ST MARY'S LANARK
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH

ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR & ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH (ML11 8BB)
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Charity No - SC011041

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THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
28th November 2021

Come Lord Jesus

In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. And the term the coming includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time.

Advent has been called a "little Lent," because it traditionally has included a period of increased prayer, fasting, and good works. Traditionally, all great feasts have been preceded by a time of fasting, which makes the feast itself more joyful. Unfortunately, Advent today has supplanted by "the Christmas shopping season," so that by the time Christmas Day comes, many people no longer enjoy the feast or even specially mark the next 12 days of the Christmas season, which lasts until Epiphany.

In its symbolism, the church continues to stress the penitential and preparatory nature of Advent. As during Lent, priests wear purple vestments, and the Gloria ("Glory to God") is omitted during Mass. The only exception is on the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, when priests can wear rose-colored vestments. As on Laetare Sunday during Lent, this exception is designed to encourage us to continue our prayer and fasting, because we can see that Advent is more than halfway over.

Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the Advent wreath, a custom that originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple or blue and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the center), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple or blue candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.

We can better enjoy Christmas, all 12 days of it, if we revive Advent as a period of preparation. Abstaining from meat on Fridays or not eating at all between meals is a good way to revive the Advent fast. We can incorporate customs such as the Advent wreath, and the Jesse Tree into our daily ritual, and we can set some time aside for special scripture readings for Advent, which remind us of the threefold coming of Christ.

Holding off on putting up the Christmas tree and other decorations is another way to remind ourselves that the feast is not here yet. Traditionally, such decorations were put up on Christmas Eve, and they would not be taken down until after Epiphany, in order to celebrate the Christmas season to its fullest.

Clydesdale Foodbank

This weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection to help support Clydesdale Foodbank. Bags of shopping can be handed to any pass-keeper, or left in the sacristy. Monetary donations can be placed in the basket with your weekly offering. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the Foodbank.

St Mary's Primary School Funds

This weekend, and next, there will be Tea Towles on sale in St Mary's Stall, they are priced at £4 each and display a sketch of each child's face. All funds raised go toward school funds. Tea Towels can also be purchased through the school.

St Nicholas Church Charity Afternoon

St Nicholas Church Choir and Friends, are hosting a Christmas Concert in aid of St Andrews Hospice. The Concert will take place on **Sunday 5th December 2021 at 3pm.** All are invited to attend. Many thanks to St Nicholas Church for supporting such a great charity and also for brining some festive joy to our town.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

On Monday, 6th December, at 12noon, there will be Mass celebrated in St Mary's with Anointing of the Sick. After Mass, there will be tea/coffee and soup served in the Clubrooms. This Mass is being organised by our parish SSVP. The Mass is open to all parishioners, if you require transport please speak with a member of our SSVP or phone 07756523623.

Lanark in Bloom

We have recently found out that Lanark in Bloom was awarded a Gold Medal again this year in 'The Beautiful Scotland Awards'. Favourable comments were made about St Mary's Church Garden by the Judges. Well done to all our gardeners for their hard work and dedication. God reward you.

St Isidore's Church

Due to a major flood in St Isidore's a few weeks ago, and following health and safety advice, St Isidore's will be out of commission for several months. The Catholic Insurance Company have been contacted and we have started a claim in order to get the repairs carried out. Thank you very much for your patience during this difficult time. In a special way we would like to thank our friends at Biggar Kirk, especially Rev Mike Fucella for his wonderful support and the use of the Gillespie Centre and Biggar Kirk. It is often said that in crisis you learn who your friends are!! Please pay close attention to the Facebook Group to find any updates as the week goes on. Our aim is to celebrate Mass in Biggar Kirk as from next Sunday at a revised time of **12.30pm**. All details will be confirmed by Ian through email and on Facebook. Once again thank you for your support.

300 Club: November Winners

Week 7th November:	***152***	***C. Binnie***
Week 14th November:	***207***	***J. Reid***
Week 21st November:	***2***	***J. Russell***
Week 28th November:	***42***	***G. Abernethy***

Congratulations to all our winners!!

300 Club subscriptions and winnings can now be paid through bank transfer. If you would like to find out more please email theclubrooms@outlook.com

Christmas Raffle

Christmas raffle tickets are now available, Social Committee Members will be at all Masses over the next few weekends. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted.

