



**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
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Charity No - SC011041

PARISH CLERGY
Father John-Paul McShane
Father Thomas Devine

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3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
23th January 2022

Word of God Sunday

The word of God draws each of us into a conversation with the Lord: the God who speaks teaches us how to speak to him. Here we naturally think of the Book of Psalms, where God gives us words to speak to him, to place our lives before him, and thus to make life itself a path to God. In the Psalms we find expressed every possible human feeling set masterfully in the sight of God; joy and pain, distress and hope, fear and trepidation: here all find expression. Along with the Psalms we think too of the many other passages of sacred Scripture which express our turning to God in intercessory prayer (cf. Ex 33:12-16), in exultant songs of victory (cf. Ex 15) or in sorrow at the difficulties experienced in carrying out our mission (cf. Jer 20:7-18). In this way our word to God becomes God's word, thus confirming the dialogical nature of all Christian revelation, and our whole existence becomes a dialogue with the God who speaks and listens, who calls us and gives direction to our lives. Here the word of God reveals that our entire life is under the divine call.



The word of God also inevitably reveals the tragic possibility that human freedom can withdraw from this covenant dialogue with God for which we were created. The divine word also discloses the sin that lurks in the human heart. Quite frequently in both the Old and in the New Testament, we find sin described as a refusal to hear the word, as a breaking of the covenant and thus as being closed to God who calls us to communion with himself. Sacred Scripture shows how man's sin is essentially disobedience and refusal to hear. The radical obedience of Jesus even to his death on the cross (cf. Phil 2:8) completely unmasks this sin. His obedience brings about the New Covenant between God and man, and grants us the possibility of reconciliation. Jesus was sent by the Father as a sacrifice of atonement for our sins and for those of the whole world (cf. 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10; Heb 7:27). We are thus offered the merciful possibility of redemption and the start of a new life in Christ. For this reason it is important that the faithful be taught to acknowledge that the root of sin lies in the refusal to hear the word of the Lord, and to accept in Jesus, the Word of God, the forgiveness which opens us to salvation.

May every day of our lives thus be shaped by a renewed encounter with Christ, the Word of the Father made flesh: he stands at the beginning and the end, and "in him all things hold together" (Col 1:17). Let us be silent in order to hear the Lord's word and to meditate upon it, so that by the working of the Holy Spirit it may remain in our hearts and speak to us all the days of our lives. In this way the Church will always be renewed and rejuvenated, thanks to the word of the Lord which remains for ever.

Excerpts from the Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, Verbum Domini, of Pope Benedict XVI to the bishops, clergy, consecrated persons and the lay faithful on the Word of God in the life and mission of the church. 30th September 2010

St Isidore's Church Update

Work has now started in St Isidore's House. Over the last two weeks, preparatory work has been carried out in the building, making sure there is no more water lying under floorboards or above ceilings. Being an old building, the workmen have encountered some 'surprises' along the way, but nothing to impact or interrupt their work too much. There are still some building work waiting to be carried out on walls and ceilings, where the water penetrated the house. This work should hopefully take place over the next few weeks, and then the redecoration will be able to commence. Once again we thank you very much for your patience and we also thank Rev Mike and all at Biggar Kirk for allowing us the continued use of the Kirk for the celebration of Holy Mass.

As many of you are aware, a Planning Application has been lodged with South Lanarkshire Council, by DTA, on behalf of the church, in order to gain planning permission for four houses in the rear field of St Isidore's. Unfortunately, due to circumstances out with the control of the Church, we were unable to make these plans available to the parish before submission, mainly due to the lack of time we had to act (plans were drafted and submitted within a week or so). We hope to update you on these plans as we go along, but as you will see evidenced in the Financial Returns, the parish finances are rather desperate and we require this funding.

RCIA

As the Omicron variant settles, we are now looking to restart RCIA. We are hopeful that RCIA will begin again at the end of February. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for any further updates.



Financial Returns

The Financial Returns have now been completed and submitted to the Diocese. The Returns will be shared with the Fabric and Finance Committee this week and will, hopefully, be made available to parishioners next weekend.

Birthday Congratulations

We take this opportunity to wish Mrs Caulfield, of St Mary's, Lanark, many congratulations on reaching her 100th birthday a few weeks ago.

We also congratulate Ena, from St Mary Magdalene's, Forth, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Tuesday.

No Mass in Forth or Biggar

After 16 months from moving to the parish, Fr John-Paul will be taking a week's annual leave, which will consist of two weekends. This will mean that there will be **NO** Masses in St Mary Magdalene's during the month of February, and **NO** Masses in Biggar on **Sunday 6th, or Sunday 13th, February**. You are encouraged to attend Mass in Lanark if possible.

