

**'FACE to FACE' CONFESSION** I have had my confessional adapted so that those who wish to make a 'face to face confession' with the priest may do so by coming round to the priest's side of the box. Those who wish to celebrate the Sacrament anonymously may still continue to do so.

## Day of Reconciliation

Advent is one of those times of the year when we are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Forgiveness in preparation for Christmas. **THE PRINCIPAL OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THIS SACRAMENT IN THIS PARISH** will come on **Saturday 16th December** when there will be a 'Day of Reconciliation' during which the Sacrament will be celebrated continuously from 10.00am - 6.00pm.

**The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 9.30am Mass** and at any given time during that day there will be at least one priest available in the church to hear confessions. This will take the place of the usual Penitential Service which may have been held in previous years.

**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY** that after next Saturday, opportunities for confession will be very much limited in Holy Family. In the week leading up to Christmas I will be returning the favour to those priests who will have helped me out on Saturday next by hearing confessions in their parishes which means I will not be free to put on any extra opportunities for confession in Holy Family, so, don't be caught out. Please make use of the ample opportunity for confession provided next Saturday.

- 10.00 - 11.00am:** Divine Word Missionary (*Uddingston*)
- 11.00 - 12.00noon:** Fr. Brosnan (*St. Gerards, Bellshill*)  
Fr. Morton (*Corpus Christi, Calderbank*)
- 12.00 - 1.00pm:** Fr. Briody (*St. Michael's, Moodiesburn*)
- 1.00 - 2.00pm:** Fr. Brannigan (*Pastoral Centre, Newmains*)
- 2.00 - 3.00pm:** Fr. Reen (*Sacred Heart, Bellshill*)
- 3.00 - 4.00pm:** Fr. Donnelly (*Prison/Hospital Chaplain*)
- 4.00 - 5.00pm:** Fr. Grant (*Holy Family, Mossend*)
- 5.00 - 6.00pm:** Fr. McAndrew (*Lithuanian Chaplain*)

This is an ideal opportunity for any who have been away from the Sacraments to 'make a comeback'. The insert to this week's bulletin featuring a sample examination of conscience may be of help to some people. Please feel free to use it and bring it along to confession on Saturday if you find it helpful



*"Let the message of Christ in all it's richness, find a home with you."*

### Masses and Services - Week beginning 11th December

<b>Monday</b>	9.30am:	Eucharistic Service
<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am:	Mass
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am:	Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am:	Eucharistic Service
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am:	Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	9.30am:	Mass
	6.00pm:	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am:	Mass
	12.00noon:	Mass

### Saturday 16th December Day of Reconciliation



*The Sacrament of Forgiveness will be celebrated continuously from **10.00am till 6.00pm**. At any given time in the day there will be at least one priest in the church hearing confessions*

10th December 1995 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

**CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME** to our four newest parishioners: Jack Nugent, Nicola Lesley Morrison, Sean Edward Linden and Sean Andrew Docherty who will all be baptised after 12.00noon Mass this Sunday. We welcome each of them into the family of God and into Holy Family Parish.

**C.M.S. CHRISTMAS CABARET** on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm. Tickets from members of the C.M.S.

**DAILY MASS IN CARDINAL NEWMAN H.S.** During Advent, Mass will be offered everyday (Monday - Friday), in the school Theatre at 8.40am.

**MISSALETTES** Please return these to the church porch after use. After the 12.00noon Mass would passkeepers please take the responsibility of disposing of them each Sunday

**200 CLUB** December winners: 1st: No. 96 (£80): D. Miller, 33 Blackwoods Crescent, 2nd No. 123 (£40): C. Quinn, 50 Beechwood Gardens, 3rd No. 49 (£30): J. McGrath, 8 Rosevale Crescent.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** for children, (P.1 - P.7) in the primary school, each Sunday at the 12.00noon Mass. The children will be taken into the hall at the beginning of Mass and divided into two groups (P.1 - P.3 and P.4 - P.7.) where they will celebrate the Liturgy of the Word at their own level. They will return to the church to join their parents for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**HOLY COMMUNION UNDER BOTH SPECIES** The Blessed Sacrament may be received under both forms (*The Precious Blood as well as the Sacred Host*) at all the daily Masses and at one Sunday Mass each weekend in rotation. Last week those at the Vigil Mass had the opportunity to receive in this way. This week it will take place at the 10.00am Mass and next week at the 12.00noon Mass and so on.

