

St Mary's Lanark

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

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Parish Priest

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St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

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1st Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

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.





Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Andrew Sharkey Bellfield
May McCulloch, Patricia Brien.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Chris Alrock; Fred Colpitts; Bridget Brady; Moira Healy.

Heavenly Father, we come before You with heavy hearts, seeking Your comfort and peace. We ask that You grant eternal rest to our departed loved ones. May their soul find peace in Your loving embrace. Comfort those of us who mourn, and help us to remember the joy and love they brought into our lives. Guide us through our grief, and remind us of Your promise of eternal life. Amen.

Vocations Evening

A meeting will take place on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral** for those in our diocese who feel called to the priesthood. This informal evening will begin with a short time of prayer and provide an opportunity for anyone considering a vocation to the priesthood to ask questions, come together and learn a bit more about priesthood and the discernment process. If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood but can't make it along to the meeting on 17th December, please email Fr Sean Wyllie, Diocesan Vocations Promoter: frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk

Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick

On Monday 2nd December the St Vincent de Paul have organised Mass with Sacrament of the Sick to be celebrated in St Mary's at 12noon. Everyone is most welcome to attend. If you require transport please contact our SSVP on 07565396878 .

A huge thank you to our SSVP Members and all they do for our parish in helping those less fortunate.

Monday Club - 2nd December

The next meeting will be Monday the 2nd of December. This week we will be entertained by the choir from St Mary's primary school. There will also be some Christmas floral arrangements to raffle, gratefully donated by our wonderful florist Marie. Many thanks.

As ever everyone and anyone will be most welcome.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,125.00
Standing Orders: £ 386.00
Votives: £ 210.00
Stall: £ 205.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>30th Nov/1st Dec</u>		<u>14th/15th December</u>	
5.00pm	J. McBride	5.00pm	C. Jackson
10.30am	A. Servers	10.30am	M. McCusker
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	M. Davis
<u>7th/8th December</u>		<u>21st/22nd December</u>	
5.00pm	A. Haetzman	5.00pm	G. Abernethy
10.30am	E. McCabe	10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>30th Nov/1st Dec</u>		<u>14th/15th December</u>	
5.00pm	F. McBride	5.00pm	C. Scott
	R. Sinton		S. Callaghan
10.30am	G. Duddy	10.30am	V. Hilland
	A. O'Neill		M. Thompson
	J. McAlavey		B. Farrell
<u>7th/8th December</u>		<u>21st/22nd December</u>	
5.00pm	A. Dempsey	5.00pm	K. Bryce
	J. McBride		A. McGown
10.30am	J. Littlejohn	10.30am	C. Duddy
	A. O'Neill		D. McFarlane
	N. Keenan		I. Maxfield

St Mary's Coffee Morning & Christmas Raffle

The next Coffee Morning will take place on **Sunday 8th December** after 10.30 Mass. The Christmas Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. The girls will start selling raffle tickets for this event at Masses from 9th and 10th November.



Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Show

The Choir of St Mary's invite you to *An Afternoon of Christmas Joy* in St Mary's Clubrooms on **Sunday 15th December at 3pm.**

Tickets are available from choir members and are priced at £7 each. All monies raised will go to the Wayside Club in Glasgow - supporting those who are homeless this Christmas.

The bar will be open and raffles will be drawn...

Diocesan Choir Carol Concert

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will be in our parish for a Carol Service with popular carols, choral pieces and readings on **Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm.**

Fr John-Paul encourages all parishioners to make a special effort to come along for this special event. The concert lasts roughly 1 hour and will be publicised throughout the Wishaw Deanery.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served in the Clubrooms afterwards.

Journey Through Advent 2024

The Advent Prayer Group will once again meet this year to journey through the holy season of Advent. The group is small, and they meet in St Catherine's on a Wednesday after 9.30am Mass to reflect on the Sunday readings. Everyone is welcome to come along and join.

'There's a Welcome in the Mat and a Cuppa in the Pot'

New Lectionaries

This weekend we begin to use our new Lectionaries - you may notice the wording is different. A special thank you to those who very generously purchased these Lectionaries in memory of loved ones to be used during our Liturgies.

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Our stall has a wide range of Christmas cards, cribs and other seasonal items for you to have a look at and purchase. The beautiful cribs would be a perfect gift for those friends and family members who might need reminded to keep Christ in Christmas, for relatives who have recently moved into a new house, or for parishioners who may not have a crib at home.

Thank you to our Stall Assistants for all their hard work and commitment.

Advent Prayer Tree

You will find our Advent Prayer Tree in the narthex of St Mary's. The tree is used to place prayers/wishes on the branches during Advent, in preparation for welcoming Jesus into our world. The prayers/wishes can be anonymous or have your name on them, and can be for family (living or dead), friends, peace, yourself, or whatever intention you have. Christmas Mass will be celebrated for all the prayers/wishes hanging on our tree. Prayer cards can be found on the Christmas table next to the tree. Any donations received will be given to St Andrew's Hospice.

Christmas Mass Times 2024

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (Children's Mass)
- 8.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 10.30am Day Mass of Christmas
- 12noon Day Mass of Christmas (Holy Trinity)



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)
- 12.35pm** Light Bite (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

Monday 2nd December *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 12noon** Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick

Tuesday 3rd December

- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am
- 11.40am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 12noon** Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 4th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 10.00am** Church Cleaning
- 10.00am** Advent Prayer Group (St Catherine's)
- 7.00pm** [Online Zoom Rosary \(Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256\)](#)

Thursday 5th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 6th December

- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass

Saturday 7th December *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.10am** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am** Holy Mass
- 4.30pm** Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

Sunday 8th December *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 11.15am** Christmas Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **this 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 clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.



Christian Aid - Greyfriars

Greyfriars Parish Church are holding a Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 8th December at 7pm**, to support Christian Aid Scotland.



Entry is FREE but donations will be accepted for Christian Aid. Mince pies and coffee will be served afterwards. All welcome.