

# 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

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**1st February 2026**

## The Presentation of the Lord

Traditionally, the Church has set aside February 2nd in observance of the Presentation of the Lord – or the day in which Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to the priests and elders in the Temple. For years, this feast marked the end of the Christmas season. In old days, the Presentation was often referred to as “Candlemas” and was celebrated by a candle-lit procession into the church, signifying Christ as the “light of nations.”

Known originally as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is a relatively ancient celebration. We know that the Church at Jerusalem was observing the feast as early as the first half of the fourth century, and likely earlier.

According to Jewish law, the firstborn male child belonged to God, and the parents had to “buy him back” on the 40th day after his birth, by offering a sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons” (Luke 2:24) in the temple — thus the “presentation” of the child. On that same day, the mother would be ritually purified — thus the “purification.” Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph kept this law, even though, since Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Christ, she would not have had to go through ritual purification. In his Gospel, Luke (2:22-39) recounts the story.



Originally, the feast was celebrated on February 14th, the 40th day after Epiphany (January 6th), because Christmas wasn't yet celebrated as its own feast, and so the Nativity, Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and the feast celebrating Christ's first miracle at the wedding in Cana were all celebrated on the same day. By the last quarter of the fourth century, however, the Church at Rome had begun to celebrate the Nativity on December 25th, so the Feast of the Presentation was moved to February 2nd, 40 days later.

When Christ was presented in the temple, “there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel.” When Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph brought Christ to the temple, Simeon embraced the Child and prayed the Cantic of Simeon: “Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).

Because of the words of the canticle — “a light to the revelation of the Gentiles” — by the 11th century, the custom had developed in the West of blessing candles on the Feast of the Presentation. The candles were then lit, and a procession took place through the darkened church while the Cantic of Simeon was sung. Because of this, the feast also became known as Candlemas. While the procession and blessing of the candles is not often performed in many parishes today, Candlemas is still an important feast in the Church.

## Weekly Parish Schedule

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

**Sunday 1st February** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

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

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**12.35pm** Light Bite (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Monday 2nd February** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

**Tuesday 3rd February**

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

**Wednesday 4th February**

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**9.30am** Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mamie McAvoy

**Thursday 5th February**

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

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

**Friday 6th February**

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

**Saturday 7th February** *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

9.00am Confessions until 9.25am

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Sunday 8th February** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

**10.30am** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**12noon** Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

**5.00pm** **NO 5PM MASS TONIGHT**



### Please Pray For The Following

**Recently Dead:** Mamie McAvoy Glebe Court

Mary McCulloch; Alice Hynds (Wishaw); Michael Hartley (East Kilbride); Grace Hogg; Robert Foster; Anne Elizabeth McCullough; Josephine Hannan; Joseph Adams (Devon);

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Father Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Mary McTaggart; Ella Lambert; Margaret Fisher (Shotts); Jim & Esther Oliver; James & Elizabeth Gilchrist; Sarah Donnachie; Jim Callaghan;

**Funeral Arrangements:** Mamie McAvoy Requiem Mass: Wednesday 4th February 9.30am

## St Mary's Weddings 2026

If you have booked St Mary's for your wedding, or are intending to book St Mary's, for 2026, and if you have not done so already, please contact Fr John-Paul to arrange a meeting to begin the legal and Church paperwork which takes several months to complete.

The best form of contact is email:

[frmcsbane@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:frmcsbane@rcdom.org.uk)

## Lent 2026

Lent is one of the most powerful liturgical seasons within the Church. It is an opportunity for us to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting and alms giving.

As we prepare for Lent Fr John-Paul is looking to put a parish Lenten Schedule together, including Novenas and additional Masses and Devotions. If you have any ideas or devotions for Lent you think might benefit the parish please speak to Fr John-Paul.

## St Mary's Memorial Plaques

Thank you to those who have returned completed plaque forms. Forms will be checked and passed to Pattersons Memorials for engraving.

We are confident, weather permitting, that plaques will be returned and erected before Easter.



## St Mary's Car Parking

As you are aware, it can be difficult to park in the grounds of St Mary's due to the circular shape of the car parking area. In order to help with parking Fr John-Paul has contacted a company to paint parking lines in the parking area. This will happen on the first dry weekend and will take a few days. Parts of the carpark may be cordoned off to allow the men a safe space to work.

## Deanery Appeal

This year our annual Deanery Appeal will support the work of the Religious Society of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, who work in a number of countries including Zambia, Uganda, Philippines & El Salvador. They work in Justice and Peace, combatting Human Trafficking, Orphans and Street Children, Skills Training - Youth and Women. The Society is heavily involved in a ladies prison in Zambia, working with women and also with children, who were in prison with their mothers. Please pray for these sisters and those whom they work amongst.

