



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

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
28th January 2024**



Presentation of the Lord

Traditionally, the Church has set aside February 2nd in observance of the Presentation of the Lord – or the day in which Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to the priests and elders in the Temple.

For years, this feast marked the end of the Christmas season. In old days, the Presentation was often referred to as “Candlemas” and was celebrated by a candle-lit procession into the church, signifying Christ as the “light of nations.”

Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. We know that the Church at Jerusalem was observing the feast as early as the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier.



According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to “buy him back” on the 40th day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:24) in the temple — thus the “presentation” of the child. On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified — thus the “purification.”

Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph kept this law, even though, since Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Christ, she would not have had to go through ritual purification. In his Gospel, Luke (2:22-39) recounts the story.

Originally, the feast was celebrated on February 14th, the 40th day after Epiphany (January 6th), because Christmas wasn't yet celebrated as its own feast, and so the Nativity, Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and the feast celebrating Christ's first miracle at the wedding in Cana were all celebrated on the same day. By the last quarter of the fourth century, however, the Church at Rome had begun to celebrate the Nativity on December 25th, so the Feast of the Presentation was moved to February 2nd, 40 days later.

When Christ was presented in the temple, “there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel.” When Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph brought Christ to the temple, Simeon embraced the Child and prayed the Cantic of Simeon: “Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

Because of the words of the canticle — “a light to the revelation of the Gentiles” — by the 11th century, the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Cantic of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. While the procession and blessing of the candles is not often performed in many parishes today, Candlemas is still an important feast in the Church.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 28th January *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 29th January *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)

7.00pm Anniversary Mass for Fr Joseph Brannigan (St Mary's)

Tuesday 30th January

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)

1.00pm Funeral Service for Diane Curran (Brown's Parlour, Carstairs)

Wednesday 31st January

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 1st February

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

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

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

Friday 2nd February

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 3rd February *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 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 4th February *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm Tea/Coffee/Home Baking (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

St Mary's Memorial Plaques

Memorial Plaque forms are now available from the stall. We are aiming to send all completed forms to the engraver at the end of February. If you would like a plaque for a loved one please fill in a form and return it to Fr John-Paul. This is perhaps the last bulk order of plaques that we will be able to make, and depending of space and availability of materials, more plaques will be ordered on an individual basis.

Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **next 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'.

Lent 2024

Lent is only a few weeks away, and now is the time to prepare! Below are a list of Mass times for Ash Wednesday (14th February). At present Fr John-Paul is putting together a spiritual timetable of devotions and services for the Season of Lent, if there is anything you would like to see happen during Lent, or a particular devotion celebrated, please speak to Fr John-Paul, or drop him an email.

Ash Wednesday (14th February)

8.00am	Mass with Imposition of Ashes (Brief Mass for workers)
9.30am	Mass with Imposition of Ashes
7.00pm	Mass with Imposition of Ashes

All Masses will be in St Mary's

Wind Damage

Last week Storm Isha graced our lands with her presence, and left behind a trail of destruction, including damage to the Crucifix in front of the church. Since the renovation in 2012 the Calvary Scene has been an iconic image for St Mary's and sets the tone for our beautiful church. Fr John-Paul has contacted the man who made the Calvary Scene, although now retired, he has kindly agreed to reinstate the Crucifix. This is no easy task; he will need to carry out some repair work to the Corpus and make a completely new wooden cross.

The anchor system already in place has not been damaged and remains stable. The problem seems to be that water was gathering under the slabs and the wood of the cross was soaking up the water. In order to stop this happening in another 10 years time the engineer is designing a system that will secure the new cross and raise it out of the anchor point (above ground level) and allow the water to soak away. We are very grateful to the craftsmen who have kindly agreed to reinstate the Crucifix, and also to the parish volunteers who will help with labour and erecting the Cross. The above work will take several weeks, but we hope to have the Crucifix reinstated as quickly as we can.

Following Storm Isha was Storm Jocelyn, and Jocelyn brought her own troubles. During Storm Jocelyn the ceiling in the office of the house has come down, caused by extensive water damage. This will no doubt be an insurance job, and Fr John-Paul is in talks with builders and the Insurance Company to have these repairs carried out. Storm Jocelyn also caused some water ingress at the back of the church, mainly in the porch area. The tower and roof area will have to be inspected for damage and the paint damage to the walls and ceiling will have to be repaired. Again, we hope to have these repair works carried out as soon as possible.

Project Wellspring

Several months ago Fr John-Paul announced that the Diocese is launching Project Wellspring, to look at the Diocese as a whole and plan positively for the future. Project Wellspring is now going to be piloted through several parishes in the Diocese, one in each Deanery. We are delighted to announce that St Mary's is the chosen parish for the Wishaw Deanery. Very soon Fr John-Paul will gather a same group of parishioners, perhaps 4 or 5, to look at a parish renewal scheme. This stage will also take into account the questionnaire forms completed several months ago.

Initial talks will be to determine the needs of our parish and discern how best these needs can be met. This will also be a great opportunity to make sure that parishioners from Forth and Biggar feel included and valued within the parish, and what will work well for them. If you are approached by Fr John-Paul to join this Working Group please consider giving generously of your time.

Fr Joseph Brannigan Anniversary Mass

The 2nd of January 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of Fr Joe's death. As a parish, it is important we mark this anniversary in a special way, remembering the great work Fr Joe carried out in our beautiful church and the legacy he has left us. A special anniversary Mass will be celebrated on **Monday 29th January at 7pm**. Bishop Toal will celebrate the Mass and we hope some priests from the Diocese will also join us. After the Mass everyone is welcome to join us in the Clubrooms for tea/coffee/sandwiches. Monday 29th January would also have been Fr Joe's 70th birthday. Please make a special effort to come along to the Mass and pray for Fr Joe.





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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Charity No - SC011041



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Diane Curran Beechgrove Care Home
Paul Reilly; John Raw; John Greechan (Coatbridge); Martin Kaiser; Bernard Murphy (Shotts); Eileen Haggarty (Broughty Ferry); Anna McStay (Wishaw).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Mary McTaggart; Jim & Esther Oliver; Eddie, Annie & David Main; Violet Andie McGlone; Jimmy McEwan; Rose Kelly;

Funeral Arrangements: Diane Curran Funeral Service: Tuesday 30th January 1pm, Brown's Parlour

Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Mornings will take place next Sunday after morning Mass. As always, there will be a variety of home baking and sandwiches available, along with home made soup in St Mary's.

A huge thank you to all those who make the Coffee Mornings possible in both churches, to those who make/bring food, and to the organisers. Thank you to those who take the time to attend and foster community.



This month St Isidore's Coffee Morning is in aid of Mary's Meals.

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,075.00
Standing Orders: £ 425.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 125.00
Standing Orders: £ 33.50

St Marys Mission RCDM
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St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

27th/28th January

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm S. Casserly

10th/11th February

5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm M. Davis

3rd/4th February

5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm N. Donnelly

17th/18th February

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

27th/28th January

5.00pm J. McEwan
C. McClafferty
10.30am G. Duddy
T. Mullen
B. Farrell

3rd/4th February

5.00pm J. McClafferty
K. Bryce
10.30am C. O'Brien
M. Davis
J. McAlavey

10th/11th February

5.00pm A. Dempsey
C. Scott
10.30am C. Duddy
V. Hilland
D. McFarlane

17th/18th February

5.00pm J. McEwan
C. McClafferty
10.30am J. Littlejohn
M. Keenan
M. Kennan