

# St Mary's Lanark

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

✉ 70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

✉ stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

☎ 01555 662234

🌐 www.stmaryslanark.org.uk



**Parish Priest**

Fr John-Paul McShane

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



**St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings:** 07300857616

**Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline:** 07565396878

## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

**14th September 2025**

### Answering the Call: Vocations Awareness Week

Each year, the Church sets aside Vocations Awareness Week to remind us that every Christian life is a response to God's call. Here in the Diocese of Motherwell, we are invited to pause, reflect, and pray: Lord, what do You ask of me?

At its heart, a vocation is not first about what we do, but about who we are in Christ. Through baptism, we are all called to holiness, to live as sons and daughters of God. Yet within this universal call, God invites some to follow Him in a particular way: as priests, deacons, or consecrated religious. These vocations are essential to the life of our local Church. Without them, the sacraments cannot be celebrated, the Gospel cannot be proclaimed with the same reach, and the mission of Christ is weakened.

Our diocese has been richly blessed by priests and religious who have faithfully served communities across Lanarkshire for generations. They have celebrated Mass, baptised children, visited the sick, taught the young, and stood beside families in times of joy and sorrow. Today, the Lord continues to whisper that same invitation: "Come, follow me." Could He be calling someone in your family, our parish, or perhaps even you?

Vocations grow best in a culture of encouragement and prayer. A simple word of support—"Have you ever thought about the priesthood?"—can plant a seed that changes a life. Families, schools, and parishes all play a vital role in fostering this openness to God's call. Above all, prayer is the fertile soil from which vocations spring. Jesus Himself told us, "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38).

During this Vocations Awareness Week, let us commit ourselves to:

- Pray daily for vocations in our diocese.
- Encourage young people to listen for God's voice.
- Support those already discerning, offering friendship and guidance.

The Cross of Christ, which we reverently celebrate today on this beautiful Feast Day, reminds us that every vocation is rooted in love and sacrifice. When lived generously, vocations bring joy not only to those called, but to the whole Church.

May the Diocese of Motherwell be a vineyard rich with new labourers, and may our young people have the courage to say with Mary: "Let it be done unto me according to your word."



**Motherwell Vocations Director: Fr Charlie O'Farrell**    **frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk**    **01698 423044**

## Weekly Parish Schedule

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

**Sunday 14th September** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (St Mary's)

**Monday 15th September** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

**Tuesday 16th September**

**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

**7.00pm** **Diocesan Vocations Mass (Motherwell Cathedral)**

**Wednesday 17th September**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Therese of Lisieux

**Thursday 18th September**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph

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

**Friday 19th September**

**9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Holy Mass

**Saturday 20th September** *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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Sunday 21st September** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



### Diocesan Vocations Mass

Bishop Toal invites everyone in the diocese to join him on **Tuesday 16th September** for a special Mass praying for vocations to the priesthood at **7pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, ML1 1PP**. The Lord tells us in the Gospel—ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to the harvest, so to respond to that call of the Lord, please make a special effort to join Bishop Toal and the clergy of the diocese to ask the Lord to send us good, faithful and holy priests.

The Diocese of Motherwell has been very blessed in recent years to have priests ordained and others discerning their call—it shows the fruit of prayer. This summer, 3rd July, Father Christopher Furmage was ordained to the priesthood and Father Christopher Igwe was ordained to the priesthood on Wednesday 3rd September. Please pray for Fr Furmage and Fr Igwe as they take on their new responsibilities within the diocese.

### **Vocations Second Collection**

Thank you most sincerely for your generosity to the second collection for the Ecclesiastical Fund. The total donated was £1,450.00; a remarkable sum!

On average, the Diocese spends £120,000 per annum educating those training for the priesthood and permanent diaconate, and this money will go towards covering those costs.

Please continue to pray for those studying for priesthood and those discerning their call to serve the Lord.

### **St Mary's Gardeners**

This year the number of volunteers who look after the gardens and grounds at St Mary's has been at its lowest number in many years; however, the church grounds and gardens have not declined. A huge thank you to those who dedicate their time and talents to make our church look so beautiful on the outside!

St Mary's welcomes many visitors throughout the year and many comment on how beautiful and tidy the church grounds are. Thank you!

### **St Mary's 300 Club Subscription**

Thank you to all those who have taken out new subscriptions for the 300 Club, and to all those who have now set up a Standing Order through the bank. Once again, thank you for your continued financial support to our parish, it is very much appreciated!

For those still interested in setting up a Standing Order bank details are as follows:

**St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763**

### **Bulletin - Front Cover**

Thank you to all those who have previously composed, or selected articles for inclusion on the front cover of the weekly bulletin.



If you have a topic you would like to see on the front cover of the bulletin, or indeed if you would like to write your own article (500 words), please send an email to Fr John-Paul.

