

St Mary's Lanark

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

✉ 70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

✉ stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

☎ 01555 662234

🌐 www.stmaryslanark.org.uk



Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th January 2025

Ordinary Time

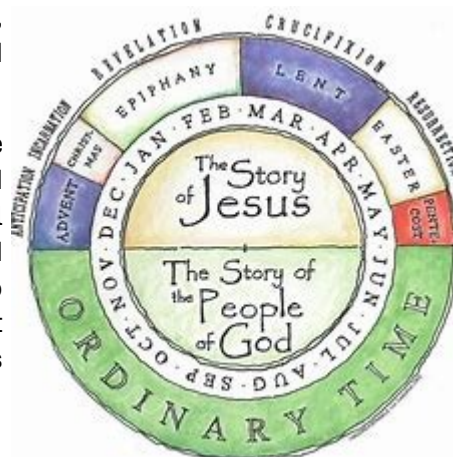
Ordinary Time is one of the liturgical seasons in the Catholic Church, providing a framework for worship, reflection, and spiritual growth. It is the longest season of the liturgical calendar and serves as a bridge between the major celebrations of the Christian faith, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Though its name may suggest simplicity or insignificance, Ordinary Time offers Catholics an essential opportunity to deepen their relationship with God in the context of daily life.

Ordinary Time is so named because its weeks are numbered, derived from the Latin word "ordinalis," which means "numbered" or "ordered." It does not refer to "ordinary" in the sense of mundane, but rather to the structured progression of time. This season is divided into two parts: i) The first segment begins the Monday after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, usually in early January, and ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday; ii) The second and longer segment begins on the Monday after Pentecost and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. Together, these periods encompass 33 or 34 weeks, depending on the year, and form the backbone of the liturgical year.

The central theme of Ordinary Time is spiritual growth through the teachings and ministry of Jesus Christ. Unlike Advent or Lent, which are penitential and preparatory seasons, Ordinary Time is a time of sustained reflection on the life and mission of Christ. The readings at Mass during this season emphasise Jesus' public ministry, including his miracles, parables, and teachings about the Kingdom of God. Ordinary Time encourages the faithful to live out their discipleship in their daily lives. It provides an opportunity to apply the lessons of Christ's life, death, and resurrection in practical ways. The season emphasises the continuity of God's presence and grace in the ordinary events of life, reminding Catholics that holiness can be found not only in extraordinary moments but also in the routine of daily existence.

Ordinary Time invites Catholics to find God in the ordinary rhythms of life. It challenges the faithful to recognise the sacred in the seemingly mundane and to embrace a steady, faithful commitment to prayer, service, and community. The season also allows for a more deliberate study of Scripture, participation in the sacraments, and engagement in works of mercy. By immersing themselves in the teachings of Christ during Ordinary Time, Catholics are encouraged to reflect on how they can embody his example in their daily interactions, decisions, and relationships. It is a time to cultivate a faith that is active and integrated into every aspect of life.

Far from being a "less important" time in the liturgical calendar, Ordinary Time provides Catholics with a profound opportunity for spiritual growth and transformation. It is a season that calls the faithful to live out their baptismal promises in the routine and ordinariness of life. By focusing on the life and ministry of Christ, Ordinary Time reminds believers that every moment, no matter how simple, is an opportunity to encounter God and grow in holiness. It is a time to celebrate the extraordinary grace of God in the everyday moments of life.



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 19th January *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 20th January *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

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

Tuesday 21st 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 22nd January

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

Thursday 23rd January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

Friday 24th January

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

Saturday 25th January *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 Confessions until 4.50pm
- 4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 26th January *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Vocations Discernment Evening

The next Vocations Evening for those considering a vocation to the priesthood will take place in the Cathedral House, Motherwell, on **Tuesday 28th January at 7.00pm**. Any man who is considering a vocation to the priesthood is invited to come along for a period of prayer and discussion. Please contact Fr Sean Wyllie, Vocations Promotor, at frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk to register interest.

Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, and those discerning the Lord's call, as part of your daily spirituality.

St Isidore's Light Bite Charity Efforts

For many years now the money raised at the monthly light bite in St Isidore's has went to a variety of charities that mean something to the parishioners. Last year, 2024, a phenomenal £1,041.52 was raised and used to support: Mary's Meals, Medicin sans Frontieres, St Andrew's Hospice, SCIAF, The Rock Trust & The Wayside Club. Thank you for your continued support and generous contributions.

2025 will see us support: Clydesdale Foodbank, Columban Missionaries Britain, Aid to Church in Need, SCIAF, Fresh Start, Children's Hospices Across Scotland, HALO Trust, Healthy Valleys, Prostate Cancer UK, Dementia UK, St Andrew's Hospice & The Rock Trust.

Meeting with Bishop Brian McGee on the Synod on Synodality

An invitation is extended to a Diocesan Gathering to reflect with Bishop Brian McGee on the recent Synod on Synodality on Tuesday 21st January at 7pm in the Xavier Centre at Carfin. Bishop McGee was the Scottish Church's representative at the Sessions of the Synod in Rome in 2023 and 2024, and has kindly agreed to come to Motherwell Diocese to share his experience of the Synod and to participate in reflection on how we foster Synodality in Motherwell Diocese. During this time together, the Synodal method, particularly Conversation in the Synod, will form part of the Gathering. Bishop Toal encourages the participation of people from all the parishes.



