



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

3rd Sunday Lent
3rd March 2024



Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism & Confirmation

The word “baptism” comes from the Greek word *baptizein* which means to plunge or immerse. Baptism has its roots in Judaism where converts had to undergo a purificatory bath as part of the rite of conversion. Jesus began his public life after being baptised by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples: “Go therefor and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all the commands I gave you.”



Baptism marks the entry of the believer into the Christian community. Along with confirmation and the Eucharist, baptism is one of the sacraments of initiation. It has rather as a sort of gate which opens into other sacraments. Through baptism, we have access to the full sacramental life of the Church. We are freed from sin and joined with Christ, sharing in his divinity and destined for eternal life. Baptism leave us indelibly marked and permanently changed. One baptised, we are no longer the person we once were. We have been reborn, dying to death and sin, and rising to new life with Christ.

Baptism cleanses us from sin. This means that it cleanses us from all sins which we have committed so far. The early Church had a problem - what if you committed sin after baptism? Could you be forgiven these too? At first the Church was not sure it had the power to forgive sins committed after baptism, and this became such a cause of anxiety that many delayed their baptism as long as possible because they did not want to fall into serious sin and have no way of remedying the situation. St Augustine was not baptised until he was well into his thirties and St Ambrose waited until he was thirty-four, and then it was part of the ceremony which made him into a bishop! Obviously this situation was not a very healthy one, and the Church gradually evolved mechanisms for dealing with post-baptismal sin. A system of penances was instituted which became the early form of our modern-day sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

Confirmation originally formed part of the joint rite of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist, which were all give to the new convert at the same time. Even small infants were simultaneously baptised, confirmed and given communion. If children were too small to receive the consecrated bread, a small drop of the consecrated wine was dabbed on their lips. Nowadays adult converts are still baptised and confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the same time, but infants are generally baptised a few days/weeks after their birth, receive the Eucharist when they are eight and are confirmed when they are ten/eleven.

Before Jesus was put to death, he promised his followers that he would send the Spirit to comfort and strengthen them. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the apostles. The sacrament of confirmation is our own Pentecost. When we are confirmed the Holy Spirit is poured out onto us so that we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Confirmation is administered by anointing with the oil of Chrism an the laying on of hands. The bishop or priest places his hands on the head of the candidates and then anoints their foreheads with holy oil, saying the words: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”. In Jesus’ time soldiers were marked with their leader’s seal and slaves with their master’s. By receiving the seal of the Holy Spirit we show that we belong to God. Being anointed is a sign of ownership and belonging, but is also elevates us to a higher position. In the Old testament, priests, prophets and kings were all anointed with oil.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 3rd March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 11.15am** Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.45pm** Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 4th March *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 (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Angelus & Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

Tuesday 5th March

- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)
- 11.40am** Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

NO EVENING SERVICES

Wednesday 6th March

- 9.10am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 10.00am** Lenten Prayer Group (St Catherine's)

NO EVENING SERVICES

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

Thursday 7th March

- 8.25am** Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 9.10am** Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Susan Gibb (St Mary's)
- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 8th March

- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am (St Mary's)
- 9.10am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 9th March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 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 4th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

Sunday 10th March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.45pm** Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction (St Mary's)



Parish Disco 23rd March

The Social Committee are hosting a Parish Disco Night on Saturday 23rd March. Tickets are £7, which includes entry and nibbles. The bar will be opened from 7.30pm til late. For tickets, please contact any of the girls on the social committee.

The Disco Nights are a great evening of fun and entertainment,
if you have not been before why not give it ago.....



Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,253.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £90.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish

St Marys Mission RCDM

80-17-02 00265809

SCIAF Wee Boxes

For years, the Scottish Catholic Church has reached out in generosity to those in some of the world's poorest places. We are able to do so through the great work of SCIAF, particularly through the WEE BOX appeal.

