

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

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

31st August 2025

Leading with Love and Courage

Ever feel like the world is just too loud, too busy, or too broken to make a difference? That's kind of how the world looked when St. Gregory the Great was alive in the 6th century. Rome was falling apart, people were hungry and sick, and the Church was struggling. Gregory could've chosen an easy life—he came from a rich Roman family and had a successful career ahead of him. But he gave it all up to follow Jesus more closely.



At first, Gregory became a monk, living quietly in prayer and simplicity. But God called him out of his comfort zone. He became a deacon, then an ambassador, and eventually—though he really didn't want it—Pope in the year 590. He said yes not because he wanted power, but because he wanted to serve. In fact, he called himself “the servant of the servants of God”, a phrase still used by popes today.

As pope, Gregory didn't just sit on a throne. He fed the poor, cared for the sick, helped rebuild society, and sent out missionaries to spread the Gospel—one of them being St. Augustine of Canterbury, who brought Christianity to England! Gregory also reformed how the Church worshipped and promoted the beautiful music we now call Gregorian Chant.

But here's what really makes Gregory “great”: he led with humility, kindness, and a deep love for people. He believed leaders should serve others, not be served. He taught that faith isn't just something you believe—it's something you live. He reminded the Church that authority is meaningless without service, and knowledge is empty without love. His writings, especially the Pastoral Rule, laid out a vision how bishops and priests to shepherd their flocks—with humility, compassion and courage.

He once said: “The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things.” That's a challenge for all of us.

So, what can St. Gregory teach you?

- ◆ You don't have to be loud or famous to make a big impact.
- ◆ You don't have to have it all figured out to say yes to God.
- ◆ True greatness comes from serving others, especially when it's hard.

As we remember St. Gregory the Great, may we, too, embrace the call to serve—not only in grand ways, but in small daily acts of kindness, patience and love. May his example inspire us to be instruments of peace and wisdom in our families, parish and community.

St. Gregory the Great, pray for us!

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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)

Monday 1st September *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 2nd September

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

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

Wednesday 3rd September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

Thursday 4th September

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 5th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 6th September *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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 7th September *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

11.15am **Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

12noon Holy Mass for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm **Light Bite (Holy Trinity)**

NO 5PM MASS THIS WEEKEND



Vocations Collection Next Weekend

At all Masses on weekend 6th/7th September we will have our annual Ecclesiastical Students collection to help support the diocese in covering the costs of those training for the priesthood. At present we have 3 men in training: Deacon Kieran Burt (who will be ordained a priest next summer), Aidan and Matthew, who are half way through their studies. Please pray for these men as they continue to discern God's call in their lives.

Parish Sacristans

Fr John-Paul would like to thank our parish sacristans and linen sacristans who work in both churches to prepare the altar and sacred vessels for Mass, and then tidy up afterwards. It is often a job that goes unnoticed, but that is credit to the wonderful commitment and professionalism of those involved.

*Thank you for offering your time,
gifts and talents to the benefit of our parish!*

Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **this 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.



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.

St Mary's Social Committee

Fr John-Paul would like to place on record his thanks to the Social Committee and all their volunteers for the successful BBQ 2025. It was such a wonderful day, and many people helped to make it so successful!

Thank you to the Social Committee for their countless hours of planning and organising, and the dedication they show to our parish. They have already started advertising their next event!!!!

The monies raised by the Social Committee is crucial for the future and growth of our parish. We encourage you, if you can, to support these parish events.

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 of 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.

Diocesan Vocations Mass

Bishop Toal invites everyone in the diocese to join him on **Tuesday 16th September** for a special Mass praying for vocations to the priesthood at **7pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, ML1 1PP**. The Lord tells us in the Gospel—ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to the harvest, so to respond to that call of the Lord, please make a special effort to join Bishop Toal and the clergy of the diocese to ask the Lord to send us good, faithful and holy priests.

The Diocese of Motherwell has been very blessed in recent years to have priests ordained and others discerning their call—it shows the fruit of prayer. This summer, 3rd July, Father Christopher Furmage was ordained to the priesthood and Deacon Christopher Igwe will be ordained to the priesthood on Wednesday 3rd September in Motherwell Cathedral. Please pray for Fr Furmage and Fr Igwe as they take on their new responsibilities within the diocese.



Liturgical Calendar

Wednesday 3rd September, St Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor - Born about 540; died in Rome in 604. While prefect of Rome, he founded monasteries there and in Sicily and himself became a monk. Called to be a deacon of Rome by Benedict I, and then sent as papal legate to Constantinople. Elected pope in 590. Reorganised Church life and administration in a time of crisis, sponsored liturgical reform, and initiated the evangelisation of the English. Known also for his extensive writings on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and for his self-designation as "servant of the servants of God."

Friday 5th September, St Teresa of Calcutta - Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was born on 26th August 1910 at Skopje in Macedonia. She left home at the age of 18 to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland, where she received the name Sister Mary Teresa, after St Therese of Lisieux. In 1931 she was assigned to the order's Calcutta house and taught at their Scholle there, where she eventually became headmistress. She received a new vocation to help the poor and destitute, and in 1948, she left the convent and took up a life caring for them wherever they might be: lying sick in streets or even dying in dustbins. The new Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity was established in the Diocese of Calcutta in 1950, spreading across India and every continent, even behind the Iron Curtain. Mother Teresa died on 5th September 1997 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on 19th October 2003 and canonised by Pope Francis on 4th September 2016.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Jane Dalglish; John McShane (Carfin); Anne Findon (Wishawhill); Geraldine Kay; Henry Joseph Savage; Sr Francis Harris DC;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Father Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Josephine Freel;

*May they rest in peace,
and rise in glory!*

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
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

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:	£ 1,346.00
Standing Orders:	£ 420.00
Votives:	£ 196.00
Stall:	£ 120.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
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Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

30th/31st August	13th/14th September
5.00pm G. Abernethy	5.00pm T. Coia
10.30am P. Roberts	10.30am E. Crossan
5.00pm N. Donnelly	5.00pm M. Davis
6th/7th September	20th/21st September
5.00pm A. Haetzman	5.00pm J. McBride
10.30am A. Servers	10.30am J. Russell
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

30th/31st August	13th/14th September
5.00pm K. Bryce	5.00pm J. McBride
A. McGowan	R. Sinton
10.30am C. Duddy	10.30am G. Duddy
D. McFarlane	A. Gillespie
I. Maxfield	M. Keenan
6th/7th September	20th/21st September
5.00pm M. Keenan	5.00pm A. Dempsey
C. Callaghan	F. McBride
10.30am K. Lawrence	10.30am J. Littlejohn
J. McFarlane	A. O'Neil
M. Russell	N. Keenan