

# St Mary's Lanark

*A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell (founded 1859) Charity No - SC011041*

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**Parish Priest**

Fr John-Paul McShane

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**St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings:** 07300857616

**Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline:** 07565396878

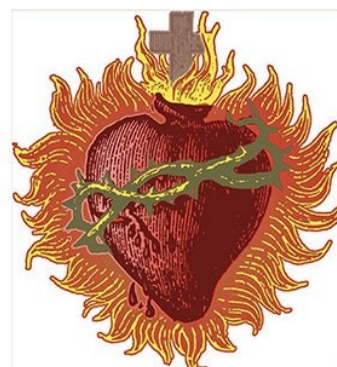
**21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**24th August 2025**

## Monica & Augustine

As we prepare to celebrate the feasts of St Monica (August 27th) and her son, St Augustine (August 28th), the Church invites us to reflect on the extraordinary grace that unfolded in their lives—a story not only of conversion, but of perseverance, prayer, and the enduring love of a mother for her child.

St Monica's life was marked by quiet suffering, patient endurance, and unshakable faith. She bore the burden of a difficult marriage and the heartache of watching her son, Augustine, reject the faith she so cherished. And yet, Monica never gave up. She wept, she prayed, and she trusted that God would, in His time, answer her pleas. Her example is a powerful witness for every parent, grandparent, spouse, or friend who carries the pain of a loved one walking away from the faith.



St Augustine, once a restless seeker, lived a life of self-indulgence and scepticism. But beneath his wandering, God was at work. Through Monica's prayers and the guidance of St Ambrose of Milan, Augustine encountered the living Christ. His famous words—"You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You"—capture the longing we all experience when we seek fulfilment apart from God.

In a recent address, Pope Leo XIV, honouring the enduring legacy of Augustine, spoke of the need for the Church today to reclaim Augustine's balance of intellectual rigor and pastoral compassion. "In an age of division," the Holy Father said, "St. Augustine teaches us that unity in truth and love is not only possible but necessary for the Church's mission." He encouraged the faithful to turn once again to the writings of Augustine—especially *The Confessions* and *The City of God*—as spiritual tools for discernment in today's complex world.

Together, Monica and Augustine's lives remind us that no soul is beyond the reach of God's grace. Augustine's conversion, so long hoped for, was not sudden, but the fruit of years of hidden prayer and divine mercy. Monica's tears were seeds of grace, and God brought forth a harvest far greater than she could have imagined.

To those in our parish community who are praying for a family member's return to the Church, who feel discouraged by silence or delay, or who are themselves searching for meaning and peace: take heart. The journey may be long, but the Lord walks with us. His mercy is patient, and His timing perfect. Like Monica, remain faithful. Like Augustine, remain open.

Let us entrust our hopes and prayers to these two great saints. May Monica teach us to persevere in prayer, and may Augustine inspire us to seek truth with humility and courage. May their intercession strengthen our families and renew our trust in the God who never stops pursuing His children.

## Weekly Parish Schedule

*Daily Mass & Devotions from St Mary's are broadcast on the parish YouTube Channel.*

**Sunday 24th August** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Monday 25th August** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

**Tuesday 26th August**

**11.40am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**12noon** Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony of Padua

**Wednesday 27th August**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

**10.00am** Church Cleaning

**Thursday 28th August**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph

**7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (Clubrooms)

**Friday 29th August**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Jane Dalglish

**Saturday 30th August** *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

**9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass

**4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm

**4.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Sunday 31st August** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



### St Mary's Quiz Night

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting a Quiz Night on **Friday 12th September 2025**. The Clubrooms will open at 7pm with Quiz starting at 7.30pm.

If you are planning to enter a team, please can you let a member of the social committee know. Entry price is £2.00 per person. Maximum number in team is 6 people. The Bar will be open for refreshments.



### Beginning Experience

The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death, is one of life's most traumatic experience. It can result in unbearable feelings or grief or loneliness. The Beginning Experience, Scotland Team would like to help.

***A Weekend Away For A Lifetime Of Change***

***26th-28th September 2025***

***Conforti Centre, Coatbridge***

A time to heal by experiencing God's love through others. An opportunity to begin again. For further information contact Maggie: 01389751677.

## Sunday 5pm Mass

All those who attend Sunday 5pm Mass are encouraged to offer feedback on the sheets provided regarding the liturgy and ways to engage the congregation. The feedback is short and comes in the form of a questionnaire.

### Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **next weekend**. Bags of groceries can be handed in to the sacristy or to a passkeeper, and any monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket in an enveloped cleared clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards the Foodbank; around 60% of all donations received by the Foodbank are returned to Lanark.



### Clydesdale Foodbank Thank You

Those who help organise and run Clydesdale Foodbank sincerely thank the parishioners of St Mary's for their continued, and very generous support. Of all their regular contributors, St Mary's parishioners are the most generous! It takes quite a lot of time to organise and run the Foodbank, as well as a lot of funds to purchase certain items from local supermarkets.

A sincere thank you to all those who invest their time and energy into the Foodbank and also to all those who donate regularly towards its success.

### St Mary's BBQ Thank You

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's BBQ an outstanding success, raising £3485.93. In addition a further £515 from Coffee Morning donations bringing the total to a magnificent £4000.93.



This money will go towards repairs to St Mary's Bell Tower. Our prayers were answered as the weather was tremendous. It was a wonderful parish event and great to see the hall and church grounds buzzing.

Thank you to all our helpers, bakers and those who gave donations for the raffle and the stalls. We also want to thank all the children's entertainers and White Watch from Lanark Fire Station.

