



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



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &  
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S  
FORTH (ML11 8BB)  
6 Coulter Road  
Biggar  
ML12 6EP  
stisidore@rcdom.org.uk  
Charity No - SC011041**



**Father John-Paul McShane  
St Mary's Church  
70 Bannatyne Street  
Lanark ML11 7JS  
01555 662234  
fmcshane@rcdom.org.uk**

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70 Bannatyne Street  
Lanark  
ML11 7JS  
01555 662234  
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk  
Charity No - SC011041**

**23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
5th September 2021**

**Our Lady's Birthday**

According to St. Augustine, human nature is restored to its intended form (free from sin) in the conception and birth of Our Lady. It's not anything she did herself to accomplish this, it's all what God has done through her. It's not even something He did to specifically benefit her; it was something He did to benefit all of humanity. Because Mary's pure human nature is then what is handed down to her Son—and it is through His Passion and the Sacraments that the nature of all mankind is redeemed—Mary's birthday really is a very big deal. It is the dawning of God's new creation: our redemption.



We do not usually celebrate the birthdays of the saints. Instead we celebrate the day they died, because that is the day they were born into the joys of heaven. But the birthday of Mary, is an exception. We celebrate her birthday because she came into this world full of grace and because she was to be the Mother of Jesus.

In both the East and West, Mary is the most important of saints. St Matthew describes how, when the angel Gabriel came to her and said: 'Hail favoured one, the Lord is with you', she replied simply: 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done unto me according to your word.'

When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, Elizabeth said: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.' It was on this occasion that Mary sang her beautiful Magnificat:

*My soul glorifies the Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*

The next mention of Mary in the New Testament comes when St Luke recounts the family's journey to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12. Mary, he says, kept everything she saw and learnt of her son in her heart. From time to time, Mary is mentioned during Jesus' public ministry. At the wedding feast, she urges her son to do something when the wine runs out early.

At the crucifixion, according to St John, as Mary stood by the apostle watching her son die, Jesus said to her: "Behold your son" and to John "behold you mother". From that hour the disciple looked after Mary in his own home.

The last mention of Mary in the New Testament, is in the Acts, when we learn that she was with the disciples at Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came upon them all.



## RCIA - St Mary's

Fr John-Paul will now look to establish a group of volunteers to help assist with the RCIA program. If you are interested in helping please contact Fr John-Paul, preferably by email ([frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk)). We hope to have our group established within the next few weeks and start this years program soon.



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is designed to help adults who are looking to come into full communion with the Church. RCIA is not a faith sharing group or a 'top-up' course, but will specifically be designed for those looking to join the Catholic Church.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the RCIA program and joining the Church, please speak to Fr John-Paul directly. If you know of anyone who would like to join, again, please ask them to speak to Fr John-Paul. Once numbers have been confirmed and Fr John-Paul has met with all those interested RCIA will begin on a weekly basis.

## St Mary's Children's Liturgy

We are hopeful that after the School October Half Term we will begin Children's Liturgy in St Mary's. The Children's Liturgy will take place at the 10.30am Mass and is offered to all children from P1 - P7. Thank you to those who organise and participate in Children's Liturgy. More details to follow...

Welcome to  
Children's Liturgy



## Coffee Morning

Starting this Sunday, on the first Sunday of the month, there will be no Sunday Mass in St Mary Magdalene's, Forth. Instead, the Forth parishioners will be transported down to St Mary's for the 10.30am Mass. After Mass there will be a coffee Morning in the Clubrooms for anyone who would like to pop in. Coffee mornings are a great way to build community and make people welcome. Please pop in if you can, even if it is only for a few minutes.

Coffee Morning



## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

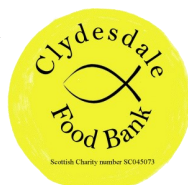
As we begin to welcome more people back to Holy Mass, Fr John-Paul will now look at re-establishing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion within St Mary's. Fr John-Paul will approach some parishioners and ask them to take on this responsibility and they will be commissioned in the next few Weeks. We thank all those who have previously carried out this responsibility so faithfully over the last few years.

## St Mary's Lighting Grant

It is with great joy that we are able to announce that St Mary's has received funding from Viridor Credits, to the sum of £9,257. The funding is to allow us to update the lighting within St Mary's church and grounds, changing them to LED and making them more energy efficient. Fr John-Paul would like to thank the Fabric and Finance Committee for all their efforts in complying with the Grant, and to all parishioners who supported our application. We hope the work will commence soon.

## Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Thank you very much for your generosity last weekend to the Clydesdale Foodbank. We collected **£350** and **16 bags** of groceries. What a great contribution to our local community. The Foodbank would like to thank those who have donated to their cause over the past eighteen months in particular. Without your generosity and support families would go cold and hungry. God bless your continued generosity and support.



