

St Mary's Lanark

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

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Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

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St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

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6th Sunday of Easter

25th May 2025

Ascension Thursday

The Feast of the Ascension, also known as Ascension Thursday, commemorates the moment when the Lord Jesus ascended up into heaven, as his disciples witnessed forty days after his Resurrection. Luke 24 and Acts 1 provide the clearest accounts of this event. Scripture tells us that, after appearing to his followers over forty days, Jesus raised his hands and blessed them. Then, “while he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:50–52).

The Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem, is traditionally believed to be the site of this event. A cloud hid Jesus from their sight, symbolising the mystery of his divine presence (Acts 1:9-11). This moment marked Christ's return to heaven as the Incarnate Word, the risen God-man with a glorified human body and soul where he now reigns at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 1:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:21-22).

The days leading up to the Ascension are full of wonder and hope. After Jesus rose from the dead, he appears first to Mary Magdalene and then to the apostles. These post-resurrection appearances are key to the Church's proclamation that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day, just as he foretold (Matt. 16:21). A few common questions arise, e.g., how many saw Jesus ascend? Scripture indicates that the core group of his disciples, particularly his apostles, were present (Acts 1:2-3). The Ascension was not only a miraculous event, but Jesus, just prior to his ascent, also reaffirms that his apostles are to evangelise the whole world (Acts 1:8; cf. Matt. 28:18-20). So he prepares them for the coming on Pentecost of the Holy Spirit, who will empower the Church in fulfilling her mission (Acts 2:1-4).

The Catholic Feast of the Ascension is not simply a historical remembrance. It holds deep theological significance. The feast day of the Ascension marks the exaltation of Christ and the completion of his earthly ministry. Jesus ascends not to abandon us, but to intercede for us at the right hand of God, and to make way for the promised Holy Spirit — the advocate or “Counselor”, (John 14:16, 26; 15:26) — on Pentecost.

Through his Ascension, Jesus affirms his divine authority and points to our ultimate destiny. Where he has gone, we hope to follow (John 14:1-3). When we ask, “Where is Jesus?” or “When does Jesus come back to earth?” we are expressing our longing for the Second Coming and the fulfilment of his promise to return and take us to heaven (Matt. 25:31-34, 46).

The Ascension links Easter and Pentecost. After he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, and just before he ascends into heaven, Jesus instructs his disciples to wait in Jerusalem (Luke 24:44-52; Acts 1:4-9). Ten days later, on the fiftieth day after Easter, the Holy Spirit descends on the feast of Pentecost, fulfilling Jesus' promise. So, how many days after the resurrection is Pentecost? The answer: fifty, inclusive of Easter Sunday. The Ascension, then, is the turning point between the Resurrection and the Church's manifestation “to the world” on Pentecost Sunday (CCC 1076).



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 25th May *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday of Easter (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)

Monday 26th May *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass

Tuesday 27th May

- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am
- 11.40am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 12noon** Regina Caeli & Holy Mass

Wednesday 28th May

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass



Thursday 29th May - Ascension Thursday

- 8.00am** Holy Mass for the Ascension of the Lord
- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass for the Ascension of the Lord
- 1.00pm** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Jim Mallon (Biggar Kirk)
- 7.00pm** Holy Mass for the Ascension of the Lord
- 7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 30th May

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass

Saturday 31st May *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm
- 4.30am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)

Sunday 1st June *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)
- 11.15am** Monthly Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (Holy Trinity)
- 12.35pm** Monthly Light Bite (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)



Pope Leo XIV Mass in Thanksgiving

With our fellow Catholics, and so many others across the world, we in the Diocese of Motherwell thank God for the election of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. It is great news that Cardinal Prevost was chosen so quickly by his fellow Cardinals and there is reassurance that they have placed this confidence in his abilities to lead the Church in the great mission of preaching Christ, and upholding and strengthening our communion as the Body of Christ, the People of God. We trust that his choice has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and his actions will always be guided by the same Holy Spirit.



***We will celebrate a Diocesan Mass in Thanksgiving for the Election of Pope Leo XIV
in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, on Monday 26th May at 7pm.***

All are most welcome to attend.

Monday Club

After 31 years of gathering, sadly the Monday Club has come to an end. At various gatherings, occasions and anniversaries, photographs were taken and are now on display at the back of the church.

If you are in these photos, or you know people in the photos, please take them home with you. The photographs will be at the back of the church until the end of May, and then what is left will be archived.

Memorial Plaques

Many people have asked about ordering a memorial plaque for a loved one. The Memorial Wall still has limited space and will be first come first serve basis.

Forms are now available in the stall and can be completed and returned direct to Fr John-Paul. The order will be submitted to Paterson's Memorials on Friday 30th May.



Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic? If so please contact Fr John-Paul to find out more.

We are hoping that our RCIA Program will begin very shortly. We already have 4 young people interested in the course this year.



