

An Easter Journey through the Acts of the Apostles

As Catholics we are generally good at Lent: we know what we are meant to be doing in the 40 days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, but what about Easter? How do we spend these 50 days of joy and what does the Church invite us to carry forward from Lent and do in these Easter days?

To help with this I will be giving a **four-part Bible study** on the New Testament book, **the Acts of the Apostles**. This book is a great adventure story, telling of the earliest years in the Church after the Ascension of Jesus and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and especially the preaching and working of St Peter and St Paul.

However, it is more than just historical facts about the beginnings of the Church, rather it is an invitation to us all to see the part God is calling us to play in our own life and time. Acts of the Apostles could be coined the "Gospel of the Holy Spirit", as it is God the Holy Spirit who drives the story and fills the apostles with His life, enabling them to witness to the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

This short bible study will enable you to live these days of Easter well, to be living witnesses to the Risen Lord Jesus, and to renew your baptismal calling to holiness. The four sessions will take place in **the Hall from 7.15-8.15pm on:**

- **Monday 27th April**
- **Monday 4th May**
- **Monday 11th May**
- **Monday 18th May**

First Communion Catechesis - Session 6

Our final catechesis session for our children making their First Communion will take place on **Saturday 25th April at 3.00pm in the Hall. All children receiving the Sacrament should attend.**

Sunday Breakfast

Our Sunday breakfast is on this week after our 10.30am Mass.

Children's Liturgy

Children from Primary 1 to Primary 4 are welcomed and encouraged to attend their own Liturgy of the Word at our 10.30 Mass. **We are looking for more volunteers to help support our Children's Liturgy, if you are willing to help please speak to me after Mass.**

Hall Bookings

For Hall enquiries and bookings, please contact Val Reid on 07938 873113.

The One Whom We Have Pierced: Our New Cross Explained

All icons tell a story and our beautiful new Cross painted by Philip Bell is no different. At the top are symbols of the Most Holy Trinity: the Alpha & Omega for the Father, the Eucharistic Chalice for the Son, and the Dove for the Holy Spirit. The symbols of the four evangelists stand at each end of the Cross: the angel/man for St Matthew (top), the lion for St Mark (bottom), the ox for St Luke (right) and the eagle for St John (left). In the cross-halo above Jesus are the words *ecce fructum vitae*, "behold the Fruit of Life", reminding us that the Cross of Jesus has become the Tree of Life for us, and the Sacraments are its Fruit. These flow from the pierced side of Christ on the Cross: the water as a symbol of Baptism, and the Blood for the Most Holy Eucharist. Our Lady cradles in her hands the Church into which these Sacraments are poured. She holds a boat (the barque of St Peter) containing the font of baptism (which should look familiar!) and the chalice. St John, the only apostle to witness the Crucifixion, stands on the other side holding his Gospel - "he who saw it bears witness" Jn 19:35. The icon has many angels: Seraphim ("the fiery ones") closest to the throne of God, under the arms of Jesus; and Cherubim with four wings of peacock feathers, symbolic of Christ, and ascend and descend the upright Cross of Jesus, recalling Jacob's Ladder in Genesis, and connecting Heaven and earth. The Body of the Lord Jesus on the Cross is deliberately serpentine in form, to recall the image of the Bronze Serpent in the Book of Numbers: those who gazed upon it would live. Finally, the whole Cross is decorated with multiple crosses, a reminder to unite our own daily crosses with the Cross of Jesus, and to unite our will to God's Will for us.

Parish Baptism Course

All parents wishing to have their child baptised are required to attend one of our monthly baptism courses. The next course will be on Wednesday 6th May at 6.30pm in the Hall committee room. Please sign up via the QR code or go to <https://stjamescoatbridge.co.uk/baptism-course/>




Gift Aid & Donation Envelopes

This week and next, forms are available for those who wish to join the gift aid scheme. If you pay tax on your earnings, and already give to the parish, we could claim back 25% of your donations from HMRC with no extra cost to you. Last year, the parish was able to claim back approximately £12k. Please consider completing a form and donating online, or by envelope. If you have any questions, our gift aid coordinator will be available at all Masses the **weekend of 25th/26th April**. New envelopes will also be distributed to existing members of the scheme on 25th/26th.

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 19th April - Third Sunday of Easter

Mass Schedule

Monday 20th April

Holy Mass at 6.30pm

Groups

**Monday Club
at 1.00pm**

Tuesday 21st April

Holy Mass at 9.45am

Wednesday 22nd April

Holy Mass at 9.45am

Thursday 23rd April

Holy Mass at 7.00pm

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.00pm,
concluding with Benediction at 6.45pm.
Confessions 6.00-6.40pm.*

Friday 25th April

Holy Mass at 9.45am

Confessions 9.10-9.40am, Holy Rosary 9.20am.

Sunday 26th April - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Vigil Mass 25th April at 4.15pm Confessions 3.30-4.00pm.

Sunday Mass at 9.00am & 10.30am

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, 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, Margaret Elliott, Patricia Grace, Jean Marie Kerr, Ann Marie Martin, and Margaret Beattie.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed

Month's Minds: Sharon Farrell, Mamie, Bridie & Patsy McMurray

Anniversaries: James McMurray

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