



St Francis Xavier's Carfin

Taylor Ave, Carfin, Motherwell ML15AJ



14th February 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year of Mark)

Cure of the Leper

We live in a world of suffering, caused by diseases, by the exclusion of people, by greed and jealousy. Jesus is the antidote to suffering - the one who brings healing, who welcomes people into his embrace, and who proclaims a new relationship between God and suffering humanity.

In today's gospel we see Jesus reaching out a loving hand to a leper who in biblical times were treated as religious and social outcasts.



The Word of God Today

Leviticus This describes how lepers were treated in biblical times. An ancient society had very strict rules to try to contain disease. Leprosy made the victim an outcast not only socially but also in the religious sphere. Only when a leper had been pronounced cured and had undergone a purification rite, was he re admitted to the community. This prepares us for Jesus encounter with a leper in today's gospel you pay

Paul Saint Paul urges us never to do anything offensive Saint Paul urges as never to do anything offensive to anyone but to do everything for the glory of God.

Mark A leper breaks all the social conventions and approaches Jesus. Jesus two breaks through human conventions and stretches out his hand and touches the sick man. In this way mark shows us how a Christian community should deal with sinners and people society rejects.

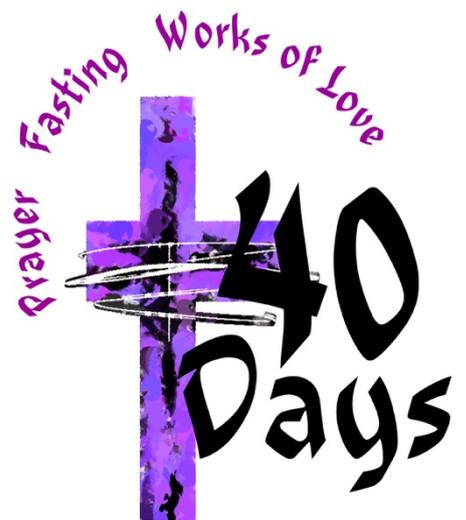
THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

As you will be aware, The Holy season of Lent begins on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. It is a great sorrow to me that I am not in the position to celebrate the distribution of ashes with you. Nevertheless, I would strongly recommend that you set aside 30-40 minutes to join with me in Holy Mass which will be streamed live at 10.00am and again at 7.00pm. Although we will be unable to come together physically, let us come together 'virtually' and spend this time together participating in Holy Mass- a fitting way to begin this holy season.

Ash Wednesday is, as always, a day of Fast and Abstinence

ONE full meal NO flesh meat.

The bishop has made the suggestion that anyone who wishes ashes should burn last year's palms and mix the ash with water before making the sign of the cross on their head. Because the ashes are made from blessed palms, the ashes left over should be buried in the garden.



SCIAF BOXES FOR LENTEN ALMS are available from the porch of the church.

Like everyone else, I have no idea how long the present lockdown restrictions will last. This means that, this Lent, as with the better part of last year's Lent, there won't be the opportunity to attend extra masses and services in the church. Let's hope and pray that the First Minister will lift some of the restrictions re. public worship in the course of Lent. I will of course be streaming Mass most days. During lent, I would also like to stream services such as Stations of the Cross, Morning and/or Evening Prayer.

Please remember **YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE A FACEBOOK MEMBERSHIP** to view the Masses, etc on the Carfin Grotto Facebook page.



Streamed Masses this Coming Week

Mon	7.00pm	Lighting of Candles followed by Votive Mass of St. Joseph
Tue	-----No streamed Mass -----	
Ash Wed	10.00am	Holy Mass
	7.00pm	Holy Mass
Thu-Fri	9.30am	Stations of the Cross
	10.00am	Holy Mass -
Sat	-----No streamed Mass -----	
Sun	11.00am	Holy Mass, First Sunday of Lent

Devotions to St Joseph



On Monday evenings I shall light candles on behalf of all those who have requested this via the Facebook page. After this ceremony, a Votive Mass of St Joseph will be offered for all those intentions. **SUNDAY EVENING is the cut off time for petitions to be included.**

Safeguarding Statement for Parishes and Organisations in Motherwell Diocese

Bishop Toal has prepared a safeguarding Statement for parishes and organisations in Motherwell Diocese. This can be viewed below.

TRIBUTE TO ARCHBISHOP TARTAGLIA

FLOURISH, the Glasgow Archdiocesan Newspaper, has prepared a Special Tribute Edition to commemorate the life and ministry of the late Archbishop Philip Tartaglia. Here is the Link.

<http://flourishnewspaper.co.uk/Flourish-Archbishop-Tartaglia-Tribute-2021.html>

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION - £576 Standing Orders £415 = Total £991

Your continued contributions to the financial support of the parish are truly appreciated. During these times of lockdown, we have no other means of financial support – the hall is closed, there are no gatherings in the grotto, no public Masses. I am enormously grateful to those who have diligently handed in their envelopes/cash/standing orders during these strange times. **Please keep up the good work.**

Thank You!

During lockdown the 'Anniversaries', 'Months Minds' etc. will be announced during streamed Sunday Mass. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE hand these in by 8.00pm on Thursday evening. Thank you.

2021 Safeguarding Statement for Parishes and Organisations in Motherwell Diocese.

Since my statement on Safeguarding last February, the restrictions brought in because of coronavirus have disrupted a lot of normal parish life and curtailed many activities run by organisations and groups in the Diocese of Motherwell. It has been necessary though to ensure the continued safety and protection of all who come to worship in our churches and take part in the limited activities permitted in parishes at present. The Diocesan and Parish Safeguarding teams have been working therefore to ensure that our Safeguarding Structures remain in place, and have also ensured that any present concerns raised in parishes have been properly handled, while also addressing matters reported from the past.

I thank our Parish Priests and Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, our Religious Communities, and our Diocesan and Parish Organisations who have recently completed the Annual Safeguarding Audits. In March, an external independent audit of the Motherwell Diocesan Safeguarding Service, asked for by the *Independent Review Group*, will take place. Although a lot of preparatory work has been required and the audit is expected to be demanding, we anticipate that it will be beneficial and that the recommendations made will help improve our Diocesan safeguarding work in the future

At National level, the review required after the initial three years of *In God's Image* is

underway and the Bishops hope to give approval to this updated version of our Instruction on the Safeguarding Standards and Procedures for the whole Church in Scotland once the Review is completed.

The National Coordinator of the Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Service, Tina Campbell, recently moved to a new job, and I express our appreciation of her work in the National Office and earlier as The Motherwell Safeguarding Adviser, and wish her well for the future. The Scottish Bishops are currently reviewing all the Commissions, Agencies and Services of the Bishops' Conference and the work and structure of our National Safeguarding Service is part of this review. The decisions resulting from the Review will be made known in due course.



Each year now we keep this coming Friday, the Friday after Ash Wednesday, as our **National Day of Prayer for All who have Suffered Abuse**. We recognise that some among us have suffered greatly from the abuse inflicted upon them, and we feel particularly for those abused within the Church. We hold them in our prayer and ask the Lord to bring healing and courage to those who have been wounded. As Bishop of Motherwell Diocese, I renew our commitment to listen to and assist all who report abuse and seek our assistance.

+ *Joseph Toal*

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sick
Recently Dead
Months Minds

Anniversaries

Birthday Rem

