

THE DEEP END: We should like to see Jesus

Those poor Greeks. Did you notice that they never actually get to meet Jesus? At the start of today's gospel some Greeks who are followers of Jesus come to Jerusalem. They are travellers, outsiders, and would like to meet Jesus in person. But when Philip and Andrew relay the request, Jesus begins to talk about how his 'hour' is coming. It is the last we hear of the Greeks, who disappear from the story altogether.

But they are important nonetheless. Firstly, they indicate that word about Jesus is spreading, that in the words of the Pharisees, 'the world has gone after him'. More importantly, they prompt Jesus to reveal that, when his hour comes, he will draw 'all people' to himself. In the space of a few short verses, we go from a brief mention of a group of foreigners seeking Jesus, to Jesus making it crystal clear that his saving mission is for all people, of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles – including those Greeks! There is no suggestion from Jesus that some groups are 'in' and others 'out'. All are included. All are invited. All are welcome. I remember once hearing someone describe their home as a domestic church, a place of 'indiscriminate welcome'. As we continue our journey through Lent, and soon into Holy Week, let us listen carefully to these words of Jesus. He came for all. He wishes to draw all people to himself. Are our churches, parishes, communities and homes open to all, outsiders included? Are they places of welcome and inclusion, where all who enter experience God's love?

Triona Doherty

Dates for your Diary

St Serf's Primary School

First Reconciliation	Tuesday 20th March, 7pm
First Communion	Saturday 19th May, 10am

All Saints' Primary School

First Communion	Saturday 12th May, 10am
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Sunday & Weekday Readings

<http://www.universalis.com/Europe.Scotland/index.htm>

Online journal of the British Jesuits

<http://www.thinkingfaith.org>

Sacred Space - Your daily prayer online.

www.sacredspace.ie

St Margaret's & St Serf's Parish Bulletin

5th Sunday of Lent

Year B2

18th March 2018



Fr Raymond J Breslin PhB, STL

Sr Mary McKeon RSC

Deacon Mario Vannini

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Web: www.stmargaretsairdrie.org.uk

www.stserfairdrie.org.uk

Hall Bookings

St Margaret's 01236 762374 (6 – 9 pm)

St Serf's 01236 751199

Services

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Sunday Mass:

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

10.30am (St Serf's)

Monday, 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 - "A pure heart create for me, O God."

Special Collection - The Special Collection for SCIAF last week raised £2630, very many thanks to all who contributed. **Please return all Wee Boxes by Easter Sunday.**

During Lent there will be an early morning Mass in St Margaret's at 7.15am Tuesday - Friday. On a Monday there is a 7am Mass in St Edward's. There will also be Stations of the Cross every Sunday at 4pm in St Margaret's and Wednesdays in St Serf's at 7pm. If anyone would like to lead the Stations of the Cross please see either Fr Breslin or Sr Mary.

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.

CARFIN CAMINO: The Good Friday walk to Carfin will take place again this year (on the morning of 29 March). This is a very informal morning consisting of the walk to Carfin Grotto (walk takes approximately 2 hours), celebration of Stations of the Cross at the Grotto, before returning by minibus. Those wishing to take part are asked to gather at St Margaret's Church Hall for a 0715 hours departure. You are most welcome to join the group for Stations even if you do not wish to walk as the minibus will be available throughout the morning. For further information contact John (07736350604) or Ann (07840186111)

St Andrew's Hospice, **Make a Will Month** - Make or Update your Will during the month of March. Several Lanarkshire firms of Solicitors have agreed to waive their fee for preparing the Will in lieu of a donation to the Hospice. For further information please contact Lorna McCafferty on 01236 772087

We remember those who have died recently

Canon Timothy Brosnan, John Ness, Raymond McGuigan,
Tony Donoghue, Sean Hughes, Rosina Coyle,

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We Pray for Those whose Months Minds & Anniversaries Occur

Fr Joseph Brannigan, Harry Gribben, Margaret Lamarra, David Sloan,
John Reilly, Bill & Christina Grant, Helen Cairney, Ellen Gibson,
Arthur McFaulds, James McGuigan.

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We Pray for Healing, Peace and Contentment for our Sick

Kathleen O'Sullivan, John Rooney, James Green, Harry Johnstone, Jacky Mullen, John Mc Sherry, 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, Anne Tiffney, John McSherry, Vera Beckett, Liam Calheur, Michael Tracy, Anne Brown, William Wilson, Elsie Tague, 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, Jack Casey, 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, Josephine Quigg, Joseph Simmonette, Richard McKay, Gerard McDade, Dan Reilly, Gary Boyd, Hugh Carr, Nicola Cochrane, Kathleen Harold, Gerry Fergus, Karen Marshall, Geraldine Sherry, Rose McCann, Edward McCann, Lorette Carey, Aileen Richmond, Marion Richardson, Lucia Jane Gavin, Ellen McLaughlin, Rayhan Mavid, Helen Renucci, Bill Campbell, Patsy Brannan, Catherine Herron, Myra Taylor, Karen Marshal, Liz McCall, Tom McPhail, Angela Irvine, Rena Tague, Joan McKay.

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Special Collections during Lent - Good Friday, Holy Places