

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 Epiphany of the Lord

4th January 2026

Justice & Peace Letter 2026

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There is a zoo in Mexico which I visited a few years ago, and it has one exhibit which is labelled "the most dangerous animal on the planet". As you look in to the enclosure to see that animal, you see yourself. For what is in the enclosure is a mirror, and the most dangerous animal is humanity. Human beings are a danger to the world and to themselves.



When we lock the door of our house at night, we do so to protect ourselves from our fellow human beings. When our country stockpiles its arms and builds up its military defences, it does so to protect itself from our fellow human beings. We all long for peace, we have a deep desire for peace – yet peace is shattered by our fellow human beings.

Each year we start the new year with a prayer for peace, but, as we do so, we look around and see war and conflict, death and destruction – all caused by humanity. Every dispute arises, every fallout with our neighbour starts, every military intervention begins in the same place - the human heart. Because in our heart there is anger, bitterness, greed, envy, pride, fear. It only takes a little spark to flame a fire.

The more at risk we feel, the more we take action to protect ourselves, with better locks on our door, or more weapons for our army. Better locks on our door may help keep out the thief, but more arms for our army just tends to encourage our potential enemy to do the same and increase their weapons, and we end up no safer than we were before.

So, our prayer for peace is not just that armies will stop fighting, that acts of terrorism and warfare will cease, that countries will live in harmony with one another. Our prayer is for every human heart, our own included, to be purified of all that is within it that leads to conflict. We pray for disagreements to be settled without resorting to violence, for human life be valued as precious, and for the taking of human life to never be seen as a means to resolve human disputes.

We are each of us part of humanity, and we all struggle to have that peace in our heart, that leads to peace in our family, in our neighbourhood and in our world. We pray for peace, since only with God's help can we overcome the human weakness that makes humanity a danger to the world and a danger to ourselves.

May God answer our prayer and fulfil the longing of our heart for peace.

With my prayers and good wishes,

+William Nolan

Archbishop of Glasgow, President of Justice & Peace Scotland

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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)

Monday 5th January *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 6th January

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 7th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Thursday 8th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Friday 9th January

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 10th 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 Baptism of the Lord (St Mary's)

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)



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

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

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

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

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

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

Please Pray For The Following

Recently Dead: Mary McCulloch Glebe Court
Rory Milligan (Arizona);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Montieth Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Pat McKeown (Hamilton); Joseph McAllister; Peter Mulligan;

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.



Thank You

As we continue to celebrate the joy of Christmas and the birth of our Saviour, I want to express my sincere thanks to each of you for all that you do for our parish. Your generosity of time, talents, and care for one another is a true reflection of the love of Christ alive among us.

I am deeply grateful for the many kind Christmas gifts, money, cards, and good wishes I have received. Please know how much they are appreciated, and how thankful I am for your thoughtfulness and support—it is truly humbling and undeserved! Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

May this holy season bring you and your families peace, joy, and renewed hope. I pray that the light of Christ, born in Bethlehem, will continue to guide and bless you throughout the coming year. Fr John-Paul

Justice & Peace Motherwell Diocese

The next meeting of the Diocesan Justice & Peace Group is on **Thursday 8th January at 7:30pm**. It will be held on Zoom. If you would like to join the meeting, please email paulfoley@rcdom.org.uk for the Zoom link. We will be exploring Pope Leo's recent Urbi et Orbi address and how Motherwell Diocese can respond to it. All are welcome.



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 McMahan; Annie & Arthur Lenagh; Hughie & Mary McShane; McShane Family; McGuire Family; Lenagh Family; McMahan 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 Pavilonis; 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; Mahar 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 & Saddle 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 Casagrande; 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; Foley Family; McKendrick Family; Morton Family; Jackson Family; McGuinness Family; Betty & Joe Woods; Harry & Meg Kergan; Kim Kergan; Kergan Family; Woods Family;