Holy Season of Lent
Ash Wednesday

This week begins the Holy Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (18th February). Our Mass times in St James' are: **7.00am, 9.45am** (with music), and **6.30pm** (with music). Ashes will be distributed at the end of Holy Mass.

Lent offers us all the opportunity to draw closer to God and place our relationship with Him at the centre of all we do. To help us do this the Church gives us the three practices of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** to do through the Lenten Season.

Prayer

The most sacred opportunity for prayer is the Holy Mass, so try to plan on **coming to some weekday Masses during Lent**. For those of you who are working during the day, we have evening Masses every **Monday at 6.30pm** and **Thursday at 7.00pm**. We will also have an **additional Mass on Tuesday mornings in Lent at 8.00am**. This Mass is an **excellent opportunity for children to attend Mass before school**, in a particular way children preparing to receive the Sacraments of Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation in the coming months. After this Mass there will be toast and juice for the children in the Hall before going to school. Coming to weekday Mass also affords the opportunity to spend quiet time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, before and after Mass, so consider coming a bit earlier for Mass if you can.

St Augustine's Parish have an early morning **Mass at 7.00am Monday to Friday** in Lent.

There will also be **Stations of the Cross every Monday at 6.00pm** and on **Fridays after morning Mass.**

Fasting

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence, but it is a good practice to abstain from meat on **all Fridays in Lent**, and to do some fasting on these days too.

There are also our own personal fasts of food and drink, but a very important fast to consider for yourselves and your family is screen time and social media. "Doom scrolling" is well named! Lent is a great chance to cut out such a habit which brings us no peace. Think of fasts which will help you to pray better and become genuinely holier.

Almsgiving

If we are able, we should contribute to charity during Lent to help others. In the parish there will be the annual Lenten collection for SCIAF on Sunday 15th March, and the diocesan collection for sick and retired priests on Sunday 1st March.

HCPT Group 567 Fundraiser

HCPT Group 567 are hosting an Afternoon Tea from **2pm-5pm on Sunday 8th March**, in the parish hall. Tickets priced £12.50 are available the stall.

RCIA

Please remember the four young adults in our parish are seeking to be received into the Church at Easter in your prayers. They will be enrolled at the Rite of Election at the Cathedral next Sunday.

Sacrament of Confirmation & Journey to Confirmation Journals

Bishop Toal will come to St James' on **Thursday 21st May at 7.00pm** to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our Primary 7 children. Please keep the children in your prayers as they prepare in school and at home for this Sacrament.

I would like to congratulate the children who **successfully completed their St Carlo Acutis Highway to Heaven Passport** over the last three months. The parish will be taking these children on a fun day trip to St Andrews in Fife on Monday 4th May.

All Primary 7 children have received a special daily journal from the Parish, to help guide them in their prayer and reflection in preparation for Confirmation, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Pentecost Sunday. I ask parents to encourage their children to use these journals, and to help them see their progress over the coming weeks and months in their prayer and good works.

Beginning Experience

The Beginning Experience are holding a weekend for those who find themselves suffering bereavement through divorce, separation, or widowhood. The weekend will take place from **27th-29th March at the Conforti Centre, Coatbridge**.

For details contact: **Louise on 07786687631** or **beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com** by 13th March.

Sunday Breakfast

Sunday Breakfast is served after our 10.30am Sunday Mass. All are most welcome to go over to the Hall for a breakfast roll and tea/coffee. Children eat for free.

Parish Baptism Course

All parents wishing to have their child baptised are required to attend one of our monthly baptism courses. Sign up via the QR code or go to **https://stjamescoatbridge.co.uk/baptism-course/** The next course will be on **4th March.**

Saint James the Greater Parish

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St James' Coatbridge
Parish Priest: Father Paul H. Denney
Charity No. SCO011041
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Sunday 15th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule		Groups
Monday 16th February	**Holy Mass at 6.30pm**	**Monday Club at 1.00pm** **Men's Group** **Conforti Night**
Tuesday 17th February	**Requiem Mass for Bill Drummond RIP at 10.00am**	
Wednesday 18th February	**Ash Wednesday - Day of Fasting & Abstinence** **Holy Mass at 7.00am, 9.45am , and 6.30pm** *Ashes will be distributed at the end of Holy Mass.*	
Thursday 19th February	**Holy Mass at 7.00pm** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00-6.45pm concluding the Benediction. Confessions 6.00-6.40pm	**RCIA** **7.30pm in the Hall**
Friday 20th February	**Holy Mass at 9.45am** Confessions 9.10-9.40am, Holy Rosary 9.20am ***Stations of the Cross after Mass***	

Sunday 22nd February - First Sunday in Lent

Vigil Mass 21st February at 4.15pm *Confessions 3.30-4.00pm.*

Sunday Mass at 9.00am & 10.30am(with children's liturgy)

Prayers for the sick and housebound

Jim Kelly, Anne Thérèse Judge, Betty Cannon, Nora McCann, Rose McGhee, John Foley, Brian Judge, Tony Gallagher, Barbara Lucock, Cathie Dunnachie, Thomas Martin, Peter Fleming, Eileen Wilkie, Caroline Boland, Jean Graham, Heather Flanigan, Geraldine Boyce, Janey Tominey, John & Mary McDade, Andrew Cane, Felix Dillon, Rosaleen Grogan, Timothy Nilsson, Jean Reilly, Olivia Ratcliffe, Ralf Laird, Margaret Elliott, Patricia Grace, and Jean Marie Kerr.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed

Recently Deceased: Bill Drummond (Requiem Mass Tues 17th Feb at 10.00am, Reception of Remains Monday 16th Feb at 5.30pm), and Margaret Paterson.

Anniversaries: Margaret & Thomas Kelly, John & Elizabeth O'Rourke, and Agnes McGuire.

Month's Minds: Donnie Burns, John Quinn, and Paul McMullen.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.