

St Mary's Lanark

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

✉ 70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

✉ stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

☎ 01555 662234

🌐 www.stmaryslanark.org.uk



Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk

St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

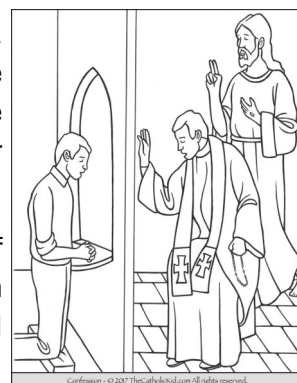
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

28th September 2025

The Sacraments: Confession

Christ's love for us is shown in the fact that he seeks the lost and heals the sick. That is why he gave us the sacraments of healing and restoration, in which we are freed from sin and strengthened in our physical and spiritual weakness. The sacrament of Confession is also sacrament of penance, of reconciliation or conversion.

Baptism snatches us from the power of sin and death and brings us into a new life of the children of God, but it does not free us from human weakness and the inclination to sin. That is why we need a place where we can be reconciled with God again and again. That place is confession.



Jesus himself instituted the sacrament of Confession when he showed himself to his apostles on Easter Sunday and commanded them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22a-23). The parable of the Prodigal Son beautifully expresses what happens in Confession: we go astray, we are lost and can no longer cope. Yet our Father waits for us with great, indeed, infinite longing; he forgives us when we come back; he takes us in again, forgives our sins.

God alone can forgive sins. Jesus could say "Yours sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5) only because he is the Son of God. And priests can forgive sins in Jesus' place only because Jesus gave his apostles that same authority. Many people say "I can go directly to God, I don't need a priest". God though, wants it otherwise. We can rationalise our sins away or like to sweep things under the carpet. That is why God wants us to tell our sins and to acknowledge them in a personal encounter and receiving absolution "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and Holy Spirit".

The insight (through our conscience) into our personal guilt produces a longing for to better ourselves; this is called contrition. We arrive at contrition for our sins when we see the contradiction between God's love and our sins; we resolve to change our lives by God's help. We do penance for our sins by prayer, fasting and giving help and alms spiritually and materially.

Every Confession must consist of the following essential elements: an examination of conscience, contrition, a firm purpose of amendment, confession and penance. The Church calls upon all of us to confess at least once a year. Everyone must go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion if they have committed a mortal (or serious) sin.

The Sacrament of Confession is protected by "the sacramental seal", meaning that anything mentioned during the sacrament cannot be told to anyone by the priest. Any priest who would tell another person something he learned in the confessional would be excommunicated. Even to the police, the priest cannot say or suggest anything. So important is the seal of Confession. Confession reconciles the sinner with God and the Church, we are reconciled, at peace.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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)

Monday 29th 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 30th September

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus, Morning Prayer of the Church & Novena to St Anthony of Padua

Wednesday 1st October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

Thursday 2nd October

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 3rd October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 4th October *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 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

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

10.30am Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 27th 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.

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 clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards the Foodbank.



St Mary's Parish Disco

Look out your dancing shoes, the girls have booked another parish disco: **Saturday 18th October 7.30pm.**

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.



Holy Communion House Visits

We are very lucky in Holy Trinity and St Mary's to have such dedicated Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who visit the housebound on a regular basis, and offer friendship and support.

Thank you to those who continue to carry out this ministry with such care and due diligence whilst serving Christ in others: "for I was sick and you visited me".

Project Wellspring

Wellspring Parish Renewal Forum – This Tuesday at 7pm! The Wellspring Parish Renewal Forum takes place this **Tuesday, 30th September at 7pm in St Monica's, Coatbridge.** Come together with parishioners from across the diocese for an evening of discussion and renewal.



Hear updates from several of our mission leads and take part in breakout sessions for purposeful discussions. We look forward to welcoming you!

Month of the Holy Rosary

Wednesday begins the month of October, traditionally dedicated to praying the rosary. Please set aside some time each day to pray the rosary either as an individual, by joining us at St Mary's each morning, or as a family. Pope Leo asks all Catholics to pray the rosary daily during October for peace in our world.

