

**KINDLY REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**All the Sick especially:** Fernando M. A. Menoscal, Orla Rose McMullen; Mary Francis Chance; Isa Keatings; Enrique Menoscal Valarezo; Nazia McNulty; Dora Menoscal.

**Deaths:** John Heffernan – Mosshall Street; Liam Connelly; Jessie Burns; Fr Martin Chambers; Margaret Allen (Orr); Elizabeth McCormack (McCluskey); Mary McFarlane; Mary Russell; Christopher Johnston; Helen Grant; Fr Desmond Broderick.

**Months Minds:** .

**Anniversaries:** Bridget Woods; Elizabeth Daly; James McMahon; Margaret McMahon; James, William & Francis Howley; May Connor; Mary Kenny.



**POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION – April:  
For the Role of Women**

This month's prayer intention is "that the dignity and richness of women be recognized in all cultures, and for an end to the discrimination they suffer in various parts of the world."



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

**Takes place at the 10.00am Mass on Sunday**

**'Offertory' collection(s)**

The Box at the entrance of the Church: last weekend – 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April - £862.35. Thank you once again to everyone who contributes to the Offertory Collections using the Box at the Entrance to the Church and to all those who make payments direct to the Parish Bank Account.

**Hire of Parish Hall**

To hire the Parish Hall please contact Joe Mullen on 01698 860015.

**Confessions**

Confessions this week will be available on Thursday between 6.30pm and 6.50pm and after the 9.30am Mass on Saturday until 10.30am.



**St. Teresa's R.C. Church**

Address: Benford Avenue, Newarthill, ML1 5BE  
Telephone: 01698 832920  
Email: stteresa@rcdom.org.uk  
Parish website: www.stteresa-newarthill.org.uk  
Facebook: St Teresa's Church, Newarthill  
Parish Priest: Rev. Kevin Lawrie  
**A Scottish Registered Charity No. 011041**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Day and Date	Times	Mass and/or other
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	10:00am 12.00noon	Mass Mass (Live-streamed on Facebook)
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.00am 9.30am 6.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass Reception – Margaret Allen
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April <i>St Pius V</i>	9.00am 9.30am 7.00pm	Rosary Funeral Mass – Margaret Allen Mass for Life
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	9.00am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May <i>St Athanasius</i>	9:00am 9.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm	Rosary Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May <i>St Philip and St James</i>	9.00am 9.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary Mass
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	9:30am 4.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass



Thank you to all those who attended the meeting as part of Project Wellspring on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall.

At the meeting as well as reviewing the matters that had been discussed at the two previous meetings those present discussed both a Parish Vision and a Parish Priest's Vision for the Parish.

Subsequently, the following one Vision was expressed:

**“To sustain and grow our parish into the future through the continued practice of our faith while encouraging more people to join us. At all times to utilise the skills and abilities of all members of the Parish community. Also, to ensure the Church and all buildings are maintained and kept in a state suitable for use including prayer and the spreading of the Good News of Jesus Christ.”**

Work ongoing to prepare a questionnaire to ascertain the views of as many parishioners as possible with regard to the 5 Missions. Subsequently, the information obtained would be used to build upon the statements contained in the Wellspring documentation from the Diocese of Motherwell. Other analysis of current activities in the Parish also ongoing including numbers attending Masses, number of Baptisms, as well as, financial information to help with future planning and provision of activities within the Parish.

In the meantime, efforts ongoing to have in place the provision of, preferably played music, at the Saturday Vigil or use of pre-recorded music.

The next meeting for Project Wellspring will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall. (Please note change of date as agreed with all present at meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April, change due to Fr Kevin double booking himself - bingo caller duties on 1<sup>st</sup> May!)

### **Parish Social Events**

Thank you to everyone who came along to and supported the 1<sup>st</sup> Parish Social Event last Saturday. A total of £913.10 was raised for Parish Funds.

The following further social events that are planned to take place in the Parish over the rest of the year:

a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communicants on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10.00am Mass followed by a 'celebration' in the Parish Hall;

a social event on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, including live music, to raise funds for Mary's Meals;

a Parish fun day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June in and at the side of the Parish Hall 11.00am – 1.00pm;

60's night on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September;

Race night – date to be confirmed: and

'Tea with Santa' – 5<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### **Our Lady of Fatima – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Devotion**

The next Devotion will take place this Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 9.00am.

### **Celebration of First Holy Communion**

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am, children of the Parish will receive their First Holy Communion. We keep all the children and their families in our prayers as they continue to prepare for this very special day in their lives.

