



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



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &  
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S  
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**  
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Charity No - SC011041



**PARISH CLERGY**  
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**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**16th January 2022**

**What Is A Synod In The Catholic Church**

We're hearing lots on the media and in the Church about the upcoming synod. What does it mean and what does it do?

The word "synod" comes from the Greek *synodos*, meaning "an assembly." Synods in the Catholic Church generally feature an assembly of bishops, who come together to assist the Holy Father in addressing the needs of the Church. Initially, many of these synods were held locally, within various regions of the world, to deal with local disciplinary issues. Synods date back to the 4th century.

Pope Paul VI revived the idea of the synod and established the Synod of Bishops in 1965 with the *Motu Proprio Apostolica Sollicitudo*. The current Code of Canon Law details the purpose of this smaller group of bishops who meet together to discuss various topics. The synod of bishops is a group of bishops who have been chosen from different regions of the world and meet together at fixed times to foster closer unity between the Roman Pontiff and bishops, to assist the Roman Pontiff with their counsel in the preservation and growth of faith and morals and in the observance and strengthening of ecclesiastical discipline, and to consider questions pertaining to the activity of the Church in the world. Furthermore, "It is for the synod of bishops to discuss the questions for consideration and express its wishes but not to resolve them or issue decrees about them unless in certain cases the Roman Pontiff has endowed it with deliberative power, in which case he ratifies the decisions of the synod."

The bishops may meet together to discuss issues that involve the universal Church, or "considers affairs that directly pertain to a determinate region or regions." There were many synodal assemblies held during the pontificate of St John Paul II, such as one held in 1994 on "The Consecrated Life and Its Role in the Church and in the World." Pope Benedict XVI similarly held synods, including one on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church."

Since John Paul II, there have also been various synods focusing on local regions of the world, such as America (1997), Europe (1999) and Africa (2009). In each situation the group of bishops discussed particular issues and made suggestions as to how the Church could approach various problems. However, in most cases the solutions were primarily focused on new approaches, rather than binding law. The Synod meets in different types of Assembly: in an Ordinary General Assembly, for matters concerning the good of the universal Church; in an Extraordinary General Assembly, for matters of urgent consideration; in a Special Assembly, for matters which mostly concern one or more specific geographical regions.

Pope Francis has convoked multiple synods during his pontificate, and in 2021 initiated a synod on the theme "For a Synodal Church." This synod will include both an Ordinary General Assembly and local Diocesan synods connected to it. This synod will end in 2023, concluding a two-year synodal process. The media have portrayed this as a move to change Church teaching and doctrine - but as they say - don't always believe what you read in the papers.



**SYNOD 2022**

## The Synod In Our Pariah

As we begin this New Year, the parish will now embark on our Synodal Process, set out by the Diocese of Motherwell, and launched by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Synodality means journeying together; walking as a group; to find out, through the help of the Holy Spirit, new ways of operating as “Church”.

The theme of the Synod is “For a synodal Church: Participation, Communion, and Mission”. Bishops and other delegates representing the Universal Church will meet in Rome but, before that, Pope Francis has invited the whole People of God to participate. He has asked, indeed strongly insisted, that each Diocese set up a process in which all the baptised can meet in prayer, listening, and discerning to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church at this moment in history. An important invitation has been given and as the Diocese of Motherwell we must try to respond

As we begin this process at parish level, please find below some useful contact information, and meeting locations and times, that we hope you will be able to attend. Everyone is invited, no one is excluded. You are free to attend both meetings or just one. Our hope will be that all information will be collated and shared with the parish before being returned to the Diocese.

**Wednesday 26th January 2022, 7pm-8.15pm**  
**Elphinstone Hotel, Biggar**

**Thursday 24th February 2022, 7pm-8.15pm**  
**St Mary’s Clubrooms, Lanark**

If you would like more information, please contact our Parish Coordinators; Gillean McCluskey 07854012277 or Frances Spence 07796388240, or check out the links below:

<https://youtu.be/U4PWSir1Ovk>

<https://youtu.be/Jp-Ca4ri9BM>

### St Mary’s Primary School Enrolment

Mrs Allen has advised that all those parents or guardians who have enrolled a child to start St Mary’s Primary School in August 2022, will be contacted over the coming weeks.



### Novena To St Joseph

On Monday 17th January we will start our nine week novena to St Joseph. The Novena will be said at the end of Mass for the next nine weeks. Please join us if you can to seek the intercession of this wonderful Saint, and Patron of the Universal Church.



### RCIA

Due to the spread of the Omicron variant, it is advisable that we delay the restart of RCIA. We very much look forward to restarting RCIA in the near future, and as soon as a date has been confirmed an announcement will be made. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic and joining the Catholic Church, please contact Fr Joh-Paul.



### Financial Returns

Each year in January, every parish within the Diocese of Motherwell, is instructed to complete its Annual Financial Returns, consisting of all income and expenditure for the previous 12 months. At present, Fr John-Paul is completing this request for our parishes. Once this has been completed, the information will be shared with the Finance Committee from both parishes, and then will be made available for public viewing.

