



**ST MARY'S LANARK  
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR  
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &  
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S  
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**  
6 Coulter Road  
Biggar  
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Charity No - SC011041



**PARISH CLERGY**  
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**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**  
**9th January 2022**

**The Mystery of The Lord's Baptism**

The Gospel tells us that the Lord went to the Jordan River to be baptized and that he wished to consecrate himself in the river by signs from heaven.

Reason demands that this feast of the Lord's baptism, which I think could be called the feast of his birthday, should follow soon after the Lord's birthday, during the same season, even though many years intervened between the two events.

At Christmas he was born a man; today he is reborn sacramentally. Then he was born from the Virgin; today he is born in mystery. When he was born a man, his mother Mary held him close to her heart; when he is born in mystery, God the Father embraces him with his voice when he says: This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: listen to him. The mother caresses the tender baby on her lap; the Father serves his Son by his loving testimony. The mother holds the child for the Magi to adore; the Father reveals that his Son is to be worshipped by all the nations.



That is why the Lord Jesus went to the river for baptism; that is why he wanted his holy body to be washed with Jordan's water.

Someone might ask, "Why would a holy man desire baptism?" Listen to the answer: Christ is baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, and by his cleansing to purify the waters which he touched. For the consecration of Christ involves a more significant consecration of the water.

For when the Saviour is washed, all water for our baptism is made clean, purified at its source for the dispensing of baptismal grace to the people of future ages. Christ is the first to be baptized, then, so that Christians will follow after him with confidence.

I understand the mystery as this. The column of fire went before the sons of Israel through the Red Sea so they could follow on their brave journey; the column went first through the waters to prepare a path for those who followed. As the apostle Paul said, what was accomplished then was the mystery of baptism. Clearly it was baptism in a certain sense when the cloud was covering the people and bringing them through the water.

But Christ the Lord does all these things: in the column of fire he went through the sea before the sons of Israel; so now, in the column of his body, he goes through baptism before the Christian people. At the time of the Exodus the column provided light for the people who followed; now it gives light to the hearts of believers. Then it made a firm pathway through the waters; now it strengthens the footsteps of faith in the bath of baptism.

*A sermon by St Maximus of Turin*

## Happy Christmas

Father John-Paul and Father Tom would like to thank all those who very kindly handed in gifts and Christmas cards this year. It was very humbling to receive so many cards, gifts and well wishes from the parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's, St Mary's and St Isidore's. It is incredible that even in times of difficulty people still think of their priests and hand things in. Although we are not fully back to normal, it was wonderful to see our churches looking so beautiful for Christmas. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped prepare our churches over the last few weeks. We would especially like to thank those men and women who work tirelessly behind the scenes every week to make sure our parishes function so smoothly and efficiently. Without the help of some many people our parishes would simply not be able to function! Seeing so many people attend Christmas Mass has been very encouraging, and we hope and pray, that Emmanuel, God-with-us, will bless and guide us to a better 2022. On behalf of Father John-Paul, Father Tom, Saul & Petra we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas, and we wish you every good blessing for 2022.



### Weddings in 2022

If you have booked a wedding in St Mary's, Lanark; St Mary Magdalene's, Forth; or St Isidore's, Biggar, for 2022, then please call or email Fr John-Paul as soon as possible to start the relevant paperwork.

If you would like to get married in one of our parishes this year, and have not yet reserved a date, please contact Fr John-Paul to start proceedings.

### Crib Collection



As restrictions are more relaxed this year, there will be a donations basket in the Crib for those who wish to support the work of St Margaret's Adoption Society. If you are unable to visit the Crib, you can make a donation online at [www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk) or by placing your donation in the collection basket clearing marking it as "CRIB COLLECTION".

### Monday Club

Due to the current restrictions in place, and the Omicron variant, the Monday Club, that is due to start back on Monday 10th January, is cancelled until further notice. The Monday Club Committee apologises for any inconvenience caused, but in regards to public safety have to act in this way. The Committee thanks all their members for their continued support and wishes you all a very happy and blessed 2022.