The Scottish Bishops are making Tuesday 7th October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, a Day of Prayer for Peace. All parishes, schools, and groups are encouraged to mark this Day of Prayer both at Mass and in Public Devotions and Private Prayer.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday 29th September, Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels - The cult of Michael, Gabriel and Raphael began in the East. In the West, this day first marked the dedication of a fifth century church of Saint Michael in Rome. This festival of Michaelmas came to be very popular and widely celebrated in medieval Europe. Raphael and Gabriel were added to the Roman calendar in the twentieth century, and the three are now celebrated together. In the Scriptures (for example, Revelation 12:7-9, Luke 1:26-38, Tobit 3:16-25), each of the three angels is named as a messenger of God, entrusted with special divine missions on earth.

Tuesday 30th September, St Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church - Born about 340 at Strido on the Adriatic coast; died in Bethlehem on this day in 420. Baptised in Rome while studying the classics, became a hermit in Syria for a time and was ordained a priest. Later retained as papal secretary by Saint Damasus (11 December). Began work on a new Latin translation of the Bible, known as the Vulgate. Finally settling in Bethlehem where he founded monasteries, he devoted himself to studying the Scriptures, writing, and teaching. Often irascible and intolerant, he is remembered for his asceticism and scholarship and, above all, for his incomparable service to the word of God.

Wednesday 1st October, St Therese of Lisieux, Virgin & Doctor of the Church - Born at Alençon (France) in 1873; died of tuberculosis at Lisieux on 30 September 1897. From a devout family, she entered a Carmelite monastery at fifteen, where she embraced the suffering of her ill-health with love and in service to the missionary spread of the gospel. Known through her popular autobiography and loved for her unaffected simplicity. Noted for her humble obedience and her fidelity to ordinary duties as the path to sanctity.

Thursday 2nd October, Holy Guardian Angels - This feast originated in Portugal early in the sixteenth century and has figured in the general calendar since the late seventeenth century. It is based on the belief that God assigns everyone an angel to guard body and soul, an expression of God's personal care for each individual. A similar belief is also found in Jewish and other religious thought. The feast associates the human race with the eternal song of praise in heaven (Matthew 18:10).

Saturday 4th October, St Francis of Assisi, Religious - Born in Assisi (Italy) in 1181 or 1182; died nearby on 3 October 1226. The carefree son of a wealthy merchant who gave up his inheritance to embrace utter poverty. Under a simple gospel rule, he and his Friars Minor were authorised to be mendicant preachers. His "Canticle of the Sun" captures his lyrical spirit and sense of oneness with all creatures. An outstanding example of the beatitude "Blessed are the poor in spirit." At the end of his life he bore in his flesh the marks of Christ's suffering. Noted for preaching the poor and crucified Christ in both word and deed.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Betty Woods Hope Street
Helen McGowan (Glasgow); James McLaughlan;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: William Young; Colin Slevin;

Funeral Arrangements: Betty Woods Requiem Mass: Wednesday 8th October 9.30am.

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

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.

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

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 1,495.00
Standing Orders:	£ 425.50
Votives:	£ 210.00
Stall:	£ 140.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>27th/28th September</u>	<u>11th/12th October</u>
5.00pm C. Jackson	5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am M. McCusker	10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm N. Donnelly
<u>4th/5th October</u>	<u>18th/19th October</u>
5.00pm F. Chung	5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am A. Servers	10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>27th/28th September</u>	<u>11th/12th October</u>
5.00pm C. Scott	5.00pm M. Keenan
S. Callaghan	C. Callaghan
10.30am V. Hilland	10.30am K. Lawrence
M. Thompson	J. McFarlane
B. Farrell	M. Russell
<u>4th/5th October</u>	<u>18th/19th October</u>
5.00pm K. Bryce	5.00pm F. McBride
A. McGowan	R. Sinton
10.30am C. Duddy	10.30am G. Duddy
I. Maxfield	A. Gillespie
J. Russell	M. Keenan