

St. Peter's Hamilton

Sixth Sunday (A)

15th February 2026

Our Parish Mission

All are welcome in this place

Behold Love's amazing grace

All are welcome

Bring your hopes, bring your dreams

Mercy flows and love redeems

All are welcome! All belong!

6.23am

I cannot believe it's Thursday again and next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Where has the time gone. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. It also starts the Season of Lent. A time of giving up or doing something for Lent. So whatever we decide to do, we are doing it to help us prepare for the death and resurrection of our Lord.

This Weeks readings

The Sermon on the Mount continues as the focus of the Gospel readings during Winter Ordinary Time, and today's passage from Matthew chapter 5 contains some of the most challenging verses in the Gospel. Before turning to that

teaching, however, let's consider the other readings. The First Reading comes from the Book of Sirach, also known by its Latin title *Ecclesiasticus*, or "Church Book," so called because the early Church made extensive use of this wisdom text in moral instruction for catechumens and the faithful. Sirach reflects powerfully on moral freedom: If you choose, you can keep the commandments; they will save you. Before you are life and death, good and evil; whichever you choose shall be given you.

Freedom of the will is one of God's greatest gifts. God places before us the choice between good and evil and invites us to choose life. What is equally clear is that God does not choose sin or injustice on our behalf. The responsibility for our moral choices rests with us.

The Second Reading continues from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Writing to a Christian community surrounded by moral confusion, Paul reminds them that true wisdom does not come from the world, but from God: What eye has not seen and ear has not heard... what God has prepared for those who love him, God has revealed through the Spirit.

This reading complements Sirach beautifully. If the First Reading emphasizes our freedom to choose, the Second reminds us that God does not leave us unassisted. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, God prepares us to live according to divine wisdom rather than worldly standards. Together, these readings lead us into today's Gospel. Jesus makes it clear that he has not come to abolish the Law, but

to fulfill it. He then calls his disciples to a righteousness that surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees - not through legal technicalities, but through holiness of heart. Jesus' striking examples - equating anger with murder and lust with adultery - may sound harsh to modern ears. Yet Matthew presents these teachings to a Jewish Christian community still shaped by strict legal interpretation. Jesus' strong language is meant to awaken his listeners to the truth that holiness requires more than outward observance. It calls for an interior conversion, where the heart itself is transformed by God's grace.

Ash Wednesday 18th February

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent—and a wonderful opportunity to make yourself 100% available to God! How available to God are you? 50%? 75%? 96.4%? No matter what your answer, Ash Wednesday is the perfect time to decide that you will spend this Lent increasing that number. On Ash Wednesday, you can get your forehead blessed with ashes at Mass or a prayer service. These ashes are a reminder that we need to repent.

Repentance is a powerful invitation. When John the Baptist first appeared in the desert of Judea, this was his message: “Repent, prepare the way of the Lord” (Matthew 3:2). Later, when Jesus began his ministry, he led with this message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

But what does it mean for us to repent, here and now, more than two thousand years later? It means the same as it did to the people walking around the dusty pathways in their sandals, trying to inch closer to Jesus as he passed through their town or village. Repent means “to turn back to God.” We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day, in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt and it is not a shameful thing. It is simply that we are a better version of ourselves when we return to his side!

The parish programme for Lent will be given out at the end of all the Masses this weekend. Please take one home with you.

SCIAF WEE BOXES will be given out this weekend.

Mass Programme

Monday No Mass

Tuesday 10am Mass

Ash Wednesday 7am, 10am & 6pm Masses

Thursday 8.15am & 10am Masses

Friday: 10am Mass

Saturday 10am Mass

Sunday Masses: 4pm Vigil, 9.30am & 11am Masses

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 9.30am - 9.55am

Ash Wednesday
18th February:
Masses 7am, 10am & 6pm

Sunday Rota
This Weekend
Readers
4pm Vigil: J. McCluskey
9.30am: T. Kennedy
11am: D. Lee

We are looking for new readers for all the Sunday Masses. If you wish to volunteer please see Fr. Frank.

Eucharistic Ministers:
4pm Vigil: B. Cornes, E. Gold & A. Conway
9.30am: C. Bonnar, M. Devaney & K. O'Neill
11am: M. McGuire, A. Leabody & K. Grant

Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota
Tuesday: P. Davies
Wednesday: B. Cornes
Thursday: P. McKeown
Friday: J. McCluskey
Saturday: A. Devlin

Please pray for the following:
Sick:

Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Michael Ritchie, Neil Boyle, John Rielly Molly Strang, James Clark, Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson, Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy Callaghan, Suzanne McMurray, Mary Coyle, Lesley Watson (Spain) Maureen McHugh, Margaret Burke, Marie White, Kathleen Daly, John McGuire, Jill Brown, Karen Pritchatt, Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Jill Brown, Marie McGuire, James Morton, Paul Kearney, Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey, Premature Baby Vincent McDowell, Bill Allan, Gudren Berk (Germany), Jaqueline McReynolds, Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth (Easterhouse), Margaret Loan, Avril McCluskey and all our sick.

Recently Dead: Thomas Gallacher, Frank Cook, John Harkins, Bridie McKechnie, Mary Irvine, Frances Drummond, Mary McCrudden, Paul McGoldrick, Kevin McMahon, Christine Divers (Glasgow), Ellen Thomson (Glasgow), Eugene McVay, Catherine Chrichton (Holytown), James Neary, Campbell McFall (St. Ninian's), John Monaghan, John Collins,

Month Minds & Anniversaries: John Corns, James, Ruby & Mary McDaide, Elizabeth & Stuart Johnston, Margaret Fox,

Laraine Fox, Christine Archibald,
Ann Rodgers, Hugh Rodgers, Giovanni Battiste Fionda, Marie
Carmen Fionda, Johny D'Ambrosio, Margaret D'Ambrosio

Please if you could make sure all month minds and anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night. If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Funeral Arrangement

Bridie McKechnie

Thursday 19th February 6pm Reception
Friday 20th February 10am Funeral Mass

John Harkins

Wednesday 25th February 9.30am Funeral Mass

Mary Irvine

Wednesday 25th February 6pm Reception
Thursday 26th February 10am Funeral Mass

Tommy Gallacher

Thursday 26th February 6pm Reception
Friday 27th February 10am Funeral Mass

Frank Cook

Monday 2nd March 10am Funeral Mass

Dates For your Diary

Mass of the Sick
This Saturday 14th February 10am Mass.

A representative from the food bank will be at the Vigil Mass this weekend to say Thank You for your kindness.

Sacramental Meetings
Tuesday 24th February
St. Peter's & St. Mark's
6pm First Confession
6.30pm First Communion
7pm Confirmation
Meetings will take place in the Church

St. Joseph's Blantyre has kindly given us a new monstrance, and I will be sending them a donation for their kindness. It is beautiful and fitting to hold the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

Hopefully in the next few days the New camera will be up and running and the live stream will be back in action.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

**I am also looking for Volunteers to move the power-points on during the Sunday Masses,
Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.**

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take

a wee bit of pressure off me.

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

**Baptism/Wedding Meetings: THURSDAY 6pm & 7pm. JUST
TURN UP**

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank You.

Fr. Frank