**FOLK GROUP** Rehearsal on Thursday at 7.30pm of all those who wish to be involved in the Folk Group who will sing at the Vigil Mass next Saturday evening. Please feel free to come along and lend a hand.

**FAMILIES OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS** who wish to take part in the Offertory Procession at Mass, please complete the tear off slip accompanying my letter and return it to the school.

**LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY** Today's Mass will be offered for all deceased members of the Lithuanian Social Club. Tea in the club after Mass. The next Mass in Lithuanian will be on Sunday January 14th.

**A FEAST OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC** presented by the combined choirs of the Diocese of Motherwell, Cadzow Parish Church, St. Augustine's, Coatbridge and St. Mary's Hamilton in association with Motherwell District Concert Band in St. Augustine's Coatbridge, Wed. 13th December, Motherwell Cathedral, Mon. 18th December and Cadzow Parish Church, Tues. 19th December. at 7.30pm.

**KNIGHTS of ST. COLUMBA** meet 7.30pm in the hall, Tuesday 12th

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING** a presentation of words and music for the season of Advent with members of the Wild Goose Worship Group of the Iona Community on Sunday 10th December at Burnhead Parish Church, 90 Laburnam Road at 7.30pm.

**LADIES' GUILD** Christmas Dinner. Please be seated by 7.00pm.

**MORNING ROSARY** In order not to embarrass anyone who can't stay for the rosary, please give those who wish to leave the opportunity to do so before beginning the prayers. Thankyou.

**P6/7 & P.7 COFFEE MORNING & SALE OF WORK** The above pupils have been very busy lately and have put their talents to good use by making presents which they intend selling at their Coffee Morning on Wednesday 13th December, 9.15 - 11.00am. On sale there will be Christmas wreaths, Yuletide logs, Gift bags & tags, Snowmen, Pot Pourri etc - all of very good quality. Please support the children by coming along and bringing your friends and neighbours.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** Wednesday 7.30pm. All members please attend.

**PENITENTIAL SERVICES** with the opportunity for individual confession in Sacred Heart on Tuesday 19th December and St. Gerards on Wednesday 20th December

**RESPONSE TO BIDDING PRAYERS** After announcing each intention, the reader will say: "*Lord in your mercy*" our response should be "Hear our prayer".

### ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you  
whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend with your help,  
to do penance, to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us, In  
his name, my God, have mercy.

*If you wish to use this Act of Contrition in your celebration of the Sacrament,  
then please feel free to take this pamphlet with you into the confessional.*

Penance is a Sacrament  
of love and reconciliation,  
of fatherly welcome  
and forgiveness on the part of God;  
of sorrow and joyful return  
on the part of the penitent.

Jesus, through the priest  
welcomes you and forgives your sins.  
He restores you to His flock  
so that you may be filled  
with the love of God  
and utterly committed to him  
and to the service of His children.



*Repent,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven  
is close at hand.*

# SACRAMENT of FORGIVENESS

**"COME BACK TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART  
DON'T LET FEAR KEEP US APART"**

This is the time of year when many people are preparing to return home to spend Christmas with their families. Advent is the ideal time for those who have been away from the Church to come 'home' for Christmas, to make an honest return to the Lord through the Sacrament of Forgiveness. Never mind how long you have been away from this Sacrament, never mind any fear or anxiety about how to confess, just come along and you'll receive all the help you need. This day of Reconciliation is an ideal opportunity for those who have drifted from the Sacraments to 'come back home' for Christmas.

