

St Mary's Lanark

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

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Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

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St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

3rd Sunday of Advent

15th December 2024

Why Bother With Confession?

The classic questions priests often get asked about confession are: "Why do I have to confess my sins to a priest? Why can't I go directly to God?" or "Will God really forgive my sins? Even after everything I have done?"

God loves each and every one of us as individuals, and he is always waiting to show us his mercy and love, through the forgiveness of our sins. Indeed, we can go to Jesus directly, in prayer, and seek forgiveness and mercy. But, one of the most important ways to encounter God, to encounter Jesus, is through the celebration of the sacraments; especially the Eucharist and Confession. Jesus said to his Apostles, "if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven..." (Jn 20.23). The priest continues on this redemptive work of forgiveness today, acting in the name of Jesus and the whole Church.



Confession should not be a barrier between God and his people, but rather a gateway that allows us to meet Jesus, heart to heart, face to face, through the ministry of the priest. In confession we are touched by God's mercy in a very personal and direct way. We are forgiven and set free. We are reconciled with God and the Church. We have the opportunity to make a new start with God's grace to help us. And we know the priest will never betray our sins to anyone; he can't even talk to us about our sins outside the confessional box, this is called the "seal of confession".

Confession is not only an opportunity to seek God's loving forgiveness, but an opportunity to bring healing and peace into our lives. Confession strengthens us in our friendship with Jesus and allows us to become the person God wants us to be, by saying "no" to the world and "yes" to Him.

Often people feel afraid, embarrassed or ashamed to go to confession. Some feel they have not sinned, or they simply do not know what to say. The priest is there to help and guide the penitent, to be the bridge between them and God. It is more damning for your soul not to go to confession because of fear, embarrassment or because you do not know what to say, rather than to go with a humble contrite heart, opening yourself to God's love and mercy.

Don't be anxious or afraid of confession, or of the priest. So many things can hold us back. We worry God won't forgive our sins (he will!) or that the priest will be shocked by what we say (he won't!). We're embarrassed or ashamed. Sometimes we are not sure if we really want to change. Don't be afraid. It might take courage. But no one ever regrets going to confession once they've gone.

As we prepare ourselves for Christmas, take the opportunity to prepare your soul by attending the Sacrament of Confession, and receiving God's love afresh into your life. Extra confession times are available in our parish next week, and throughout the diocese.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Andrew Sharkey Bellfield
Patricia Drain Glebe Court
Alice Campbell; David Tinto (Burton-On-Trent).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Pat McKeown (Hamilton).

Funeral Arrangements: Andrew Sharkey Rosary: Thursday 19th December 7pm, St Mary's Church
Requiem Mass: Saturday 21st December 9.30am, Motherwell Cathedral

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 20TH 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.

St Mary's Primary School Notices

- The Sacramental Enrolment Mass will take place on Sunday 2nd February 2025 at 10.30am. All parents presenting their children for the Sacraments in 2025 must attend this Mass with their children and receive their Sacramental Passport.
- P1 enrolment - Children who are age 5 between 1st March 2025 and the end of February 2026 are required to register their child for starting school in August 2025 by completing an online registration form which will be available from Monday 6 January 2025. The registration form is available on the SLC website Enrolling your child for school - South Lanarkshire Council

Vocations Evening

A meeting will take place on **Tuesday 17th December at 7.00pm** in **Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral** for those in our diocese who feel called to the priesthood. This informal evening will begin with a short time of prayer and provide an opportunity for anyone considering a vocation to the priesthood to ask questions, come together and learn a bit more about priesthood and the discernment process. If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood but can't make it along to the meeting on 17th December, please email Fr Sean Wyllie, Diocesan Vocations Promoter: frwyllie@rcdom.org.uk

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,133.00
Standing Orders: £ 465.00
Votives: £ 220.00
Stall: £ 180.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

14th/15th December		24th/25th December	
5.00pm	C. Jackson	<i>Christmas Rota</i>	
10.30am	M. McCusker		
5.00pm	M. Davis		
21st/22nd December		28th/29th December	
5.00pm	G. Abernethy	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	R. Colpitts	10.30am	P. Roberts
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

14th/15th December		24th/25th December	
5.00pm	C. Scott	<i>Christmas Rota</i>	
	S. Callaghan		
10.30am	V. Hilland		
	M. Thompson		
	B. Farrell		
21st/22nd December		28th/29th December	
5.00pm	K. Bryce	5.00pm	M. Keenan
	A. McGown		C. Callaghan
10.30am	C. Duddy	10.30am	P. Cunningham
	D. McFarlane		K. Lawrence
	I. Maxfield		J. McFarlane

St Mary's Social Committee

The Christmas Coffee Morning & Raffle was a huge success raising £1700! It was such a joy to see the Clubrooms filled with so many people of all age groups – thank you to everyone who supported this event.

