



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

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
12th November 2023**



Death, Judgement & Eternal Life

If you go to the British Museum in London you can visit the Egyptian Galleries and see the famous mummies. The smaller cabinets contain some of the other objects that were found in the Egyptian graves. There are some beautiful model boats, with wooden figures rowing their long oars. They symbolise the passage of the souls of the dead to the afterlife, represented as a boat journey across the River Nile. It's very clear that the Egyptians believed in some kind of life after death.

There seems to be a kind of instinct in the human heart to look beyond our earthly life, to believe that death is not the final end. There is a longing for eternal life. From the beginning of human history, we have had the unusual habit of burying our dead, as if to give them special honour. In the Christian understanding, human beings are a unity of body and soul, of matter and spirit. We are created in the image and likeness of God, and we are made for eternal life with him. Deep down we sense that our true homeland is heaven.



When we die, our bodies will lie corrupt, but our souls will live on and come into the presence of God. The truth of our lives will be laid before us, and there will be a moment of judgement. On its own, this can be a terrifying thought. But God is full of mercy and compassion, and Jesus Christ has opened the gates of heaven for us through his death and Resurrection.

Christians believe that those who are close to Jesus, through a living faith, will be welcomed into heaven. Some of them, the saints, will go straight to heaven. But some of them will need to go through a spiritual purification before they can enter heaven; we call this the experience of purgatory.

What about those who have not come to know Jesus? Christians believe that Jesus reaches out to those who do not know him, even in ways we cannot understand. He longs for all people to be saved, and he would never condemn someone who had no chance to know him. But we also know it's possible to turn away from his love and mercy, and even to reject the salvation he offers. This is the tragedy of hell, to cut yourself off forever from the merciful love of God.

At the end of time, at the Second Coming, Jesus Christ will come back to earth in glory, and bring everything to its fulfilment. There will be a Final Judgement, a vindication of God's plans, a fulfilment of all his promises. The souls of the dead will be united with their resurrected bodies. Those who are saved will share in the glory of the Resurrection. They will live in the presence of God for all eternity.

Probably the most famous painting of the Last Judgement is the one by Michelangelo above the altar in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. But in the churches of the Middle Ages it was more common to have an image of the Final Judgement on the back wall, above the main door, so it was the last thing you saw as you left the church. It reminded you of the seriousness of death, but also the hope of heaven.

That's the reason for this Christian teaching about death. Not to frighten us, but to make us wake up and take things a bit more seriously. We know that death will come to us all, and that we will have to give an account of all we have done. This gives us a sense of purpose, and a motivation to use the time well. But above all this teaching gives us hope. We know that death is not the end. We know that Christ has already triumphed, and that he is coming back, at some point in the future. He has not forgotten us. The hope of heaven helps us to live through the sufferings of this life, and gives us reason to stay close to Christ in faith and love.

Fr Stephen Wang - Sycamore

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 12th November *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

1.30pm **Afternoon Tea - Ticketed Event (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 13th November *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 4pm*

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 14th November

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 15th November

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

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

Thursday 16th November

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

9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Jackie Lynch (St Mary's)

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

Friday 17th November

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 18th November

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

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (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 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

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

10.30am Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Parish Finances

	St Mary's
Offertory Collection:	£ 1,180.00
Standing Orders:	£ 1,024.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

	St Isidore's
Offertory Collection:	£ 94.00
Standing Orders:	£ 55.00

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

Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon 2nd-9th July 2024

The 8 day/7 nights pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon will take place from Tuesday 2nd July until Tuesday 9th July 2024. Booking forms are available at the stall from this weekend. Those who intend to travel on the pilgrimage are asked to return the booking forms by **Sunday 26th November**. The price of the pilgrimage is around £699 excluding flights; this includes return transfers here in Scotland, transfers from Lisbon to Fatima, half day visit to Valinhos and Aljustrel, day visit to Batalha Monastery and the fishing town of Escorial, and for the four star hotel in Fatima. The deposit of £400 will be required with the booking form, with another £100 10 weeks after the first deposit, with the final balance due to be paid 12 weeks prior to departure. The flights will be priced once released, in January, and will be around £400 in total. If you do not want to share a room, a single room supplement is required.



