



Saint Mary's Parish Lanark

7th Sunday of Easter
17th May 2026



Dignitatis Humanae

On the penultimate day of the Second Vatican Council, 7th December 1965, Pope Paul VI gave his official approval to the Council's declaration on religious freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae* (translated as *On the Dignity of the Human Person*). The document is brief deals with the important topic of religious liberty. This came at a time when religious liberty and freedom was under fierce attack by Communist Russia which has spread its errors and persecution to other European countries.



The key paragraph of the document reads: “It is in accordance with their dignity that all men, because they are persons, that is, beings endowed with reason and free will and therefore bearing personal responsibility, are both impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth. They are also bound to adhere to the truth once they come to know it and direct their whole lives in accordance with the demands of truth. But men cannot satisfy this obligation in a way that is in keeping with their own nature unless they enjoy both psychological freedom and immunity from external coercion”.

The notion of human dignity is often regarded as an invention of the modern mind, but it is actually derived from Christian tradition, which calls on all people to be received as children of God, without distinction between male and female, Jew or Greek, slave or free. The document is very clear that the fulness of truth is found only in the Catholic Church when it states: “It leaves untouched traditional Catholic doctrine on the moral duty of men and societies toward the true religion and toward the one Church of Christ”.

Dignitatis Humanae played a pivotal role in the Catholic Church's stand as the world's premier institutional defender of basic human rights.

The document deals with the question of the relationship between Church and State. It emphasises the importance of religious freedom and the state's role in protecting it, reminding us of the Lord's words “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's” (Matthew 22:21).

Sadly, this document is as relevant today as when it was written. In our own country we see freedom of religion and expression being stifled. The following words from *Dignitatis Humanae* can give us some courage and encouragement:

“In human society and in the face of Government the Church claims freedom for herself in her character as a spiritual authority, established by Christ the Lord, upon which there rests, by divine mandate, the duty of going out into the whole world and preaching the Gospel to every creature. The Church also claims freedom for herself in her character as a society of people who have the right to live in society in accordance with the precepts of the Christian faith... For the Church is, by the will of Christ, the teacher of the truth. It is her duty to give utterance to, and authoritatively to teach, that truth which is Christ himself, and also to declare and confirm by her authority those principles of the moral order which have their origin in human nature itself”.

Holy Week Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 17th May *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 7th Sunday of Easter (St Mary's)

Monday 18th May *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 the Miraculous Medal

Tuesday 19th May

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony of Padua

Wednesday 20th May

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Thursday 21st May

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph

7.30pm **St Mary's Choir Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 22nd May

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Agatha

Saturday 23rd May *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am

9.00am Confessions until 9.25am

9.30am Holy Mass

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm

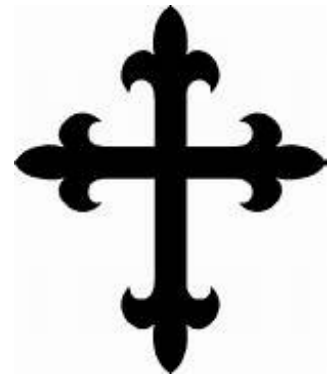
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (St Mary's)

Sunday 24th May *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost (St Mary's)



Communications Sunday

This weekend, the Church marks Communications Sunday, a day to reflect on how the Gospel is shared through media, digital platforms, broadcasting and communications. From parish social media pages and livestreamed Masses to Catholic television, videos and news coverage, communications plays an important role in helping people stay connected to the life of the Church.

There will be a basket at the back of the church for those who wish to support the work of the Bishops' Conference in this important area of evangelisation.

Parish Meeting *Walking Together in Faith*

All are invited to an event to hear about the many good things happening in Holy Trinity and St Mary's and to share ideas about how the two parish communities can continue to flourish and grow in future. We hope as many people as possible will come along, whether that is simply to listen or to offer suggestions. Tea and coffee will be available. All are very welcome. Bring a friend!

When: Monday 1st June

Where: St Mary's Clubrooms

Time: 6.30-8.00pm

Diocesan Synodal Meeting - Future of the Diocese

Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is suitable. Bishop Toal invites you to participate in the forthcoming diocesan gathering in **St Brides Centre, Motherwell (ML1 1PP), on Monday 25th May at 7pm.**



Parish Survey

As a parish it is important that we constantly look to the future and try our best to grow in our faith. In order to give some idea of where people are at, and where people would like to be, a short parish survey has been prepared for distribution. **Completed surveys should be returned no later than Sunday 24th May.**

This survey is more than a set of questions; it is an invitation to reflect on your experience of our parish, to share your hopes, and to help us discern, together, how the Holy Spirit is guiding us forward. Every response, no matter how small it may seem, is a valuable part of that discernment. It is important, therefore, that as many people as possible complete and return a survey.

Another Huge Donation!

Yet again, we have been blown away by the generosity of parishioners to our parish! The parish has received a further donation of £4,000 from a parishioner in recent days. This donation is for the upkeep and advancement of St Mary's Church. We take this opportunity to thank the parishioners, and all those who continue to contribute to St Mary's through the weekly collection and through donations. May God reward your generosity!

Parish Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto - Monday 1st June 2026

The Society of St Vincent de Paul invites parishioners to join the Parish Pilgrimage to Carfin Lourdes Grotto, on Monday 1st June. The coach will leave St Mary's at 11am, Angelus & Rosary at 12noon, Mass 1pm, Afternoon tea/cakes/sandwiches 2pm, Stations of the Cross 3pm, coach leaves Carfin 4pm.

