



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

3rd Sunday of Advent  
17th December 2023



### Gaudete in Domino

"Gaudete in Domino semper" - Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil 4: 4). Holy Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent opens with these words of St Paul and is therefore called "gaudete" Sunday. The Apostle urges Christians to rejoice because the Lord's coming, that is, his glorious return, is certain and will not be delayed. The Church makes this invitation her own while she prepares to celebrate Christmas and her gaze is focused ever more intently on Bethlehem.



Indeed, we wait with hope, certain of Christ's second coming because we have experienced his first. The mystery of Bethlehem reveals to us God-with-us, the God close to us and not merely in the spatial and temporal sense; he is close to us because he has, as it were, "espoused" our humanity; he has taken our condition upon himself, choosing to be like us in all things, except sin, in order to make us become like him. Christian joy thus springs from this certainty: God is close, he is with me, he is with us, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as a friend and faithful spouse. And this joy endures, even in trials, in suffering itself. It does not remain only on the surface; it dwells in the depths of the person who entrusts himself to God and trusts in him.

Some people ask: but is this joy still possible today? Men and women of every age and social condition, happy to dedicate their existence to others, give us the answer with their lives! Was not Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta an unforgettable witness of true Gospel joy in our time? She lived in touch daily with wretchedness, human degradation and death. Her soul knew the trials of the dark night of faith, yet she gave everyone God's smile.

In one of her writings, we read: "We wait impatiently for paradise, where God is, but it is in our power to be in paradise even here on earth and from this moment. Being happy with God means loving like him, helping like him, giving like him, serving like him" (The Joy of Giving to Others, 1987, p. 143). Yes, joy enters the hearts of those who put themselves at the service of the lowly and poor.

God abides in those who love like this and their souls rejoice. If, instead, people make an idol of happiness, they lose their way and it is truly hard for them to find the joy of which Jesus speaks. Unfortunately, this is what is proposed by cultures that replace God by individual happiness, mindsets that find their emblematic effect in seeking pleasure at all costs, in spreading drug use as an escape, a refuge in artificial paradises that later prove to be entirely deceptive.

Dear brothers and sisters, one can lose the way even at Christmas, one can exchange the true celebration for one that does not open the heart to Christ's joy. May the Virgin Mary help all Christians and people in search of God to reach Bethlehem, to encounter the Child who was born for us, for salvation and for the happiness of all humanity.

*Pope Benedict XVI  
Angelus Address  
3rd Sunday Advent 2007*

# 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 17th December** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

**11.15am** Christmas Coffee Morning & Raffle (St Mary's Clubrooms)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

**Monday 18th December** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 4pm*

**9.00am** Confession until 9.25am (St Mary's)

**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)

**9.30am** Confessions until 10.30am (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 19th December**

**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** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Moira Healy (St Mary's)

**Wednesday 20th December**

**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 21st December**

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

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

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

**Friday 22nd December**

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

**9.30am** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Maureen Boyle (St Mary's)

**Saturday 23rd December** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**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)

**4.00pm** Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)

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

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

**5.30pm** Confessions until 6.30pm (St Mary's)

**Sunday 25th December** *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

**9.30am** Confessions until 10.20am (St Mary's)

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)

**12.35pm** Tea/Coffee/Mince Pies (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Choir (St Mary's)

**9.00pm** Midnight Mass of Christmas with St Mary's Choir (St Mary's)

## Memorial Plaques

We can now confirm that all ordered Memorial Plaques have been delivered and erected on our Memorial Wall. As you will see, the Memorial Wall is almost full and many people have commented on how well it looks. A huge thank you to Jerry and Margaret-Anne Wilson for their time erecting the plaques. **Forms are once again available from the stall for those who wish to purchase a plaque.**



## Confession Times

In order to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas the Sacrament of Confession will be available at the times listed. Please prepare for Christmas by attending Confession and drawing closer to the Lord. Confession, for many, is the hardest Sacrament to attend, however, it is one of the most powerful.

## Christmas Stock - St Mary's Stall

Thank you to all those who have purchased Christmas cards and religious gifts from the stall this year. It has been wonderful to see the stall grow over the last few months. There are still a few boxes of cards and some candles remaining for anyone still in need.

## The Choir of St Mary's - Christmas Concert

A huge thank you to The Choir of St Mary's for their outstanding concert last Sunday! The Choir would like to thank those who support them all year round, but especially those who attended the concert on Sunday. All monies raised went to support the great work of the Wayside Club in Glasgow. God bless your generosity.

The Choir also donated £600 to St Mary's Church which will be used to purchase the new crucifix that will sit above the tabernacle during the Christmas & Ester seasons. The crucifix will be in memory of all Choir Members, past and present.

## St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings

The Clubrooms diary is now starting to fill-up for the 2024. If you would like to book the Clubrooms for a function or are interested in using it on a regular basis, please contact Heather for more details:

**07300857616**

**theclubrooms@outlook.com**

## St Mary's Daily Livestream Facebook

As many parishioners may have noticed, our daily livestream of Mass has not been working on Facebook for nearly 2 months now. We have carried out the updates on our camera and tried to reset several times, and still no joy. We are also unable to post videos or share videos at certain times. We are working very hard at trying to get Mass livestreamed again. Mass is still available each day on the parish YouTube channel.

## Christmas Mass Times

### Sunday 24th December - Christmas Eve

5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas with Children's Choir (St Mary's)

9.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

### Monday 25th December - Christmas Day

10.30am Day Mass of Christmas (St Mary's)

12:00noon Day Mass of Christmas (Holy Trinity)





**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:** Moira Healy Main Street, Forth  
Maureen Boyle Gleghorn Road  
Frank Pellow Plymouth  
Cathie Gallagher (Mrs Allen's Mum); Mark Patrick; Nadia Crolla; John O'Connor.

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Tom Oliver; Eleonora De-Schuster; Pat McKeown; Michael Reilly; Sadie Palmer.

**Christmas Remembrance Masses:** If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Christmas Bulletin, please hand in their names before **FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER**. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection, but please write on the envelope CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE, and please print the names clearly to avoid typing errors.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Moira Healy Reception & Requiem Mass: Tuesday 19th December 12noon  
Maureen Boyle Reception & Requiem Mass: Friday 22nd December 9.30am

## Parish Finances

**St Mary's**  
Offertory Collection: £ 1,365.00  
Standing Orders: £ 348.50

**St Marys Mission RCDM**  
**80-17-02 00265809**

**St Isidore's**  
Offertory Collection: £ 101.00  
Standing Orders: £ 35.00

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

## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

**16th/17th December** **30th/31st December**  
**5.00pm** R. Kane **5.00pm** G. Abernethy  
**10.30am** R. Colpitts **10.30am** E. McCabe  
**5.00pm** S. Casserly **5.00pm** N. Donnelly

**23rd/24th December**  
**5.00pm** R. McConnell  
**10.30am** P. Roberts

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

**16th/17th December** **30th/31st December**  
**5.00pm** M. Keenan **5.00pm** J. McClafferty  
P. Stewart J. McAlavey  
**10.30am** P. Cunningham **10.30am** C. Duddy  
A. Cruikshank V. Hilland

**23rd/24th December**  
**5.00pm** T. Mullen  
C. McClafferty  
**10.30am** J. McAlavey  
J. Wilson