A special thank you to Emily, Daniel and Myra who brought along the Shetland Ponies -Mona and Inka - they were superstars. We hope to see them again very soon.

We are so blessed to have such amazing parishioners who support our parish events. Thank you!

## Liturgical Calendar

**Monday 25th August, St Louis of France, Confessor** - Born at Poissy (France) in 1214; died near Tunis (Tunisia) on this day in 1270. As Louis IX, he was a devoted husband and the father of eleven children whom he helped to raise in the Christian faith. Regarded as a model Christian king at a time of high cultural achievement, but led two disastrous crusades, on the second of which he died of typhoid. Noted for his impartial justice, for his care of the poor and the sick, and for honouring his word.

**Wednesday 27th August, St Monica, Widow** - Probably born at Tagaste (Algeria) about 331; died at Ostia (Italy) in 387. Before her marriage her faith bore fruit in her recovery from a drinking problem and later helped bring her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Undertook many years of penance and prayer for her brilliant but wayward son Saint Augustine (28 August). Following his conversion and baptism in Milan, she died at the beginning of her journey home to Africa. Noted for her parental devotion, her patience, and her persistence in prayer.

**Thursday 28th August, St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church** - Born at Tagaste (Algeria) in 354; died at Hippo (Tunisia) in 430. Though enrolled by his mother Monica as a catechumen, he renounced the Christian faith and espoused Manicheism. Taught in Carthage, Rome, and Milan. Lived for fifteen years with a woman who remains unknown and with whom he had a son, named Adeodatus. Baptised in 387, together with his son, after a long inner struggle and under the influence of Saint Ambrose (7 December) and the prayers of his mother, Saint Monica (27 August). Bishop of Hippo for thirty-four years. Lived a communal life with his clergy and served the many needs of his people at a time of political and cultural collapse. Honoured as a model pastor and as a preacher and writer whose thought has had an enduring influence in Christian history.

**Friday 29th August, The Beheading of St John the Baptist** - The execution of John the Baptist is recorded in the gospels (Matthew 14; Mark 6) and is placed by the historian Josephus at the fortress of Machaerus near the Dead Sea. As early as the fifth century, a commemoration of John the Baptist was kept on this day at Jerusalem. It probably marks the anniversary of the dedication of the basilica in his honour at Sebaste (Palestine) where, according to tradition, he was buried.



## Please Pray For The Following



**Recently Dead:** Jane Dalglish      Kingdom Park  
Peter Harrower; John McShane (Carfin); James Donnelly (Bothwell); Ronnie Reilly; Mary McGinley;

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Agnes Jack; James Lambert; Ella Lambert; Kathleen McCrossan; Mary McLean; Betty Thomson; Charlie Lively;

**Funeral Arrangements:** Jane Dalglish      Requiem Mass: Friday 29th August, 9.30am

### Stop Assisted Suicide - Action Needed

The Leadbeater assisted suicide Bill is expected to have its Second Reading in the House of Lords on Friday 12 September.

Right To Life UK has launched an Easy Action tool to help you write to a few Peers with a tailored message to highlight key concerns with the Bill.

Please take action now and visit  
[www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeers)  
to ask Peers to oppose assisted suicide -  
it takes just 30 seconds!

### National Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto 2025

This year's National Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto will be on **Sunday 7th September**, with the Pilgrimage Mass at 3pm. In this Jubilee Year we will gather as "Pilgrims of Hope", with Archbishop Leo Cushley as main celebrant and preacher as he celebrated 40 years of priesthood.

Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonised in Rome by the Holy Father on that same day. All are encouraged and welcome to attend Mass at Carfin.

### Scotland—Walk the Cross 2025

Calling the four nations, Ireland, Scotland, England & Wales, united under the Cross of Christ, to witness the Gospel by walking 33 miles, 1 mile for each year of Jesus' life, between Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September 2025. Register interest by emailing [walkthecross33@gmail.com](mailto:walkthecross33@gmail.com)

[www.walkthecross.ie](http://www.walkthecross.ie)

### Deanery Mass

Bishop Toal will celebrate a Deanery Mass in the Wishaw Deanery as part of the Jubilee Year celebrations. The Mass will be in St Thomas' Church, Pather (ML2 0JH) on Thursday 11th September at 7pm. Everyone from across the Deanery is invited to attend this special celebration.



### Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 1,420.00
Standing Orders:	£ 346.50
Votives:	£ 185.00
Stall:	£ 105.00

**St Marys Mission RCDM**  
**80-17-02 00265809**

Thank you *for your*  
*continued generosity*

### St Mary's Ministry Rota

#### Readers:

#### 23rd/24th August

5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	M. Davis

#### 6th/7th September

5.00pm	A. Haetzman
10.30am	A. Servers
5.00pm	S. Casserly

#### 30th/31st August

5.00pm	G. Abernethy
10.30am	P. Roberts
5.00pm	N. Donnelly

#### 13th/14th September

5.00pm	T. Coia
10.30am	E. Crossan
5.00pm	M. Davis

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

#### 23rd/24th August

5.00pm	C. Scott
	S. Callaghan
10.30am	V. Hilland
	M. Thompson
	B. Farrell

#### 6th/7th September

5.00pm	M. Keenan
	C. Callaghan
10.30am	K. Lawrence
	J. McFarlane
	M. Russell

#### 30th/31st August

5.00pm	K. Bryce
	A. McGowan
10.30am	C. Duddy
	D. McFarlane
	I. Maxfield

#### 13th/14th September

5.00pm	F. McBride
	R. Sinton
10.30am	G. Duddy
	A. Gillespie
	M. Keenan