

300 CLUB WINNER DRAW Week 16 Sunday 29th. April 2007

£100 prize: **309.** Brian O'Neill, 8 Conservation Place, Wishaw.

£25 prize: **268.** Andrew Kennedy, 36 Braedale Cresc. Newmains.

APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS: At this time we have twenty vacant places in our 300 Club. If you are not a member or are new to the Parish please think of taking a place. The contribution is £1 per week and is in fact in terms of chance a much better bet than the Lottery. **To join the Draw contact Pat Cahill or ask at Stall.**

PARISH INCOME: Sun. 29th. April. Offertory £1157.00. Stall £50.00.
Church Students and Seminary upkeep £797.00

PARISH FUNDAY: The Fun-Day will take place on Sat. 23rd. June 2007. The next meeting takes place on Monday 14th. May after the Novena Devotions. We ask everyone in the Parish to help make this a successful event.

NEARLY NEW SHOP: The shop is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week from 10.00am. till 2.00pm. I thank all involved for April's proceeds £890.

LISBON LIONS 40th. ANNIVERSARY VICTORY DANCE will be held in Parish Centre on Sat. 19th. May 2007 from 7.30pm – Midnight. Music by Frankie Farrell, there will also be pie and peas provided. Cost of ticket is £7.50 and all proceeds are going to the Parish Lourdes Fund. The organizers are looking for Sponsorship and Raffle Prizes. Contact John Cahill on 382055. Tickets can be obtained from John Cahill, James McCrae, Danny Muldoon and Matt McCardle.

HARVESTERS WEEK-END: A Retreat for men at Scotus College, Bearsden from 8th – 10th. June. There is a Poster in the Porch and some leaflets at the Stall for anyone who might be interested or check out website www.harvesters.org.uk or contact Archie Minto on 0131 662 6818.

WOMENS GUILD OUTING TO LARGS: There are still a few places available on this trip. Contact any Guild Member if interested. All monies for the trip are due now.

ALTARSERVERS New Rotas are available in the Sacristy today.

HOLY WATER: Every Catholic home should possess its supply of Holy Water. This Sacramental reminds us of our Baptism and through its grace, our sharing in the life Jesus won for us in his Passion, Death and Resurrection. We bless ourselves each day and at our going in and out of our homes, a sign of who we are and what we are about in our daily lives. Holy Water is available always from our Church Porch.

SICK: Phil and Mary Brown, Pat Douglas, Kevin Doyle, William Craig(baby), John McNulty, Cathy Slevin, George Kyle, Gordon Cushley, George McGowan, Rita Leonard, Nessie Duffy, Jim Duffy, Joe Jordan, Sr. Mary Hughes, Jim McNab (Carnbroe), Catherine Foy, Margaret Haggarty (East Kilbride).

R. I. P.: John McKenna (Stewart Cresc.), Mary Slavin (St. Ignatius), Anne McAllister (St. Anne's, Cadzow).

MONTHS MIND: Annie McCrae, Michael Cassidy,

ANNIVERSARIES: Hughie McCrae, Annie, Michael, Martin and Edward McKeown, Nan and Pat Thomas, Arthur and Norah Skinner,

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH NEWMAINS



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr. Hugh P. Kelly
Parish Priest
5 Westwood Rd.
Newmains
ML2 9DA
Tel. 01698 297037

Sr. Maria Goretti
Pastoral Assistant.
17 Viewpark Rd.
Motherwell
ML1 3ER
Tel. 01698 275273

Mr. Pat Cahill
Parish Centre Bookings
37 Muirhouse Ave.
Newmains
ML2 9NF
01698 292421

PARISH BULLETIN SUNDAY 6th. MAY 2007

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil (Sat.) 5.30pm.
Sun. 9.30am & 12noon
(Children's Liturgy at 12noon Mass)

There will be no Children's Liturgy Group on Sunday 13th. and Sunday 20th. May because of our Parish First Communions taking place on those two Sundays.

WEEK-DAY MASSES

Mon. – Fri. 9.30am
Thurs. 7.00pm
Sat. 10.00am

CONFESSIONS: Sat. 10.30am and 6.20pm – 7.00pm.
Thurs. 7.30pm.

Parents, families and friends of the First Communicants should use these opportunities in preparation for First Communions next week.

