

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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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th January 2026

Ordinary Time

Because the term ordinary in English most often means something that's not special or distinctive, many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the calendar of the Catholic Church that are unimportant. Even though the season of Ordinary Time makes up most of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church, the fact that Ordinary Time refers to those periods that fall outside of the major liturgical seasons reinforces this impression. Yet Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting.

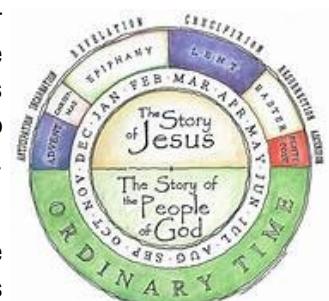
Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is common but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order. Thus, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, in fact, represent the ordered life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

It's appropriate, therefore, that the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (which is actually the first Sunday celebrated in Ordinary Time) always features either John the Baptist's acknowledgment of Christ as the Lamb of God or Christ's first miracle—the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana. Thus for Catholics, Ordinary Time is the part of the year in which Christ, the Lamb of God, walks among us and transforms our lives. There's nothing "ordinary" about that!

Ordinary Time refers to all of those parts of the Catholic Church's liturgical year that aren't included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Ordinary Time thus encompasses two different periods in the Church's calendar, since the Christmas season immediately follows Advent, and the Easter season immediately follows Lent. The Church year begins with Advent, followed immediately by the Christmas season. Ordinary Time begins on the Monday after the first Sunday after January 6, the traditional date of the Feast of the Epiphany and the end of the liturgical season of Christmas. This first period of Ordinary Time runs until Ash Wednesday when the liturgical season of Lent begins. Both Lent and the Easter season fall outside of Ordinary Time, which resumes again on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, the end of the Easter season. This second period of Ordinary Time runs until the First Sunday of Advent when the liturgical year begins again.

In most years, the Sunday after January 6 is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In countries such as the United States, however, where the celebration of Epiphany is transferred to Sunday if that Sunday is January 7 or 8, Epiphany is celebrated instead. As feasts of our Lord, both the Baptism of the Lord and Epiphany displace a Sunday in Ordinary Time. Thus the first Sunday in the period of Ordinary Time is the Sunday that falls after the first week of Ordinary Time, which makes it the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time.

Ordinary Time is a feature of the current (post-Vatican II) liturgical calendar. In the traditional Catholic calendar used before 1970 and still used in the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass, as well as in the calendars of the Eastern Catholic Churches, the Sundays of Ordinary Time are referred to as the Sundays After Epiphany and the Sundays After Pentecost. In any given year, there are either 33 or 34 Sundays in Ordinary Time. Because Easter is a moveable feast, and thus the Lent and Easter seasons "float" from year to year, the number of Sundays in each period of Ordinary Time vary from the other period as well as from year to year.



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 18th January St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

10.30am **Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

12noon **Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)**

5.00pm **Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

Monday 19th January St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mary McCulloch

Tuesday 20th January

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 21st January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Thursday 22nd January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

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

Friday 23rd January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 24th January 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

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 25th January St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

10.30am **Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

12noon **Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)**

5.00pm **Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**



Please Pray For The Following

Recently Dead: Mami McAvoy Glebe Court
 Mary McCulloch Glebe Court

Sr Rosemary Reilly of The Sisters of St Joseph of Peace (Hamilton); Alice Hynds (Wishaw); John Clarke; Rory Milligan;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Peter De-Schuster; Patrick & Margaret O'Hara; Louise Keenan; Catherine Grant;

Funeral Arrangements: Mary McCulloch Requiem Mass: Monday 19th January, 9.30am

*Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.*

Mt 5:12

St Mary's Weddings 2026

If you have booked St Mary's for your wedding, or are intending to book St Mary's, for 2026, and if you have not done so already, please contact Fr John-Paul to arrange a meeting to begin the legal and Church paperwork which takes several months to complete.

The best form of contact is email:

frmcschane@rcdom.org.uk

Diocese of Motherwell Choral Director

The Diocese of Motherwell, in conjunction with the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP), seeks to appoint a temporary choral director commencing March 2026. This post is initially on a fixed term basis until the end of the 2025/26 school year, with the possibility of extension into the next academic year.

For further information and an application pack email Margaret Docherty mdocherty@rcdom.org.uk

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 returned no later than Saturday 31st January.

Assisted Suicide Campaign

This weekend we welcome Jan from the Diocesan Prolife Campaign to stress the need for prayer, highlighting the dangers of the bill and explaining what we hope to achieve with the campaign.

Please support this campaign as best you can through prayer and by following Jan's guidance.

St Mary's Sacramental Enrolment Mass 2026

It is wonderful to welcome the children and their families from St Mary's Primary School who will be enrolled for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The number of children who are being enrolled for the Sacraments this year remain steady at 36, but still significantly lower than most other parishes in the diocese. It is important that we encourage our children in the faith, and that those parents who wish to enrol their children for the Sacraments attend Mass every Sunday and encourage their children to do the same!

