



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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
11th February 2024



### The Lenten Journey

Lent is the epitome of spirituality. Lent prompts us to get in touch with our spiritual side; whether by intensifying prayer or reading Holy Scripture and contemplating the wonders of God's creation. It is an opportunity to feed the soul and the heart and isolate oneself from the daily distractions and take a break from the chaos of the day to day life.

It brings out the good side of people. During these Forty Days, leading to the Passion and the Resurrection, we strive for virtue. Lent prompts us to help the less fortunate, forgive and make peace with friends or people we were on bad terms with, reach out to family members and relatives and to focus on purifying our hearts and intentions as the journey goes on.

Lent is all about peace and reconciliation. It is about being a better person; people do not only fast from food, they fast from any extreme emotions — anger, frustration, envy, and sadness. The main spirit of the journey is for people to focus on their relationship with God and strengthen the faith instead of letting their emotions take control of their lives.

It is a journey of healing. The spirit of Lent, the prayers, the kindness that people exude during this journey and the peace of mind that comes with the isolation from the daily routine really helps us tap into our sadness and heal ourselves. It's building a connection with the Lord, away from the noise of people that drain us and jobs that wear us down. It completely shifts our mental and emotional state.

It helps us practice gratitude. Fasting makes us realise how much we take things like food and water for granted and gives us a taste of how some less fortunate people actually live; deprived from the simple things that we take for granted every day. It teaches us how to be compassionate and count our blessings instead of focusing on the things we don't have.

It reflects life. Since Lent teaches us patience, humility, gratitude and self-control, if we reflect deeper, these are also the tools we need to live a good life. We often get carried away with our duties and our lives that we do not really take a moment to reflect on the point of it all. Lent helps us cling to the essence of life and sharpen the tools we need to thrive in life.

It is also an opportunity to get to know ourselves. When we isolate ourselves from all the material things and spend less time thinking about eating, drinking, and going out, we get to truly spend some time with the Lord and our own thoughts and feelings and listen to them. It is another form of soul searching; we get to know parts of our self and we get to understand how strong we are against temptations and how forgiving we are

against those who did us wrong and how we can let go, and let God. All these are questions we normally ask ourselves, but Lent really puts it all in perspective. Lent, fasting, charity and prayer are supposed to be a lifestyle not an occasion. Even though it is one month and ten days, the point is to carry out these behaviours after Lent and throughout the year too. It is more about becoming a better human being. It is a reminder from God that we are here to do good, to forgive, to heal, to let go and to help those who cannot help themselves — in other words, to walk the journey of becoming a child of God.



# Weekly Parish Schedule

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

**Sunday 11th February** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Monday 12th February** *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)

**Tuesday 13th February**

**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)

**Wednesday 14th February - ASH WEDNESDAY**

**8.00am** Holy Mass with Imposition of Ashes (St Mary's)

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

**9.30am** Holy Mass with Imposition of Ashes (St Mary's)

**10.00am** Lenten Prayer Group (St Catherine's)

**3.00pm** Holy Mass with Imposition of Ashes (St Catherine's)

**7.00pm** Holy Mass with Imposition of Ashes (St Mary's)

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

**Thursday 15th February**

**8.25am** Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)

**9.10am** Morning Prayer of the Church (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 17th February**

**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 17th 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 1st Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)*

**Sunday 18th February** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** *Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)*

**12noon** *Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)*

**5.00pm** *Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)*

**6.00pm** *Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction (St Mary's)*

## St Mary's Memorial Plaques

Memorial Plaque forms are 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.

## Wellspring - Mary the Fountain and Wellspring of Salvation

This week we launch Wellspring. We hope our diocesan vision of Church, is one which you will help to grow around the message of the Gospel, forming us as disciples willing to share our faith and renew our parish communities.

‘Imagine a Church...’ is the beginning of the Wellspring Vision. It is an invitation to hope, pray and work for the church which it describes in which all people will find a home and grow as disciples of the Lord.

Today we seek the intercession of ‘Our Lady, the Fountain and Wellspring of Salvation’ that the Wellspring project will be a new springtime in the life of our diocese and that it will be a source of new graces.



