



Saint Mary's Parish Lanark

Pentecost Sunday

24th May 2026



Ad Gentes & Apostolicam Actuositatem

Ad Gentes (translated as To the Nations) is one of the nine Decrees of the Second Vatican Council. It focuses on the missionary activity of the Church in the world today. The document emphasises the importance of understanding the fundamental mission of evangelisation.

It expresses a clear directive to the bishops and clergy in forming strong Christian communities and lays out guidelines for the training and activities of missionaries.

When bishops from various mission territories, especially from Africa, arrived for the third session of the Council in 1964 they indicated their strong desire for a full document to be devoted to the missions.

The document reflects the main features of the Church's missionary reality, presented in six chapters. It beautifully describes the role of the Church in God's mission. The Lord Jesus "founded his Church as the sacrament of salvation and sent his apostles into all the world just as he himself had been sent by his Father... The mission of the Church, therefore, is fulfilled by that activity which makes her, obeying the command of Christ and influenced by the grace and love of the Holy Spirit, fully present to all peoples and nations".

Ad Gentes asserts that the task of mission is shared by all the baptised: priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful - each according to their own state. "The Christian faithful, having different gifts according to each one's opportunity, ability, charisms and ministry must all cooperate in the Gospel... the whole Church is missionary and the work of evangelisation is a basic duty of the entire People of God".

The Decree, Apostolicam Actuositatem (translated as Apostolic Activity of the Laity), was approved on 18th November 1965, just three weeks before the end of the Council.

The Decree tells us that although there is a diversity of ministries in the Church there is only one mission. The Lay Faithful by virtue of their baptism have a duty and right to be missionary disciples and share in the triple munera of Christ (priest, prophet and king). It tells us that the laity can participate in the Church's apostolic mission to save mankind through everyday things like culture, family values, economic order, right approach to science and technology, charitable works, all inspired by love of God and neighbour, conforming our lives to Christ.

The document also recognises that the Church has a duty to support, direct and promote the lay apostolate and to offer training and formation to fulfil this duty of all the baptised.

The Decree concludes by saying: "The most holy Council, then, earnestly entreats all the laity in the Lord to answer gladly, nobly, and promptly the more urgent invitation of Christ in this hour and the impulse of the Holy Spirit. Younger persons should feel that this call has been directed to them especially and they should respond to it eagerly and generously. Through this holy synod, the Lord renews his invitation to all the laity to come closer to him every day, recognising that what is his is also their own, to associate themselves with him in his saving mission.



Holy Week Parish Schedule

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

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)

Monday 25th 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 26th 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 27th May

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am Church Cleaning

Thursday 28th 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 29th May

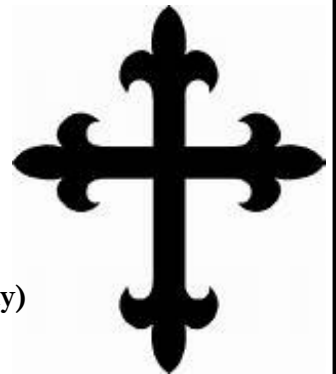
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Agatha

Saturday 30th 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 the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)

Sunday 31st May *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)
- 12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)



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 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 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.

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

Festival of Synodality

Join Catholics from across Scotland for a joyful and hope-filled day of prayer, listening and Conversation in the Spirit, celebrating the life and mission of the Church in Scotland today.

The Festival of Synodality will take place on Saturday 6th June from 9am to 4pm at Glasgow Caledonian University.

The day includes guest speakers Bishop Alan McGuckian SJ, Fr David McCallum SJ and Sandra Chaoul, with opportunities to take part in Conversation in the Spirit and various workshops.

Lunch included.
Tickets: £45
Book now: bit.ly/synodality26

St Mary's Flower Fund

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who so generously contributes to the Flower Fund throughout the year. Your kindness and support allow our church to be adorned week by week with such beautiful flowers, enhancing our worship, especially for special occasions.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mari and her wonderful team of florists, whose time, creativity, and dedication transform these flowers into such stunning arrangements.

Their care and talent help make our church a place of beauty and welcome in every season.

Building Fund Collection

As planned, to help support the ongoing maintenance and development of St Mary's campus, our next Building Fund Collection will be held on **6th/7th June.**

Please be as generous as you can as we look to secure the future of St Mary's parish for generations to come.

Quiz - Thank You

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who came along to the Quiz Night.

The night was full of fun and laughter raising **£180.** The scores were very close with 'John-Paul's Angels' picking up the winning trophy, 'Tap of the League' was a close 2nd. Well done to Daniel who won the After-Eight Challenge.

*Thanks to all the teams
who entered into the spirit of the night.*

Reference for Catholic Teachers

At this time of the year many vacancies, full-time positions and promoted posts within our Catholic schools are filled.

If you are a Catholic teacher who lives and practices their faith in St Mary's and requires a reference, then please speak in person to Fr John-Paul before or after Mass, and he will be more than happy to provide you with a reference.

If you do not live within the boundaries of the parish or do not practice your faith regularly by attending Mass, a reference cannot be given.

Communications Sunday Collection

Many thanks to the parishioners who contributed to the box at the back of the church last weekend for Communications Sunday. The total forwarded to the National Office for Communications and Evangelisation is **£355.00.**

Many thanks for your generosity.



Holy Trinity Chapel
Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest
Father John-Paul McShane
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frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark
ML11 7JS
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: Anne Cumming Cumbernauld (Formerly Carstairs)
Sheelagh Cloonan (Liverpool); Allan McLachlan; Margaret Lacey (Edinburgh);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Marion Wright; Sandy Abernethy; Mary Dowds; Sandy McLean; Irene Turner (Bellshill);

*"And this is eternal life, that they know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
Jn 17:3*

300 Club: April Winners

Week 5th Apr: **194** Week 12th Apr: **183** Week 19th Apr: **156** Week 26th Apr: **91**
St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763

If you would like to join the 300 Club you can set up a Standing Order using the details above and emailing Kathleen who will then supply you with a lucky number: stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,621.00
Standing Orders: £ 423.50
Votives: £ 160.00
Stall: £ 60.00



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>23rd/24th May</u>	<u>6th/7th June</u>
5.00pm F. Chung	5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am E. Campbell	10.30am A. Serves
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm M. Davis
<u>30th/31st May</u>	<u>13th/14th June</u>
5.00pm R. McConnell	5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am J. Russell	10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>23rd/24th May</u>	<u>6th/7th June</u>
5.00pm C. Scott	5.00pm M. Keenan
S. Callaghan	C. Callaghan
10.30am J. Littlejohn	10.30am K. Lawrence
A. O'Neill	J. McFarlane
N. Keenan	M. Russell
<u>30th/31st May</u>	<u>13th/14th June</u>
5.00pm K. Bryce	5.00pm F. McBride
A. McGowan	R. Sinton
10.30am V. Hilland	10.30am J. Littlejohn
M. Thompson	A. O'Neill
B. Farrell	N. Keenan