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 clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.



Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards the Foodbank; around 60% of all donations received by the Foodbank are returned to Lanark.

St Mary's Weddings 2025

If you have booked St Mary's for your wedding, or are intending to book St Mary's, for 2025, and if you have not done so already, please contact Fr John-Paul to arrange a meeting to begin the legal and church paperwork which takes several months to complete.

This year we have only six weddings booked for St Mary's, this is the lowest number in many years. If you are considering marriage and not yet looked at dates feel free to discuss with Fr John-Paul.

Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

On the Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, Bishop Toal has invited the religious communities of the diocese to join him for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Evening Prayer in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell at 3pm on Sunday 2nd February. All are welcome to join in prayer for the religious of our diocese and pray for vocations to religious life.

Annual Returns & Pastoral Report

Fr John-Paul has now completed the annual Financial Returns for 2024, and they have been submitted to the Diocese. Fr John-Paul will now prepare his annual Pastoral Report which he hopes to share with the parish in the coming weeks.

The Parish Finance and General Purpose Committee will meet later this month to discuss the Financial Returns for year 2024 and plan for 2025.

Alpha Course

Alpha began at a church called Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) in London in 1977, it was taken by Nicky Gumbel in 1990 and repositioned as a course for those outside the congregation. The number of people attending Alpha at HTB grew quickly into the hundreds and attracted the attention of other churches across denominations seeking to find an effective tool for evangelism.

Now, all over the world, millions of people have tried Alpha and it has been translated into 112 different languages. The Alpha Talks have been repackaged for today's audience in the Alpha Film Series and the Alpha Youth Series – created to reach a younger generation with the Gospel. Even as times have changed, the Alpha course has continued to be used by the church as an effective tool to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Alpha is a completely FREE 11-week programme that invites people to find out more about faith and ask all those BIG questions that you want to find out more about e.g. Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? How can we have faith? etc.



Alpha is friends brining friends!
No pressure! No follow up!
No charge!





Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Maureen Lynch Stewart Drive

Mary Norbury; Mary Bernadette O'Neill (Holytown); Moira McIntyre (Motherwell); Robert Meahan; Anna McStay; Anne McCrossan; Jeanette Duffy;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Tommy & Christina McNulty; Roberta Goldie; Annie Scotland; Eva Tait; Marion O'Donnell; Peter De-Schuster; Louise Keenan; Kirstin Small; Jimmy McEwan;

St Mary's Social Committee Suggestions

The Social Committee are looking for suggestions from parishioners of what fundraising events they would like to see us host. We will consider every suggestion and potentially plan for future dates. We are really keen to attract as many parishioners to events as possible to raise funds for the benefit of all. There is a suggestion box at the back of the church and slips at the side just pop it in the box.

300 Club: November & December Winners

Week 3rd Nov: **201**

Week 10th Nov: **287**

Week 17th Nov: **172**

Week 24th Nov: **57**

Week 1st Dec: **84**

Week 8th Dec: **167**

Week 15th Dec: **286**

Week 22nd Dec: **67**

Week 29th Dec: **236**

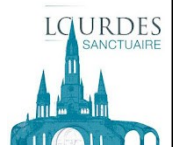
Just a reminder that monies can be placed in the offertory basket, along with your offertory collection, clearly marked with your name and 300 Club. Monies can also be handed into the sacristy or chapel house or paid standing order:

St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763

If you would like to join the 300 Club please call Kathleen and leave a message 01555 662234

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 14th- 21st July 2025

Bishop Toal invites pilgrims to join him on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2025, departing from Prestwick Airport on Monday 14th July and returning Monday 21st July. This year we will travel with JOE WALSH TOURS. Pilgrims will be staying at the adjoining hotels Alba and Mediterranee, with prices starting from £939pp, based on a full board package. If anyone is interested please put your contact details on the sign-up sheet at the stall. Names must be in for end of January.



Next weekend is the final opportunity to sign up for the pilgrimage.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 1,317.00
Standing Orders:	£ 136.00
Votives:	£ 196.00
Stall:	£ 30.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
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Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

18th/19th January

5.00pm	F. Chung
10.30am	M. McCusker
5.00pm	S. Casserly

1st/2nd February

5.00pm	A. Haetzman
10.30am	P. Roberts
5.00pm	S. Casserly

25th/26th January

5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	M. Davis

8th/9th February

5.00pm	C. Jackson
10.30am	E. McCabe
5.00pm	M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

18th/19th January

5.00pm	C. Scott
	S. Callaghan
10.30am	V. Hilland
	M. Thomson
	B. Farrell

1st/2nd February

5.00pm	M. Keenan
	C. Callaghan
10.30am	K. Lawrence
	J. McFarlane
	M. Russell

25th/26th January

5.00pm	K. Bryce
	A. McGowan
10.30am	C. Duddy
	D. McFarlane
	I. Maxfield

8th/9th February

5.00pm	R. Sinton
	F. McBride
10.30am	G. Duddy
	A. Gillespie
	M. Keenan