




**ST MARY'S LANARK
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**
6 Coulter Road
Biggar
ML12 6EP
stisidore@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041


PARISH CLERGY
Father John-Paul McShane
Father Thomas Devine
St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark ML11 7JS
01555 662234

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**4Th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
30th January 2022**

St Agatha

St. Agatha, also known as Agatha of Sicily, is one of the most highly venerated virgin martyrs of the Catholic Church. It is believed that she was born around 231 in either Catania or Palermo, Sicily to a rich and noble family. From her very early years, the notably beautiful Agatha dedicated her life to God. She became a consecrated virgin, a state in life where young women choose to remain celibate and give themselves wholly to Jesus and the Church in a life of prayer and service.



One of the men who desired Agatha, whose name was Quintianus, because he was of a high diplomatic ranking, thought he could force her to turn away from her vow and force her to marry. His persistent proposals were consistently spurned by Agatha, so Quintianus, knowing she was a Christian during the persecution of Decius, had her arrested and brought before the judge. He was the Judge. He expected her to give in to his demands when she was faced with torture and possible death, but she simply reaffirmed her belief in God by praying: "Jesus Christ, Lord of all, you see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am. I am your sheep: make me worthy to overcome the devil." With tears falling from her eyes, she prayed for courage.

To force her to change her mind, Quintianus had her imprisoned - in a brothel. Agatha never lost her confidence in God, even though she suffered a month of assaults and efforts to get her to abandon her vow to God and go against her virtue. Quintianus heard of her calm strength and ordered that she be brought before him once again. During her interrogation, she told him that to be a servant of Jesus Christ was her true freedom. Enraged, Quintianus sent her off to prison instead of back to the brothel - a move intended to make her even more afraid, but it was probably a great relief to her.

Agatha continued to proclaim Jesus as her Savior, Lord, Life and Hope. Quintianus ordered her to be tortured. He had her stretched on a rack to be torn with iron hooks, burned with torches, and whipped. Noticing Agatha was enduring all the torture with a sense of cheer, he commanded she be subjected to a worse form of torture ? this evil man ordered that her breasts be cut off. He then sent her back to prison with an order of no food or medical attention. But the Lord gave her all the care she needed. He was her Sacred Physician and protector. Agatha had a vision of the apostle, St. Peter, who comforted her and healed her wounds through his prayers.

After four days, Quintianus ignored the miraculous cure of her wounds. He had her stripped naked and rolled naked over hot coals which were mixed with sharp shards. When she was returned to prison, Agatha prayed, "Lord, my Creator, you have ever protected me from the cradle; you have taken me from the love of the world, and given me patience to suffer: receive now my soul."

She is commonly featured in religious art with shears, tongs, or breasts on a plate. St. Agatha is the patron saint of Sicily, bellfounders, breast cancer patients, Palermo, rape victims, and wet nurses.

Covid Update - St Mary's

Please find below some changes to the way we have been carrying out Covid procedures in our parish. The new measures are those set out by the Government and Diocese, and are aimed at keeping us all safe, whilst also looking to reduce restrictions.

Whilst we are making progress, we are still advised to sanitise our hands on entry and exit of the church, and also to wear a face covering. Thank you to the many volunteers who worked so hard at ensuring all Covid guidelines were followed so scrupulously in our parish.

Track & Trace

As advised by the Diocesan Covid Coordinator we are now in a position to cease our current track & trace system. Therefore, when you attend Mass you will not be asked for your personal details or Parish Number, but you may wish to use the QR code to check-in, as is advised for visitors. We do kindly ask that you retain your Parish Number Card, just as a precaution if required in the future.

Offertory Collection

As we steadily return to normality in the Church, the weekly offertory collection will be reintroduced this weekend. The offertory collection will be taken up at the appropriate time, and will be carried out by the on duty pass-keepers. Once again thank you for your continued generosity, and to all those who have subscribed to using the Standing Order scheme.

Bidding Prayers

Bishop Toal has encouraged that a full Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed, and therefore in a few weeks time we will reintroduce Prayers of the Faithful, which take place at the end of the Creed.

Offertory Procession

Within the next few weeks we will also see the return of the Offertory Procession. This is an important part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and symbolises our offerings to the Lord, the bread and wine to be consecrated into the Eucharist. We hope that you will be kind enough to accept the invitation if a pass-keeper ask you to take part in the Offertory Procession.

Sacrament of Confession

Bishop Toal has now advised all parishes to offer regular times for the Sacrament of Confession. Again, within the next few weeks we will look to reintroduce the Sacrament of Confession, and will update you with times and procedures once they have been agreed.

Eucharistic Adoration

As we now start to look beyond Covid and introduce more devotions to the parish, we propose some time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This will most probably happen prior to Mass and last 25 mins, all going well, this will begin in Lent.

RCIA

Bishop Toal has now advised all parishes to return to face-to-face meetings, and therefore we are looking to restart RCIA. On returning from his annual leave, Fr John-Paul will call a meeting of those who are on the RCIA Leaders Group with the hope of restarting RCIA sessions in late February.

