

Parish Finances

Offertory Collection last weekend - £467

Second Collection for parish Funds - £287

Easter Quarterly Collection now due - £150

SCIAF Boxes - £238 (total £746)

Parish News

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 Confessionals. A few still remain!

Sponsored Lamp this week has been sponsored by M. Gallagher as a birthday remembrance of Jim Gallagher.

SCIAF Boxes: Now is the time to bring in your WEE BOXES with your Lenten 'donations'. We hope to send this off soon to be used in all the needy and war-torn countries.

"Where if not in the Divine Mercy can the world find refuge and the light of hope". Pope John Paul II Apl 1998

Parents & Guardians of First Communicants

Parents are requested to bring children who are making their First Holy Communion on **Sunday 14th May** to the parish House for **Alb fitting on Wed. 3rd May after school** and on **Sunday 7th May** they are invited to the church for **Enrolment Service during the 11.30 a.m. Mass**

Parents of children who are making their First Holy Communion on **Sunday 21st May** are asked to bring children to the parish House for **Alb fitting on Fri 5th May after school** and on **Sunday 7th May** they are invited to the church for **Enrolment Service during the 11.30 a.m. Mass**

It is also good for all, including the children, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for First Holy Communion.

St. Margaret Pilgrimage Dunfermline will take place on Sun. 11 June 2017. **10 am** - Visit to sites associated with St. Margaret's life; **2 pm** - Gather at gates of Pittencrieff Park for Procession and **3 pm** - Holy Mass at St. Margaret's Memorial Church.

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) - 11.15 am-12.45 pm. No need to book - just come along.

HE IS RISEN - SING ALLELUIA

Resurrection Praise and Worship Evening in St. Mary's Hall on Sunday evening, 30th April 2017 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Come celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord
All welcome. Refreshments provided.

SHINE - Youth Music Theatre - greatly acclaimed group of talented young performers from across Lanarkshire, will perform in the New St. Andrew's Parish Church, Church Street, Coatbridge on Friday 19th May 2017 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £5 - contact Carol on 07505700486 or pay at the door.

THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

(A Ministry of Service)

So what is a Deacon and what does he do? Deacons are ordained ministers, as priests and bishops are. From the very earliest days of the church they were understood to occupy a special place in the Christian Community, set apart along with the 'presbyters' (bishops and priests) for a special role modelled on that of Christ himself. Among their duties are: to **Administer Baptism** solemnly; **Be** a custodian and distributor of the Eucharist; **Bless** marriages; **Bring** Viaticum to the dying; **Read** the sacred Scripture to the faithful; **Instruct** and exhort the people; **Preside** over the worship; **Administer** sacramentals and to **Officiate** at funeral and burial services.

If you feel called to be a Deacon, then after praying about it and, if married, discussing it with your wife and family, you should approach your parish priest or diocesan diaconate director Rev. James A. Grant, Holy Family Parish, 57 Hope Street, Mossend (Tel: 01698 843165) or email jamesa.grant@live.co.uk

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 (25 May) 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.