

The Deep End
'It may bear fruit next year'

Today's Gospel brings a thorny question for Jesus, as the people ask why a number of Galileans were killed by the Romans as they made sacrifices to God. The basic question is why do bad things happen to certain people? Some Jewish leaders at the time viewed the Galileans as second-class Jews, and so they are raising more than a question about meaningless suffering here. They want to know if the Galileans suffered because they were not really 'Jewish enough.' Jesus responds with a sharp question about a recent tragedy involving those killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them. Were they worse offenders than others in Jerusalem? No. Jesus responds further by focusing on those who are still living. In the parable of the fig tree we hear that the tree is not producing any fruit and probably should be cut down. However, the owner of the vineyard agrees to one more year, during which it is given special attention.

Jesus' response to the difficult question on suffering is to focus on the living. We are still alive and therefore should be producing much fruit. Perhaps those who are questioning Jesus need, like the fig tree, much fertiliser, nourishment and growth so that they can focus on producing fruit for the world. The fig tree is blessed, and has received much grace in terms of time and care. The parable is a reminder to all of us of the nourishment and time we have been given; it is a call to examine the fruits that we produce in this world, in our communities, our families and in our church.

Jane Mellett

Lourdes Pilgrimage – St Serf's Lourdes Pilgrimage this year will be from Friday 12th – 19th July. Hotel Astoria, only 8 mins walk from the Grotto, full board, breakfast, lunch and dinner, English speaking guide and full spiritual programme. £799 plus £33 insurance if required. For more information, please contact Anne Convery, 01236 751821 Or Esther Rolink 01236 752581.

Family Vocation Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us. Please help more young people to follow your example by giving their lives in service as priests and religious.

If you are calling someone in our family to the priesthood or the religious life, please help them to say 'yes'.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

St Margaret's & St Serf's Parish
Bulletin

23rd Sunday of Lent
Year C1
24th March 2019

Lent



Fr Raymond J Breslin PhB, STL
Deacon Mario Vannini
Sr Mary McKeon RSC

96 Hallcraig Street, Airdrie ML6 6AW
01236 763370

Web: www.stmargaretsairdrie.org.uk
www.stserfairdrie.org.uk

Hall Bookings
St Margaret's 01236 762374

Services

+

Sunday Mass:

Vigil 5pm, 9am & 12 noon (St Margaret's)
10.30am (St Serf's)

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 10am (St Serf's)

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday: Mass 10am (St Margaret's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation, Thursday 7-8pm.
Saturday 10.30.a.m (St Margaret's)

Response for today's psalm - "The Lord is compassion and love."

Last week's second collection to assist in the care of the sick and retired priests of the diocese raised £1495.86. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Next weekend there will be our annual appeal for SCIAF at all the masses. This year's SCIAF Lent appeal focuses on Uganda and the thousands of vulnerable young people who, with your support, are being helped to create a brighter future for themselves. Please give to SCIAF this Lent and make big changes happen with your WEE BOX. Uganda has one of the youngest and fastest growing populations in the world. However, the legacy of war and a high rate of HIV and AIDS, has left many orphans and a generation of young people without hope, trapped in extreme poverty. By giving, reflecting and acting with SCIAF during Lent, you are helping people like Lydia from Uganda to work their way out of poverty. By supporting SCIAF this Lent you can ensure this vital work continues.

During Lent there will be an early morning Mass in St Margaret's at 7.15am Tuesday - Friday (**except on Thursday 11th April**). There will also be Stations of the Cross every Sunday at 4pm in St Margaret's and on Tuesday evening at 7pm in St Serf's. If anyone would like to lead the Stations of the Cross please see either Fr Breslin or Sr Mary.

No Stations of the Cross in St Serf's this Tuesday evening.

