300 CLUB WINNER DRAW Week 47. Sunday 22nd. November 2009.
£100 Prize; No.**190.** Nora Ness, Wishaw.
£25. Prize; No.**161.** Patricik Connolly, Kildare Place, Newmains.
To join contact Pat Cahill on 01698 292421 or ask at the Stall or Nearly New Shop.
PARISH INCOME: Sunday 22nd. November Offertory £860.00. Stall £76.00
NEARLY NEW SHOP: The Shop will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00am until 2.30pm. If you could spare some time to help staff the Shop please call at the Shop.

ST. AIDAN'S HIGH SCHOOL: PENSIONERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND AFTERNOON TEA TAKES PLACE IN THE SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 15th. DECEMBER AT 1.45pm. FOR FREE TICKETS PHONE 01698 352555.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Tuesday 8th. December at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced Adults £4. Child/OAP £3. Again contact the School on 01698 352555

ANNUAL ECUMENICAL CAROL SERVICE takes place in Coltness Memorial Church next Sunday, 6th. December at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

CARMELITE FUND-RAISING EVENTS:
CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Sunday 29th. November at 12.45pm. All the usual stalls and some more!. Toys, Bottles, Tombola Gifts etc. and our Christmas Draw.
PRIZE BINGO NIGHT: Sunday 13th. December at 7.00pm. More details later. Just keep the evening free. Prizes for this night can be handed in to Parish House.

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING organized by St. Brigid's Girls' Club on Sunday 6th. December at 1pm. Tickets £2.

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS: Last few places available for Fridays 18th. December. Dinner is by Sherlock Catering and the Music is by "Threes a Crowd". Tickets are priced at £21. Contact Simon Gavin on 383702 for bookings.
ANNUAL BOXING DAY LUNCH: Saturday 26th. December at 2.00pm. Catering will be by Sherlock Caterers. Individual places or tables can be booked by contacting Pat Cahill as soon as possible. Places cost £13.. for adults and £6.50 for children. It is filling up fast so book today.
ST. BRIGID'S SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER will take place in the Parish Centre on Sunday 20th. December after 12noon Mass.Forms will be available shortly.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS: Each Sunday gifts for Christmas parcels can be left at the Baptismal Font.

SICK: James Trainer, Maurizio Puricelli, David Reilly, Janette Toryvsen, Tracy McLean, William McAteer, Frs. Emilio Paloschi and Wojciech Parfianovicz, Rose Kemp, Samuel Cullen, Martin O Brien, Esther Banks, Tony Hughes, Annette Martin, Peter Quigley, Gordon Stewart, John Frizell , Mattie Fender, Colin MacKinnon, Jim Dynes (Armagh), Peter Clark, Helen (Lochrane) Connor, Mary Brown.

R.I.P.: Ina Shearer (Eastwood Drive), David Wilson (St. Mary's, Greenock).
MONTHS MIND: James McLaughlin, Lina Puricelli, Robert Cullen, Samuel, Sarah and Agnes McCreadie, Theresa and Harry McGowan,
ANNIVERSARIES:, Patrick Costello, James Isaac, Catherine Lally, Bessie Sheehan,

ST. BRIGID'S PARISH NEWMAINS

(CHARITY NO. SCO 11041)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 WEBSITE: www.stbrigid.org.u

PARISH BULLETIN SUNDAY 29th. NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday Evening Vigil Mass 5.30pm.
Sunday Morning Masses 9.30am and 12noon.
(Children's Liturgy at 12noon Mass)
WEEK-DAY MASSES:
MON. St. Andrew's Day 9.30am and 7.30pm.
TUES. – FRI. 9.30am
SAT. MORNING 10.00am.

THURSDAY. YEAR OF PRIEST DEVOTIONS 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

CONFESSIONS: Thurs. 7.00pm – 7.30pm
Sat. 10.30am. 6.15pm –7.00pm.

EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT: FRI. 10.00am – 2.30pm

TODAY THE 12NOON MASS WILL BE OFFERED FOR ALL THE DECEASED PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED ST. BRIGID'S OVER THE YEARS.

FEASTS: Mon.30th. **St.Andrew:** Apostle and Martyr. He came from Capernaum on the shores of Lake Galilee where he was a fisherman like his brother Peter.His association with Scotland comes from the fact that his relics were borne ashore at present day St. Andrew's when the ship carrying them to Italy was shipwrecked. They were subsequently interred in the Cathedral of Amalfi where they are revered to this day.

