

St Mary's Lanark

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

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Parish Priest

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Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 25th December 2025

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message

At Christmas this year we will bring to a close the Jubilee Year of 2025, so let us give thanks for the blessings received and the Spirit of Hope renewed. Through Advent that same Hope has been stirred up as we look forward with expectancy to the Celebration of Our Saviour's Birth, and to the Lord coming again in glory and majesty. The Advent liturgies have called on us to be ready and watching so that we "may inherit the great promise in which now we dare hope". Yes, we are indeed "Pilgrims of Hope", and each Christmas is a mile-stone on our earthly pilgrimage and an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in our personal faith and its practice in the community of the Catholic Church.

It was the 1700th Anniversary recently of the Council of Nicea, whose great proclamation of the Christian faith we profess at Sunday Mass. We will do also with special fervour at the Christmas Masses, emphasising in particular the Lord's Incarnation, his birth at Bethlehem – "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man". We are a people of faith in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we are proud to profess it, particularly on Christmas Day. So let us be at Mass to do so!

Of course, we need to put our faith into action through our works of charity, our love for our neighbour, and Christmas is a time of generosity and sharing with those we love. Let us try also to extend our kindness to those who are more in need, both locally and further afield, recognising that the Lord asks us to do so in his name and with his compassion and self-giving. The Word did become flesh, and continues to dwell among us through those who show his love.

I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, praying especially that the Peace sung of by the Angels at Bethlehem may reign within and among us, and throughout the whole world.

May the Lord bless you, your families and friends, and keep you strong in faith, hope, and charity.



With my prayers and best wishes

Yours in Christ,





Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 28th December St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

10.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)

Monday 29th December 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 30th December

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 31st December

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Thursday 1st January

10.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

11.00am **Holy Mass for Mary, the Mother of God**

Friday 2nd January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 3rd January St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass for the Most Holy Name of Jesus

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm **Holy Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord (St Mary's)**

Sunday 4th January St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass

10.30am **Holy Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord (St Mary's)**

11.15am **Monthly Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

12noon **Holy Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord (Holy Trinity)**

12.35pm **Light Bite (Holy Trinity)**

5.00pm **Holy Mass for The Epiphany of the Lord (St Mary's)**



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

27th/28th December

5.00pm T. Coia

10.30am J. Angus

5.00pm S. Casserly

10th/11th January

5.00pm R. McConnell

10.30am R. Colpitts

5.00pm N. Donnelly

3rd/4th January

5.00pm F. Chung

10.30am A. Servers

5.00pm S. Casserly

17th/18th January

5.00pm J. McBride

10.30am E. Crossan

5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

27th/28th December

5.00pm F. McBride

R. Sinton

10.30am K. Lawrence

J. McFarlane

J. Russell

10th/11th January

5.00pm C. Scott

S. Callaghan

10.30am K. Lawrence

J. McFarlane

M. Russell

3rd/4th January

5.00pm A. Dempsey

J. McBride

10.30am G. Duddy

A. Gillespie

M. Keenan

17th/18th January

5.00pm K. Bryce

A. McGowan

10.30am V. Hilland

M. Thomson

B. Farrell

Please Pray For The Following

Recently Dead: Greta Reilly; Kathleen McComish; Jim McCartney (Uddingston); Bill Haig; Khadja Anis;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Jim Reilly; John Doolan; Ella Caddle; William Kennedy; Tom, Kathleen, David, Steven & Joanne Flannigan; All Victims of the Lockerbie Disaster; John Renton; Rose Scott; Paul Reilly; Nessie McEwan; Mary McLean;

St Mary's Memorial Plaques

There are still some space available on the Memorial Wall for anyone who would like to purchase a plaque in memory of a loved one. Forms are available at the back of the church. The order will be placed at the end of January and this will be the last bulk order.

Completed forms, along with payment, should be given to Fr John-Paul in plenty time.

Crib Donations

St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society helps families adopt children, and, as well as requiring financial support, finding adoptive parents is a great need. Seemingly there are over 1,000 children in Scotland looking for parents to adopt them.

As per previous years, the Crib Collection will help the work of St Margaret's Society. They are also in need of loving families to adopt children.

Justice & Peace Collection 3rd/4th Jan

In Scotland the Day of Prayer for Peace takes place on Sunday 4th January 2026, Feast of the Epiphany. A Second Collection will be taken up at all Mass on 3rd/4th January to Support the work of Justice & Peace Scotland.

Archbishop Nolan would like to thank all the Lay Faithful for their continued support and generosity.

