

Parish Finances

Good Friday collection for Holy Places - £210

Offertory Collection for Easter - £527

Easter Quarterly Collection now due - £135

SCIAF Boxes - £247 (total £506)

Parish News

Congratulations to those who were received into the Church during the Easter Vigil - both in St. Mary's and St. Bernard's. We pray for them and all who were received throughout the Diocese and ask the Holy Spirit to guide them and us as we journey through this life in faith.

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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: If you are Gift Aid Scheme members and have not collected your envelopes for the current year, please pick them up from the table outside the Sacristy. A few still remain!

Prayer and Contemplation in the Catholic Tradition: You are invited to take part in a series of four workshops focusing on Prayer and Contemplation in the Catholic Tradition. They will take place in the Xavier Centre, Carfin, on the Wednesdays of May (3, 10, 17, and 24) - 11.15am-12.45 pm. No need to book - just come along.

Sr. Ann McAllister, FMSA (Kenya): Many thanks to the anonymous parishioner for their very generous donation towards the cost of Kiptoo's eye operation. The operation did not take place as there was too much pressure in his eyes and it would have been dangerous to operate. However, with medication it is hoped that he will be able to get it when he reports back to the doctor on 12 June. We can remember him in our prayers and hope all goes well for him.

Sr. Ann has now landed in Scotland on home leave (which includes a trip to Canada to make an appeal for her order!) and she has made arrangements for the payment of the operation. Before leaving, because of a generous donation from a group in Glasgow, she was able to visit and deliver food to 300 families (which would last about a week or so) in drought ridden area, and she left everyone smiling and happy to be receiving it.

Another letter is available at the back of the church and a picture of Kiptoo is on the church notice board. Please pick up a copy of her letter.



RACE NIGHT
In aid of St. Andrew's Hospice
in
ST. BERNARD'S HALL
on
SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2017
Doors open at 7.30 p.m.
Tickets £5 (contact Deacon Angus)

Feast of Divine Mercy

Bishop John Keenan of Paisley Diocese (in promoting this feast) writes

Today we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy with Easter joy. During the course of His revelations to Saint Faustina, Jesus asked for a Feast of His Divine Mercy to be celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. The liturgical texts of this Sunday are about the Sacrament of Penance, the Tribunal of God's Mercy, and are well suited to Jesus' request. The Feast was made universal by Saint John Paul II when he canonised Sr. Faustina in the great Jubilee Year 2000 so that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter would receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday as a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come." This papal act represented the highest endorsement the Church can give to a private revelation.

Today in St. Gerard's Church, Fleming Road, Bellshill there will be a Divine Mercy Sunday Service at 2 p.m. and you are cordially invited to attend.

As Bishop Keenan writes "what better way to spread the Gospel than to promote God's Mercy, not just by talking about it, but by offering God's mercy to everyone we meet! Showing God's Mercy to everyone is what Jesus means by spreading the Good News".

At our own St. Joseph's altar, we have picture of the Divine Mercy Christ together with Divine Mercy Prayer Book so why not start now by kneeling before the Divine Mercy Picture and offering the special prayers for God's Mercy in our lives.

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.