

## LITURGY FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### ENTRANCE PROCESSION

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than in God's heaven:  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the grasp of mortal mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his word;  
and our lives be filled with glory from the glory of the Lord.

### PENITENTIAL RITE

Kyrie eleison (3). Christe eleison (3). Kyrie eleison (3).

*These words are transliterated from the Greek:*

Κύριε ελέησον. Χριστέ ελέησον. Κύριε ελέησον.

*meaning: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

### FIRST READING

*Exodus 3:1-8.13-15*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. I must go and look at this strange sight, Moses said, and see why the bush is not burnt. Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush, Moses, Moses! he said. Here I am he answered. Come no nearer he said. Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father, he said the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow. Then Moses said to God, I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you. But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them? And God said to Moses, I Am who I Am. This he added is what you must say to the sons of Israel: I Am has sent me to you. And God also said to Moses, You are to say to the sons of Israel: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: *The Lord is compassion and love.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy,  
for as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

### SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 10:1-6.10-12*

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! (2)

### GOSPEL

*Luke 13:1-9*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, "Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did." He told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

### PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Vaster far than any ocean 700

### HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

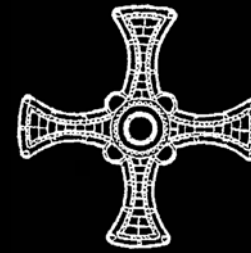
Dying you destroyed our death. Rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

### LAMB OF GOD

Response: Have mercy on us, have mercy on us, grant us peace (2).

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

Walk with me, O my Lord 706



# Parish of Our Lady and St Cuthbert

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Stephen G McGrattan**

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

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#### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil at 6.30 pm  
Sunday at 10.00 am

#### Weekday services

Monday to Friday at 9.00 am

#### Mass intentions this week:

Sat: Sr Ruth (Birthday intention)

Sun: Betty Hay (Ann)

Tue: Marc Devlin (Ann)

#### Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Forms available at the back of the church

#### Sacrament of Marriage

At least six months notice is required

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 11th March 2007

### Sunday 11th March

Jesus exhorts us yet again to repent, using the example of the fig tree that was given one more year to bear fruit. The Church nurtures us with the Eucharist, the heart and summit of the Church's life, and we are fed by our private prayer and reading of God's word. Like the fig tree, there is every reason for us to grow strong, to turn away from things that weaken us and to be united more closely with the God who loves us. God continually reaches out to us and gives us the chance to turn to him and listen as we now do.

### Monday 12th March

In the busyness of our lives it is good to take time to be still and to listen. As we reflect on how God sees things, a calmness of thinking and discernment of hearing begin to bring us to a place of rest – a silent certainty of God's presence with us which dispels the uneasy clamour of other voices in our heads. *Let us listen then to the voice of the Lord and enter into his peace!*

### Tuesday 13th March

We reflect today on the obedience of Jesus to his Father. His violent death was not the result of chance but part of the mystery of God's plan

of Redemption. It was in his obedience that Jesus shed his blood to ransom us and it was that payment which his Father accepted for mankind's sin to be wiped out. We take time today to ponder such love that laid down life itself for the sake of others.

### Wednesday 14th March

If we are honest, we need to reflect more deeply on why Jesus had to die. "For our sake God made him to be sin" we are told by St. Peter. This is good news for us because we know from Scripture, from history and from personal experience that the wages of sin is death. God gave his Son up to the death that our sin deserved. Because he was sinless, it was our debt he paid. Calvary is the reversal of our death sentence. Do I realise fully that I am no longer under sentence of death?

### Thursday 15th March

Carrying on our reflection on salvation, we turn our thoughts to the fact that God saved us while we were still sinners. It is God's initiative. Throughout his public ministry and particularly towards the end, Jesus consistently spoke of his passion and death. We need to be able to see the passion narrative in its wider context. In Genesis 3:15 God made the promise to save

mankind and in the passion that promise was carried out. Adam damaged the life God meant him to have, but Jesus gives birth to a new humanity whose life once again is grounded in God.

### Friday 16th March

We consider Jesus today as the Good Shepherd who gives up his life for his sheep. Jesus knew why he had come and what his Father required of him. The only way to save his sheep was to protect their future with his own life. Because of his willingness to do so, we will one day be able to see God face to face and live with him forever. Such an amazing destiny is worth spending time over.

### Saturday 17th March

The cross of Jesus is the greatest victory of love in history. It is a triumph which changed the destiny of humanity for ever. It reversed the consequences of the Fall when Adam excluded himself from God's presence by his sin. By his cross Jesus made a way for every human being to return to God. As we communicate with this loving God in our reflections, he helps us move to a deeper understanding of his love.

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing to David Kiltie  
(882644 or [david.kiltie@virgin.net](mailto:david.kiltie@virgin.net))

Last week's collection £489.  
Thank you.

