



**ST MARY'S LANARK
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**
6 Coulter Road
Biggar
ML12 6EP
stisidore@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041

PARISH CLERGY
Father John-Paul McShane
Father Thomas Devine

St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark ML11 7JS
01555 662234

ST MARY'S LANARK
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark
ML11 7JS
01555 662234
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT
13th March 2022

A Reflection on Ash Wednesday and a Time of War

By Russell Moore

Early in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, some longtime observers of Vladimir Putin speculated that he might soon use what he did before: mobile crematoriums. These incinerators aren't for the combatants killed on the other side but for the bodies of Putin's own troops. Such ghoulish machines would be employed to hide the number of fatalities to avoid humiliation abroad and loss of support at home. Regardless of whether these experts' predictions are right, Putin's impulse is to hide what his invasion will bring for Russian armies: death.

As Christians around the world mark Ash Wednesday, perhaps we can remember that the Christian way of death is opposite of this invading tyrant's.

Many of us are only just now catching our breath after two years of a pandemic that has killed countless people and upended the lives of everyone who survived it. And on all our television screens and social media feeds are images of brave Ukrainians holding their own against those invading their homes and communities. In the backdrop of all this are possibilities we almost dare not even mention: a war spreading all across Europe or even, given the evident instability of the Russian dictator, the prospect of nuclear war.

Putin operates out of what intelligence services and diplomats tell us is a nostalgia for the old superpower days of the Soviet Union. To do this, he projects an image—the shirtless warrior riding a horse, for example. The last thing he wants the world to see is the corpses of Russian soldiers. Such would suggest weakness. The Ukrainians, led by President Volodymyr Zelensky, seem to want the world and their own countrymen to see the opposite: a vulnerable people who are willing to die with honor—and who are in desperate need of help.

Putin's denial of death is not uncommon in the history of the world, especially in tyrants with delusions of empire. The pyramids of the pharaohs tried to present rulers who could, in some ways, transcend death. So did the images that other emperors employed of their own immortality or even godhood.

To the prince of Tyre, God delivered an oracle through the prophet Ezekiel: “Will you then say, ‘I am a god,’ in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a mortal, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you” (Ezek. 28:9). The fallen human view of ultimate power wants to project two things: I can hurt you, and I cannot be hurt. One would be hard pressed to find a better symbol of both projections than the cross of the Roman Empire. Every crucifixion represented a threat—this can happen to our enemies—all from an Eternal City aspiring to godhood.

Ash Wednesday is appropriate for wartime because it points to a deeper, and even more dangerous, war. The Bible says the human condition wants to conquer death, but not in the way God intends, through the dependence that comes from eating from the Tree of Life. Instead, we have listened to a different voice telling us, “You will not certainly die” if only we eat at his direction, in order to become invulnerable, to become “like God” ourselves (Gen. 3:1–6). At the end of that is ashes.

We became subject, the Bible says, to lifelong slavery to “him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil” (Heb. 2:14). The power the evil one has held over us is “fear of death” (v. 15). The more we fear death, the more we clamor for the kind of power and glory we can display to forget that we are but dust and to dust we will return.

Ukraine Collection

This weekend there will be a second collection at all Masses to support the SCIAF Emergency Fund for Ukraine. The collection will be taken up immediately after the distribution of Holy Communion. Please remember the people of the Ukraine in your daily prayers. Thank you for your help!!

St Isidore's Parish Consultation With Bishop Toal

Today, Sunday 13th March, Bishop Toal will visit the parish of St Isidore's to celebrate Sunday Mass and carry out a Parish Consultation with parishioners on how best to serve the Catholic community in Biggar, and surrounding areas, as we recover from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Synod In Our Parish

DIALOGUE IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY:

Dialogue requires perseverance and patience, but it also enables mutual understanding.

To what extent do diverse peoples in our community come together for dialogue?

How can we improve dialogue between our own communities, i.e. between parishes/deaneries, and with lay ministries?

What particular issues (in the Church or in society) do we need to pay more attention to?

How well do we dialogue with and learn from other areas of society, such as politics, culture, diverse groups; how can we improve?

<https://youtu.be/XvPSqfqgLMY>

Our Parish Coordinators are: Gillean McCluskey 07854012277 & Frances Spence 07796388240.

***This weekend a Synod Questionnaire
will be distributed at all Masses.***

***We kindly ask that you fill one out and
hand it back in no later than
Sunday 27th March.***

Livestream

Lenten Devotions, 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

The 1pm Sunday Mass from Biggar Kirk is also Livestreamed on St Isidore's parish YouTube Channel.

Covid Memorial Plaque

You may have noticed that our new Covid Memorial has now been installed in the porch of St Mary's. This is a fitting reminder of all those who have died, and for all who suffered, in any way, shape of form, during the Pandemic. Once again, we thank the Choir of St Mary's for donating the money to pay for this memorial.

Also too, in the narthex, the Incumbents Board, containing the names of Parish Priests of St Mary's, has now been erected. Thank you to all those who contributed towards its cost.

Lenten Parish Schedule

Last week was our first full week of Lent, and it was encouraging to see so many people attend the different Liturgies and Devotions in our parish. If you didn't manage to get last week, why not join us this week?

Liturgical Calendar

Thursday 17th March St Patrick - Born in Britain probably in the early years of the fifth century, Patrick was taken captive at the age of 16 and brought to Ireland, where he worked as a slave. His captivity led him to a renewal of his spiritual life. After he escaped back home at the age of 22, it was clear to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. After studies in Europe he returned to Ireland, where he made a very large number of converts. His spiritual journey is recounted in his Confessio.

