



St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – *Fr. Thomas W. Doyle*



The Armerial Bearings of the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Lanark.

Sunday the 2nd August 2020 – Eighteenth Sunday of Year A

Feast Days This Week:

Tuesday -St John Mary Vianney

Wednesday -Dedication of the Basilica of Mary Major

Thursday -The Transfiguration of the Lord

Friday -St Sixtus & Companions

Saturday -St Dominic

Mass Times

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass : 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Mass : 10.30am

Friday Morning Mass: 9.30am

Mass will also be available live at 10.30am on Sunday morning, and available to watch anytime after that on our Facebook page.

** To book for next weekends Masses please call 01555 662234 or 07936306344 between the following times:*

Thursday: 9am-12pm

Friday: 9am -12pm

** There is no need to book for Friday morning Mass, however we will require you to give details on arrival and continue with our current guidelines. We are also still under the Governments current restriction of a maximum of 50 attendees.*

** Morning prayer sessions have now been suspended with the resumption of Mass.*



Please Remember:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended.

Those who are shielding should not come to mass until advised it is safe to do so by the Scottish Government. Those in other health categories should follow the Government's advice in coming to their decision to attend mass or not.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has please stay at home.

For those in the above categories and anyone who cannot currently make it to Mass, please be assured we always remember you, our Brothers and Sisters, in our prayers .

Weekday Mass:

Sincere thanks to all of our volunteers for assisting in the continuation of Masses at this time. This has so far been a success due to the careful attention to safety and care by our volunteers.

We continue to hold our Saturday Vigil Mass at 5pm on Saturday evenings and our Sunday morning Mass at 10.30am. Please note the weekday morning Mass this week will be on Friday at 9.30am

While we continue our phone booking system for weekend masses, we thank you for your patience and support with this.

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please remember in your prayers the following whose anniversaries occur around now: Margaret Ann Johnston, Thomas Snow & Robina Oliver.

Sunday Reflection:

In Jesus and the Church, Isaiah's promises in today's First Reading are fulfilled. All who are thirsty come to the living waters of Baptism (see John 4:14). The hungry delight in rich fare—given bread to eat and wine to drink at the Eucharistic table.

This is the point, too, of today's Gospel. The story of Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 brims with allusions to the Old Testament. Jesus is portrayed as a David-like shepherd who leads His flock to lie down on green grass as He spreads the table of the Messiah's banquet before them (see Psalm 23).

Jesus is shown as a new Moses, who likewise feeds vast crowds in a deserted place. Finally, Jesus is shown doing what the prophet Elisha did—satisfying the hunger of the crowd with a few loaves and having some left over (see 2 Kings 4:42–44).

Matthew also wants us to see the feeding of the 5,000 as a sign of the Eucharist. Notice that Jesus performs the same actions in the same sequence as at the Last Supper—He takes bread, says a blessing, breaks it, and gives it (see Matthew 26:26).

Jesus instructed His Apostles to celebrate the Eucharist in memory of Him. And the ministry of the Twelve is subtly stressed in today's account. Before He performs the miracle, Jesus instructs the Twelve to give the crowd "some food yourselves." Indeed, the Apostles themselves distribute the bread blessed by Jesus (see Matthew 15:36).

And the leftovers are enough to fill precisely 12 baskets—corresponding to each of the Apostles, the pillars of the Church (see Galatians 2:9; Revelation 21:14).

In the Church, as we sing in today's Psalm, God gives us food in due season, opens His hands and satisfies the desires of every living thing. Now, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord:

All three Synoptic Gospels tell the story of the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36). With remarkable agreement, all three place the event shortly after Peter's confession of faith that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' first prediction of his passion and death. Peter's eagerness to erect tents or booths on the spot suggests it occurred during the week-long Jewish Feast of Booths in the fall.

According to Scripture scholars, in spite of the texts' agreement it is difficult to reconstruct the disciples' experience, because the Gospels draw heavily on Old Testament descriptions of the Sinai encounter with God, and prophetic visions of the Son of Man. Certainly Peter, James, and John had a glimpse of Jesus' divinity strong enough to strike fear into their hearts. Such an experience defies description, so they drew on familiar religious language to describe it. And certainly Jesus warned them that his glory and his suffering were to be inextricably connected—a theme John highlights throughout his Gospel.

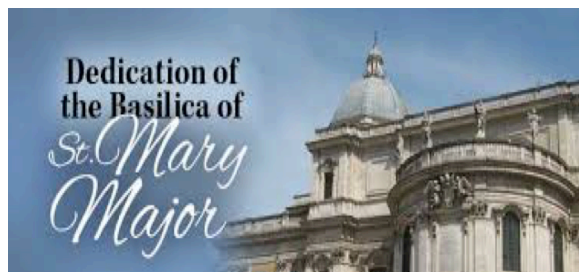
Tradition names Mount Tabor as the site of the revelation. A church first raised there in the fourth century was dedicated on August 6.