Praying for Vocations

As part of St Mary's ongoing efforts to pray for vocations to the priesthood in our diocese, we continue to recite the Vocations Prayer, issued by the Diocese for Vocations Awareness Week, at the end of the Holy Rosary every day.

If you feel called to the priesthood, or would like to find out more, please contact Fr Sean Wyllie, Diocesan Vocation Promoter: frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk

St Mary's Social Committee Thank You

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to the Quiz night. The night was a great success, filled with fun and laughter raising £280! The scores were very close, just one point separating the top two teams, with The Oliveoils picking up the winning trophy. The Derry Girls were the reverse order winners!

Thanks to the ten teams who entered into the spirit of the night, so good to see our regular quizzers and delighted to welcome new quizzers. Thank you to Eileen M and Megan, our bar volunteers. Thank you for your continued support.

Bar Volunteers

Fr John-Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely those who give so generously of their time to volunteer in the bar for functions.

The money raised from bar sales is crucial in maintaining our buildings and growing our parish for the future. We are always on the look out for new volunteers, if you can help in any way please text Katie 07300857616.

No experience required.

Ascension Thursday 29th May 2025

Ascension Thursday is a Holyday of Obligation, and a day we are expected to attend Holy Mass.

Holy Mass will be offered in St Mary's at **9.30am**, when we will be joined by the primary school. Mass will also be offered at **8am & 7pm** on Thursday for those who work.

Mass will be offered at 1pm in Biggar Kirk (Requiem Mass for Jim Mallon) but this will also fulfil the obligation for those who attend.

Holy Trinity Light Bite Money

Thank you to those who donate each month to the Light Bite, those who provide the wonderful food, and also those who donate financially to help the chosen charities. May's Light Bite was in aid of Fresh Start, and raised £180, with some parishioners also donating household items that the charity will be able to provide to people setting up new homes after experiencing homelessness. June's Light Bite, due to take place on 1st June, is in aid of CHAS - Children's Hospices Across Scotland.

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 clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Jim Mallon Main Street, Symington
Kathleen McCrossan Castlegate
Moya Bangham (Bristol); Stephen McGuinness; Brian Reilly; Ann Egan (Hamilton);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Irene Turner (Bellshill); Sandy McLean; Mary Dowds; John Murray;

Funeral Arrangements: Jim Mallon Requiem Mass: Thursday 29th May 1pm, Biggar Kirk

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

St Mary's 300 Club Subscription

As our parish continues to constantly grow and incorporate more people, we are always looking for ways to lighten the administration burden. One easy way to do this is for all payments to be digital. We are asking for all subscriptions of the 300 Club to be paid by Standing Order using the details below. Many people already pay through the bank weekly/monthly/annually and they will not need to change anything! But, for those who pay cash or cheque, we ask that you set up a standing order. We thank you very much for your understanding.

St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763

The Unique History of St Mary's Lanark

After years of dedication and hard work, we are delighted to have on sale *The Unique History of St Mary's Lanark*, by Siobhan Gainford.

This wonderfully produced book captures the rich history of our wonderful parish, and gives great hope for the future. The book is priced at £15 and copies are available to buy from the stall. Anyone who has preordered the book will receive it this weekend or next from Siobhan or her distribution volunteers. Once again, we thank Siobhan for this wonderful book, for all her hard work, and those who assisted her in any way.

Some Good Tips for Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Readers:

1. Please continue to speak clearly whilst projecting your voice directly into the microphone. If you whisper in, then a whisper comes out. If you need to, adjust the microphone before Mass to make sure it is in the correct position.
2. For the Universal Prayers of Intercession (Bidding Prayers) please make your way to the ambo during the final few lines of the Creed. The reader should be at the ambo and ready before the priest begins the Opening Prayer.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

1. For Communion, can the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion make their way to the sanctuary as soon as the "Lamb of God" begins. Extraordinary Ministers should be in place on the sanctuary for this prayer finishing and facing the altar for the priest saying: "Behold the Lamb of God".

If you have any questions please speak to Fr John-Paul.

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

24th/25th May

5.00pm J. McBride
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm S. Casserly

7th/8th June

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am J. Russell
5.00pm M. Davis

31st May/1st June

5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am A. Servers
5.00pm T. Coia

14th/15th June

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

24th/25th May

5.00pm F. McBride
R. Sinton
10.30am K. Lawrence
J. McFarlane
M. Russell

7th/8th June

5.00pm A. Dempsey
J. McBride
10.30am J. Littlejohn
A. O'Neill
N. Keenan

31st May/1st June

5.00pm A. Dempsey
J. McBride
10.30am G. Duddy
A. Gillespie
M. Keenan

14th/15th June

5.00pm C. Scott
S. Callaghan
10.30am C. Duddy
D. McFarlane
I. Maxfield