Thurs. 3rd. **St.Francis Xavier:** Born in 1506 in Navarre, Spain, he studied at the University of Paris where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined with him to be one of the first Jesuits. It was resolved he should travel to the Far East to spread the Gospel there. He was ordained in Venice in 1541 and set out on his missionary journey. He arrived in Goa in 1542 and in 1545 travelled to the Malay peninsula. In 1549 he went to Japan and finally in 1552 went to China, but died at the mouth of the Canton river just within sight of this great country. In every place he visited the Church is present to this very day.

THURSDAY EVENING: "**Year of the Priest" Devotions** at 7.00pm. Please make an effort to attend all of the hour or even for a few moments.

READERS:
Today: Vigil:Sr. Elizabeth, 9.30amThomas Woods. 12noon. Mary Jamieson.
Next week. Vigil:Dominic Dale, 9.30am. Michael McParland. 12noon. Michael Cunningham..

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
This week: **Vigil.** Angela Reardon, Ann Muldoon.
9.30am. Helena Thomas, Denis Burns. **12noon.** Liz Brown, Lorraine Cunningham.
Next week. **Vigil.** Clare Penrice, Catherine Costello..
9.30am. Joe Clark, James McParland. **12noon.** Mary O'Brien, Eileen Duffy..

RCIA GROUP meet on Wednesday evening in the Church from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Anyone wishing to receive instruction in the Faith or to deepen their knowledge of the Faith is welcome to attend.
SECOND COLLECTION FOR ST. ANDREW'S HOSPICE on Sunday 29th. Nov.

REFLECTION: A few years ago there was a surprise best-selling book. Called *The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*, by Joshua Piven and David Borgenicht, it offered advice on how to survive all manner of tricky situations, from how to fend off a shark to how to deliver a baby in the back of a taxi. Although it was sold as a humorous book, all the pieces of advice contained inside were actually real, practical strategies that might save a life if one found oneself in that situation. Incidentally, you might find it useful to remember that the key to fending off a shark is to attack its eyes or its gills before it attacks you. The comedy element of the book lay in the fact that most people are unlikely to face either a shark, or a mother in labour in a cab, or many of the other difficult scenarios listed in the book, during day-to-day life. Perhaps if we did find ourselves facing such a scenario, we might not find the book so funny. Let's hope most of us never need to put its advice into action.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is giving his own worst-case-scenario advice to his followers. And he doesn't just say, "If you should find yourself in this situation…" like the best-selling book – he tells them that they definitely will find themselves in this dire situation. This is clearly not meant to be funny. He wants his listeners to treat this with the utmost seriousness.

It can seem a frightening passage – and confusing too. Bible scholars have long discussed what event Jesus is actually speaking about. Is it the end of the world? Some of the language certainly sounds like the end-times language of the book of Revelation. But many scholars are agreed that these words depict the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. That event happened in AD 70, around forty years after Christ's death, so during the lifetime of many of those who were Christ's original audience. The Jews rose up against their Roman occupiers but were mercilessly crushed. The Jewish people were scattered around the world; and Jerusalem and the Temple were laid waste. The repercussions of this event are still felt in today's troubled Middle East.

Jesus describes this dreadful event in language that was designed to have a dramatic effect on his listeners and to lodge in their memories. But it isn't just a warning about the destruction of the Temple. What is important for us today is that Jesus offers his followers a survival strategy for all worst-case scenarios.

All this talk about desperate times might seem a bit odd at the beginning of Advent. Why, when we are beginning our preparations for Christmas, has the Church decided to give us a doom-and-gloom Gospel reading? The Advent season has always had a dual focus. We prepare for Christmas, the celebration of Christ's first coming. But we also think about the second coming of Christ, when God's kingdom will finally be fulfilled and God's plan of salvation for the whole of creation will reach its ultimate completion. The Gospel reminds us how much we need a saviour – someone who can turn the most desolate of situations into a victory. Someone who can help us survive any worst-case scenario. Someone who can provide salvation when we most need it. Of course, that person is Jesus Christ. So we begin this Advent aware of our need for a saviour and looking forward to the celebration of his coming at Christmas.

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC MEDIA OFFICE WEBSITE: www.scmo.org
CATHOLIC PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE WEBSITE: **www.rcpolitics.org**
CATHOLIC HOUSE OF PRAYER IONA WEBSITE: www.catholic-iona.com**A**