

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

Passion (Palm) Sunday 5th April 2009

Mass	Eucharistic Ministers	Readers
Vigil	B. Higgins E. Lynn, S. Woods	G. Traynor; D. McKendrick
10.00 a.m.	J. Kane P. O'Donnell	A. McCrossan; K. McKinley; <u>Passion:</u> J. Sneddon; B. Moulds
12 Noon	J. McCann J. Slavin	T. Grant; P. Allison; <u>Passion:</u> J. McKelvie; J. Fox

Today's Mass

All of today's reading point towards the passion and death of Jesus. Jeremiah tells a shattered Jewish people who were going into exile as a punishment for breaking the old covenant, that God will never forsake them. He foresees a time when God will form a new relationship with the people of Israel, based on love and personal respect.

The second reading tells us that because Jesus suffered and prayed with tears to be saved from suffering and death, he can empathise with our sufferings and help us grow rather than be crushed by them. Jesus knows our plight; he is touched by our anguish and distress and pleads with God the Father on our behalf. In the Gospel Christ speaks his thoughts out loud and expresses repugnance for the terrible ordeal awaiting him. His soul is troubled at the prospect of Calvary and he is tempted to pray for deliverance from it.

His moment of greatest influence however will be when he is lifted up on the cross with arms outstretched to embrace the entire world. Christ on the cross shows us the depths of evil of which we humans are capable and the heights of love to which we are called. Following Christ means travelling the same road as he did, laying down our lives and leaving everything completely in the hands of God the Father. The grain of wheat dying in the earth indicates how we must die to our selfishness before we can start living for Christ. Christ shows that life and death have a place in God's plan for us. He also shows us the meaning and value of suffering. The way of the cross begins at our own doorstep and we are challenged to follow its path. As Easter approaches may we come to understand the meaning of our own sufferings and, like Jesus, may we be given the grace and strength to endure them.

St Aidan's Parish Bulletin

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

29th March 2009



“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies it yields a rich harvest.”

Parish Priest: Rev. Joseph Clements

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Fifth Week of Lent

Next Sunday 5th April is Passion (Palm) Sunday.

Wishaw Deanery Penitential Services:

Monday 6th April St Aidan's 7.00 pm; St Thomas' Wishaw 7.00 pm .

Tuesday 7th April St Ignatius' Wishaw 7.00pm; St Mary's Cleland 7.30pm; St Patrick's' Wishaw 7.00 pm.

Wednesday 8th April St Mary's Lanark 7.00pm

GIFT AID

If you are a taxpayer, you can increase your contribution to the Parish at no cost to yourself by becoming a Gift Aid Donor.

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

You can also contribute by direct debit.

The Date of Easter

The death of Jesus took place on a Friday and he rose from the dead on the third day, which was a Sunday.

In the early Church, some celebrated the resurrection on the *third day after Passover*. Since Jewish feasts are reckoned by the Lunar calendar and can fall on any day of the week. This meant that Easter might fall on a Tuesday or a Thursday or any day of the week, depending on when the Jewish feast of Passover fell.

Others in the early Church felt that, since Jesus rose on a Sunday, Easter should always be on that day. Thus they celebrated Easter on the first *Sunday* after Passover. If Passover was on a Monday, Easter was the following Sunday.

These conflicting practices caused great controversy and some confusion. For Example, if Passover fell on a Wednesday, some people were celebrating *Easter* on the same Friday that for others was *Good Friday*.

In the year 325, the Council of Nicaea decided

that the date of Easter would no longer be related to the date of the Passover and that it would always be on a Sunday. It was to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox.

As a result, Easter can be as early as 22nd

Our Lady's HSFPA Light Opera

WEST END 2 BROADWAY

Your favourite songs in concert

Saturday 9th May 2009

Motherwell Concert Hall

Tickets from John Pearson Tel. 386562

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. The 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.

The Sabbath

Because Jesus was crucified on a Friday, he had to be buried before sunset. That was because the Sabbath began at sunset and the "work" of burying someone was not allowed on the Sabbath.

In most of the world, nowadays, it is taken for granted that one day ends and the next day begins at midnight, but this is purely arbitrary. For example, from about the second century AD until 1925, astronomers counted one day ending and the next beginning at noon.

For most primitive tribes, the new day began at sunrise. This system continued with the Babylonians and the Greeks. On the other hand, for the Jewish people, one day ended and the next day began at sunset. In other words, the late evening wasn't the eve of the next day, it was the next day.

Who Wielded the Sword?

All four Gospels report that someone struck the high priest's servant with a sword and cut off his ear. Matthew, Mark and Luke simply say that it was one of those with Jesus. John (who was there) says it was Peter.

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 1st April 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 story is about a grain of wheat. Jesus says that when a grain of wheat is planted in the ground, it dies and when it grows lots of new grain will come from it. Just like the seeds we sow in the spring time that bloom into flowers in the summer.

But the story is a bit sad as well because this is when Jesus tells his friends and followers that he will die to bring new life to the world, just like the grain of wheat.

But the sad bit is really a happy bit because Jesus died for us, for our souls and he died so that we would have new life and he did all that because he loves us.

So our thoughts shouldn't be sad but we should think about how we can thank Jesus for his love and show him how much we love him back.