

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

ST. LEONARD'S

St. Leonard's Church, Brancumhall Road, East Kilbride G74 3YA. Tel. 01355 247471.

E-mail: stleonardsek@btconnect.com Charity No. SCO 11041

Website: www.stleonardsek.org.uk

Rev. Dominic A.P. Quinn, Ph.B., S.T.L. (dominic@saintleonard.uk)

Deacon: Rev. Michael K. Ross, Ph. D. Parish Sister: Sr. Sophia McGinness

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH – 31st December 2017

HOLY MASS

Sunday: Vigil 6:00pm, 10:00am, 12:00noon and 5:15pm. **Weekday:** 10:00am.

CONFESSIONS

Daily: 9:40 – 10:00am Saturday 5:30 – 6:00pm

WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS

Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Please speak to Fr. Dominic to arrange above sacraments

HOLY HOUR

Thursday evenings 7.00pm

FEAST DAYS

Sunday – Holy Family. Monday - Mary Mother of God.

Tuesday - St. Basil & St. Gregory. Thursday - St. Elizabeth. Friday – St. Nathalan

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sick: Maureen Chandler, Tina Craig, Maureen Croke, Mary Crosthwaite, Rhys Crossan, Margaret Crutenden, Suzanne Dolan, Agatha Dzurjanik, James Gallagher, Paul & Rebecca Gess, Bernadette Horn, Aaron Matthew Hosie, Beau Johnston, Gerry Kelly, Kathleen Irwin (Stranorlar Co. Donegal), Amer Khan, Gerald MacEwan, Joe McGettigan, Kathleen McIntyre, Mary McLachlan, Michael Martin, Mary Matthews, Paul Quinn, George Rawson, Elizabeth Rayner, Molly Rooney, John Ryan, Eric Sainsbury, Moira Scott, Catherine Sharkey, Frank Tierney, Mary Jo Walsh, Andrew Young,

Recently deceased: Nancy Cannon, Michael Bradley, Archie Angus

Anniversary: Patrick & Julia McGarvey, John & Margaret McGourty, Alexander Brazier Sen. & Jun. Peter James Keating, Frank Hammond,

Months Mind: Austin Toner,

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your contribution to recent parish collections:

4 th Sunday of Advent:	1067.00
Christmas:	2687.00

PLEASE NOTE THAT HOLY MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY AT 10.00AM

Altar Servers: Next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd January 5:00pm to 5:30. New members always welcome.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas! (Message from Pope Francis)

In Bethlehem, Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. He was born, not by the will of man, but by the gift of the love of God our Father, who “so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (*Jn 3:16*).

The first people to see the humble glory of the Saviour, after Mary and Joseph, were the shepherds of Bethlehem. They recognized the sign proclaimed to them by the angels and adored the Child. Those humble and watchful men are an example for believers of every age who, before the mystery of Jesus, are not scandalized by his poverty. Rather, like Mary, they trust in God’s word and contemplate his glory with simple eyes. Before the mystery of the Word made flesh, Christians in every place confess with the words of the Evangelist John: “We have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (*Jn 1:14*).

Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, “there is no place in the inn” (*Lk 2:7*).

We see Jesus in the children of the Middle East who continue to suffer because of growing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. On this festive day, let us ask the Lord for peace for Jerusalem and for all the Holy Land.

We see Jesus in the faces of Syrian children still marked by the war that, in these years, has caused such bloodshed in that country. May beloved Syria at last recover respect for the dignity of every person through a shared commitment to rebuild the fabric of society, without regard for ethnic and religious membership. We see Jesus in the children of Iraq, wounded and torn by the conflicts that country has experienced in the last fifteen years, and in the children of Yemen, where there is an ongoing conflict that has been largely forgotten, with serious humanitarian implications for its people, who suffer from hunger and the spread of diseases.

We see Jesus in the children of Africa, especially those who are suffering in South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Nigeria.

We see Jesus in the children worldwide wherever peace and security are threatened by the danger of tensions and new conflicts. We see Jesus in the children of unemployed parents who struggle to offer their children a secure and peaceful future. And in those whose childhood has been robbed and who, from a very young age, have been forced to work or to be enrolled as soldiers by unscrupulous mercenaries.

We see Jesus in the many children forced to leave their countries to travel alone in inhuman conditions and who become an easy target for human traffickers. Jesus knows well the pain of not being welcomed and how hard it is not to have a place to lay one’s head. May our hearts not be closed as they were in the homes of Bethlehem.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The sign of Christmas has also been revealed to us: “a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes” (*Lk 2:12*). May the birth of Christ the Saviour renew hearts, awaken the desire to build a future of greater fraternity and solidarity, and bring joy and hope to everyone. Happy Christmas! POPE FRANCIS