The Synod In Our Parish

The theme of the Synod is "For a synodal Church: Participation, Communion, and Mission". Bishops and other delegates representing the Universal Church will meet in Rome but, before that, Pope Francis has invited the whole People of God to participate. He has asked, indeed strongly insisted, that each Diocese set up a process in which all the baptised can meet in prayer, listening, and discerning to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at this moment in history. An important invitation has been given and as the Diocese of Motherwell we must try to respond

As we begin this process at parish level, please find below some useful contact information, and meeting locations and times, that we hope you will be able to attend. Everyone is invited, no one is excluded. You are free to attend both meetings or just one. Our hope will be that all information will be collated and shared with the parish before being returned to the Diocese.

Wednesday 26th January 2022, 7pm-8.15pm
Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar

Thursday 24th February 2022, 7pm-8.15pm
St Mary's Clubrooms, Lanark

If you would like more information, please contact our Parish Coordinators; Gillean McCluskey 07854012277 or Frances Spence 07796388240, or check out the links below:

<https://youtu.be/U4PWSir1Ovk>

<https://youtu.be/Jp-Ca4ri9BM>



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - Sister Margaret Colbert St Catherine's
Michael Coyle Wallace Way

Sr Mary Carmel of the Holy Spirit; Margaret McCrossan; Gary Stonebanks; Catherine Innes (Blantyre); Alli Adams (Blantyre).

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Rose Kelly; Gerry O'Hanlon; Patricia Dunphy; Stuart McDougal; Mary McTaggart; Francis Vincent Larkins; Catherine Grant; Nora O'Callaghan.

Funeral Arrangements - Sr Margaret Colbert Requiem Mass: Monday 31st January 12noon.

Michael Coyle Requiem Mass: Thursday 3rd February 9.30am.

Clydesdale Foodbank

Next weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection to help support Clydesdale Foodbank. Bags of shopping can be handed to any pass-keeper, or left in the sacristy. Monetary donations can be placed in the basket with your weekly offering. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the Foodbank.

Covid Memorial Plaque

Fr John-Paul has had a Covid Memorial Plaque commissioned to remember all those who suffered, and all those who died during the Covid-19 pandemic. The plaque consists of the Cross of Suffering and the Crown of Glory. The former to represent the suffering endured, and the latter to represent the reward that awaits us all. The plaque has been delivered and should be installed within the church porch, hopefully before the second anniversary of the first lockdown. Many thanks to the Choir of St Mary's who very generously paid for this memorial and its erection.

St Rock pray for us

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 980.00

Standing Orders: £ -----

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: £ -----

Standing Orders: £ -----

(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:

22nd/23rd January

5.00pm A. Haetzman

10.30am K. Carty

5.00pm M. Davis

5th/6th February

5.00pm G. Abernethy

10.30am P. Roberts

5.00pm M. Davis

29th/30th January

5.00pm J. Moynagh

10.30am Sr. Brady

5.00pm S. Casserly

12th/13th February

5.00pm R. McConnell

10.30am S. Watson

5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

22nd/23rd January

5.00pm J McClafferty

M. Davis

10.30am P Cunningham

A Cruickshank

5th/6th February

5.00pm A. Dempsey

C. Scott

10.30am J. Wilson

C. Duddy

29th/30th January

5.00pm P. Freel

J. McEwan

10.30am J. McAlavey

M. Keenan

12th/13th February

5.00pm P. Freel

J. McEwan

10.30am G. Duddy

T. Mullen

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 23rd January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 24th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph - Week 2 (St Mary's)

Tuesday 25th January

- 10.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)
12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 26th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
7.00pm Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)

Thursday 27th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Friday 28th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 29th January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 30th January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

*The 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's
are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.*

Liturgical Calendar

Monday 24th January St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church - Born in Savoy (France) in 1567; died in Lyons in 1622. As a presbyter and as bishop of Geneva, he played a major part in the renewal of 17th-century French Catholicism. Seen by many as an early proponent of ecumenical dialogue. His writings promoted a spirituality for laypeople.

Tuesday 25th January Conversion of St Paul, Apostle - This date, first linked with the conversion of Saint Paul in the so-called Martyrdom of Jerome (c. 431), became established in the liturgy of Gaul. Celebrates the work of God's grace at a major turning point in the life of Paul himself and in the history of the infant Church.

Thursday 27th January Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops - Both died toward the end of the first century. Disciples and associates of Saint Paul the apostle, who seem to have attended the Council of Jerusalem with him. Timothy represented Saint Paul to various communities and, according to tradition, was eventually placed in charge of the Church at Ephesus. Titus was asked to organise the Church in Crete. Honoured as the leaders to whom the pastoral letters of the New Testament are addressed.

Friday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church - Born near Aquino (Italy) about 1225; died on his way to the Council of Lyons in 1274. Educated at Monte Cassino, Naples, Paris, and Cologne, he became a Dominican in 1244. Regarded as one of the greatest theologians in the history of the Church. Noted for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.