

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

This weekend we celebrate **Laetare Sunday** the fourth Sunday in Lent. The name is derived from the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass which used to be known as the Introit: '**Rejoice, Jerusalem. Be glad for her, you who love her.**' **Rose coloured** vestments may be worn during the Masses. Sunday is also **Mothers' Day** a popular celebration whose origins can be found in the industrial times of a previous age when apprentices were given the time off to visit their Mother Church. The parish sends best wishes to all mothers within the parish including those who have gone to their eternal reward.

This weekend we will take up our **Lenten Aims** in support of the work of **SCIAF**. Keep in mind the three traditional Lenten practices: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Next Sunday marks the start of **Passiontide**. In many churches statues are covered up with purple cloths and these remain in place until Easter. Passiontide has a rather stark feel about it a sense of tragic impending gloom. The term '**passive**' is closely linked with the Passiontide theme. Throughout Passiontide things will be increasingly done to Jesus. He will be plotted against, he will be betrayed and denied, he will be spat on, he will be tortured and crucified, he will be taken away and buried. Things will be done to him and he will allow it.

Lent has a habit of racing away and we suddenly realise we may not have responded to the **Lenten invitations** as well as we would have liked. It is not never late to start. As ever parents preparing children for **Sacraments** are reminded of their responsibilities in this matter. As a parish we make every effort to enrich our children. However, without parental dedication and participation the children will not learn to love and value the faith. There is so much of a sense of achievement to be gained from simply trying our best. **Thank you** to our children who attended the beautiful **Lenten Masses in school**. So much grace to be attained from this fine Lenten practice steeped in good tradition.

The second **Sunday of Passiontide** is called **Palm Sunday**. The Sunday Mass will **begin at 09.15** to assist the blessing of palms and the solemn procession which will begin in the hall. That day the **Passion** according to

Luke is read. Parishioners are reminded that Mass will be longer that morning. **Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy Week** the single most sacred week in the Christian calendar. The word '**Hosanna**' is associated with Palm Sunday. Hosanna does not mean hurra or any outburst of delight!. Hosanna is derived from the Hebrew '**Yasha**' meaning deliver us and '**Anna**' meaning we beg you. Literally hosanna means '**We beg you to save us.**' On **Monday** of Holy Week we read the anointing at **Bethany**, on **Tuesday** the foretelling of the betrayal and the denial and on Wednesday (called **Spy Wednesday**) the story of **Judas** is told. **Thursday, Friday** and **Saturday** are called the **Easter Triduum** the celebrations of the **Last Supper**, the **Lord's Passion, death** and **Resurrection**. Fantastic liturgy. The Roman Rite at its best. The followers of Jesus deserted him the first time. We will be present with him as faithful followers.

One of the greatest helps to charities in this country is the availability of **Gift Aid**. Our parishes are able to benefit from Gift Aid. It is so incredibly simple. A signature from a taxpayer enables the parish to claim 25p for every pound that is given to the parish either through the Sunday and Holy Day envelopes or better still through a Standing Order from your bank. That's it! The money is already going to the tax man. Why not give the parish the permission to claim it back from the government who are only too willing to provide it. All the recording and the claiming is done by us. Thanks to parishioners we were able to claim **£7,000** last financial year. However, we could increase that sum if all tax payers decided to join the Scheme. It would be magnificent. Carfin claims £22,000. With every passing year **FREE MONEY** is not being claimed. It costs nothing. After Easter we will try and boost the number of participants. In particular **we ask all the younger members of the parish** to think about joining the **Gift Aid Scheme. They are the ones paying income tax.** A gentle reminder to existing members to use the envelopes for all donations to the parish including all special collections.

Each week we have inserted three suggestions for **Lenten Practices** to be carried out this weekend. Here are three suggestions: **firstly**, we will pray the penitential rite with sincerity, **secondly**, we will pray for our Mothers this weekend, **thirdly**, pay a visit to the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary and pray for our Mothers.

Attendance: 271, Collection: £732

Thank you to the parish for this generosity.

Recently Dead: Elizabeth (Betty) Curran, Ellie McCormick, Tess Lynch,
Months Mind of: Jane McMahan, John Cadden,
Anniversary of: Jackie Tougher, Isaac McLaren, Mary Rose Myles.

Stations of the Cross

Today we will tell you about the most dreadful parts of the Stations of the Cross and as we tell you this story try to imagine you are one of the crowd watching what is going on.

The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time. Let us laugh at him and call him names. Let us throw things at him if we get the chance. He is a loser and he is going to die.

The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes. How humiliating to have your clothes taken off in front of people. Look at the marks on his back and the back of his legs. He is in a terrible mess. It must have been the scourging. The soldiers will take his clothes and probably gamble for them. He won't be needing them again.

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross. The pain is incredible. I'm glad it is not me, nails tearing through your hands and feet. The scream of pain that explodes in your head. Blood everywhere. What a mess! His mother sees it all. I can't imagine how she must feel.

The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross. After all that agony, all that pain he finally dies. It is over at last. He has said some important words. Father, forgive them they know not what they do. This day you will be with me in paradise. There is your mother. There is your son. I thirst. It is finished.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame and I loved that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.



Administrator:
Revd W. G. Bergin

ST. TERESA'S R.C. CHURCH

Address: Benford Avenue, Newarthill,
Motherwell, ML1 5BE

Telephone: 01698 832920

Email: fatherbillthepadre@gmail.com

Parish website: www.stteresa-newarthill.org.uk
A Scottish Registered Charity No. 11041

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Weekly Schedule	Time	Intention
Sunday 31st March <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	10:00am	Elizabeth (Betty) Curran <i>No afternoon Devotions</i>
Monday 1st April <i>Lenten Week Day</i>	9:05am 9:30am 1:30pm	Prayers Before The Cross Mary Rose Myles Mass at Carstairs
Tues 2nd April <i>Lenten Week Day</i>	9:00am 9:30am	Stations of the Cross Maureen McMahon
Wed 3rd April <i>Lenten Week Day</i>	9:05am 9:30am 11:30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Isaac McLaren and Ellie McCormick Deanery Meeting at View Park
Thurs 4th April <i>Lenten Week Day</i>	9:05am 9:30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tess Lynch
Friday 5th April <i>First Friday</i>	9:00am 9:30am	Stations of the Cross Jackie Tougher <i>Blessings with Holy Oil</i>
Saturday 6th April	4:00pm 4:30pm	Holy Rosary Cathie Keatings

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 6th April.	F McQuade	A M Lynn, C Dabernig, P Cullion
Sunday 7th April.	Children's Liturgy	J Mullen, M Nugent, P Walsh

Response to the Psalm 33:
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