There is no charge for those attending, but any donations to cover costs would be greatly received. Please put your name on the list at the stall if you wish to attend, and if you will use coach provided or own transport.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,376.00
Standing Orders: £ 232.50
Votives: £ 175.00
Stall: £ 100.00



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>16th/17th May</u>		<u>30th/31st May</u>	
5.00pm	C. Jackson	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	P. Roberts	10.30am	J. Russell
5.00pm	N. Donnelly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

<u>23rd/24th May</u>	
5.00pm	F. Chung
10.30am	E. Campbell
5.00pm	M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>16th/17th May</u>		<u>30th/31st May</u>	
5.00pm	A. Dempsey	5.00pm	K. Bryce
	J. McBride		A. McGowan
10.30am	G. Duddy	10.30am	V. Hilland
	A. Gillespie		M. Thompson
	M. Keenan		B. Farrell

<u>23rd/24th May</u>	
5.00pm	C. Scott
	S. Callaghan
10.30am	J. Littlejohn
	A. O'Neill
	N. Keenan



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

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Lanark
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stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041

St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

St Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Sheelagh Cloonan (Liverpool); Teresa Molyneaux (CO Kerry); Hannah Kelly; Allan McLachlan; Patrick McBride;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Frank McMahon; Margaret Maxfield; Anne Lindsay; Joseph McAreavy; Hugh Starrs; Michael McLaughlan; Jim Beveridge; Pat McTaggart; Rosina Baird;

Easter Remembrances

Bishop Frank Thomson; Bishop Joseph Devine; Father Joseph Brannigan; Father Paddy Hughes; All Deceased Members of The Vincentian Fathers; All Deceased Members of The Daughter's of Charity; Canon Willie Dunnachie; Father Damien Gilhooley; Fr John Breslin; Canon Giles Goward; Father David Mellor; Jim McShane; John & Mary McShane; Rosemary McShane MacIntyre; Charlie McShane; John McShane; Frank McMahon; Annie & Arthur Lenagh; Hughie & Mary McShane; McShane Family; McGuire Family; Lenagh Family; McMahon Family; Kate & William Campbell; Bernie & Jim McEwan; Campbell Family; McCafferty Family; McEwan Family; James E. Reid; Gerry Wyllie; Wyllie Family; Deerin Family; Mary McFarlane; Therese Martin; John Skeffington; Joe & Betty McLeish; Peter Brannan; Edgar Family; Peter Skelly; Grace McGregor; Thomas & Helen Lamb; Thomas Lamb Jnr; Lamb Family; McGuigan Family; William & Sarah Dunnachie; Dunnachie Family; Michael Pavilonis; Cathy Gallagher; Tony Murphy; Lisa Katherine McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Gerard Mays Snr; Gerard Mays Jnr; Brian Mays; Susan Mays; John O'Neill; Agnes Foley (McKendrick); John (Johnny) Foley; Joseph foley; Agnes Foley (McGuinness); Emilio & Cesarina Coia; Coia Family; Ungaretti Family; Giuseppe Molinaro; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; John & Marion Renton; Betty & Joe Woods; James, Clare & Evelyn O'Leary; Jimmy & Saddle Littlejohn; Frances, Monica & Anthony Cassidy; Lisa Geddes; Vera & Johnny Livingstone; Peter & Eleonore De-Schuster; Marion & Dan O'Donnell; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty, Wullie & John Thomson; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Teresa & Bill McArdle; Matt & Betty Reilly; Marjory Reilly; Jim Anderson; Bill & Annie Gebbie; Martha & Tam Smith; Sarah & Jimmy McEwan; Paisley Family; John, Mary & James Donnelly; Mary & Tommy Cavanagh; James & Rose Kelly; Pat & Joe McGarrigle; Gerry McGarrigle; McGarrigle Family; Dean Family; Margaret, John & Bobby Dykes; Ron Meldrum; Eileen Prior; Janette Irvine; May Quinn; David Tinto; Catherine & Daniel Stewart; Jean & Jimmy Meldrum; McConville Family (Shotts); Deceased members of the Choir of St Mary's; Mary, Jim & Michael McLaughlan; Mary, Bill & Stephen Murray; Anne & John Boyle; Lizanne Inglis; Edward Hanlon; Kate Hanlon; Anne Lindsay; Archie Lindsay; Mary Sheely; Michael Sheely; Kate Nevin & Brothers; Rodger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Beverley & Alan Milliken; John, Annie, Liam & Janes McConnell; Noone Family; Dowds Family; Farrell Family; David Tinto; Rosemary McManus; Francis & Grace McManus; Francis McManus Jnr; Willie Connor; Iain Connor; Mark Stewart; Thomas Cloonan; Cecilia Cloonan; Mark Cloonan; Cloonan Family; Rotherham Family; Jim Callaghan; Anna Marshall; Agnes and Alice Bamford; Callaghan Family (Sligo); Karen Reilly; John Reilly Jnr; Betty Hutchison; Thomas McNulty; Christina McNulty; Nora Byers; John Byers; Rosina Baird; Babay Luca Gunning; James Tait; Mary Tait; Eileen McLeod; Nicholas Lambert; Rose Lambert; Bridget Lambert; Sandy McLean; Mary McLean; Catherine McLean; Jessie Clark; Frank Mackie; Susan Mackie; Graham Munro; Leah Welsh; Albert Welsh; Morton Family; Peter & Susan Mulligan; Joe McAllister; Bridget Donnelly; Fox Family; Harvey Family; Thomas, Molly & James McKeown; Paul Halloran; Halloran Family; Helen, Robert, Dennis, May & Veronica Quinn; Mr & Mrs Brady; John & Bridget Callaghan; John Doolan; Henry Doolan; Jane Doolan; Oliver Family; Small Family; Liz Rae; Eleanor Douglas; James McCardie; Arthur Christie; Jessica & John Christie; Rina & Jimmy Travers; Mary & John Christie; Evelyn Grant Quinn; Lilly Grant; Blanche McCabe;