Christmas boxes are also available to order for £15 they contain a sultana cake, cherry cake and shortbread. There is three dates for collection, weekend's 4/5, 11/12, 18/19 of December. Orders can be taken before or after Mass.

Please Pray For The Following:

Recently Dead - James McIlvaney Eastend Terrace, Carstairs
Joan Williams.

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Fr Joseph Brannigan; The Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Charles Lively; Tadzik Fox; Joe McGarrigle; Bridget Brady; Cissie Coll; Thomas Coll; Sean Coll; Margaret Coll.

Requiescant in Pace

Christmas Mass Times

As we begin to look ahead to Christmas and plan for a busy period of the year, please find below all Christmas Mass and Service times to assist you in your planning.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Choir (St Mary's)
7.00pm First Mass of Christmas (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am Dawn Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)
10.30am Day Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)
12.00noon Day Mass of Christmas (St Isidore's)

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection:	£	890.00
Standing Orders:	£	385.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection:	£	---------
Standing Orders:	£	10.00

(Including St Mary Magdalene's)

St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection:	£	-------

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish. For those who wish to pay Bank Transfer or Standing Order please find the relevant details below.

St Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809

Parish of St Isidore's 83-16-11 00235026

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

27th/28th November		11th/12th December	
5.00pm	J. Moynagh	**5.00pm**	A. Haetzman
10.30am	J. Russell	**10.30am**	S. Watson
5.00pm	S. Casserly	**5.00pm**	M. Davis

4th/5th December		18th/19th December	
5.00pm	G. Abernethy	**5.00pm**	J. Moynagh
10.30am	E. McCabe	**10.30am**	J. Russell
5.00pm	S. Casserly	**5.00pm**	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

27th/28th November		11th/12th December	
5.00pm	P. Freel J. McEwan	**5.00pm**	A. Dempsey C. Scott
10.30am	M. Davis T. Mullen	**10.30am**	J. Wilson C. Duddy

4th/5th December		18th/19th December	
5.00pm	C McClafferty	**5.00pm**	M Keenan P. Stewart
10.30am	J. McAlavey G. Duddy	**10.30am**	J. McAlavey M. Keenan

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 28th November

8.30am	**Holy Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)**
9.00am	**Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (St Mary Magdalene's)**
10.30am	**Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**
12noon	**Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Gillespie Centre)**
5.00pm	**Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**

Monday 29th November

9.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary's)
1.00pm	**Monday Club (St Mary's Clubrooms)**
7.00pm	**RCIA (St Mary's Chapel House)**

Tuesday 30th November

10.00am	Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)
12noon	Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 1st December

9.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary's)
7.00pm	**Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)**

Thursday 2nd December

9.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary's)
7.30pm	**St Mary's Church Choir (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 3rd December

9.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 4th December

9.10am	Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
9.30am	Holy Mass (St Mary's)
5.00pm	**Vigil Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**

Sunday 5th December

10.00am	**TRANSPORT LEAVES ST MARY MAGDALENE'S**
10.30am	**Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**
12.30pm	**Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Biggar Kirk)**
5.00pm	**Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**

The 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. The 12noon Sunday Mass from St Isidore's is also Livestreamed on the parish YouTube Channel.

Liturgical Calendar

Tuesday 30th November St Andrew Patron of Scotland - St Andrew has been celebrated in Scotland for over a thousand years, with feasts being held in his honour as far back as the year 1000 AD. However, it wasn't until 1320, when Scotland's independence was declared with the signing of The Declaration of Arbroath, that he officially became Scotland's patron saint. Since then St Andrew has become tied up in so much of Scotland. The flag of Scotland, the St Andrew's Cross, was chosen in honour of him. Also, the ancient town of St Andrews.

St Andrew was made the patron saint of Scotland after the king's descendant, Oengus II, prayed to St Andrew on the eve of a crucial battle against English warriors from Northumberland, around 20 miles east of Edinburgh. Legend has it that, heavily outnumbered, Oengus II told St Andrew that he would become the patron saint of Scotland if he were granted victory. On the day of the battle, clouds are said to have formed a saltire in the sky, and Oengus's army of Picts and Scots were victorious. The Saltire flag - a white cross on a blue background - is said to have come from this divine intervention and has been used to represent Scotland since 1385.