### **Diocesan Prolife Mass**

A Mass takes place this Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm here in St Teresa's to pray for all activities associated with Prolife. This Mass is part of the activities being organised by the Diocese of Motherwell Beating Heart Group. This Group has been established to provide activities, including practical support where needed, to ensure all aspects of Prolife are helped and supported.

### **SCIAF wee boxes**

Thank you to all those who have handed in their Wee Box. The monies have now been counted, thanks to all who helped with the counting. A total of £2064 was counted, banked and will be forwarded onto SCIAF.

### **Mass for the Memoria of St Peregrine**

Fr Sean Wylie from Our Lady of Fatima Parish advises that a Mass, praying for those who suffer from cancer, their families, carers, nurses, and doctors, and also for those who have died from cancer, will take place in Our Lady & St John's Church, 79 Carlisle Road, Blackwood ML11 9RZ on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.00pm with anointing of the sick. A warm invitation is extended to everyone.

### **Missionary Appeal**

This weekend, at all Masses, we welcome The Sisters of St Peter Claver, who as we know have a house in Bellshill, to make a Missionary Appeal as part of the missionary work they do. Thank you in advance for your support and we look forward to welcoming and meeting the Sisters.

### **Coffee and Tea after Sunday 10.00am Mass**

The next teas, coffees and all, it is anticipated, will take place next Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 after the 10.00am Mass. Thank you once again to all those who volunteer to provide home baking and provide the teas, coffees and all.

A tombola for children and adults will take place during the teas, coffees and all, with monies raised going to Mary's Meals. If you are able to donate any prizes for the tombola these would be greatly received.

### **My Day by Day and Living Faith Booklets**

Both booklets are available from the Stall priced £1. The May 2024 Day by Day Booklet includes the readings for Services and/or Mass each day. The Living Faith Booklets for April, May and June provide daily thoughts including a quote each day from the scriptures as well as prayers and blessings.

## THE 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### Prize Bingo Tea

The children of P7 at St Teresa's Primary School are hosting a Bingo Tea this Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Doors open at 6.00pm with eyes down at 6.30pm. Children and adults can participate. The bingo is to raise funds for the School particularly the P7 trip to Belfast to visit the Titanic Museum in June. Books priced at £1 each or 6 for £5 will be on sale on the evening as well as a flier priced at £2. Prizes for the book games and a cash prize for the flier.

If you are able to donate any prizes or make donations of cakes and biscuits these would be most welcome. All welcome to attend the Bingo Tea, just bring along with you a cup or mug for you tea/coffee, a pen/dabber and a friend!!!

### Gift Aid

Thank you to all who are members of the Gift Aid Scheme here at St Teresa's, your participation in the Scheme is greatly appreciated. If you haven't already done so, the new Gift Aid envelopes that are required to be used from the weekend the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> April are available in the stall.

If anyone who is currently in the scheme but is no longer paying tax, please let Fr Kevin know as soon as possible. Also, if you have changed your name and/or address please let Fr Kevin know.

A reminder that being a member of the Gift Aid scheme is an excellent opportunity to support the Parish. For every £1 contributed an extra amount of 25p can be claimed by the Parish from HMRC. It does not cost any extra to take part in the Scheme, you make your collection using the envelopes provided or by Standing Order to the Parish Bank Account. Subsequently, if anyone wishes to join the Scheme, then please ask for a mandate form and envelopes from the Stall or from Fr Kevin.

For those parishioners not in the Gift Aid Scheme and wish a set of offertory envelopes with no number on them, these are also available from the Stall.

### St Vincent De Paul Society – St Francis Xavier's Conference Carfin

The St Francis Xavier's Conference Carfin of the St Vincent De Paul Society have contacted Fr Kevin to advise that they're willing to offer assistance to anyone from St Teresa's Parish or anyone we may know of who may require assistance. The contact details are: Denis - 07484 100632 or Hugh - 07801 495448 or by contacting Fr Kevin.

### Assisted Suicide – Called to Care, Not to Kill - Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill

As we know, the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill was published during Holy Week by Liam McArthur MSP and put before the Scottish Parliament. We continue to pray that this Bill will not become law in Scotland and we are all encouraged to make our MSPs aware that this Bill is not required and is not supported in Scotland.

The Catholic Parliamentary Office in Scotland have now made available an online resource to support public engagement with the process of parliamentary scrutiny. This resource can be used to allow you to contact your MSPs today to stop assisted suicide becoming legal in Scotland. Use the QR code to access an online resource, including guidance on contacting your MSPs. You can also visit [rcpolitics.org/assistedsuicide](http://rcpolitics.org/assistedsuicide) or email them at [office@rcpolitics.org](mailto:office@rcpolitics.org) for more information.



### Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide: What You Need to Know

A talk is taking place on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, at 7pm. The talk is titled Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide: What You Need to Know. The talk is being held at St. Bride's Hall in Motherwell at 7.00pm. Everyone is very welcome. The talk is being given by Dr. Gordon MacDonald, CEO of Care Not Killing. See poster at the entrance to the Chapel.



## **Cut Off from Me, You Can Do Nothing**

*Called to Care, Not to Kill – a Pastoral Letter on Assisted Suicide*

In the parable of the Vine and the Branches, Jesus teaches us that we are one community, one family and one society. We live in a world where any one of our decisions affects all of us. We are all brothers and sisters with responsibility to each other.

Living out our responsibilities for each other in our families, many of us will have had first-hand experience of being with loved ones as they passed from this world. It can be a harrowing and difficult experience, but it can also be a precious time of shared love and memories.

In the context of our responsibilities as a wider society, we are grateful to the medical, nursing and care staff who support our loved ones in their last weeks, days and hours. Sadly, however, palliative care is underfunded and limited in Scotland, and our Parliament should focus its energies on improving palliative care rather than on contemplating assisted suicide or euthanasia.

The private member's bill to introduce assisted suicide for those aged sixteen and over, recently published in the Scottish Parliament, amounts to a rejection of the common responsibility we owe to each other and to those who are ill and dying.

Campaigners call it 'assisted dying' when what is really meant is assisted suicide. Palliative care and the process by which families and communities accompany and support those in the final moments of their lives is what we all usually mean by assisted dying. What is now being proposed is that doctors hand a lethal concoction of drugs to a patient to kill themselves. It is a direct, intentional action to end the patient's life and truly crosses a Rubicon in Scotland.

In countries where assisted suicide has been legalised, palliative care provision has stalled and hospices which refuse to offer assisted suicide have had their funding cut or stopped altogether, including Catholic hospices. This is perhaps why three quarters of our palliative care doctors in Scotland said they would refuse to participate in assisted suicide, and just under half said they would resign if they were required to administer it. These are the very specialists who deal with our brothers and sisters at the end of their lives and who assure us that their care can cope with the suffering their patients experience.

We trust our doctors to be concerned for our life, health and wellbeing and we do not want to think of them being put into the position of raising the question with our loved ones of whether they would be better off dead. Killing is not medical treatment.

Countries where assisted suicide or euthanasia has been legalised have seen safeguards eroded, and many have expanded eligibility criteria to now include people with arthritis, anorexia, autism and dementia. Even little children are being euthanised in these countries that are not so different from our own. The experience of these countries shows that assisted suicide is almost immediately uncontrollable.

At a time when suicide is on the rise in Scotland and we are doing our best to reduce it, what message are we sending to those who are vulnerable when we say that suicide is okay provided it is overseen by a doctor? Laws like this normalise suicide and send a message that some people are beyond hope.

Assisted suicide, which allows us to kill our brothers and sisters, takes us down a dangerous spiral that always puts at risk the most vulnerable members of our society, including the elderly, the disabled, and those who struggle with mental health. All those in fact who cannot stand up for themselves. It is little wonder the Glasgow Disability Alliance has said the assisted suicide proposal sends a message to disabled people that they are a burden and puts pressure on them to make a choice to die.

That is why it is no surprise that in Oregon, consistently around half of those who choose assisted suicide do so because they feel that they are a burden on their families or on their communities and healthcare system. When vulnerable people, including the elderly and disabled, express concerns about being a burden, the appropriate response is not to suggest that they have a duty to die; rather, it is to commit to meeting their needs and providing the care and compassion they need to help them live.

When our society is already marked by so many inequalities, we do not need assisted suicide to put intolerable pressure on our most disadvantaged who do not have a voice in this debate.

Implicit in assisted suicide is the suggestion that an individual, in certain circumstances, can lose their value and worth. However, as stated in the Church's recent declaration on Human Dignity, *Dignitas Infinita*, "even in its sorrowful state, human life carries a dignity that must always be upheld" and there are "no circumstances" under which human life could lose its dignity and "be put to an end".

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland urges the Catholic community to contact MSPs, urging them to work collaboratively to improve palliative care, and to reject the dangerous proposal to legalise assisted suicide, which would devalue life and put immense pressure on the most vulnerable to end their lives prematurely.

We are called to care, not to kill.

Yours devotedly in Christ,

- + Hugh Gilbert, President, Bishop of Aberdeen
- + John Keenan, Vice President, Bishop of Paisley
- + Brian McGee, Episcopal Secretary, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles
- + Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh
- + William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow
- + Joseph Toal, Bishop of Motherwell
- + Frank Dougan, Bishop of Galloway