One of the reasons some people give for staying away from the Sacrament is that they have 'forgotten how to go'. There is no one way. to 'go' to confession. The most important thing is that a person be sorry for their sins and confess them as best they can. However, we understand at the same time that some people like to have a formula to use, it puts them at ease. For that reason we offer below the traditional formula used by most people when coming to confession. It is offered simply as an aid to those who may find it useful. There is no compulsion on anyone to use this if they don't find it helpful.

1. "Bless me Father for I have sinned it is (*mention the time, months, years etc*) since my last confession."
2. "During that time I have..." (*now mention your most serious sins and any others you may wish to mention*)
3. (*After confessing all the sins you wish to mention simply say*): "That is all I can remember."
4. The priest will give you a 'penance' -and then ask you to say the 'Act of Contrition (see over the page)
5. After the Act of Contrition, the priest will give you absolution and then bid you to go in these or similar words: "The Lord has freed you from sin. Go in peace and God bless you"
6. You respond by saying: "Thank you Father and God bless you too Father"



To receive the  
Sacrament of Forgiveness  
worthily and well we must:

- examine our conscience
- be sorry for our sins
- make up our minds not to sin again
- confess all our sins to the priest
- do the penance the priest gives us

#### PRAYER BEFORE CONFESSION

God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change  
the courage to change the things I can  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

### EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

As part of our preparation for Confession we should examine our lives  
and assess our living in the light of the Gospel.

**Jesus said, "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand"**

Is there serious sin in my life?  
Since my last confession, have I made a real effort to improve?  
Have I lived at peace with God? with others?

**Jesus said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with  
all your soul, and with all your mind"**

Have I loved God with all my heart and soul?  
Is there any other God - success, pleasure, wealth, possessions, self - that  
come before Him?  
Have I tried to keep God's commandments?  
Have I made the effort to pray every day?  
Have I been faithful in attending Sunday Mass?  
Have I used God's name outside of my prayers?  
Have I indulged in swearing, blasphemy and foul language?

**Jesus said "I give you a new commandment: love one another"**

Have I tried to love my neighbour as myself?  
Have I helped those in need?  
Have I remembered the sick, the deprived, those whom we put on the margins  
of our society?  
Have I been faithful and loving in my family life?  
Have I shown my partner (or fiancée) patience and understanding?  
Have I contributed to building a happy home and family?

Have I shared my income openly and honestly with my family?  
Have I taken a proper interest in the children's upbringing?  
Have I spent enough time with them?  
Have I taught them the difference between right and wrong?  
Have I loved and honoured my parents?  
Have I used the gift of sexuality in accordance with the will of God?  
Have I committed sins of adultery, fornication, self abuse?  
Have I indulged in unsuitable TV. programmes, read immoral books that led  
to bad thoughts and desires?  
Have I encouraged other people's family life by sympathy and concern when  
it was needed?

**Jesus said: "Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right, they  
shall be satisfied"**

Have I live in a self-centered world, caring only for my own wants and feelings?  
Have I respected other people's rights as I want them to respect mine?  
As an employer, do I pay fair wages and provide proper working conditions?  
As an employee am I honest and hardworking, trustworthy in my job?  
Have I withheld payment of my lawful debts?  
Have I made false claims for grants or benefits I had no right to?  
Have I stolen or damaged other people's property?  
Have I been reckless about the life and safety of others?  
Do I drive with care?  
Have I taken drugs/alcohol to the point where they endangered myself and  
self respect?  
Have I tempted other people to abuse alcohol or drugs?  
Have I used others for my own convenience without respecting their dignity?  
Have I taken away anyone's character by slander or even unkind truth?  
Have I lied in a serious way?

**Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you, my own peace I give you"**

Am I a peaceful person?  
Have I supported, condoned or encouraged violence in any form?  
Have I been violent, verbally or even physically?  
Have I caused bodily harm to anyone else?

**Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth..., the light of the world"**

Am I willing to be counted as a Christian?

**Jesus said: "Courage, your sins are forgiven"**