

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

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

21st September 2025

The Sacraments: Baptism

All sacraments are an encounter with Christ, who is himself the original sacrament. There are sacraments of initiation, which introduce the recipient into the faith: Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. There are sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. And there are sacraments of communion and mission: Matrimony & Holy Orders. Baptism joins us with Christ.

Baptism is the foundational sacrament and the gateway for all other sacraments. It unites us to Jesus Christ, incorporates us into his redemptive death on the cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, and causes us to rise with him to a life without end. Since Baptism is a covenant with God, the individual must say Yes to it. In the Baptism of children, the parents confess the Faith on behalf of the children.

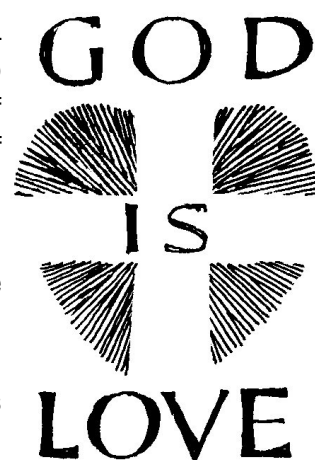
Water used in Baptism, symbolises cleansing and new life, which was already expressed in the baptism of repentance performed by John the Baptist. Our Baptism in water is more than a sign of conversion and repentance, it is new life in Christ. That is why the ceremony also includes signs of anointing with oil, clothing with a white garment and the lighting of the baptismal candle. Any person who is not yet baptised can be baptised. The only prerequisite for Baptism is faith, which must be professed publicly at the Baptism.

Some Protestants argue that only adults should be baptised, but from antiquity the Church has practiced infant Baptism. There is one reason for this: before we decide on God, God has decided on us. Baptism is therefore a grace, an undeserved gift of God, who accepts us unconditionally. Just as every person is born and has the ability to breathe, so too every person is born with the ability to believe.

Normally the sacrament is administered by a bishop, priest or deacon. In an emergency, any Christian, indeed any person regardless of their faith, can baptise by pouring water over the head of the recipient and pronouncing the baptismal formula, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Baptism is so important that even a non-Christian can administer it in an emergency.

Is Baptism the only way to salvation? For all those who have received the Gospel and have heard that Christ is "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), Baptism is the only way to God and salvation. At the same time, however, it is true that Christ died for all mankind. Therefore all people who have had no opportunity to learn about Christ and the faith but seek God sincerely and live according to their conscience also find salvation (the so-called Baptism of desire).

The Church asks that there be a reasonable expectation, that a child who is put forward for Baptism, will be brought up in the practice of the Faith. Parents have the responsibility not only for their children's physical health and wellbeing but also their spiritual wellbeing too.



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 21st September *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 22nd 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 23rd 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 24th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

10.00am Church Cleaning

Thursday 25th 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 26th September

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 27th 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 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 28th September *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Bulletin - Front Cover

Thank you to all those who have previously composed, or selected articles for inclusion on the front cover of the weekly bulletin.



If you have a topic you would like to see on the front cover of the bulletin, or indeed if you would like to write your own article (500 words), please send an email to Fr John-Paul.

Primary 1 Welcome Mass

It is lovely today to welcome the P1 pupils and their families who have joined us for a Mass of Welcome and special blessing for the little ones.

For some, this will be their first visit to St Mary's Church, but others we see every week.

This is a lovely occasion to celebrate the great parish—school links we have in Lanark, and pray for God's blessing on these children.

St Mary's Social Committee

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to the Quiz night. The night was filled with fun and laughter raising £291. The scores were very close, The InBetweeners picking up the winning trophy. The No Brainers were the reverse order winners! Thanks to all the teams who entered into the spirit of the night. It was great to see our regular quizzers and delighted to welcome new quizzers. Thank you for your continued support.



St Mary's Parish Disco

Look out your dancing shoes, the girls have booked another parish disco: **Saturday 18th October 7pm.**

Parish discos are always filled with fun and laughter, and you won't want to miss it!! Ticket priced at £7, which includes entry and nibbles—for tickets contact the Social Committee.