## St Isidore's Annual BBQ

Our Annual BBQ will take place on **Sunday 12 September at 1pm**. We hope you will be able to join us!

We hope that the BBQ will engage all our parishioners and welcome people back to St Isidore's.

If you would like to be involved with the BBQ or donate home baking, please speak to Audrey or Joan.

*pray for sunshine...*





## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead** - Margaret McFarlane  
Agnes Helen Stepien

Coalburn Rd, Coalburn  
Crosslaw House

Sr Clare Reynolds DC; Sr Joseph; Megan Christina Alecks; Rosemary Grant (Ayr); Pat McGarrigle; Hugh Murphy (Corby).

**Months Minds & Anniversaries** - Frank Hilland; Harry & Elizabeth Millan; Mary Sweeney; Josephine Freel; Jenny & Robert Clarkson.

**Funeral Arrangements** - Margaret McFarlane

Funeral Service: Monday 6th September 12noon  
Lesmahagow Cemetery

Agnes Helen Stepien

Reception and Requiem Mass: Tuesday 7th  
September 12noon

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

## September Second Collection

During the month of September Bishop Toal has asked all parishes, within the Motherwell Diocese, to have a Second Collection to support the costs of training men for the priesthood. In average, each year, the diocese has to pay out £252,000 to cover the cost of seminary training for the six men in formation at present.. As before, there will be a basket at the back of each church for those who wish to donate. In advance, Bishop Toal thanks you for your generosity. It is also important to pray for the “young” men who are training for our Diocese: Christopher Morris (St Bride’s, Cambuslang), Colm Martin (St Bernadette’s, Motherwell), Christopher Furmage (St Bernard’s, Shawhead), Ronan McQuade (St Joseph’s, Blantyre), Kieran Burt (St Joseph’s, Blantyre), Christopher Igwe ( St Francis Xavier, Carfin).



## Parish Finances

### St Mary’s

Offertory Collection: £ 1,055.00  
Standing Orders: £ 105.00

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 Isidore’s

Offertory Collection: £ 106.00  
Standing Orders: £ 60.00  
(Including St Mary Magdalene’s)

**St Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809**

**Parish of St Isidore’s 83-16-11 00235026**

### St Mary Magdalene’s

Offertory Collection: £ 50.00

## St Mary’s Readers Rota

### 4th/5th September

5.00pm R. McConnell  
10.30am M. Hughes  
5.00pm S. Casserly

### 18th/19th September

5.00pm G. Abernethy  
10.30am E. McCabe  
5.00pm S. Casserly

### 11th/12th September

5.00pm J. Moynagh  
10.30am P. Roberts  
5.00pm M. Davis

### 25th/26th September

5.00pm A. Haetzman  
10.30am S. Watson  
5.00pm M. Davis

If you are unable to fulfil your reading commitment please call Kevan on 07756523623

# Weekly Parish Schedule

## Sunday 5th September

- 10.00am TRANSPORT LEAVES FORTH FOR MASS IN ST MARY'S  
10.30am Holy Mass for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
12noon Holy Mass for the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Isidore's)  
5.00pm ***NO HOLY MASS THIS EVENING***

## Monday 6th September

- 9.30am Holy Mass & St Therese Novena - Week 6 (St Mary's)  
12noon Funeral Service for Margaret McFarlane (Lesmahagow Cemetery)

## Tuesday 7th September

- 10.00am Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)  
12noon Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Agnes Stepien (St Mary's)

## Wednesday 8th September

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

## Thursday 9th September

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St Isidore's)

## Friday 10th September

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Saturday 11th September

- 9.10am Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 12th September

- 8.30am Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)  
9.00am Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
12noon Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Isidore's)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



## Liturgical Calendar

**Wednesday 8th September The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - This feast originated in Jerusalem about the sixth century, a development of the feast of the dedication of the church of Saint Anne, built in Jerusalem "where Mary was born." Observed in Rome in the seventh century, it was later used to determine the date of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Because of her importance in salvation history, Mary's birthday is celebrated as well as those of her son Jesus the Lord, and of Saint John the Baptist (24 June).

**Thursday 9th September St Peter Claver, Priest** - Born at Verdú (Spain) in 1580; died in Cartagena (Colombia) on 8 September 1654. Jesuit who felt called to mission work in the New World. Sent to Colombia in 1610 and ordained a presbyter in 1616 in Cartagena, a major port of entry for slaves brought from Africa. For the next thirty-four years, in the face of opposition from slave owners, he met the slave ships with a band of helpers and interpreters and ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of the slaves, catechising and baptising thousands; died after suffering four years of debilitating illness. Peter called himself "the slave of the slaves" and is remembered for his total devotion to their needs and dignity.