Parish News - House Renovation

Several months ago Fr John-Paul presented an opportunity to the Parish Finance & Fabric Committee in relation to altering the living accommodation of the house in order to allow the parish house to be split into three separate dwellings, with one dwelling being retained for the parish priest and the other two being rented out. This proposal would provide a steady income for the parish and also help reduce utilities. The Parish Finance & Fabric Committee subsequently presented the idea to the Diocese and approval was granted.

We are now delighted to announce that the renovation works are complete and tenants have also been approved and moved in. Fr John-Paul would like to note on record his thanks to John Russell, Jim Campbell and Jerry Wilson who carried out a lot of the work and saved the parish around £25,000—making this project viable.

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>17th/18th January</u>		<u>31st Jan/1st Feb</u>	
5.00pm	J. McBride	5.00pm	G. Abernethy
10.30am	E. Crossan	10.30am	A. Servers
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	N. Donnelly

24th/25th January

<u>24th/25th January</u>		<u>7th/8th February</u>	
5.00pm	C. Jackson	5.00pm	T. Coia
10.30am	J. Russell	10.30am	E. McCabe
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>17th/18th January</u>		<u>31st Jan/1st Feb</u>	
5.00pm	K. Bryce	5.00pm	F. McBride
	A. McGowan		R. Sinton
10.30am	V. Hilland	10.30am	J. Littlejohn
	M. Thomson		A. O'Neill
	B. Farrell		N. Keenan
<u>24th/25th January</u>		<u>7th/8th February</u>	
5.00pm	M. Keenan	5.00pm	A. Dempsey
	C. Callaghan		J. McBride
10.30am	C. Duddy	10.30am	J. Littlejohn
	I. Maxfield		A. O'Neill
	J. Russell		N. Keenan

Marriage, Family & Life Mission - Can You Help?

In the Diocese we now have the Marriage, Family, and Life Mission as one of our Priority Missions under the dedicated leadership of Deacon David Harper. Along with Deacon David Bishop Toal would like to promote, strengthen and celebrate the Mission in every parish. In order to do this, Bishop Toal would like parishioners to be identified to establish the Mission in the parishes and to represent the parish in our diocesan Marriage, Family & Life Mission. With this aim Bishop Toal ask each Parish Priest to put forward:

- **At least one couple as Ambassadors for Marriage**
- **At least one family as Ambassadors for Family**
- **At least one parishioner as an Ambassador for Life**

Through these representatives there will be opportunity for our parish to be a voice in the diocesan endeavour—a channel of grace, collaboration, and missionary zeal. It will encourage people to take an interest in the Diocese of Motherwell through the Marriage, Family, and Life Mission, helping to build a culture where love is strengthened, families are supported, and every human life is cherished.

The remit and role of the Marriage, Family & Life Ambassadors

The Diocese of Motherwell MF&L Mission invites parishioners to share in the vibrant mission of supporting Marriage, Family and Life by becoming an Ambassador. Each ambassador role is rooted in joyful witness, active participation and a desire to strengthen the heart of our parishes. Ambassadors help ensure every parish is connected, every voice is heard and every vocation is nurtured.

Marriage Ambassador

The role of Marriage Ambassadors will be to joyfully witness to the beauty of the sacrament of matrimony—living their vocation with love, faith and commitment. By sharing the joy you find in your marriage, you help inspire and support couples within your parish and beyond.

Your role includes staying connected with the Diocesan MF&L Mission Team through quarterly meetings, communicating parish needs, and highlighting initiatives that support engaged and married couples. As the link between parish and diocese, you help shape how the Church accompanies couples at every stage of their journey.

Family Ambassador

The role of Family Ambassadors is to celebrate and support the diverse and everyday holiness of family life. Through your witness you help shine a light on the joys and challenges families today experience.

By attending quarterly gatherings with the MF&L Mission Team and sharing what's happening in your parish, you ensure families are truly seen, heard and supported. Your role helps strengthen the network of care around families and contributes to shaping diocesan priorities for family accompaniment, encouraging both parish and diocesan initiatives that nurture them spiritually, socially and pastorally.

Life Ambassador

The role of the Life Ambassadors will be to champion the Church's message that every human life is precious, purposeful and loved by God. In fulfilling this role you help both your parish and the diocese engage with life-affirming initiatives, prayer, education and outreach—promoting the dignity of every Human life from conception to a natural death.

In partnership with the Diocesan MF&L Mission Team, you participate in quarterly meetings, attend the Diocesan monthly Mass for Life, share parish experiences and communicate opportunities for involvement. As a bridge between parish and diocese, you help foster a compassionate and hopeful culture of life throughout the diocese.

A Shared Mission

Across all three ambassador roles, the mission is the same: to be a joyful witness, a voice for your parish, and a vital connection in building a diocese where marriage, family and life are supported, celebrated and strengthened. If you feel called to share your gifts and passion in any of these areas, we welcome you to take part in this inspiring diocesan mission.

*“Come be living witnesses – Ambassadors of Marriage, Family & Life,
and let your home become the light of Christ in our world.”*

If any parishioner feels they would like to represent our parish they should speak to Fr John-Paul. Bishop Toal has asked each parish to be represented, if no one volunteers Fr John-Paul will have to approach some candidates, and we ask you be as open as possible. This is a very important mission within the life of the Church and our Diocese.