

St AIDAN'S PARISH CHURCH

MASS TIMES

Sunday Masses	Saturday Vigil 6 pm, Sunday 10 a.m. and 12 Noon.
Holyday of Obligation	Vigil 7.30 pm, 10 a.m. and 7.30 pm.
Weekdays	10.00 am. and 8.20 am, Monday to Friday during Lent.
Confessions	After All Saturday Masses
Stations of the Cross	Weekdays during Lent at 9.45 am before 10.00 am Mass

Parish Ministers' Rota

29th March 2009

Mass	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
Vigil	B. Higgins E. Lynn, S. Woods	D. McKendrick
10.00 a.m.	C. Allen P. McGinlay	J. Sneddon L. McCullough
12 Noon	L. Moon J. Fox	R. Fox J. McKelvie

Today's Mass

Today's Gospel provides a perfect summary of the Scriptures: "Yes, God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life." So our entry into eternal life is firmly rooted in our belief in Christ Jesus. But it is not simply a matter of saying that we believe, we must live according to that belief.

The most deeply moving truth that the Church reaches is that we are forever loved by God. At the core of our faith is the conviction that God's love reaches to every human being that ever was and is. God loves each one of us as if there was no one else to love.

We begin to grasp the magnitude of God's love for us by looking at the crucifix. All life's cruelties, hatreds and injustices are concentrated in that cross planted on the hill of Calvary. "The Son of Man must be lifted up." The cross, once a sign of shame and humiliation, becomes a channel of healing grace. The tree of death becomes the tree of victory.

As we approach the half-way mark of Lent it is a good time to review our journey towards the light of Christ. How is Christ's love finding expression in the way that I live? What habits need changing in my life? Who do I need to be reconciled with?

Today's Gospel is both challenging and consoling - challenging in that it tells us that we cannot have it both ways, we cannot say we believe and then act in a manner contrary to that belief. It is consoling in that it reminds us that no one who believes in him will be condemned.

St Aidan's Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year B

22nd March 2009



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "The Son of Man must be lifted up...so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Parish Priest: Rev. Joseph Clements

Rev. Francis King Chaplain HM Prison Shotts

298 Coltness Road, Wishaw, ML2 7EX Tel: (01698) 384730

Email: st.aidan.catholic.church@unicombox.co.uk

Scottish Registered Charity Number SC0 11041

Fourth Week of Lent
Feast of the Week

Wednesday 25th March The Annunciation

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to all the young people who took part in the recent Sacrament of Reconciliation. You were wonderful and a credit to your teachers and families. God bless and keep you all.

Car Parking on Coltness Road

There has been an increase in the number of cars parked on Coltness Road during weekend Masses. Parking on Coltness Road obscures the view of other drivers entering and leaving the car park, sometimes even obstructing the entrance to the car park and the bus stop. Please find other, safer places to park your vehicle.

Young Children at Mass

Parents and carers of young children are reminded that the side chapel is provided for young children who are likely to provide a distraction to others during Mass. Using the side chapel in these circumstances will allow other worshippers and the celebrant to concentrate more fully on the liturgy and will help preserve the required prayerful atmosphere during Mass.

This is particularly important over the remaining weeks of Lent when the liturgies are substantially longer.

Parishioners are reminded that the side chapel is principally for young children and the adults who accompany them.

SPRED.

Special Religious Development

SPRED is a catechetical programme for children, teenagers, young adults and adults who have learning difficulties. Group membership takes account of life experience - i.e. ages 6 to 10, 11 to 16, 17 to 21 and 22 plus.

The concept of *friendship* is central to the SPRED method. Jesus said, "I call you friends". What is more precious than a true friend, one who is there for us.

In SPRED we use the word *friend* for one another and we also refer to learning-disabled members as *the friends*. Each volunteer

helper/catechist has one special friend within a small friendship group of no more than 14 people.

The SPRED method encourages every member in a continuing appreciation of aspects of daily life, of the love, care and service received from family and friends. We recognise this as the continuing action of God in our individual lives, nurturing our sense of joy, gratitude, hope and self esteem.

SPRED needs volunteers. Full training will be provided. If you would like more information please contact Anne McLaughlin 01698 382904.

S.C.I.A.F.

Cardinal O'Brien, Chairman of S.C.I.A.F. has sent a letter on the work of S.C.I.A.F. Copies of the letter are available at the Church door. Please take one. Contributions can be made direct to S.C.I.A.F. or through the Parish during Holy Week and Easter Week.

Parish Trip to Lindisfarne
Saturday 13th June 2009

Please note the change of date from 6th to 13th June.

The parish is organising a trip to Lindisfarne. Monks from the monastery founded by St Columba at Iona, led by St Aidan set out on a mission to Northumbria and established a monastery at Lindisfarne in 635.

The bus will leave the Church around 9.00 am and return late evening Fr Clements and Fr King will celebrate Mass on the Holy Isle at 1.00 pm. On the return journey we will stop in Berwick for High Tea. Cost of the trip is £20.

Names and a deposit of £5 pp should be given to Anne McCrossan (01698 385292) or Jim McKelvie (01698 382777). The trip will be open to parishioners only until Sunday 5th April after which it will be open to all.

PARISH HUMOUR

There was a young driver who would always accelerate hard before coming to any intersection. He would barrel right through it and slow down again on the other side. One day he took a passenger who was understandably unnerved by his driving style.

"Why on earth do you step on the gas before every intersection?" the anxious passenger asked. "Well," the young man replied, "I read that you are ten times as likely to have an accident at an intersection as anywhere else, so I try to spend as little time in them as possible."

Velma was taking the tour of a national park not long ago. The ranger told to the tour group that dinosaur fossils had been found in the area.

Velma exclaimed, "Wow—I can't believe the dinosaurs would come this close to the highway!"

Gift Aid envelopes will be available in the Hall after each Vigil and Sunday Mass until Sunday 5th April.

PARISH NOTICES

BINGO Bingo in the hall every Sunday at 7.30 pm.

STALL Stall available in the hall after both Sunday Masses. Easter cards are now available from the stall.

Altar Servers Meeting on Wednesday 25th March at 4.30 pm to arrange details for Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. All servers should attend.

Men's Club. The Men's Club meets every Thursday at 7.30 pm in the hall. Men's Club Mass on the first Thursday of the month.

Intimations for the sick, the recently deceased and anniversaries must reach the Parish Priest by Saturday morning at the latest. All Items for the bulletin should reach Fr. Clements by Thursday of each week. We acknowledge the assistance of *Intercom* in the preparation of the text for parts of this

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Gospel Story

Today's Gospel tells us that God loves each of us so much that he sent his only Son to love us through life and to save us from making wrong choices. If we follow Jesus we will always walk in the light and never in darkness. This sounds like it is a simple thing to do but actually walking in the light of Jesus is quite a difficult way of life! It takes hard work and lots of dedication.

It's a bit light training for a sport. After you've done your homework, you have to train and practice, even on those days when you can't be bothered and would rather be sitting watching TV. Getting to the top in sport takes hard work and dedication.

Isaiah, one of the prophets from the Bible, said that God has counted every hair on our heads. Can you imagine that kind of love? The love that meant God sent his only Son to us and that only Son actually died for us, I'm talking that kind of mega love.

So we need to practice and make sure we stay on the right track in order to walk in God's light.

What can you do to show that you are trying to walk in God's light?