MONDAY EVENING NOVENA DEVOTIONS: continue on Monday 7th. May at 7.00pm.. The Devotions take the form of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Miraculous Medal Novena and Benediction. of the Blessed Sacrament. During the month of May please make a special effort to attend.

PARISH FIRST COMMUNIONS take place at the 12noon Mass next Sunday and also on Sunday 20th. This will mean these masses will be busier than usual. However First Communions are one of the highlights of Parish life each year and it is only right that we should all seek to be with the children and their families in a spirit of faith and unity in spite of a little personal discomfort.

READERS:

Today Sat.Vigil. Thomas Hannah. 9.30am.Michael McParland.12noon Tommy Gillies.
Next Sunday, Sat.Vigil.Des. McLaughlin. 9.30am.Martin O'Leary. 12noon Liz. Brown.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Sat. Vigil: Geraldine Burns, Clare Penrice, Gerry Burns.
9.30am. Margaret Eadie, Margaret Connelly, Margaret Eadie.
12noon. Mary Jamieson, Liz Brown, Ross Ralton.
Next Week:
Sat. Vigil: Cathie Naughton, Gerry Burns, Carla Harbison.
9.30am. Dennis Burns, Maureen Puricelli, Sr. Maria Goretti..
12noon. Ann McLaughlin, Mary O'Brien, Marianne Ballantyne.

CHURCH STUDENTS COLLECTION: Thank you for a very generous contribution to this collection of £797.00. This total includes two substantial donations. Thank you. Now we must re-double our prayers for vocations.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. BRIGID'S BIRTHPLACE: Holiday Week-end 25th. – 28th. May 2007. Cost will be £220 per person sharing. I have fifteen places still to fill. All monies for the trip should be paid to Fr. Kelly before the end of April.

FATIMA: Next Sunday, 13th. May, marks the ninetieth anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to the children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, at the Cova d'Iria at Fatima. She brought a message of penance and prayer which is just as important today as it was in 1917. Our Lady's special appeal was to pray the Rosary as families and individuals. Perhaps this is the time for all of us to discover again the beauty and power of this great prayer.

REFLECTION: Until recently most people did not travel very far. In medieval Christendom, pilgrims might set off once in a lifetime to go to one of the great traditional shrines, soldiers would go to war and as a result create intermittent flows of refugees. Merchants explored the trade routes to the Middle and Far East. Students and clerics made their way to the great teaching centres to learn or to teach. But the majority of people never left their native village.

We live in a very different world. We travel for work, we also travel for pleasure. Tourism is a vast industry, taking us to places we would only have read about in the past and bringing crowds in turn to see the sights in our lands. The old reasons for travel still remain. We still go to war and create huge numbers of refugees. We trade even more vigorously and are aware of ourselves as a global people, working to create commercial relationships between all nations. We know each other as races, cultures and nations so much more. The hope is that this leads us to respect and appreciate each other as well. This is taking more time.

The amazing breakthrough of early Christianity is how it spread out rapidly from its Jewish roots to the whole of the then known world. St Paul is seen as the major architect of this missionary endeavour. He not only travelled widely himself, but he brought back from his travels the challenges he encountered. A major challenge was created by how eagerly the pagans embraced the message of the Gospel and displayed all the signs of receiving the Holy Spirit. Paul's question for "the disciples back home" was how to make sense of this evident outpouring of the Spirit. What should be asked of the new converts in terms of rules and practices? How much of the heritage of the Jewish Law should be required of them?

The first great council of the Church in Jerusalem addressed the issue and came to the decision that no restrictions should be placed on the newcomers, except the Baptism of the Lord Jesus and the observance of the great commandments of Love taught by the Lord. This was an immense decision for a fundamentally Jewish group to make, and it could only have been reached through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and because of their awareness of the overwhelming dominance of the new commandment as the benchmark of Christian belief.

As we travel we are faced with a bewildering number of differences, cultural, religious and linguistic. Sometimes we go on the defensive, believing our way of doing things is the best, and trying to convince others of the same. St Paul is more sophisticated. He has his message to proclaim, but he is happy to see that message take root in ways that make sense to the particular groups he encounters. The story of Jesus is tied historically to its Jewish roots, but in its expression of love for one another it takes its shape and rhythms from the practices of different peoples. This has always been a challenge. As with St Paul, we are challenged to work on our powers of discernment, learning how to recognise the Spirit working, even where we may least expect that to happen.