Christmas In Heaven

I see the countless Christmas Trees around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular! Please wipe away that tear. For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart, but I am not so far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me dear ones, you know I hold you dear, and be glad I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas Choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the Angels sing.

I send you a special gift from my Heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is a gift, more precious than gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do, for I can't count the Blessings of love He has for you. So, have a peaceful Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.



Coffee Morning/Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Coffee Morning and Raffle was a huge success raising £1600. In addition another £400 was donated from previous Coffee Mornings giving a total of £2000 to church funds.

It was wonderful to see the Clubrooms filled with so many people of all age groups –thank you to everyone who supported this event. The Social Committee would like to say a special thank you to all our helpers who assist with flowers, baking and helping at events. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes! We are blessed to have such amazing parishioners who support St Mary's parish. Happy Christmas and all the best for 2026!

Our next coffee morning is on Sunday 4th January where soup will be served.

Dear Jesus...

Christmas is a time of the year when many of us send cards to the people we love, or those we have a connection with. This year we are inviting all the boys and girls from St Mary's Primary School, and all those boys and girls who attend Mass, to write a letter/Christmas Card or draw a picture for Jesus. The letter, card or picture can then be placed in the Crib and your child can say a special prayer in front of the Baby Jesus. There are chocolate coins in the Crib for those who pay a visit. Remember - Jesus does not require anything too fancy. It is the thought that counts.



