



Saint Mary's Parish Lanark

1st Sunday of Lent
22nd February 2026



The Second Vatican Ecumenical Council

At his General Audience at the Vatican on 7th January, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, framed the beginning of the new year as the start of a renewed journey for Catholics throughout the world. The Pope directed the Church's attention back to a defining moment of the twentieth century, announcing a fresh rereading of the documents of the Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II (2).



Pope Leo presented this renewed engagement with Vatican II as an exciting invitation. He emphasised that the Council is not a closed chapter of history but a great grace entrusted to the Church, one that continues to offer light, wisdom, and prophetic guidance for every generation. In doing so, the Holy Father underscored that the Church does not move forward by abandoning her roots, but by drawing more deeply from them with faith and discernment.

The Pope noted that nearly seventy years have passed since the Council fathers first promulgated these documents. The Council was convened in 1962 and ended in 1965. Many of the Catholics who lived through that moment, who received the Council's teachings firsthand, are no longer with us. This reality, he explained, makes a renewed reading not only timely but necessary. Each generation must receive the Council anew, as a living source of guidance for the Church's mission today.

Pope Leo highlighted the enduring themes of Vatican II, particularly its encouragement of dialogue and engagement with the modern world. The Council called the Church to foster authentic interreligious dialogue, to pursue unity among Christians through ecumenism, and to collaborate with all people of good will in the service of truth and the dignity of the human person. These principles, the Pope reminded the faithful, were never meant to dilute Catholic identity, but to express it more clearly and charitably in a complex and often divided world.

Returning to the documents of Vatican II, Pope Leo explained, is both an act of fidelity and an act of renewal. It is a return to the Church's recent heritage and a recommitment to her evangelical mission. The Council sought to help Catholics love the Lord more deeply, serve His Church more faithfully, and carry the light of Christ into the world with confidence and humility. That mission remains unchanged, even as the circumstances surrounding it continue to evolve.

The Holy Father's message challenges Catholics to resist the temptation to see Vatican II through purely ideological lenses (conservative and liberal; left and right). Instead, Pope Leo called for a reading rooted in prayer, guided by the Magisterium, and attentive to the Holy Spirit, who continues to animate the Church.

Pope Leo's call sets a clear tone for the months ahead. By returning to Vatican II with fresh eyes and faithful hearts, Catholics are invited to rediscover their identity as joyful evangelisers and courageous witnesses of justice and peace.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 22nd February *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 12noon Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Solemn Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 23rd February *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
- 10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11am
- 11.00am Stations of the Cross
- 6.15pm Holy Mass

Tuesday 24th February

- 10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am Confessions until 11.55am
- 11.40am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 12noon Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony
- 6.15pm Stations of the Cross & Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th February

- 9.10am Stations of the Cross
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am Lenten Prayer Circle (St Catherine's)
- 7.00pm Weekly Online Zoom Scripture Session (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)**

Thursday 26th February

- 8.20am Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph
- 7.30pm St Mary's Choir Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 27th February

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
- 9.00am Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.10am Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Agatha

Saturday 28th February *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mary Hughes**
- 4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm
- 4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of lent (St Mary's)**

Sunday 1st March *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 11.15am Monthly Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)**
- 12noon Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 12.35pm Monthly Light Bite (Holy Trinity)**
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Solemn Benediction (St Mary's)



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **next weekend**. Bags of groceries can be handed in to the sacristy or to a passkeeper, and any monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket in an enveloped cleared marked 'FOODBANK'. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to the foodbank. Over 50% of what is donated to Clydesdale Foodbank is used in Lanark.

Building Fund Collection

In order to help with ongoing maintenance and the upkeep of St Mary's, Fr John-Paul proposes taking up a Building Fund Collection (one per quarter). The money donated will be reinvested into the buildings and will help with the upkeep of our beautiful church and Clubrooms.

Fr John-Paul would be encouraged to hear your thoughts or comments. Please speak to him directly.