Friday 18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem - Cyril was born in 315 of Christian parents and succeeded Maximus as bishop of Jerusalem in 348. He was active in the Arian controversy and was exiled more than once as a result. His pastoral zeal is especially shown in his *Catecheses*, in which he expounded orthodox doctrine, holy Scripture and the traditions of the faith. They are still read today, and several of the Second Readings of the Office of Readings are taken from them. He died in 386.

Saturday 19th March St Joseph the Worker - A carpenter, though born of the royal house of David, Joseph was an upright man who, as husband of the Virgin Mary, cared for Mary and the child Jesus. Venerated in the East after the fourth century, and his cult flowered in the West during the fifteenth century, following the development of medieval nativity plays, the Christmas crib, and increased devotion to Mary.



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Monsignor Thomas Canon O'Hare (Retired priest of the Motherwell Diocese); Marion Renton; Bernadette McCarthy; Michael O'Neill (Shotts); Bridget Hume.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: McCulloch Family; Thomas Coll; Cissie Coll; Sean Coll; Margaret Coll; John Francis Feenan; Mary Meahan; Frank Brady; Fie Duddy; Peter Brannan; Edward Hanlon; Archie Lindsay; Jim McAvay.

St Mary's Social Committee

The next Coffee Moring will take place on **Sunday 17th April** (Easter Sunday), after the 10.30am Mass. The much anticipated Easter Raffle will also take place at this event!! The girls will start selling the Easter Raffle tickets at Masses from Sat/Sun 19th/20th March. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you so much for your continued support to helping the Social Committee in their fantastic fundraising endeavours.

St Mary Magdalene's Forth

The Mass Centre of St Mary Magdalene's has served the people of Forth for many years, and after consultation, it has been determined that the Mass Centre will close on Sunday 27th March, 2022, after the 9am Mass. Over the years the people attending Mass in St Mary Magdalene's has dwindled, and post-Covid, even more so; usually averaging 10 people on a Sunday morning. It is with a heavy heart that we have taken this decision to close St Mary Magdalene's, however, we very much make the people of St Mary Magdalene's very welcome in Lanark, and will transfer the Icon of St Mary Magdalene's and erect it in Lanark, next to the Lady Altar, with a small plaque underneath to commemorate St Mary Magdalene's and all who worshipped there. Bishop Toal plan on attending St Mary Magdalene's on Sunday 27th March and celebrating the last Mass. On Tuesday 15th March Fr John-Paul will celebrate a Requiem Mass in St Mary Magdalene's for all those who have died over the years. On Tuesday 22nd March Fr John-Paul will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving, thanking God for all those who worshipped in St Mary Magdalene's. Please remember the parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's in your prayers.

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,225.00
Standing Orders: £ 742.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish.

For those who wish to pay Bank Transfer or

Standing Order please find the relevant details below.

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 95.00
Standing Orders: £ 478.00

(Including St Mary Magdalene's)

St Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809

Parish of St Isidore's 83-16-11 00235026

St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection: £ -----

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

12th/13th March

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm S. Casserly

26th/ 27th March

5.00pm J. Moynagh
10.30am J. Russell
5.00pm S. Casserly

19th/20th March

5.00pm E. Haetzman
10.30am S. Watson
5.00pm M. Davis

2nd/3rd April

5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

12th/13th March

5.00pm J. McClafferty
M. Davis
10.30am G. Duddy
T. Mullen

26th/27th March

5.00pm M. Keenan
P. Stewart
10.30am J. McAlavey
M. Keenan

19th/20th March

5.00pm P. Freel
J. McEwan
10.30am P. Cunningham
A. Cruikshank

2nd/3rd April

5.00pm T. Mullen
C. McClafferty
10.30am J. Wilson
C. Duddy

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 13th March **St Mary's opened from 9.45am until 6.30pm**

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 9.00am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Lent (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Lent (St Mary's)
- 1.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Lent (Biggar Kirk)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Lent (St Mary's)
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

Monday 14th March - **St Mary's opened from 9am until 7.30pm**

- 9.10am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (St Mary's)
- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph - Week 9 (St Mary's)
- 12noon Angelus & Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (St Mary's)
- 6.30pm Confession until 6.55pm (St Mary's)
- 7.00pm Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Tuesday 15th March

- 8.30am Holy Mass St Mary's Primary School (Children Only)
- 10.00am Stations of the Cross (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 11.30am Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)
- 11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 16th March

- 9.10am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 10.00am **Church Cleaning (St Mary's)**
- 10.15am Around the Lenten Circle - Faith Sharing Group (Cargill Club)
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross (Livestream Only)
- 7.00pm **Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)**

Thursday 17th March

- 8.30am Holy Mass St Mary's Primary School (Children Only)
- 9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 10.00am Holy Mass St Catherine's (Sisters Only)
- 7.30pm **Choir Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 18th March

- 9.00am Confession until 9.25am (St Mary's)
- 9.10am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Divine Mercy Chaplet (St Mary's)
- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 19th March **St Mary's opened from 9am until 6.30pm**

- 9.00am Confessions until 9.25am (St Mary's)
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 4.15pm Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Lent (St Mary's)

Sunday 20th March **St Mary's opened from 9.45am until 6.30pm**

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 9.00am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Lent (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Lent (St Mary's)
- 1.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Lent (Biggar Kirk)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Lent (St Mary's)
- 6.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)