Dedication of Basilica of Mary Major: First raised at the order of Pope Liberius in the mid-fourth century, the Liberian basilica was rebuilt by Pope Sixtus III shortly after the Council of Ephesus affirmed Mary's title as Mother of God in 431. Rededicated at that time to the Mother of God, St. Mary Major is the largest church in the world honoring God through Mary. Standing atop one of Rome's seven hills, the Esquiline, it has survived many restorations without losing its character as an early Roman basilica. Its interior retains three naves divided by colonnades in the style of Constantine's era. Fifth-century mosaics on its walls testify to its antiquity.

St. Mary Major is one of the four Roman basilicas known as patriarchal cathedrals in memory of the first centers of the Church. St. John Lateran represents Rome, the See of Peter; St. Paul Outside the Walls, the See of Alexandria, allegedly the see presided over by Mark; St. Peter's, the See of Constantinople; and St. Mary's, the See of Antioch, where Mary is supposed to have spent most of her later life.

One legend, unreported before the year 1000, gives another name to this feast: Our Lady of the Snows. According to that story, a wealthy Roman couple pledged their fortune to the Mother of God. In affirmation, she produced a miraculous summer snowfall and told them to build a church on the site. The legend was long celebrated by releasing a shower of white rose petals from the basilica's dome every August 5th.



Pope Francis speaking of Our Lady at the Basilica of Mary Major

“Salve, Mater Misericordiae! Hail Mother of Mercy! With this invocation we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Roman Basilica dedicated to her under the title of Mother of God. It is the first line of an ancient hymn which we will sing at the conclusion of this Holy Eucharist. Composed by an unknown author, it has come down to us as a heartfelt prayer spontaneously rising up from the hearts of the faithful: "Hail Mother of mercy, Mother of God, Mother of forgiveness, Mother of hope, Mother of grace and Mother full of holy gladness". In these few words we find a summary of the faith of generations of men and women who, with their eyes fixed firmly on the icon of the Blessed Virgin, have sought her intercession and consolation... For us, Mary is an icon of how the Church must offer forgiveness to those who seek it. The Mother of forgiveness teaches the Church that the forgiveness granted on Golgotha knows no limits. Neither the law with its quibbles, nor the wisdom of this world with its distinctions, can hold it back. The Church's forgiveness must be every bit as broad as that offered by Jesus on the Cross and by Mary at his feet. There is no other way.”

Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Mass

Recognising that the virus is predominantly contagious through the breathing in of air droplets, these guidelines are based on the need to reduce the length of time when parishioners are together. These are tentative steps for returning to Mass and may be reviewed at any time:

- Singing of Mass parts and hymns may be omitted.
- Both the Gloria and the Creed may be omitted.
- At Sunday Mass the second reading may be omitted.
- The sermon should be brief.
- In place of the words “Body of Christ” for each communicant, before the Celebrant receives Holy Communion, he may say the words ***May the Body and Blood of Christ keep us all safe to eternal life***, to which the congregation responds ***Amen***.
- In accordance with the national protocol on Infection Control, it is recommended that Holy Communion be received in the hand for the duration of the pandemic.
- The communicant should extend his/her hands to receive the host and then step two paces to the side in order to place the host on the tongue.
- Holy Communion may be distributed after the Final Prayer. Parishioners may be directed to leave the Church immediately after receiving Holy Communion.

In keeping with the current government advice and wishing to protect our brothers and sisters we wish to remind you of the current guidelines:

- Wear a **face covering** in the Church.
- Observe **social distancing**.
- **Sanitise your hands** at sanitising units in Church
- **Enter and exit the Church using the door you have been given** on the telephone when booking for Mass.

Please be assured we have done everything we can to create a safe environment for you, when you arrive a pass-keeper will meet you and guide you to a your seat and will be on hand to look after you during your visit. These guidelines have been set by the Scottish Government and are for your wellbeing as well as that of your brothers and sisters in the parish.

Volunteers

As we now prepare to open the church safely for Mass we require volunteers to clean the church and to act as pass keepers.

Volunteers should be over 18 and have no underlying health conditions making them vulnerable to covid-19.

Volunteers will be trained and given gloves, aprons and facemasks, and will be asked to complete a safeguarding form.

If you are able to volunteer please contact Fr. Doyle or the parish team at St Mary's 01555 662234/
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

Thank you.

300 Club –

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who support the parish through their participation in 300 Club.

Just to assure that we have continued to hold a weekly draw and issue prizes during the lockdown period, however, we have not published names of winners on social media because data protection laws do not allow us to do this.

But please be assured that the weekly draws do continue to be made, prizes awarded, and our winners are informed by telephone.

Once again our grateful thanks to all who are able to take part and participate in the 300 Club.

PLEASE NOTE: *Could any items for the Bulletin please be sent to us no later than Thursday 5pm, anything received after this will go in the following weeks Bulletin. You can email, phone or put a note through the Parish House door.*
Many thanks

Keeping In Touch

If you or anyone you know, requires help or information, or you would like to offer help within our Parish, please get in touch on **01555 662234** or email us at

stmarylanark@rcdom.or.uk

To keep up to date with any Parish news or updates please visit:

Facebook page - St Mary's RC Church

Website –

www.stmaryslanark.org.uk