Christmas 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 Brannen; Edgar Family; Peter Skelly; Grace McGregor; Thomas & Helen Lamb; Thomas Lamb Jnr; Lamb Family; McGuigan Family; William & Sarah Dunnachie; Dunnachie Family; Michael Pavlonis; Cathy Gallagher; John & Margaret Maxfield; Amelia Coia; William Kay; Frank & Helen Carway; Michael, John & Annie Tierney; John & Frances Dickson; Gerry Haetzman; Frank & Iza Devitt; Margaret Adams; Devitt Family; Haetzman Family; Marion & Dan O'Donnell; Charlie Lively; Mary Lavery; Felix Lavery; John Sharkey; Lavery Family; Maher Family; Peggy & Denis Docherty; Annie & Archie McMillan; Kate Hanlon; Edward Hanlon; Anne Lindsay; Archie Lindsay; Mary Sheely; Michael Sheely; Kate Nevin & Brothers; Lisa Katherine McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Susan Mays; Gerard Mays Snr; Gerard Mays Jnr; Brian Mays; John O'Neill; Mary Jane & Jim Brennan; Agnes Jack; Anne Elder; John & Agnes Kennedy; Joseph McGuire; Evelyn & James Brennan Jnr; Mary & Tommy Cavanagh; Mary, James, Steven & John Donnelly; James Eddie; Joseph Hughes; Roger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Beverley & Allan Milliken; John, Annie, Liam & Jane McConnell; Michael Reilly; Reilly Family; Peter Murray; Lisa Geddes; Johnny & Vera Livingstone; Betty & David Dunlop; Mary, May, Tommy, Sadie, James & Jackie Martin; Martin Family; Connelly Family; Theresa & Roddy O'Connor; O'Connor Family; O'Neill Family; Siobhan O'Neill; Bernadette O'Brien; Tom & Sadie Palmer; Rona Palmer; John Murray; Karen Murray; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; Martin Carway; May Mochrie; Robert Mochrie; Johnston Sage; Catherine O'Leary; Kathleen O'Leary; Bernard O'Leary; Mary Thomson; Tony Murphy; Eugene Smyth; John & Marion Renton; Jim Beveridge; Helen Beveridge; Josephine McGinty; John Hughes; Jock, Sheena & John Craig; Sarah Savage; Martha & Tam Smith; Margaret, John & Bobby Dykes; Peter & Susan Mulligan; Bridget Donnelly; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty & Wullie Thomson; Matt & Betty Reilly; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Teresa & Bill McArdle; Madge Reilly; Jim Anderson; Annie & Bill Gebbie; Sarah & Jimmy McEwan; Anne Paisley & Family; Irene & Eddie O'Donnell; Arthur Kane; Michael & Elizabeth McCue; Annie Cowe (Coyle); Charles & Annie Coyle; Charles & Elizabeth Coyle; Bill & Kathleen Grieve; Frank Hilland; Martin Hilland; Anne & Phil Kinsella; Frances & Joe Jackson; James McCardie; Louise, Nan, Whitey & James Jnr Kennan; Betty & Moses Smith; Moira & Alan Beattie; James Stark; Richard & Margaret O'Brien; John, Catherine & Peter McKinnon; Arthur & Helen McGuigan; Sandra & Jennifer Watt; McKinnon Family; O'Brien Family; All Souls with no Family to Pray for Them; Charles McKenna; Veronica McKenna; Ann Power; Joanne Strain; Peter Strain; John Scott; Alys Scott; Maisie Conlon; Karen Reilly; John Reilly; Tommy McNulty; Christina McNulty; Betty Hutchison; Nora Byers; John Byers; Rosemary McManus; Francis & Grace McManus; Francis McManus Jnr; Willie Connor; Ian Connor; Mark Stewart; Noone Family; Dowds Family; Farrell Family; David Tinto; James, Clare & Evelyn O'Leary; Jimmy & Saddie Littlejohn; Frances, Monica & Anthony Cassidy; Mary Taggart; Pat Taggart; Geraldine Murphy; Margaret McAllister; Kathleen Mangan; Theresa McTaggart Nelson; John McTaggart; Charles McAllister; Maggie McAllister; Emilio & Cesarina Coia & Family; Giuseppe Molinaro; Jackie Campbell; Ron & Jean Campbell; Ray & Bill Crossan; Lorraine & Hilary Bell; Noah Repper; Crossan Family; Breslin Family; Therese Kennedy; Jim and Esther Oliver; Tommy Oliver; Jim Oliver; Hugh & Mary Kennedy; James Kennedy; William Kennedy; Robert Kennedy; Walter & Agnes McEwan; Agnes McQuade; James McEwan; Brian Joseph McEwan; Kathleen Caulfield; Ronnie Reilly; Lorraine Brassington; Ron Meldrum; Jean & Jimmy Meldrum; Catherine & Daniel Stewart; Meg McConville; Eileen Prior; Janette Irvine; David Tinto; Geoff Coyle; May Quinn; Nan Robertson; Deceased member of The Choir of St Mary's; Anna McStay; McConville Family; Stewart Family; Eleanor Douglas; Sarah & Joseph Quinn; Arthur Christie; Jessica & John Christie; Mary & John Christie; Rena & Jimmy Travers; Patrick Mackle; Paul Halloran; Helen & Robert Dennis; May & Veronica Quinn; Maureen Mathers; Halloran Family; Hunter Family; Brown Family; Patrick & Catherine Grant; Margaret Gallagher; Harvey Family; Elizabeth & Tadzik Fox; Eleanor Lafferty; Oliver Family; Small Family; Thomas Veldon; Thomas, Cecilia & Mark Cloonan; Cloonan Family Liverpool; Rotherham Family Liverpool; James Callaghan; Anna Marshall; Agnes & Alice Bamford; Callaghan Family Sligo; Sandy Mclean; Mary McLean; Catherine McLean; Jessie Clark; Susan Mackle; Frank Mackle; Leah Welsh; Albert Welsh; Graham Munro; Morton Family; William & Martin McPhail; Harry, Jean & Harry McPhail; James & Mary McCrossan; Jim & Theresa Casagranda; Bert & Betty Sinton; Stuart McDougall; Brendan McCaughey; Paddy & Bridget Hume; Jimmy Campbell; Christopher Campbell; Quinn Family; Robert Monteith; Frank, Mary Ann, Frank Jnr, James, John, Nan, James Jnr, Lisa & Louise Keenan; Angela O'Connell; Jack Hamilton; Ray Ward; Elle-May McNally; Patricia Kelly; Henry McKenzie; Robert Scott; Jenny & Wullie Todd; Diane Jamieson; Richard Stewart; Stewart Family; Pat McFaulds; All With No-One to Pray for Them; Mary & Charlie Binnie; Bette & Dave Haggerty; James & Helen Donnachie; Donnachie Family; Paul Donnachie; Sandy & Alex McLellan; Pat McGarrigle; Joe McGarrigle; Gerry McGarrigle; McGarrigle Family; Dean Family; Henry Doolan; Jane Doolan; John Doolan; Annie Skinner; Betty Woods; Joseph & Helen McAreavy; Rosina Baird; Baby Luca Gunning; Gabriel Baird; Elizabeth Baird; Francis Reynolds; Agnes Reynolds; Helen McGuffie; John McGuffie; James & Mary Tait; Tait Family; Lambert Family; William & Florence Kennedy; Wilma & Bob Jeffrey; Anna & Gerry McDermott; Elizabeth Campbell; Peter & Eleonora De-Schuster; George & Mary McLaren; John & Mary Reid; Jeremiah & Agnes O'Leary; John & Nora Docherty; Jerry & Josephine O'Leary; Jerry O'Leary Jnr; John Kerr; Dorothy Jackson;