Second Collections During Lent

Sick & Retired Priests Lenten Collection

Bishop Toal has asked all parishes to take up our annual collection to support the care costs for sick and retired priests at all Masses on **Weekend 28th Feb/1st March**

Annual SCIAF Collection

Our Annual SCIAF Collection will be taken up at all Masses on **Weekend 14th/15th March.**

New Crucifix

In St Mary's we are delighted to have on display, above the tabernacle, a crucifix which belonged to the late Fr Brendan Curley, from Manchester. He was a friend of Fr John-Paul, and we are honoured to have this crucifix in his memory.

It is quite unique and fits so well in our fine church. Please spare a prayer for the repose of Fr Brendan's soul.

St Mary's Defibrillator

After a medical emergency several weeks ago at Mass, Fr John-Paul has purchased a defibrillator for St Mary's, which will be kept in the sacristy for emergency use. The defibrillator was purchased by St Mary's Choir, and we are very grateful to them for this kind gesture.

Defibrillators are becoming more commonly used, especially if paramedics cannot be onsite quickly. They are very easy to use and come with instructions and picture directions. They are designed for safe use on unconscious, unresponsive people in suspected cardiac arrest, they will not shock a person with a beating heart, but it is understandable that people are apprehensive about using one.

The company who supplied the defibrillator (M&J Sports Injury Clinic) have also offered to hold a training day in the parish for anyone who would like to attend. The date of this training session will be advertised in the next few weeks.

Walking Pilgrimage

The Diocese is organising a Diocesan walking pilgrimage from Motherwell Cathedral to St Andrews, walking around 10-12 miles each Tuesday, starting on 7th April and finishing on 9th June. There is no charge for the pilgrimage – the only cost will be for transport back to our starting point.

If you would like to take part, or would like more details, contact Jim McKelvie pilgrimage@rcdom.org.uk or call 07957 847290.

St Mary's Parking

Now that the carparking bays have been completed, we kindly ask all patrons to park within the lines provided and NOT to park in the reserved bays. Employees of St Catherine's will now park at the rear of St Catherine's or a public carpark in order to free up spaces for parishioners attending Mass or those using the Clubrooms.

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 vulnerable feelings or grief and loneliness. The Beginning Experience, Scotland Team would like to help. A weekend away for a lifetime of change.

Conforti Centre, Coatbridge
27th-29th March 2026

For further details contact Louise: 07786687631 or beginningexperiencescotland2@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Chapel

Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest

Father John-Paul McShane

St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark ML11 7JS
01555 662234
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: Mary Hughes Albany Drive
Jacqueline Cummings Carstairs

Sr Paula Bradshaw DC; Frances McVie; Dave Hailey (Motherwell); Ian Hodge; Frank Murphy; Moira Brown (Uddingston); Jamie MacFarlane; Rosina Baird; Rosemary James; Marion Renton; Eileen McLeod;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Canon Kieran O'Farrell; Fr Brendan Curley;

Funeral Arrangements: Mary Hughes Requiem Mass: Saturday 28th February, 9.30am
Jacqueline Cummings Requiem Mass: Wednesday 4th March, 9.30am

300 Club: January Winners

Week 4th January: **188** Week 11th January: **53** Week 18th January: **66** Week 25th January: **109**

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

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,036.00
Standing Orders: £ 265.50
Votives: £ 150.00
Stall: £ 190.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity.

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>14th/15th February</u>	<u>28th Feb/1st March</u>
5.00pm F. Chung	5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am J. Angus	10.30am A. Servers
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm S. Casserly
<u>21st/22nd February</u>	<u>7th/8th March</u>
5.00pm R. McConnell	5.00pm J. McBride
10.30am M. McCusker	10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm N. Donnelly	5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>14th/15th February</u>	<u>28th Feb/1st March</u>
5.00pm C. Scott	5.00pm M. Kennan
S. Callaghan	C. Callaghan
10.30am V. Hilland	10.30am K. Lawrence
M. Thompson	J. McFarlane
B. Farrell	M. Russell
<u>21st/22nd February</u>	<u>7th/8th March</u>
5.00pm K. Bryce	5.00pm R. Sinton
A. McGowan	F. McBride
10.30am J. McAlavey	10.30am G. Duddy
I. Maxfield	A. Gillespie
J. Russell	M. Keenan