

## Parish Finances

*First Collection last weekend* - £478  
*Second Collection for parish funds* - £331.

*SCIAF Boxes* - £259  
*Loose Change* - £5

## Parish News

**Easter Monday Mass** is at 11.00 a.m.

**RCIA** will meet on Monday, 1st May at 7 p.m. in the parish house.

**First Communion Candidates** are reminded to get their cards signed at Sunday Masses wherever they attend Mass. If at St. Mary's 11.30 a.m. Mass, cards will be signed at the Children's Liturgy.

**Church Halls** are now open again for business.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** Gift Aid members please collect your envelopes from the table at the Sacristy if you have not already done so. New envelopes started on 2nd April. If you have donated to the collections without an envelope since 2nd April, please hand in the empty envelopes (not sealed) and mark on them the amount you donated so that we can still claim the Gift Aid. Simply pop it in this week's collection bags.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** takes place on Sunday 23 April 2017 at 2 p.m. in St. Gerard's Church, Fleming Road, Bellshill.



### Bishop Toal's Easter Message

Dear Parishioners

This Easter in the Diocese of Motherwell, I ask your continued prayers for those to be ordained as priests in the coming months. We have been blessed by the Lord in this gift of new priests and thank him for their generous response. I thank you for your generous response to my appeals for financial assistance for the formation of our seminarians. I ask you to pray also that others may respond to the Lord's call to priesthood and religious life.

Let us thank the Lord also for all priests, our permanent deacons and religious. It was good for the bishop and priests to renew again our promises to give our lives completely to the Lord and the service of his people at the Mass of Chrism, and I thank the whole Diocesan community for your prayers for all ministering in Christ's name and for your loving support.

I wish you all a Happy and Joyful Easter, and ask the Lord's blessing upon your families and on all in special need in our world at this time.

+ Joseph Toal



### Reflection for Easter Sunday by Cardinal Basil Hume OSB

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we do not know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb .. he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead. John 20:1-9

Easter challenges us each year. Do we believe that Christ truly rose from the dead? Belief in Christ's Resurrection is fundamental and essential to being a Christian.

Christianity makes demands. It is not an easy option. Its founder, Jesus Christ, called for a change of heart, a turning to God. He demanded a change in ways of thinking and behaviour. That call is still being made to us in our day. Shall we listen to it? The tomb was empty. Everyone at the time agreed on that, but the Apostles had been slow to understand what had happened. Once Peter and John had verified the fact for themselves, they understood the teaching of the scriptures, that he must rise from the dead. So later on, Peter, addressing Cornelius' household, told them that they were witnesses to the resurrection of the Lord and they had to proclaim the good news.

We have the same duty to give witness to the fact that Christ is risen from the dead. Death has lost its hold over humankind. Death is not, for us, the end of the story. It is the beginning of a new chapter. There is life after death; it is life with God. Our present life is to prepare for that.

## Parish Activities

**Baptism Course** is held on the first Tuesday of the month in the parish house at 7 p.m.

**Parish Bingo** in the hall every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. Pass the word to your friends!

**Wednesday Cafe** in the hall on Wednesdays after 10 a.m. Mass. Tea/Coffee, Toast, Raffle! Why not join us!

**Novena to St. Peregrine** (Patron Saint of Cancer Sufferers) here in St. Mary's every last Thursday of the month (27 Apr) at 7.30 p.m.

**Calling Times** - Thursday evenings - 5.30-7.00 p.m.

**Saturday** Breakfast club in the hall after 10 a.m. Mass. Call round for bacon/ sausage roll, tea or coffee.

**Hall Bookings:** Tel: 01236 600560 or 01236 435252 (for all your family group celebrations/functions).

**Foodbank:** Big **Thank-you** for your very generous on-going donations of food.

**Recycling:** If you have any old spectacles we will pass them on for use in third world countries.

**Sponsored Lamp/Remembrance Book** application forms are available at the back of the church.

To help with our collections, I would like to ask all those who pay Income Tax to join our Gift Aid Scheme, as this will give the parish an extra 25p for every £ donated.

This is much needed funds we are missing out on. Thank you for your continued support.