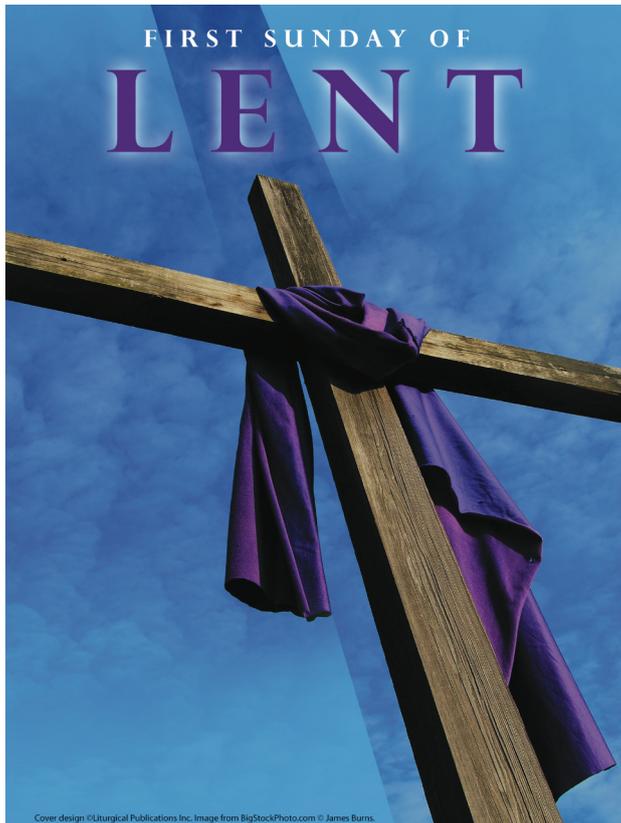




ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
SACRED HEART & ST GERARD
BELLSHILL ~ EST. 2018

Sunday 6th March 2022
Lent 1 C



Clergy: Fr Stuart Parkes Deacon Jim Aitken
Telephone: 01698 842709 Email: frparkes@rcdom.org.uk
Twitter: @sgshbellshill Web: sacredheartandstgerards.org
Youtube: www.youtube.com/sacredheartstgerardsparishbellshill

Services this Week

Tuesday	6.00pm	<i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i> <i>Confessions until 6.45pm</i> Mass in Sacred Heart
	7.00pm	
Wednesday	10.00am	Mass in Sacred Heart
	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross in Sacred Heart Church
Thursday	9.30am	Mass in St Gerard's
	7.00pm	<i>Confessions after Mass</i> Synod in St Gerard's Church
Friday	9.30am	Mass in St Gerard's
Saturday	4.00pm	Vigil Mass in St Gerard's
	5.30pm	Vigil Mass in Sacred Heart
Sunday	10.00am	Mass in St Gerard's
	11.30am	Mass in Sacred Heart

Thank You

The collection last Sunday was £1385. The parish also receives an average of £430 weekly in electronic donations. Thank you for your generosity.



Ukraine Collection

Next Sunday instead of the collection for sick and retired clergy which will be taken up after Easter, there will be a collection for those effected by the war in Ukraine. All donations will go to SCIAF to distribute to their sister Caritas agencies in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania who are providing vital aid to those in need.

The SCIAF collection on 4th Sunday of Lent supports projects in Malawi.



On a Tuesday evening, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions and Mass from 6.00pm in Sacred Heart.

On a Wednesday evening there will be Stations of the Cross in Sacred Heart Church.

On a Thursday evening an opportunity to gather as part of the synod journey, to pray, listen and share at 7.00pm in St Gerard's Church.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

I wondered if there was enough interest for a parish Lourdes pilgrimage in September/October of this year? A 7 day pilgrimage with flights on Ryanair from Edinburgh to Toulouse and full board accommodation in Lourdes is around £800 per person.

If you are interested please add your name to the list in the porch so we can gauge interest.

Gift Aid

If you already Gift Aid, new envelopes will be available before the end of the month. If you have changed address or have stopped paying tax please let Fr Stuart know.

Later in Lent we will be inviting people to consider Gift Aiding their donations to the Church

Stall

The Stall in Sacred Heart and St Gerard's have both recently been restocked with cards and other items. Please have a look. The stalls now have card payment machines which can take card payments for anything purchased or for donations to the parish.

Contactless payments for Church offerings was looking prohibitively expensive at the moment, although a parishioner is looking at what can be created.