Children's Liturgy

Once a risk assessment has been carried out, Children's Liturgy will recommence at the Sunday 10.30am Mass. More details to follow soon...

The Synod In Our Pariah

It was wonderful to see so many people attend our first parish synodal meeting on Wednesday evening in the Elphinstone, in Biggar. The meeting was both fruitful and informative! We hope over the next few weeks to share different videos, in the bulletin and on Facebook, that will encourage people to dialogue and journey together.

Some parishioners have also asked if it is possible to meet in smaller groups with afternoon sessions. If you would be interested in this idea, or you would simply like more information on the Synod and what is happening in our parish, please speak to our Parish Coordinators; Gillean McCluskey 07854012277 or Frances Spence 07796388240, or check out the links below:

<https://youtu.be/U4PWSir1Ovk>

<https://youtu.be/Jp-Ca4ri9BM>

https://youtu.be/N_tcgEk7oS4

The details of our next meeting are:

Thursday 24th February 2022, 7pm-8.15pm, St Mary's Clubrooms, Lanark



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - Sister Margaret Colbert St Catherine's
 Michael Coyle Wallace Way
 Cathie Hughes (Wishaw); Agnes Docherty (Coatbridge); Norrie Allan.

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Moira & Richard (Dickie) Kane; James Patrick Callaghan; Jim & Esther Oliver; Ann Scotland; Helen McAreavy; Magdalene Donnelly.

Funeral Arrangements - Sr Margaret Colbert Requiem Mass: Monday 31st January 12noon.
 Michael Coyle Requiem Mass: Thursday 3rd February 9.30am.

Clydesdale Foodbank

This weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection to help support Clydesdale Foodbank. Bags of shopping can be handed to any pass-keeper, or left in the sacristy. Monetary donations can be placed in the basket with your weekly offering. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the Foodbank.

No Mass in Forth or Biggar

After 16 months from moving to the parish, Fr John-Paul will be taking a week's annual leave, which will consist of two weekends. This will mean that there will be **NO** Masses in St Mary Magdalene's during the month of February, and **NO** Masses in Biggar on **Sunday 6th, or Sunday 13th, February**. You are encouraged to attend Mass in Lanark if possible.

Sacramental Enrolment Mass

The Sacramental Enrolment Mass for children receiving the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion in 2022 will take place on **Sunday 20th February at 10.30am**. All children, along with their parents, are invited to attend this Mass. Enrolment is the first step for a person being presented for the Sacraments and is not optional.

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 910.00
 Standing Orders: £ 282.50

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 48.00
 Standing Orders: £ 10.00
(Including St Mary Magdalene's)

St Mary Magdalene's

Offertory Collection: £ 75.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish. For those who wish to pay Bank Transfer or Standing Order please find the relevant details below.

St Marys Mission RCDM 80-17-02 00265809
Parish of St Isidore's 83-16-11 00235026

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

29th/30th January

5.00pm J. Moynagh
10.30am Sr. Brady
5.00pm S. Casserly

12th/13th February

5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am S. Watson
5.00pm S. Casserly

5th/6th February

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm M. Davis

19th/20th February

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am J. Russell
5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

29th/30th January

5.00pm P. Freel
 J. McEwan
10.30am J. McAlavey
 M. Keenan

12th/13th February

5.00pm P. Freel
 J. McEwan
10.30am G. Duddy
 T. Mullen

5th/6th February

5.00pm A. Dempsey
 C. Scott
10.30am J. Wilson
 C. Duddy

19th/20th February

5.00pm M. Keenan
 P. Stewart
10.30am P. Cunningham
 A. Cruikshank

Weekly Parish Schedule

Sunday 30th January

- 8.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.00am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)
1.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in ordinary Time (Biggar Kirk)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 31st January

- 9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph - Week 3 (St Mary's)
12noon Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Sister Margaret Colbert DC (St Mary's)

Tuesday 1st February

- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 2nd February

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am Church Cleaning (St Mary's)
7.00pm Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)

Thursday 3rd February

- 9.30am Reception & Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Michael Coyle (St Mary's)
7.30pm St Mary's Church Choir (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 4th February

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 5th February

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 6th February

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in ordinary Time (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

*The 10.30am Sunday
Mass & weekday
Masses from St Mary's
are Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.*



Liturgical Calendar

Monday 31st January St John Bosco - Born in Piedmont (Italy) in 1815; died at Turin on this day in 1888. Grew up in extreme poverty and, after ordination, devoted his whole life to educating young people, especially the poor. Founded the Salesians, men and women who continue this work with youth throughout the world. Noted, like the order's patron, Saint Francis de Sales, for his cheerfulness and trust in the providence of God.

Tuesday 1st February St Brigid - Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. When she was a young girl her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted on consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from Mel. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in a number of continental European lands.

Wednesday 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.

Thursday 3rd February St Blaise - 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.