



## Saint Mary's Parish Lanark & Saint Isidore's Parish Biggar



31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
5th November 2023

### Why we offer Mass for the dead

As Catholics, we believe the Church is a living, breathing, visible reality. Besides its spiritual attributes, it can be identified and seen. Traditionally, the Church has been understood in three parts: “the Church Militant,” “the Church Triumphant” and “the Church Suffering.”

- We who are alive today belong to the Church Militant — involved in living out our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ, and making and forming disciples by passing on the faith. Fundamentally, we “fight the good fight” of the Christian life.
- The Church Triumphant is the saints in heaven — all the people, whether formally canonized or not, who are with the Lord Jesus and who pray for us here on earth. Triumphantly, they cheer us on by their prayers and example.
- Finally, we have the Church Suffering. They are the souls of the dead, who are saved and being prepared for heaven in purgatory. They are greatly helped by our prayers.



As we can see, the Church is bigger than just here and now. It transcends time and space. With this preamble, what is the purpose of Mass intentions for the dead? Mass intentions can be applied to living persons, but why pray for the dead? What is the spiritual purpose?

As Catholics, we believe the Mass is the highest act of worship — the greatest form of prayer. Every Mass is a participation in the one, infinite sacrifice of Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Each Mass also continues the Last Supper where Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood.

Fundamentally, at Mass we worship God and offer our prayers along with the priest to God the Father, through the saving action of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We know the practice of Masses for souls of the dead dates to the early church. But if the souls of those who have died are in heaven, they don't need our prayers. Correct! And if the souls of those who have died are in hell, our prayers will do no good since their souls are lost for eternity. Sadly true.

However, if those who have died are being purified in purgatory and on their way to heaven, our prayers can be enormously helpful. Praying for the dead is a great act of mercy. We pray that their time of purification might be quick and complete and that, through God's grace, they might enjoy the glories of heaven. What better way to pray for those who have died than to apply the most powerful prayer of the Mass?

Hence, we see the origin and rationale of Mass intentions for the dead. Incidentally, references to this practice can be found in the 12th chapter of the Second Book of Maccabees as well as various places in the New Testament. Praying for the dead and the reality of purgatory remains a dogmatic teaching of our Catholic faith.

Remember that what we do here on earth has spiritual ramifications. Praying for the dead, lighting a candle which symbolizes this prayer and offering a Mass for these souls is a beautiful and powerful way to live our faith. We are all united in this one Church — militant, triumphant and suffering. And we care for each other by our prayers.

# Weekly Parish Schedule

*Daily Mass & Devotions from St Mary's are Livestreamed on the parish Facebook Page and broadcast on the parish YouTube Channel.*

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

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**12.35pm** Tea, Coffee & Home Baking (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Monday 6th November** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 4pm*

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 7th November**

**10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

**11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)

**11.40am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**12noon** Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony (St Mary's)

**7.00pm** RCIA (St Mary's Chapel House)

**Wednesday 8th November**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

**10.00am** Church Cleaning (St Mary's)

**7.00pm** Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)

**Thursday 9th November**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**9.30am** Holy Mass for All Souls Day (St Mary's)

**7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

**Friday 10th November**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

**Saturday 11th November**

**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)

**4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)

**4.30pm** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Sunday 12th November** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**1.30pm** Afternoon Tea - Ticketed Event (St Mary's Clubrooms)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



## Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting an Afternoon Tea next Sunday, 12th November, at 1.30pm for 2pm in the Clubrooms. There are still a few tickets available. Tickets are priced £10 and this includes afternoon tea with Prosecco. Please see any of the girls on social committee if you want a ticket. **ONLY 10 TICKETS LEFT**



## Parish Disco

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to the Parish Disco on Saturday 21st October. It was a great night and as well as having fun we managed to raise £385.

*Thank you very much to the Social Committee for organising such a great event,  
and for all their dedication and hard work!*

## November Lists

November Lists are available at the back of the church for anyone who still wishes to complete one. Completed lists can be put in the box at the Lady Altar or placed in the collection basket with your weekly offering.

During the month of November Mass is offered everyday for the souls of those named in our November Lists and placed before our altar.

## Annual Requiem Mass

This year our Annual Requiem Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's on **Thursday 30th November, at 7pm**. The Choir of St Mary's will lead us in our singing, and will perform some beautiful pieces of reflective music.

In a very special way those who have been buried from our parish over the past year will be named and remembered at that Mass.

