



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B  
3rd-4th March 2018

A Parish of the Diocese  
of Motherwell.  
The Bishop;  
Rt. Rev. Joseph A. Toal  
[www.rcdom.org.uk](http://www.rcdom.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No  
SCO11041

**ENTRANCE**

**ANTIPHON**

**My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.**  
*Psalm 24.15-16*

**COMMUNION**

**ANTIPHON**

**The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.** *Psalm 83.4-5*

**1st Reading: Exodus 20.1-17:**

The Ten Commandments were given by God not just as signposts to heaven but also for the good ordering of society. They create space for people to flourish as humans and to work together for the good of everyone.

Response to the Psalm: **You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.**

**2nd Reading: I Corinthians 1.22-25:**

Paul reflects on the wisdom and power of God revealed in Christ crucified and risen. To the world this wisdom seems foolish and this power seems weak but to those of faith it is a wisdom and power that give life.

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of**

**eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**John 2.13-25:** The expulsion of the merchants from the Temple. This is the act which most probably sealed Jesus's fate because he confronted what the religious leaders had made of religion. They had reduced it to a kind of transaction between God and humanity, something to be bought and sold, dependent on strict rules of observance and external compliance. By contrast, Jesus shows true



faith is based on a joyous and healthy relationship between God and the human person, made possible by his dying and rising.

During this week in Lent, as we reflect on our Lenten theme of Communion and Participation, let's focus on the theme of Growing. In the pamphlet you received at the beginning of Lent, "growing" was described in these terms; "Partners in the mission of Christ enjoy the benefits of a relationship with the Lord and are expected to grow in faith, deepening their faith through full, conscious and active participation in Sunday worship and the sacraments, a life of prayer and ongoing formation." Please take home with you today the handout and reflect how we as a parish and as individuals can continue to respond to this in our parish.



*The Annual General meeting of St Athanasius' Community Hall Management Committee will take place in the Hall on Thursday 15th March at 8pm. The meeting will hear closing reports of the year 2017/18 and elect a new management committee comprising of chairperson, vice-chair, treasurer and secretary. All interested parties are welcome.*

To enhance its security, CCTV cameras have been installed inside and outside our church—two outside, one on the upper right of the façade and one at the garden side of the church; and one inside, covering the sanctuary area. A rope barrier will soon be placed in front of the sanctuary after Mass to indicate that the area is alarmed. This means we will be able to keep the church open throughout the day safe in the knowledge that the church is secured. The votive candles will be inside the alarmed area which unfortunately means you cannot light a candle if you are paying a visit. But this is also a security measure.

Thank you for your offering last week of £762 in the plate, and for £610 in Standing Orders. The 2nd collection for the needs of the diocese was £566.

The collection for SCIAF takes place next week, the 4th Sunday of Lent. A representative of SCIAF will address us at the end of each Mass. This month's 50/50 Club winners: 1st Karen Berry No 56 £125; 2nd Jack Murphy No 10 £75; 3rd Brian Steele no 50 £50.

*The Parish Social Committee has arranged a St Patrick's Night with Irish Stew and soda bread. Tickets £10.*

*The first bingo of the year will be on 8th April. £1.50 for a tea ticket.*

***Please remember to bring along prizes for the bingo and leave them in the baskets in the porch.***

Our choir members are asked to come to practise for the next three Sundays beginning next Sunday after 10am Mass



#### THIS WEEK IN LENT

- There will be Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament each Monday of Lent at 7pm
- Each Wednesday of Lent beginning February 21st at 7pm you are invited to take part in our reflections and meditations on the Eucharist.
- The church will be open Monday-Friday from 7am until dusk.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7am-10am, 10.30am-1pm.
- Stations of the Cross each Friday in St Athanasius' School at 9am. All welcome.



During Lent, we intensify our **PRAYER, FASTING AND GIVING** in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. We do this both as individuals and as a parish. This year I propose that our theme for Lent be

#### COMMUNION AND PARTICIPATION.

We aim to experience deeper communion with God and each other through greater participation in our life as a community of faith, especially our participation at Mass. May the Holy Spirit guide us during this holy season and bring us closer to God and each other.

Our catechumen, Natalie Conner, who is preparing for baptism and entry into the Church at Easter, will today have the first of three Scrutinies. The Scrutinies are prayers *for healing, for liberation, and for forgiveness* which *all of us* offer on behalf of the elect. They each deal with sin in a different way. But while the scrutinies deal with the acknowledgement of sin, *their focus* is on God's love. The scrutinies have a two-fold purpose: *first*, to heal all that is "weak, defective or sinful," and *second*, to strengthen all that is "upright, strong, and good." In these rites, *we* ask God to assist Natalie to embrace His love, giving her strength against the power of sin.

#### A PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK IN LENT

*Loving Father,  
So many times I turn away from you  
and always you welcome me back.  
Your mercy and love gives me confidence  
Thank you for the invitation to share, fast  
and pray  
so that you can form a new heart within me.  
Your powerful compassion for my  
weaknesses leads me to ask for mercy  
and await with great hope the Easter joy you  
share with us.*

Please remember in your prayers our sick and housebound: Eddie Lebida, Betty Flynn, Isobel Gardner, Helen Kelly, Mary Kelly, Ann Martin, Walter Britton, Maureen Campbell, Lynett Moses, George Wisdom, Joan McKay, Michael McKay, John Ness, Mary Brown, Paula Magee, Geraldine Creany, Dylan Ferguson, Jordan Ferguson, May Kelly & Mary Haverstock.

May God grant eternal rest to those who have recently died and whose month's mind and anniversaries occur at this time: Maurizio Puricelli, Elaine Devine, Jean Meehan, Archie Meehan, Lisa McKernan & Anna Marie Diamond.



**HOLY MASS: Vigil of Sunday: Saturday, 6pm; Sunday: 10am.**

**Monday-Friday: 10am.**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5.30-5.55pm and on request.**

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Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council: Mr Ronnie Cook.  
Parish Treasurer: Mr Eddie Kelly (email: [treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org](mailto:treasurer@stathanasiuscarluke.org))



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