

## Parish of St Thomas the Apostle

Parish Priest: Rev. Joseph Balmer BD  
 Address: 70 Main Street, Neilston, G78 3NJ  
 Tel: 0141 881 1478  
 Email: parish@stthomasneilston.co.uk  
 Web: www.stthomasneilston.co.uk  
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stthomasneilston



Sunday Masses: 16.00 (Vigil), 10.00  
 Daily Masses: 10.00 except Wed 18.00  
 Confessions: Wed 17.25 – 17.55  
 Sat 10.30 – 11.00  
 By appointment  
 Adoration: Mon – Sat 09.00 except Wed 17.00  
 Also Thu 10.30 – 11.30

## Solemnity of the Epiphany (B) Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018

<p><b><u>Important Contact Details</u></b>                  SSVP: 07598511261                  Hall Enquiries: 0141 580 6642</p>	<p><b><u>Last Week's Collection(s)</u></b>                  Offertory: £355.00 (Standing Order) + £334.61                  No second collection.</p>
<p><b>SPRED Advent Boxes:</b> Please return these ASAP so that we can forward the monies to the Diocese.</p> <p><b>Christmas Collections:</b> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent weekend: <b>£355.08</b>; Christmas Day: <b>£868.72</b>; Building Fund: <b>£178.43</b>. Thank you for your continued contributions.</p> <p><b>St Margaret's Adoption Society:</b> The annual crib appeal raises donations for the solvency and running of St Margaret's as the only Catholic adoption agency in the U.K. Please be generous. There is a box in front of the Crib. Although we will take down the Christmas tree as we enter Ordinary Time, we will keep the Crib up until the <b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, as is the custom at the Vatican.</p> <p><b>St Anthony's Box:</b> As has been the custom these past few years in St Thomas', all monies placed in St Anthony's Box and monies placed in Christmas Cards go to the Missions. In total, £1300 was raised. £700 has been forwarded to Fr Ephraim in Parys, South Africa to help with his projects in the townships. £300 was forwarded to Fr Chris in Malaysia who has started a new project with children in the jungle communities. Finally, £300 was forwarded to Fr Emmanuel who is working in South Sudan. He called me over Christmas and it is very evident that his ministry is difficult. We will have some photos in a few weeks' time to show how the monies are being spent.</p> <p><b>Mary's Meals:</b> Every gift is being match-funded, so £1 becomes £2 which means a donation of £13.90 will feed two children for a whole school year.</p> <p><b>UWS Chaplaincy:</b> Studying at UWS? Would you like to get involved in our Catholic society? If so please contact Fr. John Morrison @ johnmorrison1976@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>PVG Training:</b> It is now diocesan policy that all volunteers doing regulated work with children and vulnerable adults (or both) should do the Level 1 training ASAP. The following dates have been arranged for January 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>St. John's, Barrhead</b>, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7pm-8.30pm.</li> <li>• <b>St. Mirin's, Paisley</b>, 27<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10.30am-12noon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lourdes Hospitalité:</b> Booking forms are now available for the pilgrimage to Lourdes 29th June- 6th July '18. Volunteers helpers and nurses are needed to assist pilgrims who require assistance. All helpers need to comply with the Diocesan safeguarding policy. Call Anne Louise on 01475 638132.</p> <p><b>Let it Be: Five Session DVD/Book Series on Devotion to Our Lady:</b> How about getting some parishioners together for this very well produced course on how Mary helps us to be filled with God? Filmed on location in the Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes, Knock, Walsingham and more with inputs from Cardinal Nichols and testimonies from Mary's Meals, Mothers Prayers, John Pridmore and more. Just search <a href="http://www.faithcafe.org">www.faithcafe.org</a> to find out more or order.</p> <p><b>Scottish Catholic Calendars/Day by Day Books:</b> The Catholic Calendars give a list of all the Churches and times of Masses in the Archdiocese of Glasgow, Dioceses of Motherwell and Paisley, and info on other Catholic agencies. These are available at the Stall. Place your monies in the Stall Box beside the St Joseph statue.</p> <p><b>Holy Water:</b> It is customary to bless your home and family at the beginning of a New Year. Newly Blessed Holy Water is available in the porch to take home.</p>



Connect with us online! Visit [www.stthomasneilston.co.uk](http://www.stthomasneilston.co.uk) and Like our Facebook Page!



**Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes:** This will take place from 29th June- 6th July 2018. It is open to all, however any pilgrim with an acute medical condition or who is taking regular prescription medication will be asked to complete a medical form. This allows us to ensure that we have a team of nurses and helpers willing to assist you. It also lets us order the correct number of wheelchairs for the pilgrimage. We are still awaiting the full details and booking forms for the pilgrimage. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Anne Louise 01475 638132.

**Mum's the Word Prayer Groups:** As St Monica prayed for her son we pray for all sons and daughters: "We now humbly ask you to pray with us for our sons and daughters who have drifted away from God and we ask you to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried about their children". If you are interested in joining an existing group or starting a group in your own parish, please email: Eleanor Jannetta at enojannetta@hotmail.co.uk

**National Shrine of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair:** Monthly Mass to pray for the Beatification of Margaret Sinclair. This will be celebrated in St Patrick's, Cowgate, Edinburgh on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm. Petitions can be sent to the shrine office by post or email. [delegate@margaretsinclair.scot](mailto:delegate@margaretsinclair.scot) You are encouraged to visit the shrine in Edinburgh and to pray for her beatification.

**Mary's Meals Rosary Beads:** Liz Grant of Mary's Meals has made some lovely Rosary Beads in boxes together with little reflections which go with the Mysteries. These are available at £5 each or £7 gift wrapped. A perfect stocking filler. Each Rosary would come with a little certificate saying how the purchase of such will now provide a meal for a child for six months. Contact Liz at [liz.grant6111@gmail.com](mailto:liz.grant6111@gmail.com) or by phoning 0141-316-5079

**Jesse Tree and Food Bank:** A big thank you our parishioners who gave gifts to the Wayside club via the Jesse Tree and food for the foodbanks. We thank also our local Co-op who handed in food to the parish to distribute. May God bless your generosity.

**Poinsettias:** Thank you to all those who donated Poinsettias for the Altar for Christmas and also to St Thomas PTA who donated 10. May God Bless you for your generosity.

**Solemnity of the Epiphany:** Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany when God the Father reveals or manifests his Incarnate Son Jesus to the Magi. They bring with them gifts of Gold to signify Jesus's royalty, as Son of David and Incense to worship his Divinity as Son of God and Myrrh prophesying his suffering and death. As the Magi came from the East and outside of the Israelite land, they were Gentiles and non-Jews. This demonstrates that Jesus is Lord of all and Saviour of all and he comes to invite all peoples and all races into the Kingdom of God. We too are to bring Jesus to all and offer our life to his service. Pope Francis takes up the theme of Welcome for this, the **World Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace** "Migrants and Refugees" men and women in search of Peace. We should also make others feel Welcomed and at Peace.

**Mass of Commitment for Confirmation:** The Pupils of Primary 7 will attend the 10.00am Mass next week the 14<sup>th</sup> of January to make their commitment to prepare themselves spiritually for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Children's Liturgy:** Between January and March, this takes place at 10am Sunday Mass, with the exceptions of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, when it will take place during the Saturday Vigil Mass. A Family Mass will take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

**Please Pray for:**

***Those who have died recently:*** Isabelle Mc Gauley, Veronica Kinnell; and for the ***anniversaries*** of Robert Furie, Joe Mc Cormick, John Sbragia.

***Those who are sick:*** Jean Blewitt, Ronald Burns, Peter Cairney, John Cannon, Anne Cox, Joseph Din, Jean Docherty, Ree Dunn, Joyce Van Gorder, Bob Fairlie, Ellen Hendry, Daniel Hughes, Rena Jardine, Rebecca Keay, Margaret Skea, Andrew Madsen, Maureen Muldoon, Elizabeth Mc Cusker, Yvonne Mc Lachlan, Theresa Mc Veigh, Agnes O'Donnell, Sr Patricia Reilly, Irene Rome, Sonia Galligo Romero, Duncan Scott, Elizabeth Turnbull, Laurie Thompson. Esther West, Janet & Jimmy Smith.