

**PARISH OF THE MOST BLESSED TRINITY
CHURCHES OF ST. STEPHEN AND
ALL SAINTS**

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Parish of the Most Blessed Trinity

Sixth Sunday of Easter, A

14th May 2023

All Saints

Monday	7.00 pm	Confirmation.
Wednesday	9.30 a.m.	Mass
	7.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Thursday	9.30 a.m.	Ascension
Friday	9.30 a.m.	Mass
Saturday	4.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Mass
Sunday	5.30 p.m.	Mass

St. Stephen's

Tuesday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Mass
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Mass Ascension
Saturday	5.30 p.m.	Vigil Mass
Sunday	12.15 p.m.	Mass

FEAST DAYS

**THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD is on Thursday
18th May and is a Holyday of Obligation.**

**Saturday 20th St. Bernardine of Siena
NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT begins on**

Friday 19th May. Following the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven the disciples were instructed to remain in Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit. Together with Our Lady the disciples remained in prayer awaiting the Paraclete who would fill them with the fire of divine love, knowledge and courage to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The 9 days of prayer were the first and oldest novena in the church and we pray in these days between the Ascension and Pentecost for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit who renews the face of the earth.

NOVENA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your Love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. AMEN

SCIAF "Thank you all so much for your support of the **SCIAF WEE BOX, BIG CHANGE** Lenten appeal. Please return your **WEE BOXES** as soon as you can. "

VOCATIONS The Vocations Director for Motherwell Diocese is Fr. Charles O'Farrell. He can be contacted at frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk.

VOCATIONS RETREAT WEEKEND

Discerning and responding to the voice of Christ, 18-35 year olds, Pluscarden Abbey, 9th-11th June 2023. For further information and bookings, contact rina@youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY is next

Sunday 21st May. A special collection will be taken up that weekend for the Apostolate of Communications. The theme is a call for a peaceful dialogue that allows for uncomfortable truths to be spoken of without resorting to contentious and hostile debate.

**FIRST COMMUNION and
CONFIRMATION CARDS AND GIFTS**

are on sale at the Muirhall Street and Quarry Street Entrances.

CONFIRMATIONS All Saint's 15th May and St. Stephen's 24th May Please remember the children in your prayers at this important and crucial moment in their journey of faith. Sincere thanks to the staff and head teachers of both primary schools for their outstanding support and care of our children.



PRAYER FOR CHILDREN BEING CONFIRMED

Lord, you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN."

THE ASCENSION On Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. We profess our faith in this glorious mystery when we say in the Nicene Creed: *He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.* We believe that Jesus' earthly life reached its culmination when He passed from this world to the Father. He no longer belongs to the world of corruption and death that conditions our earthly life. He passed into the glorified state in God.

It is important to understand that the Ascension does not mean that Jesus has departed from us. He has not abandoned us or left us orphans.

Otherwise, after the Ascension, the disciples would not have returned to Jerusalem *with great joy*, as Saint Luke tells us (24:52). He is close to each one of us forever. Recall the words of Jesus at the end of Matthew's Gospel: *And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age* (Matthew 28:19).

With His Ascension into heaven, the Lord Jesus is now present to us in a new way. On the eve of His Passion, Jesus had told the apostles that it was to their advantage that He go away. He said: *It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you: but if I go, I will send Him to you*" (John 16:7). Though Jesus' earthly and visible presence in the world ends, He remains with us in an invisible way. He has not left us alone. He is always close to us every time we pray, whenever we call upon him, but most especially in the Eucharist which is Christ's abiding presence with us.

CHURCH CLEANERS required urgently.

Can you spare some time to help? If so, or if you would like to know more about what's

involved, please call or leave a message on 07707 014999 .

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSES

Online booking is now available for couples preparing for marriage within the Catholic Church. Courses take place from 10.30 a.m. till 3.00 p.m. in St. Augustine's Parish Centre, Coatbridge, ML5 1DQ.

DATES OF COURSES FOR 2023/2024 ARE:

16th September 2023, 28th October 2023,

20th January 2024, 17th February 2024,

16th March 2024, 20th April 2024, and

15th June 2024. Courses cost £50 and includes all course materials. Book your course today at

www.marriagefamilylife.org. Please book only one, one day course. For more information contact Fr. Michael Kane

from the Marriage and Family Life Agency:

info@marriagefamilylife.org.

CELTIC QUIZ/SOCIAL NIGHT

for Lourdes, £5 per ticket; £2 entry for quiz.

Replica European Cup will be there and food at half time. **9th June 7.00 pm till late.**

FIRST COMMUNIONS St. Stephen's 13th May and All Saint's 20th May.

PENNIES IN JARS We are grateful for the donations of Pennies in Jars. There are a number of jars at each door. If you are able to, please take one and collect some coins for us.



First Communion