## MAYBOLE AND MOSSBLOWN PARISHES WILL SHARE A PRIEST

Last weekend I read the following letter from Bishop Cunningham about the closure of Good Shepherd church in Ayr.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The night of 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004 was perhaps the most memorable of my life so far. The occasion was, of course, my Episcopal ordination. People had come from all over this diocese and also from my former diocese of Paisley. That night Good Shepherd Church looked every inch a cathedral.

The following Sunday was Pentecost Sunday, and I was present again in Good Shepherd parish for the annual Neophytes' Mass (the special Mass for those who had been baptised or received into full communion at Easter that year). Apart from the Neophytes themselves and a few of their relations and friends, there was no congregation to speak of and the church looked bare and empty.

Sadly, in the course of my time here as your bishop, Good Shepherd Church has only been well attended for the annual Chrism Mass and for the Carol Service

before Christmas each year. In fact the average attendance at Sunday Mass has been less than one hundred. In addition to this, the fabric of the church has been deteriorating rapidly. I had a survey carried out recently and was informed that it would cost in the region of £200,000 to effect basic repairs, and warned that some of the problems would return as they were due to design faults in the church. There has also been the recurring problem of vandalism to the church and house and Fr. McGee has been constantly under pressure because of the circumstances in which he has to live.

My predecessor, Bishop Maurice Taylor, felt constrained to petition the Holy See for permission to transfer his Cathedra from Good Shepherd parish to that of St. Margaret's, Ayr, which is the mother church of the area, having been in existence since 1822. He was told that, since he was about to retire, such a decision should be left to his successor.

Having been here now for some two years and nine months, I have come to the same conclusion as Bishop Taylor. Accordingly,

at the end of last year, I formally petitioned the Holy Father for permission to transfer my Cathedra from Good Shepherd to St. Margaret's, Ayr. I have now received an official reply from Rome, to the effect that the Holy Father has graciously acceded to my request. An official announcement was made in Rome on 28<sup>th</sup> February, and the changeover becomes effective as from that date.

However, the closure of Good Shepherd church, and the formal dedication of St. Margaret's as a Cathedral, will take some time to arrange, and things will continue as normal in the meantime. The Chrism Mass will take place in Good Shepherd for the last time on the Tuesday of Holy Week this year.

This decision has not been an easy one for me to take – to close the church in which I was ordained bishop. However, I did not feel that there was any reasonable alternative.

I would ask you all to remember me in your prayers, as I will you in mine.

I am,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rt. Rev. John Cunningham  
Bishop of Galloway

Fr McGee, as well as serving Good Shepherd Parish, is parish priest of St Ann's, Mossblown. When Good Shepherd church closes, Fr McGee will be appointed parish priest in another parish.

Bishop Cunningham has asked me to be parish priest of both Our Lady and St Cuthbert's, Maybole and St Ann's, Mossblown when Good Shepherd church closes. This will take effect from a date yet to be determined in May or June of this year.

This appointment means that, although I will be resident in Maybole, Maybole and Mossblown will share a priest. I will have duties and responsibilities to fulfil in both parishes and that will result in changes in both places.

Perhaps the most noticeable change will be the arrangement of Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass times so I can celebrate these liturgies with both parish

communities. There will be necessary alterations to Mass times, probably in both towns.

The celebration of weekday Masses will also be shared between the two parishes with weekday Mass some days in Maybole and others in Mossblown.

The detail of how these changes will develop has still to be discussed in consultation with the parish councils and parishioners of both parishes.

My availability to parishioners of both parishes will necessarily be more limited. If our parishes to continue to flourish you will have an important role to play in sharing your own gifts to build up our communities. Perhaps your contribution will seem very small, but every effort to sustain our parishes as communities of faith is very important and much appreciated by the whole community.

Please pray for the parishes in Maybole and Mossblown at this time. Thank you.

Fr Stephen McGrattan

**BISHOP CUNNINGHAM** has returned home after his hospital operation. He is recovering well but will have to rest for several weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** help us to repent and to focus on God's merciful love. They will be prayed as a community after morning Mass on Fridays during Lent. Please also consider taking time to pray this devotion privately during this season: in doing so we focus on the final journey of Christ to his Father and strengthen ourselves to follow his example with hope.

**NEW ROTAS** for reader, Eucharistic ministers, passkeepers, flower arrangers, altar servers, cleaners and musicians are available. Please take one from the back of the church if you are involved in these tasks.