### Parish Finances

#### St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,400.00

#### St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 97.00

*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.

As we get set for Lent, please find SCIAF WEE BOXES at the back of the church for those who wish to take one home.



### The Lenten Circle

We are a small group of Parishioners who meet during Lent and Advent to prepare for the great feasts of the Church. We meet in St Catherine's after Mass on the Wednesdays of Lent for an hour, following a pastoral programme called "Around The Lenten Circle".

Please feel free to join us or speak to Sr Margaret Brady for more information.

The first meeting will be Ash Wednesday 14th February 2024.

### Special Collection 25th February

This year, as in previous years, Bishop Toal asks that the Diocesan Lenten Collection to support Sick and Retired Priests to be taken up on the Second Sunday of Lent, 25th February 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to this Special Collection, and please pray for those priests who are no longer in active ministry and have offered their life in service to God and his people.

### Altar Servers - St Mary's

We are urgently needing some Altar Servers in St Mary's for weekend Masses. If your child would like to serve please stay on for a short meeting after Mass on **17th/18th February**. Children primary 5 and older are encouraged to serve.

The meeting will take 10 mins, and even if your child can't commit to serve Mass every week, that is ok; we are flexible and happy to involve the children.

### Lighting Votive Candles - St Mary's

Votive candles are an important part of our spirituality, to show our prayer offered to God or a particular saint. In St Mary's we have many candle racks for candles to be lit, we kindly ask that all candles being lit remain on the candle rack. In recent times some candles have been placed on side altars and other areas of the church, this causes a fire hazard and creates a health and safety risk. We recognise some statues do not have candle racks, but please use the rack closest to your saint. Thank you for your understanding and help.

### Lent

As we prepare for the journey of Lent there will be a variety of opportunities to take on Lenten prayer within the parish. We hope that the Lenten Schedule will fulfil everyone's spiritual needs. Please come along and support the Lenten events as best you can. Lent is a great opportunity for us to grow in our faith, and to reaffirm our love of Jesus by the little sacrifices we make and extra prayer we take on.



**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  
ML11 7JS  
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk  
Charity No - SC011041



## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead:** Kathleen Macmillan Kirkfieldbank  
Helen Josephine Anderson Douglas  
Ellen Grant (Mother of Fr Jim Grant PP of St Francis Xavier Carfin); Kevin McGoldrick (Father of Fr Kevin McGoldrick PP of St Patrick's Coatbridge); Isobel Coyle; Alice Whittfield.

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Helena Lambert; Margaret Fisher (Shotts); Janette Irvine; Lisa Geddes; James Callaghan.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Helen Anderson Requiem Mass: Thursday 22nd February, 9.30am St Mary's  
Kathleen Macmillan Requiem Mass: Tuesday 27th February, 12noon St Mary's

## The Choir of St Mary's Wayside Club Donation

Dear The Choir of St Mary's and Supporters,

Thank you for your generous support to our work at The Wayside Club with your donation of £800 raised through ticket sales and donations at your Christmas Concert! The Money donated will allow The Wayside Club to support all those in need of food and clothes.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support to The Wayside Club offered over the years, and may God bless your generosity.

Lawrence McGarry  
Administrator

[www.thewaysideclubcentre.co.uk](http://www.thewaysideclubcentre.co.uk)



## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

<u>10th/11th February</u>	<u>24th/25th February</u>
5.00pm R. Kane	5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am M. McCusker	10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm N. Donnelly
<u>17th/18th February</u>	<u>2nd/3rd March</u>
5.00pm A. Haetzman	5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am R. Colpitts	10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm M. Davis

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>10th/11th February</u>	<u>24th/25th February</u>
5.00pm A. Dempsey	5.00pm P. Freal
C. Scott	R. Sinton
10.30am C. Duddy	10.30am J. Wilson
V. Hilland	A. O'Neill
D. McFarlane	N. Kennan
<u>17th/18th February</u>	<u>2nd/3rd March</u>
5.00pm J. McEwan	5.00pm M. Keenan
C. McClafferty	P. Stewart
10.30am J. Littlejohn	10.30am P. Cunningham
M. Keenan	A. Cruikshank
M. Kennan	J. McFarlane