Once we have all the returned booking forms we will arrange a meeting. We very much look forward to travelling with Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Larkhall and Blackwood, and thank Fr Sean for organising the pilgrimage. If you have any questions please speak to Fr John-Paul.

Volunteer Drivers Required

To meet with demand in the Lanark and Biggar areas, Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust are actively seeking more Volunteer Drivers to join our charity. We are a small local charity. We provide Volunteer Drivers to take Lanarkshire Cancer Patients to and from their much-needed hospital treatments and clinical appointments.

Our free service is primarily for people who have no other means of getting to their appointments and who couldn't cope with hospital transport. Our drivers give their time and vehicles free of charge, with many driving for as little as one-day-per-week. We repay them 45p in fuel costs for every mile they travel on behalf of those who most need our help.

More information is available on the leaflet at the back of the church or www.lcctdrivers.com

Clubrooms Volunteers

Due to the wonderful work of Heather as Clubrooms Manager, we are delighted to announce a surge in bookings over the next 2 months; because of this, we are in URGENT need of volunteers to help the current group of volunteers who already do a fantastic job! We are so blessed to have such numbers volunteering in our parish, but we would always welcome more. If you are able to offer some time, no matter how short, or how frequent, please email Heather theclubrooms@outlook.com or call/text 07300857616.

St Isidore's Coffee Morning

Thank you to those who supported the Coffee Morning in Holy Trinity Chapel last weekend, to support SCIAF's emergency appeal for Israel/Palestine, a total of £80 was raised, and sent direct to SCIAF.

Congratulations

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Sister Julie Marie Conlan DC who celebrates 80 years Vocation this year, along with Sister Anne L'Estrange DC and Sister Joan Conroy DC who celebrate 70 years Vocation. We very much assure the Sisters of our continued prayers!

A special Mass of thanksgiving
will be celebrated
on Thursday 16th November
at 11am in St Mary's.



St Mary's Primary School

As part of their charitable works, in preparation for Christmas, St Mary's Primary School are supporting Clydesdale Foodbank. The aim is to focus on different products every week:

Week Mon 13th Nov - toiletries

Week Mon 20th Nov - dried food (cereal, pasta etc)

Week Mon 27th Nov - sweet treats

St Mary's School are also hosting a Carol Service in St Mary's Church on Wed 13th Dec at 7pm - all parishioners are welcome to attend.



Holy Trinity Chapel
Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest
Father John-Paul McShane
St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
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: Jackie Lynch Wellgate
Geraldine McPhee (New Stevenston); Andrea Oakes; Jimmy McClafferty; Catherine Lawless; Harry Timmons.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Rose Sharkey; Harry McPhail; Arthur Christie; John Hughes; Rodger McConnell; Cecilia Cloonan; Thomas Francis Reilly.

Funeral Arrangements: Jackie Lynch Requiem Mass: Thursday 16th November 9.30am, St Mary's

*There Is One Thing I Ask Of The Lord;
That He Grant Me My Heartfelt Desire.
To Dwell In The Courts Of Our God
Every Day Of My Life In His Presence.*

Annual Requiem Mass - Thursday 30th November 7pm

Please join us on Thursday 30th November at 7pm as we gather to celebrate our Annual Requiem Mass; remembering all those who have died in our parish over the past twelve months. This is an important event in the life of our parish, please come along and pray for all our departed loved ones. In a special way we remember this year:

Bill Quinn
Marion Doyle
Margaret McGinnis
Rosina Baird
Jack Lavery
Teresa McArdle
Ena McGurk

Annette Wells
Margaret Duncan
Sandy Abernethy
John Murray
Jim Beveridge
Kathleen Caulfield
Jean McGuinness

Arthur Kane
Pat Kelly
Grace Ritchie
Jim White
Tommy Boyle
Jackie Lynch

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

11th/12th November
5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm M. Davis

25th/26th November
5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm S. Casserly

18th/19th November
5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

11th/12th November
5.00pm P. Freel
J. McEwan
10.30am M. Davis
C. O'Brien

25th/26th November
5.00pm T. Mullen
C. McClafferty
10.30am C. Duddy
V. Hilland

18th/19th November
5.00pm M. Keenan
P. Stewart
10.30am G. Duddy
T. Mullen