

St Mary's Lanark

A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell (founded 1859) Charity No - SC011041

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Parish Priest

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St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

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4th Sunday of Advent

21st December 2025

Our Lady During Advent

Advent is a season of holy waiting—of quiet hope, patient trust, and longing for God's promises to be fulfilled. In this sacred time, the Church invites us to look to Our Lady, who embodies Advent more perfectly than any other disciple.

Mary stands at the centre of Advent not as a distant figure, but as a mother who teaches us how to wait. Her life was shaped by expectation: the hopes of Israel, the promise of the angel, and the mystery growing silently within her womb. She teaches us that waiting is not passive. It is active faith—listening, trusting, and allowing God to work in ways beyond our understanding.

At the Annunciation, Mary hears a word that changes everything. Her "Yes" is not spoken from certainty, but from trust. She does not know the details of what lies ahead, yet she entrusts her future to God: "Let it be done to me according to your word." During Advent, Mary invites us to echo that same openness—to say "yes" to God even when our path is unclear.

Mary also shows us that Advent hope is carried in humility and silence. For months, she bears Christ hidden from the world. There is no applause, no recognition—only quiet fidelity. In a noisy world that demands instant results, Our Lady teaches us to treasure stillness, to allow Christ to grow within us through prayer, patience, and love.



When Mary visits Elizabeth, her joy overflows in the Magnificat. Advent is not only about waiting; it is about rejoicing in what God has already begun. Mary helps us recognize the small signs of God's faithfulness in our own lives—moments of grace, healing, and promise that remind us God is near.

As we journey through Advent, Our Lady walks with us. She encourages us to trust God's timing, to carry Christ into our families and communities, and to prepare room in our hearts for Emmanuel—God with us.

May Mary, Mother of Hope, teach us how to wait with faith, to listen with love, and to welcome Christ with joy.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 21st December St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

9.45am Confessions until 10.15am

10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning & Christmas Raffle (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

5.30pm Confessions until 6pm

Monday 22nd December St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm

9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tuesday 23rd December

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

Wednesday 24th December

5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Choir (St Mary's)

7.30pm Carols by The Choir of St Mary's (St Mary's)

8.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

Thursday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Day Mass (St Mary's)

12.15pm Christmas Day Mass (Holy Trinity)

Friday 26th December

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 27th December St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass

9.30am Holy Mass

4.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)

Sunday 28th December St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

10.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 5pm Mass: The Children's Choir will lead the music for this Mass—and we hope a special guest will find time to visit us at the end of Mass.

Christmas Eve 8pm: The Choir of St Mary's will lead this Solemn Mass with more traditional carols and hymns.

Christmas Day Masses: Both the 10.30am and 12.15pm Masses will be accompanied by the parish choirs.

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 given to Fr John-Paul in plenty time.

Coffee Morning/Christmas Raffle

The next coffee morning will take place on **Sunday 21st December** after 10.30am Mass. The Christmas Raffle Draw will also take place at this event.

Raffle tickets will be available from weekend 15th/16th November.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care & Sports Committee recently met to consider further amendments to the Assisted Dying Bill. They dismissed several proposed safeguards, including limiting eligibility to those with six months or less to live (including intellectual disability or eating disorders, poverty or inadequate housing). They went further and rejected an amendment which will allow doctors to initiate discussions on assisted suicide with their patients, and also voted against permitting hospices and care homes to opt out of facilitating assisted suicide. Please contact your MSP through a simple process at <https://carenottkilling.scot/>

Greta Reilly Memorial Mass

Holy Mass will be offered in Holy Trinity today (Sunday 21st December) for the Repose of the Soul of Greta Reilly. As you know, Greta's Requiem Mass was celebrated in Biggar Kirk on Tuesday, and this will give parishioners the opportunity to pray together for Greta.

Greta's family would like to thank parishioners for the many condolences received and prayers offered.

RCIA - Welcome

With great joy, we welcome and congratulate Maisie, Gill, Grant, Leona & Jason as they complete their RCIA journey after celebrating their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Nourished by the Eucharist and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we pray they may continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Fr John-Paul would like to thank those who helped prepare our Candidates over the last 6 months by way of leading sessions and answering questions. Jimmy and Irene who accompanied and prepared Maisie; Patricia who was involved in accompanying and preparing Gill and Grant; and Mary Margaret and Bernadette who prepared and accompanied Leona and Jason. We are very blessed to have so many good and able people in our parish who love to share their faith with others!

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or know of someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic, please speak to Fr John-Paul.

The Choir of St Mary's 'An Afternoon of Christmas Joy'

It was wonderful to see the Clubrooms full last Saturday for the Christmas Concert, performed by The Choir of St Mary's, and special guests.

All ticket sales, donations and raffle money was donated to the Wayside Club in Glasgow. A total of £953 was raised.

The Choir would like to thank all those who attended and for all those who donated money or bought raffle tickets. God bless your generosity to this great cause!

Christmas Mass Times 2025

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (Children's Choir)
- 7.30pm Carol Service (The Choir of St Mary's)
- 8.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 10.30am Day Mass of Christmas
- 12.15pm Day Mass of Christmas (Holy Trinity)





Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Greta Reilly; Kathleen McComish; Jim McCartney (Uddingston);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Jim Reilly; John Doolan; Ella Caddle; William Kennedy; Tom, Kathleen, David, Steven & Joanne Flannigan; All Victims of the Lockerbie Disaster; John Renton;

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Christmas Remembrance Masses: If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Christmas Bulletin, please hand in their names before **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER**. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection, but please write on the envelope **CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE**, and please print the names clearly to avoid typing errors.



Liturgical Calendar

Friday 26th December, St Stephen, Martyr - In light of what was to Stephen, how amazing were his final words, praying to God to pardon his killers. His "crime" was to have spoken hard truths that his audience did not want to hear. So the frenzied mob put him to death by stoning. Under the rocks crushing out his life, Stephen commended his spirit to Jesus, and with his dying breath prayed for his killers.

Saturday 27th December, St John, Apostle & Evangelist - What distinguishes this disciple from the others is that he received and responded more fully to the love of Jesus than all others. He was the only male disciple present at the foot of the cross. His love brought him to the empty tomb quicker than Peter; his love gave him the insight to recognize the true meaning of the empty tomb; and ultimately to grasp and to proclaim the mystery of the Word-made-flesh: that Jesus was God-incarnate.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,181.00
Standing Orders: £ 384.50
Votives: £ 160.00
Stall: £ 60.00

St Marys Mission RCDM

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Thank you for your
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

20th/21st December		3rd/4th January	
5.00pm	R. McConnell	5.00pm	F. Chung
10.30am	J. Russell	10.30am	A. Servers
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	S. Casserly
27th/28th December		10th/11th January	
5.00pm	T. Coia	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	J. Angus	10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

20th/21st December		3rd/4th January	
5.00pm	M. Keenan	5.00pm	A. Dempsey
	C. Callaghan		J. McBride
10.30am	C. Duddy	10.30am	G. Duddy
	I. Maxfield		A. Gillespie
	M. Russell		M. Keenan
27th/28th December		10th/11th January	
5.00pm	F. McBride	5.00pm	C. Scott
	R. Sinton		S. Callaghan
10.30am	K. Lawrence	10.30am	K. Lawrence
	J. McFarlane		J. McFarlane
	J. Russell		M. Russell