



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

4th Sunday Lent
10th March 2024



Sacraments of Initiation - The Eucharist as Sacrifice

The Eucharist is a sacrament established by Christ to nourish the life of grace in us. Uniquely among the sacraments, however, the Eucharist is also a *sacrifice*, the sacrifice of Christ himself. Sacrifices offer something up to God, to honour him, to thank him, to gain communion with him and to make expiation for sin. The Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ achieves all of these perfectly.



Both unbloody and bloody kinds of sacrifice were prominent in the Old Testament. Sacrifices without blood included Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine and the yearly offering of the first-fruits of the harvest. The pre-eminent blood sacrifice was the sacrifice of Passover. Shedding the blood of the Paschal lamb and eating its flesh marked the 'passing over' from sin and death to freedom and life. These sacrifices were commanded by God as provisional and prophetic, offsetting some of the effects of sin. However, these imperfect sacrifices of fallen humanity could never achieve our redemption or unite us to God in familial communion.

The Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus renders perfect thanksgiving to God and gains mercy for the whole world. 'Eucharist' originally means 'thanksgiving'. When Jesus began his mission, John the Baptist declared him to be "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world*". By these words John indicated that Jesus is the *perfect sacrifice* prefigured by the Old testament sacrifices. Jesus Confirmed that he would offer his flesh for the life of the world. At the feast of Passover, he took bread and wine and offered up his imminent death for our salvation.

"Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you"

"Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my Blood,

the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins"

Jesus added "*Do this in memory of me.*" Therefore the Church, though her priests, continues to offer the same Eucharistic sacrifice. Christ's offering on Calvary and its salvific effects are thereby made present to all ages until the end of time. The Eucharistic sacrifice is called the Mass. It is the centre of the Church's worship, "*the source and summit of the Christian life*".

Jesus promised to give food from heaven that would be his flesh and blood. He fulfilled this promise at the Last Supper, when he took the bread and said explicitly: "*this is my Body*" and when he took the wine and said: "*this is the chalice of my Blood*". This gift is also made present to us today. When the priest speaks the words of consecration in the Mass, the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Church calls this change 'transubstantiation' because the substance of bread and wine are really changed, becoming the substance of Jesus himself; yet the elements, the appearance of bread and wine remain. For this reason, we worship the Eucharist as God.

When Christ publicly declared that all must eat his flesh, and drink his blood, many were shocked. These actions are fitting, though, because of what a spiritual and sacred meal implies: **Union** - By consuming his life we become like, and he dwells within us. For this reason the Eucharist is also called *Holy Communion*. As a meal, it also expresses intimacy with Christ and unity with the whole Church. **Strength** - By consuming divine food, we gain nourishment in the divine life that Christ has shared with us. The form of bread under which it appears is a sign that the Eucharist gives us strength for the spiritual journey through life, and at the approach of death. **Promise** - By receiving the risen Jesus, we also receive in the Eucharist the power of his Resurrection within us. As he promised: "*He who eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day*".

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 10th March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.45pm** Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 11th March *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 St Michael (St Mary's)
- 10.00am** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.55am (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Angelus & Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

Tuesday 12th March

- 8.25am** Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)
- 11.40am** Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Michael (St Mary's)
- 6.00pm** Stations of the Cross & Distribution of Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Wednesday 13th March

- 9.10am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Estelle Higgins (St Mary's)
- 10.00am** Lenten Prayer Group (St Catherine's)
- 6.00pm** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 7.00pm** *Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)*

Thursday 14th March

- 8.25am** Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 9.10am** Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Michael (St Mary's)
- 7.30pm** **The Choir of St Mary's Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)**

Friday 15th March

- 9.00am** Confessions until 9.25am (St Mary's)
- 9.10am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Michael (St Mary's)

Saturday 16th March *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 & Novena to St Michael (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 5th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

Sunday 17th March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
- 5.45pm** Evening Prayer of the Church & Benediction (St Mary's)



Parish Disco 23rd March

The Social Committee are hosting a Parish Disco Night on Saturday 23rd March. Tickets are £7, which includes entry and nibbles. The bar will be opened from 7.30pm til late. For tickets, please contact any of the girls on the social committee.

The Disco Nights are a great evening of fun and entertainment,
if you have not been before why not give it ago.....



Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,330.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £115.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish

St Marys Mission RCDM

80-17-02 00265809

SCIAF Wee Boxes

For years, the Scottish Catholic Church has reached out in generosity to those in some of the world's poorest places. We are able to do so through the great work of SCIAF, particularly through the WEE BOX appeal.

Please return any WEE BOXES before
Easter Sunday.
Thank you



Easter Raffle & Coffee Morning

The Easter Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 31st March after 10.30 Mass. The Easter Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. The girls will be selling raffle tickets for this event at Masses from 2nd/3rd March. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support.

SCIAF Collection 10th March

Each year we are asked to take up a Second Collection for SCIAF Sunday. A Second Collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend **9th/10th March**.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

The Big Lent Walk for SCIAF and CAFOD

Sr Margaret has been taking part in the Big Lent Walk since Ash Wednesday. SCIAF and CAFOD are raising funds to help those many people who continue to face poverty across the world. By participating in the Big Lent Walk 2024 Sr Margaret will help people receive training and are given the necessary skills and tools to start again. The Sponsor Form is available at St Catherine's.

St Mary's Parking

Parking at St Mary's can be difficult due to the shape of the carpark, but please take care when parking, and try to park close to, and at the same angle as the car next to you, in order to maximise space.

Thank you

St Michael's Candles

At all Masses this weekend blessed candles of St Michael will be available free of charge for each household. The St Michael Pilgrim Statue will be with us until Wednesday 20th March.

St Michael the Archangel pray for us

Parish Pilgrimage Fatima & Lisbon

The pilgrims intending on travelling with the Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lisbon (2nd-9th July) are asked to make a second deposit of **£150** towards the cost of the trip. This deposit is due this week. The final balance will be due 10 weeks before departure, on or before 24th April. Payment can be made via bank transfer -

Account Name: **Alba Tours Ltd**

Account Number: **00898164**

Sort Code: **80-22-60**

Ref: **STMALA0207+ your surname**

In preparation for our pilgrimage, a meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th March**. We will gather in Our Lady & St John's, Blackwood, for Mass at 7pm, followed by a meeting with Anne Marie Cairns from Alba Tours.



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:

Estelle Higgins
Roseann Briggs
Elizabeth Reilly

Armadale Road

Milton Grange Nursing Home Carluke

Braxfield Terrace

Liam Ritchie; Charlie Kelly (Falkirk); William White.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Joseph Doolan; Marion Renton; Mary Meaham.

Funeral Arrangements: Estelle Higgins

Requiem Mass: Wednesday 13th March, 9.30am St Mary's

Project Wellspring Parish Update

As we enter this time of renewal within our parish, as part of Project Wellspring, I have collated all the information returned on the Parish Questionnaire Forms, dated Sept 2023, and we have been able to address some easy tasks to help enhance parishioners "experience" of church, based on the feedback received.

- ♦ As from next weekend printed Mass Readings and Mass Prayers will be available
- ♦ As from next weekend we are able to supply children's worksheets & material for families to take home
- ♦ We now have new Altar Servers in the parish to encourage children participation in the liturgy

In the weeks ahead we will also look to launch 3 more initiatives:

- ♦ Chickens for the children to feed / visit when they come to Mass
- ♦ A Parish App to keep everyone updated
- ♦ A new interactive system with the history of the church

We hope, after Easter, to hold several parish meetings to present our parish renewal program

Fr John-Paul

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

9th/10th March

5.00pm R. Kane

10.30am M. McCusker

5.00pm S. Casserly

23rd/24th March

5.00pm G. Abernethy

10.30am P. Roberts

5.00pm M. Davis

16th/17th March

5.00pm A. Haetzman

10.30am R. Colpitts

5.00pm N. Donnelly

30th/31st March

Separate Rota

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

9th/10th March

5.00pm J. McEwan

C. McClafferty

10.30am M. Davis

C. O'Brien

J. McAlavey

16th/17th March

5.00pm K. Bryce

J. McClafferty

10.30am J. Littlejohn

M. Keenan

M. Keenan

23rd/24th March

5.00pm A. Dempsey

C. Scott

10.30am G. Duddy

S. Callaghan

B. Farrell

31st March

10.30am C. Duddy

V. Hilland

D. McFarlane