### **Primary 1 Welcome Mass**

Next Sunday, 21st September, the 10.30am Mass will be our Primary 1 Welcome Mass. We hope to be joined by the children from primary 1, along with their families.

For some, this will be their first visit to St Mary's Church, but others we see every week.

This is a lovely occasion to celebrate the great parish—school links we have in Lanark, and pray for God's blessing on these children.

### **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 Charlie O'Farrell, Diocesan Vocation Director: [frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk)

### **St Mary's Flowers**

It is lovely to see the sanctuary bedecked in flowers once again. A massive thank you to those who contribute to the Flower Fund, due to your generosity we are able to have flowers decorating the sanctuary all year round, and on special occasions—at no extra cost to the parish. A huge thank you to Mairi for the countless hours she spends making the flowers look so perfect, and to her team of helpers.

### **Beginning Experience**

The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death, is one of life's most traumatic experience. It can result in unbearable feelings or grief or loneliness. The Beginning Experience, Scotland Team would like to help.

***A Weekend Away For A Lifetime Of Change***  
***26th-28th September 2025***  
***Conforti Centre, Coatbridge***

For further information contact Maggie: 01389751677.

### **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 beautiful parish, and gives great hope for the future.

The book is priced at £15 and copies are available to buy from the stall. Once again, we thank Siobhan for this wonderful book, for all her hard work, and those who assisted her in any way.



## Please Pray For The Following



**Recently Dead:** Tricia Weir (Larkhall); Anne Findon (Wishawhill); Terri Stark; Alister Maxwell; Matt McDonald (Bellshill);

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Hugh Kely; Bill Crossan;

*May they rest in peace,  
and rise in glory!*

## Liturgical Calendar

**Monday 15th September, Our Lady of Sorrows** - This commemoration originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. Approved for the Servite order in the seventeenth century, it was extended to the whole Western Church in 1814 by Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon. In the light of Simeon's prophecy about a sword piercing Mary's soul (Luke 2:35), the feast celebrates Mary, first disciple and first to share in the pain and triumph of the cross.

**Tuesday 16th September, St Ninian, Bishop** - He was born in Cumbria and was ordained bishop in Rome in 394. He landed in Whithorn in Galloway in 397 and built a white-painted stone church the which was called Candida Casa, "White House." From this centre he preached the Gospel in Scotland.

**Wednesday 17th September, St Robert Bellarmine** - Born in Tuscany (Italy) in 1542; died in Rome on this day in 1621. A Jesuit priest and professor of theology at Louvain and Rome. Became a cardinal and then archbishop of Capua (Italy). Returned to Rome three years later as a theological adviser to Paul V. An outstanding theologian, he expounded Church teaching in catechisms for the faithful and defended it comprehensively against Protestant positions. Noted for his dedication to the truth, his charity in disputation, and his austerity of life.

**Saturday 20th September, Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and companions, Martyrs** - Andrew Kim Taegon was the first Korean presbyter and Paul Chong Hasang a catechist and lay apostle. After more than two centuries of lay leadership, the Church in Korea was subject to fierce persecutions between 1839 and 1867. This feast commemorates 103 of the numerous Korean martyrs, representatives from all walks of life: men and women, married and unmarried, the elderly, teenagers and children, missionary bishops and presbyters. Noted for their fearless witness in the face of torture and death.

## Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 1,175.00
Standing Orders:	£ 436.00
Votives:	£ 210.00
Stall:	£ 205.00

**St Marys Mission RCDM**  
**80-17-02 00265809**

Thank you *for your*  
*continued generosity*

## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

<u>13th/14th September</u>	<u>27th/28th September</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> T. Coia	<b>5.00pm</b> C. Jackson
<b>10.30am</b> E. Crossan	<b>10.30am</b> M. McCusker
<b>5.00pm</b> M. Davis	<b>5.00pm</b> S. Casserly
<u>20th/21st September</u>	<u>4th/5th October</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> J. McBride	<b>5.00pm</b> F. Chung
<b>10.30am</b> J. Russell	<b>10.30am</b> A. Servers
<b>5.00pm</b> N. Donnelly	<b>5.00pm</b> M. Davis

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>13th/14th September</u>	<u>27th/28th September</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> J. McBride	<b>5.00pm</b> C. Scott
R. Sinton	S. Callaghan
<b>10.30am</b> G. Duddy	<b>10.30am</b> V. Hilland
A. Gillespie	M. Thompson
M. Keenan	B. Farrell
<u>20th/21st September</u>	<u>4th/5th October</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> A. Dempsey	<b>5.00pm</b> K. Bryce
F. McBride	A. McGowan
<b>10.30am</b> J. Littlejohn	<b>10.30am</b> C. Duddy
A. O'Neil	I. Maxfield
N. Keenan	J. Russell