



Saint Mary's Parish Lanark & Saint Isidore's Parish Biggar

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8th October 2023



Why do we need the Church?

If you go to the village of Capernaum in the north of Israel, you can see the excavations they have done on the site of St Peter's home. There's a large room in the centre - the foundations are still visible - and you can imagine Jesus sitting there with his first disciples; Peter, Andrew, James and John; Mary Magdalene and the other women who had grown close to him and were following him; his mother Mary; his cousins; friends and neighbours from the local villages.

From the outside, this is just a group of people meeting for a meal. But from the inside, this is the beginning of the Church. It's the community that Jesus gathered around him: sharing his life with them, teaching them, praying with them. The conversation and the laughter and sometimes the disagreements and the tears. Christianity was never about just believing in Jesus, it was also about belonging to the Church, and being brought into this new community and this new way of life.



At the beginning of human history, God created us to love one another and to share in his own divine love. We were made to love in unity and peace. And even when this unity was shattered by sin, God was determined to put things right. It was an incredible work of restoration, over thousands of years. He chose the Jewish people to know his love in a special way. He sent them prophets and leaders. He gave them a pattern of worship, a moral code, and a set of sacred scriptures. And in the fullness of time he sent his Son Jesus to be their saviour. Jesus would gather all people - not just the Jews - into a new community of salvation. This is the Church. God is fixing human history and putting things right. He is restoring the unity and peace that was lost in the Garden of Eden. It's amazing when you start to connect the plans that unfold in the New Testament with the promises that God made in the Old Testament.

Why did Jesus choose twelve Apostles? Because they then represent the twelve tribes of Israel. And the Church is the place where all people, from every nation and race and language, can become one people in Christ.

Why did Jesus go up the mountain to instruct the disciples? Because he was teaching them in the same way God taught Moses on top of Mount Sinai. And so the teaching of the Church becomes a gift for all people and not just the Jewish people.

Why did Jesus offer his life in sacrifice on the Cross? Because this sacrifice was the fulfilment of all the worship and sacrifice that had ever been offered in the Old Testament. And the worship of the Christian Church allows us to share in this offering until the end of time.

Imagine those people sitting with Jesus in Peter's house in Capernaum. Imagine the same group of people in Jerusalem a few years later, when the Holy Spirit comes upon the disciples at Pentecost. This is not just a random community. They are united by their love for Jesus Christ and their desire to share his love with others. This unity was part of God's plan for the human race from the very beginning.

Many people today are suspicious of institutions and authority, and they see that the Church has made many mistakes, and perhaps feel it's better to rely on themselves, and find their own way. But the Church, even with all its weaknesses, is meant to lead us to Jesus. And it's equally true that Jesus leads us to his Church. It's his family, his community. He is like a shepherd gathering his sheep into one flock. You can try to follow Jesus without the help of his Church. But if you keep following him faithfully, he will discover he is leading you to know and love his Church.

Sycamore - Fr Stephen Wang

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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

10.30am Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 9th October *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 5pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (St Mary's)

Tuesday 10th October

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony (St Mary's)

7.00pm **RCIA (St Mary's Chapel House)**

Wednesday 11th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

10.00am **Church Cleaning (St Mary's)**

7.00pm *Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)*

Thursday 12th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph (St Mary's)

7.30pm **The Choir of St Mary's Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 13th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 14th October *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

9.00am Confessions until 9.25am (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 15th October *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Parish Finances

	St Mary's
Offertory Collection:	£ 1,115.00
Standing Orders:	£ 345.50

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

	St Isidore's
Offertory Collection:	£ 93.00
Standing Orders:	£ 55.00

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

Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting an Afternoon Tea on **Sunday 12th November at 1.30pm for 2pm** in the Clubrooms. Tickets are priced £10 and this includes afternoon tea with Prosecco. Tickets will be on sale at Masses from 7th /8th October 2023.

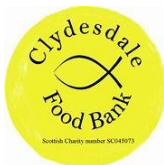
Please get your tickets early as this event is usually sold out quickly.