### Financial Returns

Each year in January, every parish within the Diocese of Motherwell, is instructed to complete its Annual Financial Returns, consisting of all income and expenditure for the previous 12 months. At present, Fr John-Paul is completing this request for our parishes. Once this has been completed, the information will be shared with the Finance Committee from both parishes, and then will be made available for public viewing.

### News from the Diocese

It is with great joy that we are able to announce that **Aidan Farrell**, a parishioner from St Mary's, has been accepted for seminary formation. Aidan will join two other young men from the Motherwell Diocese in starting the Propaedeutic Period in Salamanca. The Propaedeutic Period allows the men to follow a similar timetable to that of seminary life, and is the first important step as they begin their formation for the priesthood. Please keep Aidan in your prayers, as well as Matthew O'Neill, from St Mary's, Whifflet; and Aidan Kelly from St Ninian's, Hamilton, as they continue to discern the Lord's call.



### RCIA

Due to the spread of the Omicron variant, it is advisable that we delay the restart of RCIA. We very much look forward to restarting RCIA in the near future, and as soon as a date has been confirmed an announcement will be made.



### Track & Trace St Mary's

In St Mary's we have been giving parishioners a contact card with their parish number on it, in order to speed up the check-in process. If you have not received your card yet, please check the table at the back of the church, or inform the volunteer who is taking details at the door.



## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead** - Jim Reilly                      Langvout Court, Biggar  
     Sister Margaret Colbeck   St Catherine's  
     Margaret McCrossan      Woodstock Road

Sister Carmel (Poor Clare's Monastery Bothwell); Catherine Devine (Carluge); Allison Adams (Blantyre); Declan Roche; Doris Lithgow; Frank Devine.

**Months Minds & Anniversaries** - Margaret Moynagh; Maureen Gibson; Peter Donnelly; Grace Dyer; Karen Reilly; Betty Hutchison; Thomas & Christina McNulty; Sr Pauline Vince; May Oliver; Gerry McGarrigle; Matt Reilly Snr.

**Funeral Arrangements** - Jim Reilly                      Reception & Requiem Mass: Tuesday 11th January 12noon (Biggar Kirk)