Dates for your Diary

St Serf's Primary School

First Reconciliation	Tuesday 26th March, 7pm
Confirmation	Monday 29th April, 7pm
First Communion	Saturday 11th May, 10am

All Saints' Primary School

First Communion	Saturday 18th May, 10am
Confirmation	Wednesday 19th June, 7pm

The new **Gift Aid** envelopes are available at the back of the church. New members of the scheme are always welcome and allow the parish to claim back the tax on your contribution at no extra cost to yourselves. I would ask that all those who are currently paying Income Tax and contributing to the parish please consider joining the scheme. Please see Fr Breslin for a form.

Small Faith Sharing Group A group will be meeting in the parish, once a week, for a period of 6 weeks during Lent, starting on Thursday 7th March at 1.15pm. For details please contact either Sadie Campbell, 751759 or Elizabeth McGowan, 354180.

We remember those who have died recently

Agnes Murray, John Doherty, Patrick Sludden, Marie Gilhooley, Vittorio Santangeli, Betty McGoldrick.

+

We Pray for Those whose Months Minds & Anniversaries Occur

Bernadette Jamieson, David Sloan, Jack & Maria Luisa Pacitti, Arcangelo & Annunziata Russo, Guido & Igina Ida Russo, Genoveffa Minchella, William, Elizabeth & Daniel Martyn, John, Elizabeth & Jason Swindall, Peter Coleman, John Coleman, Francis Coleman, Jim & Helen McGuigan, Jane Gribben, Harry Gribben, Jane McKeirnan, Isa Leitch, Sarah Simmonette, Edward Simmonette, John Cochrane, James Quinn, Liam Quinn, Mrs M Brown, James & Anne Kane, Agnes & Terry McAuley, James Laird, Pat Lynch, Smith, Brown & Quinn families.

+

We Pray for Healing, Peace and Contentment for our Sick

Kathleen O'Sullivan, John Rooney, James Green, Jacky Mullen, John McSherry, Katie Moran, Tracy Horn, John Gallagher, Michael Gribben, Josephine Campbell, Frank McCormack, Helen Travers, Jean Toland, Pauline Coyle, Jim Mulholland, Cory Woods, Harry Spalding, Jessie Duncan, Matthew McGuire, John Timmons, Gary McInnes, Anastasia Boyd, George Cassidy, Megan Wilson, Thomas Harty, Shannon Campbell, Emma Smith, Donna Marie Menzies, Lena Farrell, John Kane, John McSherry, Vera Beckett, Liam Calheur, Michael Tracy, Anne Brown, William Wilson, Norma Fox, Douglas Sweet, Jim Flynn, Hugh Bonnar, Rev Ross Murphy, James Campbell, John Brannan, Nora Cochrane, Elizabeth Easingwood, Anne Martin, Annette Coup, Bob Anderson, Sally Campbell, Andy Waite, John Reilly, Anna Danna, Hannah McGhee, James Fay, Fr Dominic Dougan, Laura Chalmers, Siena McVey, Jacob Canning, William Higgins, Kathleen Morgan, Gary Curtis, Kai Fingland, Stewart Hannah, John Keenan, Anne Louge, William Keenan, Marie Elizabeth Tucker, Canon Michael Walsh, Esther O'Neil, Alex Jamieson, Brian McKay, Tracy Dawson, Evan Smith, John Timmons, John Hamill, Geoffrey Hill, Tommy McHenry, Joseph Simmonette, Richard McKay, Gerard McDade, Gary Boyd, Hugh Carr, Nicola Cochrane, Kathleen Harold, Gerry Fergus, Karen Marshall, Lorette Carey, Marion Richardson, Lucia Jane Gavin, Rayhan Mavid, Helen Renucci, Bill Campbell, Patsy Brannan, Myra Taylor, Karen Marshall, John McSherry Liz McCall, Tom McPhail, Helen Anderson, Catherine Byrne, Mary Harold, Rena Tague, Mary Reilly, Leanne Marshall, Isabel Bonner, Bobby Brown, Elsie Tague, Kimi Robinson, Kathleen Johnson, Eliza Skeoch, Anne Marie Robertson, M O'Donnell, Catriona Paterson, Marie Robertson, William Stewart, D McPake, Emily Grace Friel, Helen Kelly.

+