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XI SUNDAY OF YEAR
THE CALL OF THE TWELVE

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

Loose & Gift Aid £ 1180
 Standing Orders £ 112
 Total £ 1292

SINCERE THANKS




LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS


Recently Deceased; Michael Feeney, Salvatore Leo (Wishaw), Thomas Heffernan, Lara Divers (Newcaslte), Donna Campbell (Hamilton), Siobhain Downie (Motherwell), Mary McStay (Newarthill), John Robert Murray (Viewpark), Hannagh O'Donnell (Clydebank), Peter O'Donnell (Clydebank), Erin Hendry (Shotts), Stevie O'Dowd, John Doak (Clydebank), Tom Heffernan, Cathy Agnew (Mossend), Paul Lawlor (New Stevenston), Aileen Forsyth (Cleland), Mrs Moira Parry, Eamon McCrystal (Ireland), Father Damien Gilhooley, Mary Reilly (Motherwell), Patrick Griffin (Stepps), Marion Parry (Wishaw), Mrs Goldie (Armadale), Frankie Reynolds, Liz Speirs (Glasgow), Lily Young (Liverpool), Elizabeth (Betty) Grane (Airdrie), Eileen Garrity, Barry Kinch, Annie Doran (Calderbank), Peter Beaton (Bothwell), Kimberley Stark (Carluke), Ann Traynor (Whifflet), Mary Rielly (Motherwell), Tommy Daley (Uddingston), Mrs Coulter (Blantyre), Aileen Forsyth, Agnes O'Hare, Jack Courtney (Airdrie)

Anniversary; John Tamburrini, Rosemarie McClucie, Chrissie & Alex Scott, Henry McAvoy, Margaret Collins (Foxford)

Father's Day Remembrance; Jim Mays, John McShane, Frank McMahan, Jim McShane

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

THIS WEEKEND		NEXT WEEKEND	
Vigil 9.00am	Liz McMahon		Paul Burns
11.00am	Eileen Buchanan		Geraldine Cullen
	Kenny Muir		John Paul Cairns

Vigil 9.00am	Jamie Cairney		Michael Early
	Maureen Campbell		Marian McParland
11.00am	Mhari Canning		Angela Harvie
	Michael Deane		Edward Harvie
	Steven Hassan		Agnes Monaghan
	Fiona McCormick		Liz McMahon

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The collection for Day for Life will take place on the 3rd Sunday in June, being **June 18th. ie TODAY**

Saturday 24th/Sunday 25th Deanery Mission appeal given by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa.

You are invited to celebrate

Holy Rosary at 9.40am

MON		
TUE	10.00am	Holy Mass
WED	7.00pm	Holy Mass CONFIRMATIONS
THU	10.00am	Holy Mass OLSF Leavers Confessions
FRI	7-8.00pm	
FRI	10.00am	Holy Mass
SAT	10.00am	Holy Mass
SAT	5.00pm	Vigil Mass
SUN	9.00am	Holy Mass
SUN	11.00am	Holy Mass
SUN	3.00pm	Mass (Grotto)

PILGRIMS TO THE GROTTTO THIS WEEK

Tuesday St Edward's Parish, Airdrie Cathedral Primary

Wednesday Safeguarding (Edinburgh)

Thursday St Mark's, Rutherglen

Friday Trinity H.S. Renfrew

Sunday Motherwell Hospitalite



First Reading God chooses Israel to be his own possession

Second Reading Reconciled to God

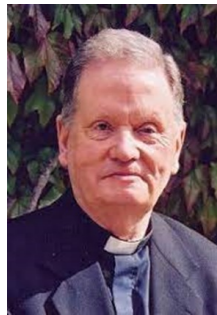
Gospel A new set of twelve tribes, a 'New Israel'.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LAST WEEKEND, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, we prayed in the Bidding Prayers for our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. They are called "Extraordinary" because the Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are our

priests but the lay people who serve in this ministry are far from ordinary, as well as serving the people at Mass many give up their spare time to minister to the sick and housebound in their own homes, a service they perform with love, care, and great devotion, taking Our Lord to those who cannot attend Mass. *On behalf of the entire parish, I thank them from the bottom of my heart.*



Bishop Maurice Taylor, RIP

Bishop Taylor, the Bishop Emeritus of Galloway, died peacefully Wednesday evening. May he rest in peace. He was 97 years old, a bishop for 42 years, a priest for almost 73 years and was Rector of the Royal Scots College, Valladolid, Spain from 1965 to 1974.

Bishop Taylor, who grew up in Burnbank and served in the Army Medical Corps at the end of the Second World War, was ordained in 1950. His last parish whilst a serving priest in the Diocese of Motherwell was Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride.

He was nominated Bishop of Galloway in April 1981 and ordained bishop on 9 June 1981. He retired in May 2004.