## Clubrooms Volunteers

Due to the wonderful work of Heather as Clubrooms Manager, we are delighted to announce the surge in bookings over the next 2 months; because of this, we are in URGENT need of volunteers to help the current group of volunteers who already do a fantastic job! We are so blessed to have such numbers volunteering in our parish, but we would always welcome more. If you are able to offer some time, no matter how short, or how frequent, please email Heather [theclubrooms@outlook.com](mailto:theclubrooms@outlook.com) or call/text **07300857616** or come along to the Clubrooms tomorrow, **Monday 6th November at 6.30pm** for a short meeting.

The income from the Clubrooms is important to the parish in order to help with the increased costs of maintaining and advancing a number of grade A listed buildings. Please do consider offering some time in this area if you can.

## Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon 2nd-9th July 2024

The 8 day/7 nights pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon will take place from Tuesday 2nd July until Tuesday 9th July 2024. Booking forms are available at the stall from this weekend. Those who intend to travel on the pilgrimage are asked to return the booking forms by **Sunday 26th November**. The price of the pilgrimage is around £699 excluding flights; this includes return transfers here in Scotland, transfers from Lisbon to Fatima, half day visit to Valinhos and Aljustrel, day visit to Batalha Monastery and the fishing town of Escorial, and for the four star hotel in Fatima. The deposit of £400 will be required with the booking form, with another £100 10 weeks after the first deposit, with the final balance due to be paid 12 weeks prior to departure. The flights will be priced once released, in January, and will be around £400 in total. If you do not want to share a room, a single room supplement is required.



Once we have all the returned booking forms we will arrange a meeting. We very much look forward to travelling with Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Larkhall and Blackwood, and thank Fr Sean for organising the pilgrimage. If you have any questions please speak to Fr John-Paul.



**Holy Trinity Chapel**  
Lamington  
Biggar  
ML12 6HW



**Parish Priest**  
**Father John-Paul McShane**  
St Mary's Church  
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**St Mary's**  
70 Bannatyne Street  
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Charity No - SC011041



## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead:** Tommy Boyle; Rena Thomson; Rita Visocchi (Kirriemuir); Lynn Woods; Mary Jones (Swansea); Wilma Maitland; Grace Russell; Terence Seeley.

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Fr Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Kate Hanlon; William John Kelly; Elizabeth Goldie; Mary Doherty; Christopher Alcock; Jessie Hynds; Mae Graham; Hugh McFarlane; Jim White; Jim Reid; Thomas Cloonan; Mary Murray; John Alcock; Rosemary Steele; Sarah Gordon; Bob Oliver; All Souls Named in Our November Lists.

*There Is One Thing I Ask Of The Lord;  
That He Grant Me My Heartfelt Desire.  
To Dwell In The Courts Of Our God  
Every Day Of My Life In His Presence.*

## St Mary's Floor & Sacristy Corridor

The tiled flooring in St Mary's has now been stripped and restored to its original beauty. The floor has been coated with a matt finish in order to direct your eye to the altar. The matt finish will also be much easier to maintain over the winter months. We very much offer our thanks to John Reilly and Giovanna Coia, along with our wonderful team of cleaners, who maintain the church floor every week, along with Jerry, Jim and Sean who polish and buff the floor on a regular basis. Thank you to the donors who made generous donations to allow this work to be carried out.

We also take this opportunity to thank Jerry, Jim and Sean for their incredible work in the sacristy corridor. They have removed the carpet tiles and restored the original tile flooring. They also hand crafted wood panelling on the corridor walls in order to give character to the corridor. God bless them for using their gifts and talents to enhance the beauty of our church!!

## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

<b><u>4th/5th November</u></b>	<b><u>18th/19th November</u></b>
5.00pm G. Abernethy	5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am M. McCusker	10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm N. Donnelly
<b><u>11th/12th November</u></b>	<b><u>25th/26th November</u></b>
5.00pm A. Haetzman	5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am R. Colpitts	10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm S. Casserly

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<b><u>4th/5th November</u></b>	<b><u>18th/19th November</u></b>
5.00pm A. Dempsey	5.00pm M. Keenan
C. Scott	P. Stewart
10.30am P. Cunningham	10.30am G. Duddy
A. Cruikshank	T. Mullen
<b><u>11th/12th November</u></b>	<b><u>25th/26th November</u></b>
5.00pm P. Freel	5.00pm T. Mullen
J. McEwan	C. McClafferty
10.30am M. Davis	10.30am C. Duddy
C. O'Brien	V. Hilland