The Social Committee would like to say a special thank you to all our helpers who assist with flowers, baking and helping at events. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes! We are blessed to have such amazing parishioners who support St Mary's Parish. Happy Christmas and all the best for 2025!

Our next coffee morning is on Sunday 5th January where soup will be served.

Christmas Show

The Choir of St Mary's will perform *An Afternoon of Christmas Joy* in St Mary's Clubrooms today at 3pm.

Thank you to all those who supported this event, with all funds raised going to the Wayside Club in Glasgow - it was a sell out!!

Diocesan Choir Carol Concert Sunday 7.30pm

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will be in our parish for a Carol Service with popular carols, choral pieces and readings tonight, **Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm.**

Fr John-Paul encourages all parishioners to make a special effort to come along for this special event, which is a first for our parish! The concert lasts roughly 1 hour and will also feature St Mary's Primary School pupils, and will showcase the wonderful talent in our parish.

*Mince pies and mulled wine will be served
in the Clubrooms afterwards.*

Monday Club

It is with heavy heart, and deep regret, that after 30+ years of gathering the Monday Club has come to an end. We take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the Monday Club over the years, and all those who have held Office. It is perhaps a sign of the times that the Monday Club was no longer sustainable: what sad times we live in! The Monday Club Committee have asked for Mass to be offered for all Monday Club Members, those of the past and present, and those gone to the Lord.

Jubilee Year Opening Liturgy - Sunday 29th December

The Holy Year opens in our Diocese with a pilgrimage moving towards the Cathedral behind the Cross prepared by Holy Cross High School for the Jubilee – a pilgrim people behind the Cross of Christ which remains the anchor of salvation.

People are invited to gather at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Carfin at 1pm on Sunday 29th December for a short introduction to the Pilgrimage and the Opening of the Holy Year. Bishop Toal, with a small group of young people, will then make the first part of the pilgrimage towards the Cathedral.

At 2.30pm, all people from across the Diocese are invited to gather in St Bride's Hall (across from the Cathedral) for another gathering time on the journey behind the Cross and for the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, the veneration of the Cross, a memorial of our baptism and the celebration of Mass.

Christmas Mass Times 2024

Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (Children's Choir)
- 7.30pm Carol Service (The Choir of St Mary's)
- 8.00pm Midnight Mass of Christmas

Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 10.30am Day Mass of Christmas
- 12noon Day Mass of Christmas (Holy Trinity)



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 15th December *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)
- 3.00pm** **St Mary's Choir Christmas Concert (St Mary's Clubrooms)**
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)
- 7.30pm** **Diocesan Carol Service with St Mary's Primary School (St Mary's)**

Monday 16th December *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.00am** **Confessions until 9.25am**
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass

Tuesday 17th 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
- 12.30pm** **Confessions until 1pm**

Wednesday 18th December

- 9.00am** **Confessions until 9.25am**
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am** **Advent Prayer Group (St Catherine's)**

Thursday 19th December

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am** **Confessions until 10.30am**
- 6.30pm** **Confessions until 6.55pm**
- 7.00pm** **Rosary & Prayers for the Repose of the Soul of Andrew Sharkey**
- 7.30pm** **The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 20th December

- 9.00am** **Confessions until 9.25am**
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 21st December *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 12noon** **Angelus & Holy Mass**
- 4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 4.30pm** **Confessions until 4.50pm**
- 5.00pm** **Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**
- 5.30pm** **Confessions until 6pm**

Sunday 22nd December *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.50am** **Confessions until 10.20am**
- 10.30am** **Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**
- 12noon** **Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Holy Trinity)**
- 4.30pm** **Confessions until 4.50pm**
- 5.00pm** **Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (St Mary's)**