'Don Mauricio', as we 'Spaniards' affectionately call him was held in great affection by the students of the Spanish College and addressed us for the last time at the meeting of former students of the college at our meeting last October.

Requiescat in pace

Thomas Heffernan R.I.P.

The funeral of Thomas Heffernan will be held in St Francis Xavier's Church. We extend our sympathies to his wife and family.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

'FONTES'

The **FREE** magazine published for the people of Motherwell Diocese is available from the church porch. If you haven't already done so, please take one.



CLEANING THE CHURCH

We have only two regular cleaners who do a marvellous job in keeping our church 'spic and span' but they really could do with a helping hand. They usually

clean the church on a Thursday morning after Mass. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

'Many hands make light work'

SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER - GARDEN FETE

Saturday 24th June 11.00am - 2.00pm

See poster in church porch

GROTTO MAINTENANCE

I am aware that a number of years ago there used to be a group of men who gathered on a Saturday morning to help out around the grotto. They worked for around two hours but the 'work' was very light a bit of weeding, sweeping up and getting ready for the 'big days'. I am keen to resume this practice which was as much a social event as anything - all gathered around a table at 1.00pm to enjoy their 'wages' a hot pie a cup of tea and a blether, putting the world to rights - a sort of 'men's shed', if you know what I mean.



If interested, please speak to Jim Nelson, the gardener or Kevin Connelly and explore the possibilities



XAVIER CENTRE

Xavier is available to hire for functions, anniversaries, birthday parties, nights out, special occasions etc.

Email - xaviercentre@gmail.com

Phone - 07581 239 872

[All profits go to upkeep of parish and grotto]

Day for Life Message

This year's 'Day for Life' message is written by a woman in the hope that it can offer opportunities for healing and reconciliation.

Bishops' Introduction

Voices of women who have had an abortion are often silent in Church and in society. This year's message for Day for Life is written by a woman and hopes to break this silence and offer opportunities for hope, healing and reconciliation.

JANE'S STORY

I went to Catholic schools, I knew about God and morality on some level, but for me, the culture spoke louder when it came to making decisions around sexuality.

When I was 15, I discovered I was pregnant and the fear clouded everything. I had one aim, and that was to solve the problem I had found myself in. A quick search for confidential help landed me at a clinic connected to an abortion provider. They seemed to genuinely believe that abortion was the solution to my problem and I don't remember discussing any other options. I was relieved when they determined that I was capable enough to make this decision alone, without the involvement of an adult, which is still legal to this day.

By hearing other people share their stories and being gently encouraged by the team, I was able to speak the truth of what had happened to me on that day. My feelings were acknowledged, including my sense of loss.

JANE

That Saturday I travelled alone to the clinic. My parents were unaware, due to other difficulties in the family home that I didn't want to contribute to. I went through the degrading experience of a surgical abortion, and I thought that if I could just get through that day, I would never have to think about it again. I remember feeling conflicted as a tear rolled down my cheek, that I quickly wiped away. I believed I couldn't be sad because this was something I had chosen to do. So after the initial feeling of relief, I pushed down the experience and avoided anything to do with the topic of abortion. It was difficult to be around pregnant women and I

found the anniversary difficult each year.

Over the next few years, I became more curious about faith through the invitation of a friend. I was looking for direction and truth, but my spiritual life was always tainted by the thought that I could never be forgiven for what I had done – somehow, God's mercy didn't apply to me. In the fleeting moments of honesty with myself and God, I knew that my choice didn't make me lose something, but someone. At times, this realisation was unbearable. This led to periods of deep depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as more promiscuous behaviour and numbing the pain with alcohol, food, or isolation.

This all changed when I was encouraged to go to confession. Even when I tried to justify my choice, the priest met me with the love and mercy of Jesus. The tears he shed melted my heart of stone. I began to give up my old ways of life and follow His way. On this journey I was introduced to Rachel's Vineyard: a healing ministry that provides support for those who are suffering after abortion. I remember the kindness of the woman that I spoke to, and I knew I wouldn't be judged there.

It took so much courage to go on a retreat, but I can genuinely say it changed my life. By hearing other people share their stories and being gently encouraged by the team, I was able to speak the truth of what had happened to me on that day. My feelings were acknowledged, including my sense of loss. I was finally given permission to grieve for the baby that had died through my choice. I acknowledged my motherhood and named my son Joseph. This was the start of God turning the guilt, shame and unforgiveness into a deep love for my son, as any good mother would have.

The healing has continued alongside my faith journey. I've taken responsibility for the role I played in my abortion, but with perspective and time, I can see that my 'choice' wasn't really a choice at all. There were other people's failures, and an inability to truly give informed consent as a teenager that also contributed. The option that was presented as a quick fix solution has eternal consequences, and I truly believe that if I'd have known the impact abortion would have had on my life, even as a teenager, I would have made a different choice.