

ST ANTHONY & ST MARK'S

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Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell

Scottish Charity No. SC011041

All Masses in this Parish are livestreamed on YouTube

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) 8TH MARCH 2026

HOLY MASS	Tues 7.00 am at St Mark's	Sat 5.00 pm Vigil at St Mark's
	Tues 7.00 pm at St Anthony's	Sun 10.00 am at St Mark's
	Wed 9.30am at St Mark's	Sun 11.30 am at St Anthony's
	Thu 9.30am at St Anthony's	Sun 1.30 pm at St Anthony's: Syro-Malabar Qurbana
	Fri 9.30am at St Mark's	Sun 5.00 pm at St Anthony's
	Sat 9.30am at St Anthony's	
HOLY ROSARY	Tue 6.40pm at St Anthony's	Sat 9.00 am at St Anthony's
CONFESSION	Sat 9-9.20am St Anthony's	Sat 4.30-4.50pm St Mark's
		Sun 4.30-4.50pm St Anthony's
LENT HOLY HOUR	Fridays 4-5pm at St Anthony's	STATIONS OF THE CROSS Sunday 4pm at St Anthony's

SUNDAY READINGS

Reading 1	Exodus 17:3-7	'Give us water to drink.'
Psalms	Ps 95(94)	O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'
Reading 2	Romans 5:1-2, 5-8	Love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us.
Acclamation	Cf. John 4:42, 15	Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.
Gospel	John 4:5-42	'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently: Laurence Battersby; Anne Murphy.

Anniversaries: Ina Duffy; Patrick McKell; Henry McVey; Edward Morgan.

Sick & housebound: Parick McCarry; Jimmy Mahon; Cathy Callaghan; Maureen Maguire; Michael Leslie; John Mulheron; Rose McCorley; Catherine Scott; Erin Lavery; Beatrice Hannah; Pauline Mahon; Mary McColgan; Ella Connolly; Finn McGuinness; Hope McKenna; Margaret Rice; Sandra Morgan; Neil Morton; Steven Murphy; Cathline McNiel; Sandra Burke.

FOODBANK UPDATE

We were very busy this week, welcoming 94 visitors to our Foodbank. Everyone was supported thanks to your generosity, and that of local residents. We are looking for toiletries - soap, shampoo and shower gel if possible. In addition we would like to have some crème eggs for the young people who come along over the holiday period. Donations can be left at the back of both Churches, at Jingers and at Le Sorelle in Burnside.

DIOCESAN WALKING PILGRIMAGE FROM MOTHERWELL TO ST ANDREWS

The diocesan pilgrimage group are organising a Diocesan walking pilgrimage from Motherwell Cathedral to St Andrews, walking around 10-12 miles each Tuesday, starting on 7th April and finishing on 9th June. There is no charge for the pilgrimage – the only cost will be for transport back to our starting point.

If you would like to join us, or would like more details, contact Jim McKelvie at pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk or call 07957 847290.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: SCIAF SUNDAY

Today, SCIAF Sunday, we take the opportunity to pray for and support our national Catholic development charity. The country focus this year is Ethiopia. Across Ethiopia, families are facing the impacts of drought, conflict, and the growing water crisis. With your support, SCIAF can help communities access clean water, restore livelihoods, and build a future free from poverty. Please give what you can in today's collection for SCIAF. You can also donate at sciaf.org.uk/donate or by calling 0141 354 5555.

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT THIS SATURDAY: LAST CALL

The annual Parish St Patrick's night in aid of HCPT will be held **this Saturday 14th March** from 7pm. Live music, raffles BYOB and snacks. £5 ticket, £15 family ticket (text Franny 07952313267). This is a real annual parish highlight and we're sure you'll have a ball if you come along. Donations for raffle prizes greatly appreciated.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER THANKS

Many thanks to everyone who attended the World Day of Prayer on Friday, and in particular to Margaret who has taken the lead in organising this event on behalf of the parish, to the Cuppa Club for preparing hospitality, and the Community Choir.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AT ST MARK'S: PRAYER PARTNERS SOUGHT

The P3 children of St Mark's will celebrate their First Reconciliation this Wednesday at 6pm. They are looking for prayer partners to accompany them spiritually towards the sacrament: please see the board at the back of the church and sign up.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

Please take away a copy of the annual financial report which is folded into your bulletin, and feel free to ask any questions.

LENT 2026 EXTRA DEVOTIONS

During Lent, there will be early morning **Masses** as follows:

Tuesdays 7am Mass at St Mark's. We have regularly been getting a congregation of about 30: well done everyone!

Thursdays 8.30am Mass at St Anthony's Primary: all welcome

Fridays 8.30am Mass at St Mark's Primary, in the new Bethany RE space upstairs (well worth a visit): all welcome

Holy Hour will take place weekly on a Friday 4-5pm at St Anthony's: this week the prayer intention will be peace in the Gulf region.

Stations of the Cross will be led by different groups in the parish on a Sunday at 4pm, today at **St Anthony's**. As it is SCIAF Sunday, the Stations will be led by the parish Justice and Peace Group.

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON THE CHILDREN (WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL

You may have been following this debate in Scottish Parliament, which potentially has major implications for Catholic schools. The Bishops' Conference has released a statement (slightly abridged version below), which is worth considering ahead of May's elections: "The Bishops recognise a number of important protections which have been secured [in the bill]. Religious Education remains a central part of the curriculum and will continue to be an entitlement for all pupils. In Catholic schools, Religious Education will remain within the authority of the Bishops' Conference. The Scottish Government has committed to respecting and continuing both Religious Education and Religious Observance in Catholic schools. Furthermore, the retention of the term "Religious Instruction" in law ensures that the Religious Character of Catholic schools is not reduced solely to classroom learning.

However, we are deeply concerned by the decision to grant Scottish Ministers the power to introduce regulations that would permit young people to withdraw from religious observance without parental involvement. Article 14 of the UNCRC is often quoted selectively, overlooking its clear emphasis on the essential role of parents in a child's religious upbringing. This narrative risks creating a false divide between children's rights and parental responsibilities. Any future legislation must uphold the UNCRC's intention to support families, not diminish their role.

We remain deeply concerned at the official policy of the Scottish Greens to impose a fully secular model of state education – an approach that would strip away Scotland's denominational schools entirely.

We will work firmly and constructively with the Scottish Government to ensure that Catholic schools continue to be protected in law and safeguarded for the communities they serve."

ST MARK'S PRIMARY MISSIO CHAMPIONS

Our MISSIO Champions are organising a raffle for MISSIO and are looking for raffle donations from parishioners. If you have any unused Christmas gifts or feel you could donate a voucher/ prize, please hand into St Mark's Primary School any time, any day! Our Mini Vinnies, MISSIO Champions and Pope Francis Faith Award pupils will be selling raffle tickets after Mass on Friday 6th March and some Sundays during Lent. Raffle tickets will also be on sale every Friday at 2:45pm in the school playground.

THE STEAMIE PARISH TRIP UPDATE

Could anyone who will be going to The Steamie on 12/11 please make payment by the weekend of 14/15th March? Cash in an envelope with name or bank transfer. Contact Karen on 07710469637 for any help / info.

QR CODE FOR PARISH GIVING If parishioners or visitors would prefer to use their mobile phones to make a donation at Sunday Mass, then please feel free to use this QR code.