**A Second Collection will be taken up at all Masses on weekend 7th/8th February to support the work of Religious Society of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.**

## Holy Trinity Light Bite

The January Light Bite raised £150 for the Lamington Committee, to go towards the repair work on Holy Trinity Chapel. February's Light Bite is to support the work of the Bethany Christian Trust. A national charity dedicated to ending homelessness in Scotland.

## Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **this weekend**. Bags of groceries can be handed in to the sacristy or to a passkeeper, and any monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket in an enveloped clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.



## St Mary's Ministry Rota

### Readers:

<u>31st Jan/1st Feb</u>	<u>14th/15th February</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> G. Abernethy	<b>5.00pm</b> F. Chung
<b>10.30am</b> A. Servers	<b>10.30am</b> J. Angus
<b>5.00pm</b> N. Donnelly	<b>5.00pm</b> M. Davis
<u>7th/8th February</u>	<u>21st/22nd February</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> T. Coia	<b>5.00pm</b> R. McConnell
<b>10.30am</b> E. McCabe	<b>10.30am</b> M. McCusker
<b>5.00pm</b> S. Casserly	<b>5.00pm</b> N. Donnelly

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>31st Jan/1st Feb</u>	<u>14th/15th February</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> F. McBride	<b>5.00pm</b> C. Scott
R. Sinton	S. Callaghan
<b>10.30am</b> J. Littlejohn	<b>10.30am</b> V. Hilland
A. O'Neill	M. Thompson
N. Keenan	B. Farrell
<u>7th/8th February</u>	<u>21st/22nd February</u>
<b>5.00pm</b> A. Dempsey	<b>5.00pm</b> K. Bryce
J. McBride	A. McGowan
<b>10.30am</b> J. Littlejohn	<b>10.30am</b> J. McAlavey
A. O'Neill	I. Maxfield
N. Keenan	M. Russell

## The Enduring Importance of the Second Vatican Council Documents

Pope Leo XIV is focusing his Wednesday General Audience on Second Vatican Council documents to encourage the faithful to study them directly rather than relying on interpretations or hearsay. This series aims to renew the Church's commitment to its recent teachings, focusing on the relationship between scripture and tradition.

Pope Leo is inviting us (the Church) once again to reflect on a moment that profoundly reshaped modern Catholic life. Convened by Pope St John XXIII and continued under Pope St Paul VI, Vatican II was not intended to create a new Church, but to renew the Church's engagement with the modern world. Its sixteen documents remain among the most influential teachings in contemporary Catholicism, offering a vision that is both faithful to tradition and responsive to changing historical realities.

At the heart of the Council's importance is its emphasis on *aggiornamento*, or "bringing up to date." Documents such as *Lumen Gentium* rearticulated the nature of the Church, highlighting the People of God and the universal call to holiness, not only for clergy but for all the baptised. *Sacrosanctum Concilium* renewed the Church's liturgical life, encouraging active participation in the liturgy and making worship more accessible to the faithful. Meanwhile, *Dei Verbum* deepened the Church's understanding of divine revelation, affirming the central role of Scripture alongside Sacred Tradition.

Perhaps most striking was Vatican II's outward-looking orientation. *Gaudium et Spes* addressed the Church's relationship with the modern world, engaging issues such as human dignity, social justice, peace, and economic life. *Nostra Aetate* marked a historic step in interreligious dialogue, especially in its call for mutual respect and understanding between Catholics and people of other faiths. These documents helped shift the Church from a posture of defensiveness to one of dialogue and encounter.

The continued relevance of Vatican II lies in its pastoral vision. In an age marked by globalisation, secularisation, and cultural fragmentation, the Council's insistence on human dignity, conscience, and dialogue remains deeply needed. Its documents provide principles rather than rigid solutions, allowing each generation to apply their teachings to new circumstances. Far from being relics of the past, the Vatican II documents continue to guide the Church as it seeks to proclaim the Gospel credibly and compassionately in a complex world.

In the weeks ahead we will explore the Second Vatican Council documents, not merely as an act of remembrance, but as a renewed invitation to live out its spirit of faith, hope, and engagement in our own day.

### Liturgical Calendar

**Monday 2nd February, The presentation of the Lord** - Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognised Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we now go to the house of God to welcome Christ the Lord.

**Tuesday 3rd February, St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr** - Died in the early fourth century, believed to have been martyred during the persecution of the emperor Licinius. Bishop in Armenia, known as a healer, venerated since the eighth century and specially invoked to intercede for protection against diseases of the throat.

**Thursday 5th February, St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr** - Agatha died in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr on this day since the sixth century and included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Noted in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

**Friday 6th February, St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs** - They died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Paul Miki was a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution.

### St Mary's Heating

In order to preserve heat in the church **please keep all doors closed**, including the glass doors between the main body of the church and the narthex, **before and after Mass**. Our heating bill averages £1,100 per week in the winter, keeping all doors closed will not only preserve heat but also save the parish money.