### Weddings in 2022

If you have booked a wedding in St Mary’s, Lanark; St Mary Magdalene's, Forth; or St Isidore’s, Biggar, for 2022, then please call or email Fr John-Paul as soon as possible to start the relevant paperwork.

If you would like to get married in one of our parishes this year, and have not yet reserved a date, please contact Fr John-Paul to start proceedings.

### Track & Trace St Mary’s

In St Mary’s we have been giving parishioners a contact card with their parish number on it, in order to speed up the check-in process. If you have not received your card yet, please check the table at the back of the church, or inform the volunteer who is taking details at the door.



## Please Pray For The Following:



**Recently Dead** - Sister Margaret Colbert St Catherine's  
 Margaret McCrossan Woodstock Road  
 Margaret Walshe; Denise Sowden (Plymouth).

**Months Minds & Anniversaries** - Francis Vincent Larkins; Paula Alan Larkins; Elizabeth Gilchrist; Marion O'Donnell; James O'Leary; Jimmy Littlejohn; Louise Keenan; Jimmy McEwan.

**Funeral Arrangements** - Margaret McCrossan Reception & Rosary: Tuesday 18th January 6pm.  
 Requiem Mass: Wednesday 19th January 9.30am.  
 Sr Margaret Colbert Requiem Mass: Monday 31st January 12noon.

**Prayers for the Dead:** The Church has always urged the faithful to pray for those who have died, particularly by having Holy Mass offered for the repose of their soul. Pope Francis describes this as, 'the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly the most abandoned ones.' If you would like Mass offered for the repose of the soul of a loved one please write their name on an envelope with the Mass offering enclosed and give it to Fr John-Paul or hand it into the sacristy or post it through the chapel house letterbox.

### Crib Collection

Many thanks to all those who contributes so generously to this year's Crib Collection, to support the work of St Margaret's Adoption Society. Donations can still be made online at [www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk)

The amount raised was: *St Mary's* £,335.00  
*St Mary Magdalene's* £, 50.00  
 Thank you for your continued generosity.



### Parish Finances

#### St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,091.00  
 Standing Orders: £ 732.00

#### St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 00.00  
 Standing Orders: £ 373.00  
 (Including St Mary Magdalene's)

#### St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection: £ 75.00

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 Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809**  
**Parish of St Isidore's 83-16-11 00235026**

### St Mary's Ministry Rota

#### Readers:

<u>15th/16th January</u>	<u>29th/30th January</u>
5.00pm R. McConnell	5.00pm J. Moynagh
10.30am J. Russell	10.30am Sr. Brady
5.00pm S. Casserly	5.00pm S. Casserly
<u>22nd/23rd January</u>	<u>5th/6th February</u>
5.00pm A. Haetzman	5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am K. Carty	10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm M. Davis	5.00pm M. Davis

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>15th/16th January</u>	<u>29th/30th January</u>
5.00pm T. Mullen	5.00pm P. Freel
C McClafferty	J. McEwan
10.30am G. Duddy	10.30am J. McAlavey
T. Mullen	M. Keenan
<u>22nd/23rd January</u>	<u>5th/6th February</u>
5.00pm J McClafferty	5.00pm A. Dempsey
M. Davis	C. Scott
10.30am P Cunningham	10.30am J. Wilson
A Cruickshank	C. Duddy

# Weekly Parish Schedule

## Sunday 16th January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
9.00am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

## Monday 17th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph - Week 1 (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 18th January

- 10.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)  
12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
6.00pm Reception & Rosary for the repose of the soul of Margaret McCrossan (St Mary's)

## Wednesday 19th January

- 9.30am Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Margaret McCrossan (St Mary's)  
10.00am Church Cleaning (St Mary's)  
7.00pm Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)

## Thursday 20th January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Friday 21st January

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Saturday 22nd January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

## Sunday 23rd January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
9.00am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

*The 10.30am Sunday Mass & weekday Masses from St Mary's are Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.*

*The 1pm Sunday Mass from Biggar Kirk is also Livestreamed on St Isidore's parish YouTube Channel.*

## Liturgical Calendar

**Monday 17th January St Anthony, Abbot** - Born in 251 in upper Egypt; died in 356. At an early age he gave away his possessions and sought the austere life and solitude in the desert. Yet he remained involved in the theological controversies of his day, defending the divinity of Christ. He attracted disciples who formed communities of hermits. The account of his life by Saint Athanasius (2 May) was extremely influential in the development and spread of monasticism. Honoured as the father of western monasticism.

**Friday 21st January St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr** - Agnes died at Rome, perhaps in the early fourth century. One of the most widely venerated of the Roman martyrs. According to early accounts, she gave her life to preserve her virginity consecrated to Christ. Named in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

**Saturday 22nd January St Vincent, Deacon & Mary** - Vincent died in 304, martyred in Valencia (Spain) during the persecution of the emperor Diocletian. A deacon of Saragossa. His cult spread rapidly through the whole Church of the West. Honoured as the first martyr of Spain.