**Christmas Remembrances** - Bishop Frank Thomson; Bishop Joseph Devine; Father Joseph Brannigan; All Deceased Members of The Vincentian Fathers; All Deceased Members of The Daughter's of Charity; Jim McShane; John & Mary McShane; Rosemary McShane MacIntyre; 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; Valentie Family; Dogan Family; Dunbar Family; McFarlane Family; Haney Family; Stewart Family; MacIntyre Family; Joseph & Betty McLeish; McLeish Family; Peter Brannen; Brannen Family; Edgar Family; Dan O'Neill; O'Neill Family; Thomas & Helen Lamb; Thomas Lamb Jnr; Lamb Family; McGuigan Family; William & Sarah Donnachie; Donnachie Family; Michael Pavilonis; Pavilonis Family; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty Thomson; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Bill & Annie Gebbie; Madge Reilly; Martin Carway; Thomas Donaldson; Morag Donaldson; Donald Liddell; Liddell Family; McKeon Family; Dan & Marion O'Donnell; Alex & Nan Hutton; Jim Snow; Thomas Snow; Agnes Snow; John, Mary, James & Steven Donnelly; Mary & Thomas Cavanagh; William Kay; Frank & Helen Carway; John & Frances Dickson; Michael, John & Anne Tierney; Irene O'Donnell; Eddie O'Donnell; John, Henry & Jane Doolan; Mary, Jane & Jim Brennan; Agnes, Jenny & Willie Jack; James Jnr & Evelyn Brennan; John & Agnes Kennedy; Bobby Elder; Joseph McGuire; Robbie & Moira Nicholson; Rodger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Beverley & Allan Milliken; John, Annie & Liam McConnell; Bridget Bond; Leslie Bond; Anthony & Marion Bancewicz; Andrew Bancewicz; Bancewicz Family; Cathie & John Lynas; Karen Watson; Lynas Family; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; Cathy & Jimmy Travers; Gerry Haetzman; Frank & Iza Devitt; Geraldine Murphy; Mary McTaggart; Pat McTaggart; Teresa McTaggart; Margaret McAllister; Charles McAllister; Maggie McAllister; Kathleen Mangan; Clare Duffy; Lisa Geddes; Robert Geddes Snr; Johnny Livingstone; Lisa McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Susan Mays; Gerard Mays Jnr & Snr; John O'Neill; Walter, Nessie, James & Agnes McEwan; Rosemary Sherry; Hughes Family; McLaughlin Family; Sherry Family; James & Mary Tait; William & Martin McPhail; Harry, Jean & Dan McPhail; James & Mary McCrossan; James & Theresa Casagranda; Bert & Betty Sinton; Stuart McDougall; Tom & Sadie Palmer; Rona Palmer; Karen Murray; Catherine O'Leary; Kathleen O'Leary; Bernard O'Leary; Mary Thomson; Johnston Sage; May Mochrie; Catherine Brownlie; Jerry & Josephine O'Leary; John & Nora Docherty; Jerry & Agnes O'Leary; Agnes Foley (McKendrick); Joseph Foley; Agnes Foley (McGuinness); Sheila Jackson (Foley); Cathy Travers; Anne & Phil Kinsella; Kathleen & Bill Grieve; Frank Hilland; Martin Hilland; Michael & Vittoria Bonanno; George & Annie Smith; William Jnr & Snr, Mary & Sheila Nowery; Thomas & Mary Smith; Joseph & Margaret Moynagh; Gerard McGeeney; Mary McGeeney; Thomas & Roseann Kelly; Alice Duffy; Hugh and Alice Duffy Snr; Hugh and Mary Duffy Jnr; Jim & Mary O'Connor; Helen Sneddon; John & Ina Reid; Rosheen Cornfoot; Veronica Elliott; Hugh & Alice Roberts; James, George & Grace Cassidy; Charlie Lively; James, Clare & Evelyn O'Leary; Jimmy & Sadie Littlejohn; George & Mary McLean; Joseph & Helen McAreavy; Rose & Jim Kelly; Elizabeth McSloy; May & Jimmy Colrain; Molly, James & John Gallagher; Reilly Family; Peter Murray; Joseph McCrossan; Annie McCrossan; Patricia McCrossan Kelly; Josephine McCrossan Hoey; Mary Sweeney; Cassie Sweeney; Tommy Flafferty; Brigid Flafferty; Sean Flafferty; Seamus Flafferty; James Hoey; Matthew Kelly; Beatrice McGhee; Hugh McGhee; James McCardie; Arthur Christie; Jessica & John Christie; John Christie Jnr; Renia & Jimmy Travers; Sarah & Joseph Quinn; Sheena, Jock & John Craig; John Hughes; Sarah Savage; Mary Page; Jacqueline Reilly; Lily Reilly; Joe & Pat McGarrigle; Gerry McGarrigle; McGarrigle Family; Dean Family; Patrick & Catherine Grant; Margaret Gallagher; Susan Mackie; Frank Mackie; Paul Halloran; Helen & Robert Dennis; May Quinn; Father Paddy Hughes; Sandy McLean; Mary McLean; Catherine McLean; Jessie Clark; Leah & Albert Welsh; Morton Family; Mary & Jim McLaughlan; Mary, Bill & Joseph Murray; Anne & John Boyle; Michael McLaughlan; James Wilson; Bessie Wilson; May Muir (Wilson); Matt Reilly Jnr; Joe & Mary O'Connor; Joe Jnr, Hugh & Jack O'Connor; James & Etta Wilkie; Dan & Marion O'Donnell; Christopher Campbell; Major Cameron Quinn; Quinn Family; Karen Reilly; John Reilly Jnr; Thomas & Christina McNulty; Annie Veitch; Jean Black; John Byers; Nora Byers; Betty Hutchison; Louis, Nan & Whitney Keenan; Moses & Betty Smith; Moira & Alan Beattie; James Stark; Ron Meldrum; Catherine & Daniel Stewart; Jean & Jimmy Meldrum; Janette Irvine; Eileen Prior; Meg McConville; May Quinn; McConville Family; Deceased Members of St Mary's Choir; Martha Smith; Tam Smith; Frank, Maryann, Frank Jnr, James, John, Nana & Louise Keenan; O'Connell Family; Todd Family; Stewart Family; Jack Hamilton; Elle May McNally; Ray Ward; Diane Jamieson; Henry (Guy) McKenzie; Robert Scott; Betty Dunlop; Mary, Tommy, Sadie, James & Jackie Martin; Roddy & Theresa O'Connor; O'Connor Family; O'Neill Family; Siobhan O'Neill; Lawrence & Jessie Hynds; Robert & Jenny Clarkson; Michael & Laura Treanor; Vera Hynds; James & May Graham; Annette Patrick; James Graham Jnr; James Callaghan; Callaghan Family; Alice & Agnes Bamford; Thomas & Cecilia Cloonan; Rotherham Family; Cloonan Family; John Renton; Matthew Crawford; Jim Waldie; Jean Smillie; Jimmy & Sarah McEwan; Anne Paisley; Anne Skeldon; John Kerr; Margaret, John & Bobby Dykes; Reilly Family; Peter Murray; Jerry O'Leary; Peter & Eleanora De-Schuster; Maureen Logan; Mary & Bill Dowds; James & Clare Farrell; Noone Family; Dowds Family; John & Mary Meahan; Meahan Family; Fie & Harry Duddy; Geoff Burns; Jim Hammond; Ron Cudd; Christine Duddy; Mary & Charlie Binnie; Donnachie Family; Bette & Dave Haggerty; Alex & Sandy McLellan; Donald & Helen Young; Skye Martin; Eileen Downs; Hugh & Chrissy Martin; Jackie Stewart; Martin Hilland; Frank Hilland; Kathleen & Bill Grieve; Joseph & Frances Jackson; Philip & Anne Kinsella; William & Florence Kennedy & Family; Robert & Wilma Jeffrey; Anna & Gerry McDermott & Family.

