

R.C. DIOCESE OF MOTHERWELL

# ST. LEONARD'S

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**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - A**

**19<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**

## **BISHOP TOAL'S EASTER MESSAGE**

As Christians celebrate Easter this year we are thinking of the suffering inflicted upon us by the Covid-10 Virus. It is a dreadful time for the whole world and our thoughts are with all who have caught the virus and their loved ones. We are grateful for the dedication and courage of those caring for the sick and the vulnerable, and all who are providing the essential services we all rely on. It is hard to find hope, but our celebration of Easter encourages us to have such a hope - a hope that we will recover and that life will be better again. For Christians we find our hope in Jesus Christ, who having suffered a terrible death on the cross rose again to new life, and promised us a share in eternal life. In such a time of crisis we cling on to this faith and reach out to Our Lord in our need. Although we have not been able this year to celebrate these precious days for our faith in our churches, we have sought the Lord and felt his presence strongly within and among us. In the Church's faith in Jesus, risen from the dead, I wish everyone a Happy Easter, as we seek God's blessing on us all and our world in our present need.

+Joseph Toal

Bishop of Motherwell

## HOLY MASS

During the Corona virus emergency there will be no public liturgical celebrations in the Church. Holy Mass will be celebrated each day by Fr. Dominic and uploaded to our new website .

[www.saintleonard.uk](http://www.saintleonard.uk)

## CONFESSION & ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

These sacraments may be celebrated by contacting Fr. Dominic to make personal arrangements



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for all who are sick and for :**

**Recently Deceased:** James Traynor, Joe Donnelly, John Buchanan, Elizabeth O'Neill

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### ECUMENICAL CALL TO PRAYER - SUNDAY 19TH APRIL at 7.00 pm

As lockdown continues for an extended period in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Scottish Episcopal Church joins again with other churches this weekend in a Call to Prayer at 7pm on Sunday (19 April).

Thirteen Christian churches and organisations across Scotland are taking part in the joint prayer for the fourth consecutive week, with many of those participating also lighting candles. The prayer appears below, in English and in Gaelic.

The churches have issued a joint statement with this week's prayer. It reads:

“As we find ourselves living through a renewed phase of Lockdown, we see in the Gospel of John (20: 19-23) that, in part, the experience of the disciples, even on the day of Resurrection, was one in which they found themselves locked in and behind closed doors.

“Their experience of Lockdown was interrupted by the presence of Jesus as he came and stood among them. He speaks into the depths of their fears and anxieties: ‘Peace be with you.’ We hear these words and know that they speak to us. We listen again for what he will say and discover that Jesus simply repeats himself: ‘Peace be with you.’ As we still ourselves, we hear those words of peace spoken and sense that they are spoken to us and to all who long to hear a word that heals and reassures: ‘Peace be with you.’”

We pray:

*Living God, speak into the depths of our experience,  
Speak the word that stills our fears  
And calms our anxieties:  
‘Peace be with you.’  
Speak your word to the lonely and to the broken,  
To the bereaved and to those whose world has crumbled:  
‘Peace be with you.’*

*Faithful God, speak to us behind locked doors  
As we remember others, who risk their own safety,  
In order to serve others:*

*Peace be with them.  
Carers and nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers,  
Delivery drivers and shop assistants:  
Peace be with them.*

*God who inspires Hope, speak to us in the present  
And speak to us of the future,  
For though the doors are locked, in time they shall be open:  
Peace shall be renewed.  
For those who lead the life of our Nation: Our Queen Elizabeth,  
First Minister and Prime Minister, and all who shape our common life,  
For us all: Peace shall be renewed.*

*God whose name is love and whose gift is love,  
Open our hearts to know you and to love you,  
To love you and to love our neighbour  
And as we do, to hear again: 'Peace be with you.'  
May we find our strength in you,  
And hear again:  
'Peace be with you.'*

Signed by:

Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus, on behalf of the College of Bishops, Scottish Episcopal Church  
Rt. Rev. Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland  
Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Roman Catholic Church  
Rev. John Fulton, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland  
Rev. Dr David Pickering, Moderator, United Reformed Church (Scotland)  
Rev. Martin Hodson, General Director, Baptist Union of Scotland  
Rev. Mark Slaney, District Chair, Methodist Church (Scotland)  
Rev. May-Kane Logan, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland  
Lt. Col. Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army  
Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Rev. Jim Ritchie, District Superintendent, British Isles North District, Church of the Nazarene  
Pastor Chris Gbenle, Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland, Redeemed Christian Church of God  
Bishop Francis Alao, Church of God (Scotland)/Minority Ethnic Churches Together in Scotland (MECTIS)