

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

2nd Sunday of Advent

7th December 2025

Powerhouse of Prayer

What is Prayer?

For the senior members of our parish, they will remember it from the Old Catechism as, The Raising up of the Mind and Heart to God. The revised Catechism has slightly different wording, but the message is the same.

My idea of prayer. PRAYER comes in many shapes and sizes. It's not a one size fits all. It doesn't always have to be solemn, it can be happy and joyful. It all depends on us and where we take our prayer to. It can be formal words or quiet thoughts. It can be a kind action or love shown to others in need. It can be said, sung or done anywhere or at anytime. It doesn't always have to be in a church, though, coming together to pray can be encouraging and strengthening. The Lord Himself said: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."



For me, I've prayed in many places. Apart from praying in church, I sing hymns (badly) in my kitchen whilst cooking, in my living room with the sun streaming through, in winter with the curtains closed sheltering from the cold and dark or in the quiet of my bedroom and even on line praying the rosary with others to help my concentration. I pray the rosary better with others rather than on my own. Raising our minds and hearts to God in song was commended by Pope St. John Paul II. He once said that in singing we are praising God twice. I like that idea as it pleases me to think that my singing can be doubly pleasing to the Lord.

Perhaps there is a lack in my teaching skills as in my singing skills. Some time ago, I was teaching my grandchildren about what a Novena was. I told them if there was something they were upset about, they could make a Novena by praying to a saint of their choice to intercede for them to the Lord. The prayer would be said for nine days and if they believed and trusted in the Lord He would grant what was best for them. I also told them it had to be something important.

One of the grandchildren felt that she really needed something (bearing in mind she was only nine years old at the time) and she told me she had decided to do a Novena for her wishes to be granted. I asked her a couple of weeks later how her Novena had gone. She said that it was great and she only had to pray for four days as her wishes were granted after that. I realised I hadn't stressed too well the meaning of Novena being nine. I told her it can be nine days, nine weeks or even nine hours if you are challenged with a problem and need help quickly. The most powerful Novena I ever did was a nine hour Novena when I was ill in hospital. Thanks be to God it worked wonders for me.

Cathie O'Brien

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)
- 12.35pm** Light Bite (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

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

- 9.00am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- 12noon** Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Tuesday 9th December

- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.55am
- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am
- 11.40am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 12noon** Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 10th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 10.15am** Advent Prayer Circle (St Catherine's)
- 6.30pm** St Mary's Primary School Christmas Carol Concert (St Mary's Church)

Thursday 11th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 7.30pm** St Mary's Choir Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 12th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass

Saturday 13th December *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.00am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 3.00pm** 'An Afternoon of Joy' by The Choir of St Mary's (Ticketed Event)
- 4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm
- 4.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

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

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)



Choir of St Mary's Christmas Joy

You are warmly invited to *An Afternoon of Christmas Joy* in St Mary's Clubrooms on Saturday 13th December at 3pm.

Tickets cost £7 and all proceeds go to the Wayside Club in Glasgow.

Tickets are available from members of the choir. The bar will be open and there will be a raffle.

The Wayside Club was established in 1932 to meet the needs of the homeless, to provide a warm, friendly and safe environment every evening and Saturday afternoon throughout the year including all the Public holidays.

Catholic Education Collection

Thank you to those who donated to last weekend's second collection for Catholic Education. A total of **£545.00** was raised and sent to the Diocese.

Catholic Education is important, especially in today's culture, because it forms students academically while nurturing faith, character, and service. It integrates moral values with strong academics, helping learners develop compassion, integrity, and a sense of purpose, and is rooted in the Gospel Values.

Coffee Morning/Christmas Raffle

The next coffee morning will take place on **Sunday 21st December** after 10.30 Mass. The Christmas Raffle Draw will also take place at this event.

Raffle tickets will be available from weekend 15th/16th November.

Donations for raffle prizes
will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Mass with Sacrament of the Sick

St Mary's St Vincent de Paul Society have arranged for Mass to be celebrated with the Sacrament of the Sick. The Mass will be celebrated on Monday 8th December at 12noon. This day is also the Immaculate Conception, the day we celebrate Our Lady being conceived without original sin.

All are welcome to attend this Mass and those who are sick or housebound are encouraged to attend and receive the Sacrament of the Sick, and be supported, and uplifted, by the prayers of our community.