The Unique History of St Mary's Lanark

After years of dedication and hard work, we are delighted to have on sale *The Unique History of St Mary's Lanark*, by Siobhan Gainford. This wonderfully produced book captures the rich history of our beautiful parish, and gives great hope for the future.

**The book is priced at £15
and copies are available to buy from the stall.**

St Mary's 300 Club

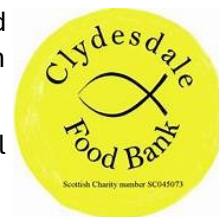
As our 300 Club year draws to an end within the next few weeks, we take this opportunity to give everyone a gentle reminder to make sure all payments are up to date. We also ask that you let us know of any recent changes to address or telephone number as we use these to contact winners. We thank everyone for the continued support to the 300 Club as the funds from this help us cover essential running costs for the parish. We also take this opportunity to thank Kathleen for all the administrative skills and her time and dedication to making sure the 300 Club runs smoothly and efficiently.

**On weekend Sat 4th / Sun 5th October at all Masses representatives from the 300 Club
will be available for people to check/pay membership, take out membership,
ask questions, or change contact details.**

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 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 people who live in Lanark.



Some Good Tips for Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Readers:

1. Please continue to speak clearly whilst projecting your voice directly into the microphone. If you whisper in, then a whisper comes out. If you need to, adjust the microphone before Mass to make sure it is in the correct position.
2. For the Universal Prayers of Intercession (Bidding Prayers) please make your way to the ambo during the final few lines of the Creed. The reader should be at the ambo and ready before the priest begins the Opening Prayer.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

1. For Communion, can the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion make their way to the sanctuary as soon as the "Lamb of God" begins. Extraordinary Ministers should be in place on the sanctuary for this prayer finishing and facing the altar for the priest saying: "Behold the Lamb of God".

If you have any questions please speak to Fr John-Paul.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Betty Woods Hope Street
Tricia Weir (Larkhall); Anne Findon (Wishawhill); Terri Stark;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Margaret Dempsey; James McEwan; James & Helen Donnachie; Dan O'Donnell;

*Blessed are those who have died in the Lord
Let them rest from their labours.*

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

Liturgical Calendar

Tuesday 23rd September, St Pio of Pietrelcina - Born on 25 May 1887 in Pietrelcina (Italy); died on this day in 1968 at San Giovanni Rotondo (Italy). Raised in a deeply religious rural home, Francesco Forgione became Padre Pio when he was ordained in the Capuchin order in 1910. A mystic who received the marks of the stigmata in 1918, a renowned holy man, and a charity worker who founded a hospital (the House for the Relief of Suffering). His ascetic life of pain led to special compassion for the suffering. Honoured as an extraordinary confessor and spiritual director.

Friday 26th September, Saints Cosmas and Damien, Martyrs - They died probably in Syria. Widely venerated as martyrs in the fifth and sixth centuries when basilicas were dedicated to them in Constantinople and Rome and when their names were included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Later legend identified them as twin brothers who practiced medicine without charge to their patients.

Saturday 27th September, St Vincent de Paul - Born in Gascony (France) in 1581; died in Paris on this day in 1660. A parish priest who worked for the apostolic renewal of the clergy, founding the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians or Lazarists) for missionary work in rural areas and for the formation of clergy. Committed above all to the oppressed and disadvantaged, he founded the Daughters of Charity with Louise de Marillac to work with the needy.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,341.00
Standing Orders: £ 135.50
Votives: £ 175.00
Stall: £ 125.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

20th/21st September

5.00pm J. McBride
10.30am J. Russell
5.00pm N. Donnelly

4th/5th October

5.00pm F. Chung
10.30am A. Servers
5.00pm M. Davis

27th/28th September

5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm S. Casserly

11th/12th October

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

20th/21st September

5.00pm A. Dempsey
F. McBride
10.30am J. Littlejohn
A. O'Neil
N. Keenan

4th/5th October

5.00pm K. Bryce
A. McGowan
10.30am C. Duddy
I. Maxfield
J. Russell

27th/28th September

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

11th/12th October

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