Please return any WEE BOXES before
Easter Sunday.
Thank you



Easter Raffle & Coffee Morning

The Easter Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 31st March after 10.30 Mass. The Easter Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. The girls will be selling raffle tickets for this event at Masses from 2nd/3rd March. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support.

Special Collection 25th February

Thank you very much for your generosity last weekend towards the collection for the care of the Sick & Retired Priests of the Diocese:

St Isidore's £90

St Mary's £1,000.00

SCIAF Collection 10th March

Each year we are asked to take up a Second Collection for SCIAF Sunday. A Second Collection will be taken up at all Masses on weekend **9th/10th March**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

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 cleared marked 'FOODBANK'.



The Big Lent Walk for SCIAF and CAFOD

Sr Margaret has been taking part in the Big Lent Walk since Ash Wednesday. SCIAF and CAFOD are raising funds to help those many people who continue to face poverty across the world. By participating in the Big Lent Walk 2024 Sr Margaret will help people receive training and are given the necessary skills and tools to start again. The Sponsor Form is available at St Catherine's.

Parish Pilgrimage Fatima & Lisbon

The pilgrims intending on travelling with the Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon (2nd-9th July) are asked to make a second deposit of **£150** towards the cost of the trip. This deposit is due this week. The final balance will be due 10 weeks before departure, on or before 24th April. Payment can be made via bank transfer -

Account Name: **Alba Tours Ltd**

Account Number: **00898164**

Sort Code: **80-22-60**

Ref: **STMALA0207+ your surname**

In preparation for our pilgrimage, a meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th March**. We will gather in Our Lady & St John's, Blackwood, for Mass at 7pm, followed by a meeting with Anne Marie Cairns from Alba Tours.



Holy Trinity Chapel
Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest
Father John-Paul McShane
St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark ML11 7JS
01555 662234
frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark
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stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Susan Gibb Overtown (Formerly Rigside)
Estelle Higgins Armadale Road
Liam Ritchie (Wishawhill); Eva Tait; Luanna & Ugo Ungaretti; Bobby Doris Flynn; Baby Luca John Gunning;
Marie McTaggart (Larkhall).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Father Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane;
Tom Dale; Stuart Gordon; Edward Hanlon; Archie Lindsay; Annie Clarke Gunning; Jessica & John Christie.

Funeral Arrangements: Susan Gibb Requiem Mass: Thursday 7th March, 9.30am St Mary's
Estelle Higgins Requiem Mass: Wednesday 13th March, 9.30am St Mary's

*Blessed are those who have died in the Lord,
Let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them!*

St Michael Statue

Since May of 2022, churches, convents, monasteries and houses of prayer throughout Scotland have opened their doors to welcome a visit of the Saint Michael Pilgrim Statue [replica of the statue at Mount Gargano, Italy] where thousands of Catholics, adults and children alike, have come to visit the statue to experience it's beauty and to seek the intercessory help of Saint Michael the Archangel.

We are honoured to host the Pilgrim Statue, which will arrive in St Mary's on Monday, 4th March. The Statue will be with us for several weeks, and during this time we will have a variety of additional novenas and prayer services, to seek the intercession of St Michael the Archangel.

We hope that St Michael will bless our parish, school, families and town, and give us his protections too.

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

2nd/3rd March
5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm M. Davis

9th/10th March
5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm S. Casserly

16th/17th March
5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm N. Donnelly

23rd/24th March
5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

2nd/3rd March
5.00pm M. Keenan
P. Stewart
10.30am P. Cunningham
A. Cruikshank
J. McFarlane

9th/10th March
5.00pm J. McEwan
C. McClafferty
10.30am M. Davis
C. O'Brien
J. McAlavey

16th/17th March
5.00pm K. Bryce
J. McClafferty
10.30am J. Littlejohn
M. Keenan
M. Keenan

23rd/24th March
5.00pm A. Dempsey
C. Scott
10.30am G. Duddy
S. Callaghan
B. Farrell