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Thank you very much for your generosity last weekend to the Clydesdale Foodbank. We collected **£450** and **9 bags** of groceries.

Over 60% of all donations given to Clydesdale Foodbank in Carlisle are returned to families in Lanark. Thank you most sincerely for your continued generosity to helping those in need.



Missions Second Collection

The highlight of this month dedicated to the Missions is Mission Sunday –The World Day of Prayer for the Missions – **on Sunday 22nd October**. To support the work of the Missions, particularly Missio Scotland, there will be a Special Collection taken up at all Masses on **21st/22nd October**.



Project Wellspring Questionnaire

Any completed Wellspring Questionnaires can be returned this weekend or next weekend. The next stage will be to collate and review all the information submitted.

We also hope, within the next few weeks, to engage with those who no longer attend St Mary's, and see how we can try to bring these people back.

Month of the Holy Souls

Traditionally November is the month dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls, and we compose November Lists with the names of our beloved dead, and place them before our altar.

Sadly, over the years November Lists are getting fewer and fewer - please don't forget your loved ones who have died, and pray for them, especially during November by completing a November List.

November Lists will be available next weekend.

Disco Night

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting a Disco Night on **Saturday 21st October**.

Tickets are £5 which includes entry and nibbles. The bar will be opened from 7.30pm til late.

For tickets please contact any of the girls on the social committee.



Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to Stuart Dick from St Vincent de Paul Parish, East Kilbride, who was recently ordained to the Permanent Diaconate. Deacon Stuart has been appointed to St Ignatius, Wishaw.

Diocesan Synod Meeting

To unite our diocese with the Synod taking place in Rome, the Diocesan Synod Team has arranged an evening of prayer and reflection in the **Xavier Centre Carfin from 7-9pm on Thursday 19th October**. At this gathering, time will be spent in prayer followed by discussion and discernment on the three questions presented in the Working Document for the Synod. These questions are:

1. How can we be more fully a sign and instrument of God and of the unity of all mankind?
2. How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?
3. What processes, structures and institutions are needed in a Missionary Synodal Church?

If you are interested in attending please email the Diocesan Mission and Evangelisation Team: missions@rcdom.org.uk





Holy Trinity Chapel
Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest
Father John-Paul McShane
St Mary's Church
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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



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Rena Thomson (Mother of Fr Jim Thomson former PP); Matt Sloey (Wishaw); Joy Frazer; Jim Conlon (Ayrshire); Baby Violet.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Eileen Prior; Paul Halloran; Mark Cloonan; Richard McKeown; James Keenan Jnr; Mary Tait.

*May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face
May the rain fall soft upon you field, and until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand*

St Andrew's Hospice Shop - Volunteers Needed!!!

St Andrew's Hospice endeavours to provide a high standard of specialist palliative care to the people of Lanarkshire, encompassing human dignity and compassion, and at all times respecting the value of human life. St Andrew's Hospice also offers a range of specialist support to patients families and loved ones, who also suffer at these sad times. The cost to provide such care is now in excess of £100,000 per week; so local support and fundraising are essential.

St Andrew's Hospice New Store coming soon (97 High Street Lanark).

**We need volunteers for various shifts, 3hrs per shift.
Come and join our amazing team...**

For more information please contact Julie Wilson 01236 766951



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

7th/8th October
5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm N. Donnelly

21st/22nd October
5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm M. Davis

14th/15th October
5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm S. Casserly

28th/29th October
5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

7th/8th October
5.00pm T. Mullen
C. McClafferty
10.30am V. Hilland
J. McAlavey

21st/22nd October
5.00pm M. Keenan
P. Stewart
10.30am J. Littlejohn
M. Keenan

14th/15th October
5.00pm J. McClafferty
M. Bond
10.30am M. Davis
C. O'Brien

28th/29th October
5.00pm P. Freal
J. McEwan
10.30am J. Wilson
A. O'Neill