a box behind the storm door if no one is in with SCIAF boxes.

You can order a SCIAF wee box from their website.

You can make a donation to SCIAF online through their website.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish

Parish Bank Account Details: Diocese of Motherwell Sacred Heart and St Gerard's
Bank of Scotland, Account No. 15939268, Sort Code 80-22-60 or
donate via www.rcdom.org.uk and click on the donate button and search for Sacred Heart or St Gerard's



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 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 a you a fruitful and holy Lent, full of faith, hope and love,
Yours in Christ, + Joseph Toal