

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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7th September 2025

Called to Holiness

One of the central messages of Scripture is the call to holiness. God's words in Leviticus still ring true today: "Be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44). St Peter echoes this in the New Testament, reminding us that holiness is not for a select few but for all who belong to Christ.

To be holy means to be "set apart" for God. It does not mean we withdraw from the world but that we live in it differently—shaped by God's love, guided by His Word, and empowered by His Spirit. Holiness is not about appearing perfect or keeping a long list of rules. Rather, it is about allowing God to transform our hearts so that our lives reflect His goodness.

Through Jesus, we have been made children of God. His sacrifice on the cross not only forgave our sins but also opened the way for us to live a new kind of life. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are able to resist sin, grow in virtue, and walk in God's will. In this way, holiness is both a gift we receive and a calling we embrace.

Holiness touches every part of daily life. It shows itself in how we speak to others, how we treat those in need, how we handle our responsibilities, and how we worship. Each moment gives us the opportunity to choose love over selfishness, truth over falsehood, mercy over anger. When we respond with faith and obedience, our lives become a living testimony to God's presence in the world.

The lives of the saints remind us that holiness is possible for ordinary people. Newly canonised Saint Carlo Acutis, a young teenager from Italy, used his love for computers and the internet to spread devotion to the Eucharist. He lived simply, prayed deeply, and reminded us that holiness is not about doing extraordinary things but about doing ordinary things with great love for God. Similarly, Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man full of energy and joy, combined his love for mountain climbing with a deep concern for the poor. He lived his faith boldly, inspiring others through his charity, prayer, and zest for life. Both remind us that holiness is not distant or unreachable but something we can live right here and now.

This call is not lived out alone. As the Church, we are a community set apart to be a light in the darkness. Together, we encourage one another, pray for one another, and bear witness to Christ in our communities and beyond. A holy Church is a powerful sign to the world of God's kingdom breaking into human history.



The journey to holiness is lifelong. None of us will live it perfectly. There will be times of weakness, failure, and struggle. But God's mercy is greater than our shortcomings. Each day He invites us to begin again, to keep walking in faith, and to trust that He is shaping us into the likeness of His Son.

The call to holiness is not a burden but a joy. It is the path that leads to true peace, freedom, and eternal life with God. Like Saint Carlo Acutis and Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, may we answer this call with courage and joy, so that in all we say and do, others may see Christ living in us.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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

Monday 8th 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 9th 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 10th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

10.00am Church Cleaning

Thursday 11th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph

7.00pm Deanery Jubilee Mass (St Thomas' Wishaw)

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

Friday 12th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

7.00pm Parish Quiz (Clubrooms)

Saturday 13th 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 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 14th September *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

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.



Vocations Collection This 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.

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

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.

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

Altar Servers

We are so blessed in St Mary's to have such dedicated and competent Altar Servers! It is such a joy to see our young parishioners serve at the altar, and also read on the first Sunday of the month. It shows that our parish has a bright future. Thank you to our young people and their families who support them!



St Mary's 300 Club Subscription

Thank you to all those who have taken out new subscriptions for the 300 Club, and to all those who have now set up a Standing Order through the bank. Once again, thank you for your continued financial support to our parish, it is very much appreciated! For those still interested in setting up a Standing Order bank details are as follows:

St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763

RCIA

We are delighted to announce that we have 7 participants this year for RCIA; 5 from Lanark Grammar and 2 adults. What a great joy and blessing for our parish to have so many young people wanting to join the Church. Thank you for putting yourself forward and actively seeking God in your life.

Please continue to pray for those on RCIA and those who are journeying towards the Church.

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.

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, M11 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.





Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Tricia Weir (Larkhall); Anne Findon (Wishawhill); Henry Joseph Savage; Grace Moore (Lennoxtown); Terri Stark;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Frank Hilland; Daniel & Catherine Stewart; Eleanor Douglas; Jenny & Robert Clarkson;

Liturgical Calendar

Monday 8th September, The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary - This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne, built in Jerusalem "where Mary was born." Observed in Rome in the seventh century, it was later used to determine the date of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary's birthday is celebrated as well as those of her son Jesus the Lord, and of Saint John the Baptist (24 June).

Tuesday 9th September, St Peter Claver, Priest - Born at Verdú (Spain) in 1580; died in Cartagena (Colombia) on 8 September 1654. Jesuit who felt called to mission work in the New World. Sent to Colombia in 1610 and ordained a presbyter in 1616 in Cartagena, a major port of entry for slaves brought from Africa. For the next thirty-four years, in the face of opposition from slave owners, he met the slave ships with a band of helpers and interpreters and ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of the slaves, catechising and baptising thousands; died after suffering four years of debilitating illness. Peter called himself "the slave of the slaves" and is remembered for his total devotion to their needs and dignity.

Friday 12th September, The Most Holy Name of Mary - The commemoration began in Spain in 1513. The feast was extended to the entire Church following the defeat of Muslim armies at Vienna on this day in 1683 by a Polish army fighting under the name of Mary. By her name, Christians refer to the person of the Virgin Mary, mother of God and mother of the Church.

Saturday 13th September, St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church - Born in Antioch about 347; died in exile in Comana (Turkey) on 14 September 407. After some years as a hermit, he was a priest at Antioch, where his brilliant preaching and catechesis earned him the sobriquet "Chrysostom" (golden-mouthed). Appointed patriarch of Constantinople in 397. His reforms, preaching, and ascetic life led to opposition from court and clergy and eventual banishment. Noted for his simplicity of life, his care of the poor, the courage of his witness, and his effective preaching of the Scriptures.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,290.00
 Standing Orders: £ 133.50
 Votives: £ 245.00
 Stall: £ 80.00

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

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

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
13th/14th September	27th/28th September
5.00pm T. Coia	5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am E. Crossan	10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

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
13th/14th September	27th/28th September
5.00pm J. McBride	5.00pm C. Scott
R. Sinton	S. Callaghan
10.30am G. Duddy	10.30am V. Hilland
A. Gillespie	M. Thompson
M. Keenan	B. Farrell