# Weekly Parish Schedule

## Sunday 9th January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 9.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Baptism of The Lord (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Baptism of The Lord (St Mary's)  
 1.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Baptism of The Lord (Biggar Kirk)  
 5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of The Baptism of The Lord (St Mary's)

## Monday 10th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 11th January

- 10.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Wednesday 12th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**7.00pm Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)**

## Thursday 13th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Friday 14th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Saturday 15th January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

## Sunday 16th January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 9.00am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)  
 10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
 1.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)  
 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

*The 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's  
are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.*

*The 1pm Sunday Mass from Biggar Kirk is also Livestreamed  
on St Isidore's parish YouTube Channel.*

## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

<u>8th/9th January</u>		<u>22nd/23rd January</u>	
5.00pm	G. Abernethy	5.00pm	A. Haetzman
10.30am	S. Watson	10.30am	K. Carty
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	M. Davis
<u>15th/16th January</u>		<u>29th/30th January</u>	
5.00pm	R. McConnell	5.00pm	J. Moynagh
10.30am	J. Russell	10.30am	Sr. Brady
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>8th/9th January</u>		<u>22nd/23rd January</u>	
5.00pm	M. Keenan	5.00pm	J McClafferty
	P. Stewart		M. Davis
10.30am	J. Wilson	10.30am	P Cunningham
	C. Duddy		A Cruickshank
<u>15th/16th January</u>		<u>29th/30th January</u>	
5.00pm	T. Mullen	5.00pm	P. Freel
	C McClafferty		J. McEwan
10.30am	G. Duddy	10.30am	J. McAlavey
	T. Mullen		M. Keenan