

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH MOSSEND

57 HOPE STREET, MOSSEND. ML4 1QA

Parish Priest: Rev. James A. Grant

Tel: 01698 843165

E-mail: jamesa.grant@live.co.uk

Hall Bookings: 01698 304518



Fourth Sunday of Advent JOSEPH'S DREAM

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ISAIAH The prophet Isaiah talks about the coming of a very special child. There is no reason to believe that he knew just how special that child would be. Every king of David's line was an embodiment of God's promise to be 'with us'. But Christians believe that Isaiah's prophecy only found its complete fulfilment in Jesus.

The **SECOND READING** and the **GOSPEL** reveal to us the true identity of this special Child (Jesus). Both St Paul and St Matthew make it clear that, in the first place, Jesus was the Son of David. This was so because Joseph, his legal father, was descended from the line of David. David is one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament. He succeeded Saul as king of Israel. It was David who united the scattered tribes of Judea and formed them into a nation. Many times in the Gospel Jesus is called 'Son of David'.

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

- Mon** Evening Prayer 6.50pm
Holy Mass at 7.00pm
- Tue** **Nativity Stations at 11.30am**
Holy Mass at 12.00noon
- Thu** Morning Prayer 9.20am
Holy Mass at 9.30am
- Fri** Morning Prayer 9.20am
Holy Mass at 9.30am
- Sat** Marian Prayer at 9.20
Holy Mass at 9.30am
Vigil Mass at 6.00pm
- Sun** Holy Mass at 10.00am
Holy Mass at 12.00noon

ADVENT CONFESSIONS
Monday evening after Mass
Tuesday 11.15am - 12.00noon
and
Thursday 7.00 - 8.00pm

Confessor :
Fr. Justin

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

8.00pm (*Christmas Eve*) First Mass of Christmas

10.00am Dawn Mass

12.00noon Mass during the Day

Christmas Week Masses daily at 11.00am.

Feast of the Holy Family, Friday 30th December

Mass at 11.00am followed by refreshments in the hall.

HOGMANAY/NEW YEAR'S DAY

Weekend Masses as normal.

Saturday Vigil (*Hogmanay*) 6.00pm

Sunday, New Year's Day: 10.00am and 12.00noon



Simply Soup Lunch

After Tuesday 12 noon Mass

Come and join us in the Parish Centre for a bowl of soup, tea/coffee and cake after Mass. This 'lite' lunch will cost £2 with proceeds going to Mary's Meals. Bring some extra money as there will be a raffle too!

TUESDAY SIMPLE SOUP LUNCH made £260 for Mary's Meals last Tuesday.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

8.00pm (*Christmas Eve*) **First Mass of Christmas**
10.00am **Dawn Mass**
12.00noon **Mass during the Day**

I have agonised for weeks over the timing of the First Mass of Christmas next Saturday (Christmas Eve). Christmas has of course fallen on a Sunday in previous years and in previous years, when this was the case, we readily accepted a change of timing from our usual Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.00pm to (originally) Midnight, then 9.00pm and more recently 8.00pm which has been the time of this Mass for a few years now. This year, however, due to the prevalence of early Christmas vigil Masses throughout the diocese, I agonized over whether I should just 'go with the flow' and keep to the 6.00pm time of the Saturday vigil as our First Mass of Christmas. To be perfectly honest I wasn't at all keen to do so. I have very strong opinions about earlier and earlier vigil Masses at Christmas (*and indeed throughout the year!*). I just don't like them and feel we are kow-towing to secular pressures to fit Mass in around our busy social schedule. (The Lord alone knows there is enough 'bowing to mammon' at this time of the year). Holy Mass should have central

place in our Christmas festivities and not just be 'fitted in'. I have taken counsel from a few parishioners and from other priests and (*albeit a little late in the day, sorry*) decided to suspend the usual 6.00pm vigil Mass for Saturday 24th in favour of a later Mass 'during the night'. There is something more captivating about gathering at 'night time' to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Christmas comes but once a year and more than merits a slight departure from our normal pattern which helps emphasise the distinctive nature of this great feast. (*I also reflected that at Eastertime we do the same - we suspend our usual vigil Mass in the early Saturday evening in favour of a later Mass during the night.*) For these reasons I feel justified in keeping with the tradition of a later Mass on Christmas Eve. This will probably please some and disappoint others. I am not in control of that and can only do what I think, (*after reflection and prayer*), is the right thing to do. I think we have compromised enough by moving Mass from Midnight to 8.00pm in favour of those who would insist that Midnight is too late. I judge that any further compromise to an earlier time would destroy the unique atmosphere which rightly surrounds the 'First Mass of Christmas'.

Fr. Grant

MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

'The Christmas Child' at 7.30pm Wednesday 21st December in Cathedral with children of the Cathedral Primary. **ALL WELCOME**

MASS FOR THE HOLY INNOCENTS

on Wednesday 28th December 2016 in St. Patrick's Coatbridge at 10.00am. All welcome.

SCOTTISH CATHOLIC WESTERN CALENDAR (DIRECTORY)

Our parish stall is now stocking the 2017 Western calendar which gives the names, addresses, phone numbers, emails of parishes in the West of Scotland as well as names of clergy, times of Masses/confessions photos of events which took place during 2016 and a wealth of other valuable information. **The price is £3.20. An invaluable resource and a good buy.**



HELP REQUESTED
 for the 'BIG CLEAN' in preparation for Christmas, Wednesday 2.00pm. Just turn up and someone will be sure to give you a brush, mop or duster!

NEXT SUNDAY - CHRISTMAS DAY			
	Vigil	10.00am	12.00noon
Ministers of the WORD		Elain Gallacher Lesley Christie George Keeper	Delia McNeilly Ursula Dent Angela Campbell
Ministers of the EUCHARIST	Bernard Cannon Agnes Poutney Alan Poutney	Danny Mallon Julia Campbell	Michael Roarty Marie Lennon
Ministers at the ALTAR	TBA	TBA	TBA