**BUILDING FUND:** Thank you for your continuing generosity with the building fund. The collection last weekend was £923. With gift aid added

on the parish will receive £1238.60. Information about how the building fund has and will be used will be given in this newsletter very soon.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:** The Junior Parish Council takes place at 5.30 pm today, Sunday 11th March. The Parish Council meets later at 7.00 pm.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** The annual retreat for the Parish Pastoral Council will take place from the evening of Friday 27th until lunchtime on Sunday 29th April at the Notre Dame Retreat Centre in Skelmorlie. Member of the Parish Council please keep these dates free.

**150 CLUB WINNERS:** Congratulations to the winners of this month's draw: £25 to Robert Malone (no 75); £15 to Isabel Jess (no 145); and £10 to Rosemary Close (no 8).

**MOTHERS' DAY IS NEXT SUNDAY:** Quality cards are available from the back of the church.



**Mothers' Prayers** was started in England in November 1995 and has spread rapidly throughout the world with contacts in over 70 Countries and has the approval, support and blessing of Christian leaders of all denominations. There are now thousands of groups around the world. Two grandmothers, Veronica and her sister-in-law Sandra, felt led by the Lord to start Mothers Prayers and to pray in a special way for their children: to bring the worries they had for their children to the Lord and to trust in His words 'Ask and you will receive'.

We hope to begin a Mothers' Prayers group in the parish which would be launched on the week of Mother's Day this year. If you are interested in meeting with other mums and praying for your children this way for a short time—each week where possible—please put your name on the list at the back of the church. For more information please speak to Ellen Hawkes (882747), Denise McCaffery (882760) or Fr Stephen.

### PRAY AS YOU GO

Pray-as-you-go is an internet based prayer resource. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection. The aim is to help you to:

- become more aware of God's presence in your life
- listen to and reflect on God's word
- grow in your relationship with God.

These meditations will be made available every week on CDs at the back of the church. **Please take one and use it to pray this Lent.**

### SPECIAL REQUEST

**Please return the CD envelope covers to the back of the church after using the week's CD. They can then be used again for Pray as You Go CDs.**

### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Candidates have agreed to stand to fill the five vacant places on the parish council. An election to choose the new members will be taken before the preparation of the gifts this weekend at Mass. The existing parish council members and the newly elected members are invited to meet in the parish house this evening (Sunday 11th) at 7.00 pm. Thank you to all who have agreed to stand to support their parish in this way.

### IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF ST CUTHBERT'S PRIMARY: PARENTS ASKED TO ATTEND

St Cuthbert's Primary will host a curriculum evening on Monday 12th March at 6.00 pm until 7.00 pm. At this evening parents will be given information and shown videos filmed in the classroom of methods used to teach the children. There will also be input from Gerry Murphy, Chair of the School Board about the new Parental Involvement Act and the new Parent's Council which the Scottish Executive insists to be in place by June of this year. Please come along and be part of your child's school education.



The annual special collection during Lent will take place at masses next weekend. In Galloway Diocese this collection is for two purposes. 75% of next weekend's collection goes to SCIAF for their work with those in need throughout the world. 25% on the collection goes to the Bishop's Charity Fund. Because of the split nature of next weekend's collection it will, unfortunately, not be possible to take advantage of the gift aid benefit system.

**CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS** are on sale at the back of the church. There is a lovely selection of quality birthday, for wedding and wedding anniversary, get well soon, thinking of you, baptism, communion, Mother's Day, sympathy and Mass cards.

### MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Please contact Alex Kelly (882970) if you are unable to minister at a Saturday Mass and Nancy Flanagan (882458) if you are unable to minister at a Sunday Mass. All ministers are asked to gather in the sacristy five minutes before Mass for a moment of prayer together.

	READER	BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC
Sat 10th Mar 3rd in Lent	Jim McDermott	Nancy Flanagan	Ellen Hawkes Eileen Hamilton	David Malone Alex Kelly	Paige & Kyle Campbell, Patrick & Roisin McCallum	Nicola Lawrence Choir
Sun 11th Mar 3rd in Lent	Robert Malone	Eileen Hamilton	Dennis & Betty McCaffery	Chic McDermott Tony Kerrigan	Jonathan Lewis, Chloe Brownlee, Kieran Porte, Connor Menzies	Maria Newlands Choir
Sat 17th Mar 4th in Lent Youth Mass	Ali Roy Amy Strang	Gillian Thomson	Danielle Connolly Alice Mackie	Jason & Chris McKay	Paul Strang, Amy Malone Simone McCahill	Donna McKay Gerry Murphy Youth Musicians
Sun 18th Mar 4th in Lent	Eamonn Nolan	Robert Malone	Irene Hewitt Margaret Kiltie	Cindy McEwan Jim McDermott	Justin McQuillan Maeve & Niall Murphy Ali Roy	Maria Newlands Choir

You may notice that the gift bearers are not listed in the rota above.

The passkeepers will invite members of the congregation before each Mass to bring forward the gifts of bread and wine.