

St Mary's Lanark

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

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Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

The Baptism of the Lord

11th January 2026

The Mystery of the Lord's Baptism

The Gospel tells us that the Lord went to the Jordan River to be baptised 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

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 11th January *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

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

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

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

Monday 12th January *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

Tuesday 13th January

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Afternoon Prayer of the Church

Wednesday 14th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

10.00am Church Cleaning

Thursday 15th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

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

Friday 16th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

Saturday 17th 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

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 18th January *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

10th/11th January

5.00pm R. McConnell

10.30am R. Colpitts

5.00pm N. Donnelly

24th/25th January

5.00pm C. Jackson

10.30am J. Russell

5.00pm S. Casserly

17th/18th January

5.00pm J. McBride

10.30am E. Crossan

5.00pm M. Davis

31st Jan/1st Feb

5.00pm G. Abernethy

10.30am A. Servers

5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

10th/11th January

5.00pm C. Scott

S. Callaghan

10.30am K. Lawrence

J. McFarlane

M. Russell

24th/25th January

5.00pm M. Keenan

C. Callaghan

10.30am C. Duddy

I. Maxfield

J. Russell

17th/18th January

5.00pm K. Bryce

A. McGowan

10.30am V. Hilland

M. Thomson

B. Farrell

31st Jan/1st Feb

5.00pm F. McBride

R. Sinton

10.30am J. Littlejohn

A. O'Neill

N. Keenan

Please Pray For The Following

Recently Dead: Mary McCulloch Glebe Court

Sr Rosemary Reilly of The Sisters of St Joseph of Peace (Hamilton); Rory Milligan (Arizona); Alice Hynds (Wishaw); Raymond Cullion; Ronnie Watson; Johnny Carr (Carfin);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: John McShane; Betty McLeish; John Renton; Marion O'Donnell; Gerry McGarrigle; Matt Reilly Snr; Matt Reilly Jnr; Karen Reilly; Jimmy Littlejohn; James O'Leary;

Funeral Arrangements: Mary McCulloch Requiem Mass: Monday 19th January, 9.30am

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.

Christmas Collection

Many thanks to those who so generously donated to the Christmas Collection. This year it totalled £3,795. A very sincere thank you to the parishioner who also gifted £1,000 to the parish this Christmas.

***Thank you for your continued
Support, generosity and encouragement!***

Project Wellspring Forum

In two weeks' time, Bishop Toal invites parishes to gather for the Wellspring Pastoral Forum, on Tuesday 27th January at 7pm, in St Joseph's Parish Hall, Blantyre.

This will be a supportive and hopeful evening focused on parish evangelisation, mission, and sharing good practice across the Diocese. Parishes will also hear about the range of formation and mission resources available to support their work. All welcome.

St Mary's Weddings 2026

If you have booked St Mary's for your wedding, or are intending to book St Mary's, for 2026, and if you have not done so already, please contact Fr John-Paul to arrange a meeting to begin the legal and Church paperwork which takes several months to complete.

The best form of contact is email:

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk

Diocese of Motherwell Choral Director

The Diocese of Motherwell, in conjunction with the National Schools Singing Programme (NSSP), seeks to appoint a temporary choral director commencing March 2026. This post is initially on a fixed term basis until the end of the 2025/26 school year, with the possibility of extension into the next academic year.

For further information and an application pack email Margaret Docherty mdocherty@rcdom.org.uk

300 Club: December Winners

Week 7th December: 2 Week 14th December: 27 Week 21st December: 251 Week 28th December: 102

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 email Kathleen who will then supply you with a lucky number: stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

St Mary's Sacramental Enrolment Mass 2026

Next weekend, Sunday 18th January, we welcome the children from our parish who will be enrolled for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The number of children who are being enrolled for the Sacraments this year remain steady, but still lower than most other parishes in the diocese. It is important that we encourage our children in the faith, and that those parents who wish to enrol their children for the Sacraments attend Mass every Sunday and encourage their children to do the same!

Marriage, Family & Life Mission - Can You Help?

In the Diocese we now have the Marriage, Family, and Life Mission as one of our Priority Missions under the dedicated leadership of Deacon David Harper. Along with Deacon David Bishop Toal would like to promote, strengthen and celebrate the Mission in every parish. In order to do this, Bishop Toal would like parishioners to be identified to establish the Mission in the parishes and to represent the parish in our diocesan Marriage, Family & Life Mission. With this aim Bishop Toal ask each Parish Priest to put forward:

- **At least one couple as Ambassadors for Marriage**
- **At least one family as Ambassadors for Family**
- **At least one parishioner as an Ambassador for Life**

Through these representatives there will be opportunity for our parish to be a voice in the diocesan endeavour—a channel of grace, collaboration, and missionary zeal. It will encourage people to take an interest in the Diocese of Motherwell through the Marriage, Family, and Life Mission, helping to build a culture where love is strengthened, families are supported, and every human life is cherished.

The remit and role of the Marriage, Family & Life Ambassadors

The Diocese of Motherwell MF&L Mission invites parishioners to share in the vibrant mission of supporting Marriage, Family and Life by becoming an Ambassador. Each ambassador role is rooted in joyful witness, active participation and a desire to strengthen the heart of our parishes. Ambassadors help ensure every parish is connected, every voice is heard and every vocation is nurtured.

Marriage Ambassador

The role of Marriage Ambassadors will be to joyfully witness to the beauty of the sacrament of matrimony—living their vocation with love, faith and commitment. By sharing the joy you find in your marriage, you help inspire and support couples within your parish and beyond.

Your role includes staying connected with the Diocesan MF&L Mission Team through quarterly meetings, communicating parish needs, and highlighting initiatives that support engaged and married couples. As the link between parish and diocese, you help shape how the Church accompanies couples at every stage of their journey.

Family Ambassador

The role of Family Ambassadors is to celebrate and support the diverse and everyday holiness of family life. Through your witness you help shine a light on the joys and challenges families today experience.

By attending quarterly gatherings with the MF&L Mission Team and sharing what's happening in your parish, you ensure families are truly seen, heard and supported. Your role helps strengthen the network of care around families and contributes to shaping diocesan priorities for family accompaniment, encouraging both parish and diocesan initiatives that nurture them spiritually, socially and pastorally.

Life Ambassador

The role of the Life Ambassadors will be to champion the Church's message that every human life is precious, purposeful and loved by God. In fulfilling this role you help both your parish and the diocese engage with life-affirming initiatives, prayer, education and outreach—promoting the dignity of every Human life from conception to a natural death.

In partnership with the Diocesan MF&L Mission Team, you participate in quarterly meetings, attend the Diocesan monthly Mass for Life, share parish experiences and communicate opportunities for involvement. As a bridge between parish and diocese, you help foster a compassionate and hopeful culture of life throughout the diocese.

A Shared Mission

Across all three ambassador roles, the mission is the same: to be a joyful witness, a voice for your parish, and a vital connection in building a diocese where marriage, family and life are supported, celebrated and strengthened. If you feel called to share your gifts and passion in any of these areas, we welcome you to take part in this inspiring diocesan mission.

*“Come be living witnesses – Ambassadors of Marriage, Family & Life,
and let your home become the light of Christ in our world.”*

If any parishioner feels they would like to represent our parish they should speak to Fr John-Paul. Bishop Toal has asked each parish to be represented, if no one volunteers Fr John-Paul will have to approach some candidates, and we ask you be as open as possible. This is a very important mission within the life of the Church and our Diocese.