Please remember in your prayers

Sick:

Baby Felix Durnion, Jackie Chinskie, Lorraine McCarthy, Leanne McGovern, Billy Mosedale, Thomas O'Donnell, Marcella Taylor, Fr Raymond Jaconelli, Avril Finnon, Matt MacDonald, Jean Murphy, Megan Carlin, Jamie Devine, Elizabeth Lunny, Tom Downie, Annie Taggart, Betty McAuley, Angela Ferguson, Wilma Dempsey, Marion Desmond, Chris Tinto, Avril McClory,

Recently Dead: Caroline Coyle,

Months Minds: Brian Duffy, Patrick Duffy, Jacqueline Duffy, John Boyle, Anne Hillis, Anne Boyd, Jane Curran,

Anniversaries: Kathleen & Davie McConnell, Cathy & James Morgan, Kirsty & Fiona McCallum, Mr & Mrs Moan, Frances Conway, Agnes Moore, Charlie Dooley, Cathy Smith, Ina McGuinness, Margaret Taylor,

Sporting Memories

Sporting Memories, a group set up to assist and encourage those suffering from Dementia through Sporting Reminisce, meets weekly in St Gerards Hall.

If any Parishioner wishes to attend, or has any relative, friend or colleague who might benefit from attending please in the first instance contact Jim Purvis on 07752 436587, or by email at jim@thesmf.co.uk

Ignatian Lent Retreat

The online retreat is open to all and this year celebrates the 500 years since the conversion of St. Ignatius Loyola and is based on his life. You can find more information at www.onlineprayer.net

Bellshill Central Parish Church Guild

The Guild invite ladies to join them for their guest night on Monday 28th March at 7.00pm with the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra for entertainment. If interested there is a list at the back of St Gerard's for you details.

The Synod in Sacred Heart & St Gerard's

We keep talking about Synod as if it is an everyday word, and it is still unfamiliar to us all. For many years 'synod' has been linked to gatherings of Bishops in prayer, listening and sharing with the Holy Father. Pope Francis has asked the whole Church to be part of this process of prayer, listening and sharing that we might know the calling of the Holy Spirit. In short, how do we walk together as Church and how can we do it better?

As a parish we will consider the questions of the synod on four evenings to help us as a parish find our new normal emerging from the pandemic. The first theme is the Pandemic itself and our experience of it. Then we will consider the Church as a community of prayer and worship, The life of the Church and finally the Church's mission and its outreach to others. Naturally it is impossible to clearly separate our lives in such a way, but it is simply a starting point for prayer, listening and sharing. So please think of the questions on a personal and parish level and in terms of the whole Church and together we are invited to share our story.

Each of our four evenings will begin with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, a reading, and a short reflection, then we will be invited to share our own prayer and reflections, our own story and experience in a smaller group. Then having reflected on what we have heard to share the fruit of our prayer, listening and sharing. Each evening would last between 60 and 90 minutes.

Over the page the first session which I have vaguely titled "Pandemic" is outlined with a scripture reading for reflection on our parish themes, some words of Pope Francis from the early days of the Pandemic to provoke and inspire and some questions to aid your reflection on the themes of the synod.

After Easter we will gather to consider how the outcome of our prayer and reflection may help shape the life of our parish.

Please feel free to discuss these prayers, questions and reflections with others, and email the parish at sacredheartbellshill@rcdom.org.uk with any responses which you would like to share with us or join us for our synod prayer and discussion in St Gerard's on Thursday at 7.00pm. We are invited to listen to what others have to say, without seeking to try and make them understand our own point of view. We will be pleased to receive all feedback from the parish.

Our experience of Church and life in the last two years

Scripture Reading for Reflection: Mark 4:35-41, Jesus Calms the Storm

Pope Francis

"We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this." *Pope Francis, Friday 27th March 2020*

General Question for Reflection

Two years ago, we suddenly shut the doors to our church buildings because of the pandemic. We were generally unprepared for the experience and the life of the world has changed, what about the Church? How did we journey together, listen and speak out during this time? Have we learned anything that will guide us in future?

Specific Questions for Reflection

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY:

The Acts of the Apostles tells us how the first disciples worked together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to build the early Church. Pope Francis invites every baptised person to work - or 'walk' - together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to build today's Church. How are we already working/walking together? How can we do this better? Who is getting left behind and why?

LISTENING:

The first step in walking together is to really listen to one another, without prejudice or personal agenda. When we can listen like this, we may hear God's voice speaking to us through other people. How well do we listen, especially to people who have different views than our own? How can we better listen to young people, women and minority groups?

SPEAKING OUT:

We are invited to speak out boldly and responsibly.

What helps us to do this?

What prevents us from doing this?

How does the relationship with local media work (not only Catholic media)?

How well do we choose the people who speak on our behalf to the wider community?