***If you know of anyone who would like to attend this Mass and has no transport,
please speak to a Member of the St Vincent de Paul or contact 07565396878.***

St Mary's Primary School Carol Concert

St Mary's Primary School will have their annual Carol Concert on Wednesday evening at 6.30pm in the church. The children will be singing some of the old classics and will have some prayerful readings to help us reflect

***This is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!
We hope to see you there!***

St Mary's Memorial Plaques

There are still some space available on the Memorial Wall for anyone who would like to purchase a plaque in memory of a loved one. Forms are available at the back of the church. The order will be placed at the end of January and this will be the last bulk order.

Completed forms, along with payment, should be given to Fr John-Paul in plenty time.

Theology of Tap - Christmas Narrative

Fr Andrew Robinson, who we know so well from supplying at St Mary's, is giving a talk on the Christmas Narrative in Our Lady and St John's, Blackwood (ML11 9RZ), on **Tuesday 16th December at 6.30pm**. All are invited to attend, and this will be the perfect way to ease ourselves into Christmas and allow the Scriptures to speak to us afresh.

Liturgical Calendar

Monday 8th December, The Immaculate Conception - This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne." It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

Wednesday 10th December, Our Lady of Loreto - Since the Middle Ages veneration for the Holy House of Loreto has been the origin of that particular shrine which still today is visited by many faithful pilgrims in order to nourish their faith in the Word of God made flesh for us. In the Holy House, before the image of the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Church, Saints and Blesseds have responded to their vocation, the sick have invoked consolation in suffering, the people of God have begun to praise and plead with Mary using the Litany of Loreto, which is known throughout the world. In a particular way all those who travel via aircraft have found in her their heavenly patron.

Friday 12th December, Our Lady of Guadalupe - The North American continent is honoured by the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City. On 9th December 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared to a simple Amer-Indian convert, Juan Diego. Her picture was miraculously impressed upon his cloak. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, showed herself as a tender and compassionate mother.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Patricia Kelly; Waltraud Nowomiejski;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Agnes McQuade; Eleanor Douglas; Michael Reilly; Reilly Family; Peter Murray; Paul Murray; Florence Kennedy; Sadie Littlejohn;

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*

Christmas Remembrance Masses: If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Christmas Bulletin, please hand in their names before **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER**. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection, but please write on the envelope **CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE**, and please print the names clearly to avoid typing errors.

300 Club: November Winners

Week 2nd Nov: **184** Week 9th Nov: **216** Week 16th Nov: **160**
Week 23rd Nov: **287** Week 30th Nov: **107**

St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763

If your phone number has changed please email Kathleen to update your contact details.
This is important so we can let you know if you are the lucky winner!! stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

St Mary's Flower Fund

As we enter the season of Advent you will notice the lack of flowers which normally adorn our beautiful Church. I feel it is an appropriate time to thank everyone who has contributed to our Flower Fund this year. Without ever being asked, you so willingly fill your tubs and give your donations. Mari has some wonderful ideas for Christmas this year so we can look forward to that as we prepare ourselves throughout Advent. If you would like to join the Flower Fund please just ask Pauline, Mari or myself for a FF tub. If you would prefer just to give a one of donation, that too would be a great help. Your contributions enable us to have flowers all around our Church throughout the year and we are deeply grateful for your continued support. Thank you. Grace.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,258.00
Standing Orders: £ 425.35
Votives: £ 189.00
Stall: £ 165.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you for your
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

| <u>6th/7th December</u> | <u>20th/21st December</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5.00pm J. McBride | 5.00pm R. McConnell |
| 10.30am A. Servers | 10.30am J. Russell |
| 5.00pm S. Casserly | 5.00pm M. Davis |
| <u>13th/14th December</u> | <u>27th/28th December</u> |
| 5.00pm F. Chung | 5.00pm T. Coia |
| 10.30am M. McCusker | 10.30am J. Angus |
| 5.00pm N. Donnelly | 5.00pm S. Casserly |

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

| <u>6th/7th December</u> | <u>20th/21st December</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5.00pm C. Scott | 5.00pm M. Keenan |
| S. Callaghan | C. Callaghan |
| 10.30am J. Littlejohn | 10.30am C. Duddy |
| A. O'Neill | I. Maxfield |
| N. Keenan | M. Russell |
| <u>13th/14th December</u> | <u>27th/28th December</u> |
| 5.00pm K. Bryce | 5.00pm F. McBride |
| A. McGowan | R. Sinton |
| 10.30am V. Hilland | 10.30am K. Lawrence |
| M. Thompson | J. McFarlane |
| B. Farrell | J. Russell |