

**Fifth Week of Lent  
(Year B)**

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**MASS TIMES**

Vigil Mass            St Thomas's 5.30 pm

Sunday Mass  
                                 St Thomas's 10.00 am  
                                 St Bernadette's 12 noon

Monday–Friday    St Bernadette's 9 am  
                                 St Thomas's 10 am

Saturday Marian Devotions  
                                 St Bernadette's 9.30 am  
                                 St Thomas's 10.30 am

Confessions  
                                 St Thomas's 5.00–5.30 pm Saturday

**Meeting for parents of First Communion children**

On Monday 26 March for children who attend St Thomas's parish there will be meeting at 7 pm in the Church for parents. Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. All children who are due to make their First Holy Communion this year must be represented. Specific details about First Holy Communion will be given at this meeting.

**First Saturday**

Beginning on April 7 there will be a First Saturday Mass in both parishes. 9 am in St Bernadette's and 10 am in St Thomas. This Mass will also allow those who are completing the Divine Mercy to get to Mass. Confessions will also be available at the First Saturday Mass.

**Third Scrutiny**

Today we have our third and final scrutiny. We also present the 'Our Father' to Joanne and Louise to conclude that part of their formation. A few weeks ago, Louise and Joanne were presented with the Creed – that is the Faith of the Church and today we present them with the prayer of the Church. On Holy Saturday Morning, Louise and Joanne will make

their First Confession and then at the Easter Vigil they will be received into the Church with Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The next 50 days, until Pentecost are called the period of Mystagogia (Unravelling the mystery). In this period the Neophytes (Newly planted) are supported and encouraged in their faith. There is now the opportunity to look at other aspects of the faith that may not have been covered in the Monday night classes. Please remember the girls as they make their final preparations.

#### **Safeguarding**

I am very grateful to Eileen Kidd who has agreed to become the safeguarding parish coordinator for St Thomas's and Barbie Jordan who will become the parish coordinator for St Bernadette's.

#### **Hand Rails**

The hand rails and supporting posts around the Church and house scraped down and will have then painted once the better weather (hopefully), arrives. I will also change the Church Services sign at the front door, its very much out of date.

#### **Sound system – St Thomas's**

We have had a sound engineer adjust the mics in the Church and you should be able to tell the difference. There are only 6 speakers in the Church (most Churches this size would have 6 either side). Howev-

er, the first two speakers at the front would have been more effective when there were pews there but with the altar moved forward they lose effectiveness, but it's okay, we can resolve that with some simple adjustments. There are still some issues and some more tweaking needing done, but these are effective and don't cost anything. In time we can replace the patched-up mics which will suffice unto such times as we are able to renew them. The altar mic and the Lectern mic have been adjusted to compensate and both are phased with the radio lapel mic. The loop-system has also been adjusted and those with hearing difficulties should notice an improvement. It does depend on where you sit but once I'm more certain of the drop out zones, I'll let you know.

#### **Receiving Communion**

There seems to be a little confusion about when you can receive communion. If you arrive at Holy Mass after the Gospel you may not receive communion. If you're a few moments late that's fine but if you miss the gospel, you are welcome to come for a blessing. The reason for this has always been that you need to hear the gospel before you can receive. The idea of Word and Sacrament are crucial to understating the Holy Mass. One other little detail, please do not light candles during Mass (after communion). You may light candles before mass or after.

### **ST BERNADETTE'S NOTICES**

#### **Meeting for parents of First Communion children**

On Tuesday 27 March for children who attend St Bernadette's parish there will be meeting at 7pm in the Church for parents. Please bring a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. All children who are due to make their First Holy Communion this year must be represented. Specific details about First Holy Communion will be given at this meeting.

#### **Sound system – St Bernadette's**

There is some loose wiring in the Loop system and despite some salvage testing, it is obsolete and probably hasn't worked properly for several years. Consequently, we are replacing the loop system for those who use hearing aids. The radio mic is also not working and has gone to

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#### **Fundraising Cycle around Millport for parish funds**

I'll put a sign-up sheet and some sponsor forms out for those interested. I would like to invite our Altar servers to do this and any other families or people within the parish who would like to help raise some money for the needs of the parish.

Can I suggest Monday 9 April after 10.00 am Mass? We would leave for Millport and cycle around aiming to be home early evening. More details to follow.

the factory for repair. We will need to replace the speakers in the Church as there is a distortion that cannot be repaired. We will look at the costs and then plan a phased install depending on costs. The good news is the amps are in great condition.

#### **Confession**

Next Friday after Stations of the Cross, there will be confessions available in St Bernadette's for anyone who has not yet managed to get to confession during Lent.

#### **St Bernadette's Housebound**

A donation of Easter Eggs would be most welcome for our extraordinary ministers to distribute to our housebound parishioners. Christian Easter Egg cards would also be welcome. Please write 'from the parishioners of St Bernadette's' in the card before handing it in.

#### **Schoenstatt Trip for both parishes**

I know it's a bit early, but I've taken the liberty of booking Schoenstatt near the Campsie's on Monday 23 July for a wee day out! We will cancel the morning Masses in both parishes and take a bus to the retreat centre for Mass some devotions and lunch. Anyone is welcome and with it being Summer I would hope families with children will come too!

Details to follow, but a sign-up sheet will be available by the end of June.

## Possible Race night

Some of the men in our Men's Guild (Confraternity of the Sacred Heart), have suggested we have a race night in the hall after Easter sometime to raise some funds for the parish. I am grateful to them for this initiative and more details will follow. However, can I take this opportunity to encourage any of our men to come along on Thursday Evening to the parish hall. There is pool, dominos and a good bit of banter. I don't manage every week, but I try to go every second week when possible.

## SVDP – Hamper

I believe there was a hamper somewhere in the Church that was used to collect food for the foodbank

## INTENTIONS

### Those sick at home or hospital

Anne Baillie and all the sick & housebound of both Parishes.

### Recently Dead

John Clark, Alice Warwick

### Anniversaries

Roger McGraw, Margaret & Jack Craig & Nancy Mulligan

## PARISH DONATIONS

10.03–11.03.2018

<b>St Thomas's</b>	<b>St Bernadette's</b>
<b>£1026</b>	<b>£355</b>
SCIAF	
<b>£226</b>	<b>£227</b>

cupboard, which is operated by our SVDP. I would like to restore that hamper and encourage you to bring along some tinned or packet foods for the cupboard as we are running a bit low and I'm sure it wouldn't take too long to restock it. From what I see it's teabags, tinned beans, soup and anything you think would be suitable for emergency food. In the meantime, if you bring it, Terry will store it. Many thanks.

## Lourdes

We now have four volunteers going to Lourdes from the parish, which I am delighted to see.

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday 18 March Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Mass Intention: The Parish*

Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction ..... 4 pm (St T)

### Monday 19 St Joseph

*Mass Intention: Elizabeth McNamara RIP*

### Tuesday 20

*Mass Intention: Frank Hughes RIP*

### Wednesday 21

*Mass Intention: Special Intention*

Mass (1962) . . . . . 7 pm (St T)

### Thursday 22

*Mass Intention: James Creaney RIP*

### Friday 23

*Mass Intention: Susan Cooper RIP*

Stations of the Cross

followed by Benediction. . . 7 pm (St B)

### Saturday 24 St Patrick

*Vigil Mass Intention: Mary Chisolm RIP*

### Sunday 25 Palm Sunday

*Mass Intention: The Parish*