



# Saint Mary's Parish Lanark

5th Sunday of Lent  
22nd March 2026



## Gaudium et Spes (Part One)

Gaudium et Spes (translated as Joy and Hope) was promulgated on 7th December 1965. It was the last and longest document produced, reflecting the Church's desire to dialogue with the whole human family. Since everyone, followers of Christ and not, share the same hopes, joys, sorrows, anxieties, the Church shows her love and solidarity by addressing these issues to foster true fraternity. All problems and situations are answered and given meaning in Christ.

The document tells us that the Church looks at the “signs of the times” by the light of the Gospel. The opening words of this Constitution on the Church in the modern world are beautiful and profound: “The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ”.



Part One of this Constitution focuses on several aspects of being Catholic in the world today:

*Human Dignity & Worth:* The dignity of the human person flows out of the fact we are made in the image and likeness of God. This dignity is recognised in human intellect, conscience and freedom. We are social beings who find meaning in relationships. Despite sin, humans retain inherent dignity as our bodies and souls form a united being made and loved by God.

*The Search for Truth & Meaning:* Humans have a natural capacity for intellectual understanding and discovery. True wisdom which is written in our hearts guides us to seek truth and goodness with our conscience playing a crucial role in guiding our moral choices.

*Freedom & Responsibility:* Authentic human freedom allows us to choose good and reject evil, we are responsible for our choices in life before God who will judge the human race.

*Facing Death & Hope for Life:* Death is a natural part of life but we can fear death, but faith offers solace and hope for eternal life in communion with God.

*Atheism:* The document acknowledges various forms of atheism and the factors that contribute to it. It emphasises that even when a person denies God it doesn't diminish their human dignity, which is ultimately rooted in God whether they recognise it or not.

*Importance of Faith:* Faith connects us with God, the source of our dignity and purpose. It offers answers to life's deepest questions and provides hope.

*The Revelation of Christ:* Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the ultimate revelation of God's love and his purpose for humanity. Through Christ, we can understand our true potential and destiny.

*The Call to Live in Christ:* Christians are called to live a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, following the example of Christ. This includes a commitment to show love, perform good works and facing challenges with hope.

*The Universality of God's Grace:* The document acknowledges God's grace working in all people of goodwill, even those outside the Church and outside the Christian faith.

## Weekly Parish Schedule

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

**Sunday 22nd March** *St Mary's Church will close after the 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)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Solemn Benediction (St Mary's)

**Monday 23rd March** *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 12noon
- 12noon The Divine Praises & Simple Benediction
- 6.15pm Stations of the Cross & Holy Communion

**Tuesday 24th March**

- 8.25am Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

**NO MASS OR CONFESSIONS TODAY**

**6.30pm Theology on Tap (Our Lady & St John's Blackwood)**

**Wednesday 25th March**

- 9.10am Stations of the Cross
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am Lenten Prayer Circle (St Catherine's)

**7.00pm Weekly Online Zoom Scripture Session (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)**

**Thursday 26th March**

- 8.25am Holy Mass (St Mary's Primary School)
- 9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Margaret Moore
- 7.30pm St Mary's Choir Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

**Friday 27th March**

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
- 9.00am Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.10am Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 9.30am Holy Mass

**Saturday 28th March** *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
- 9.00am Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm
- 4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

**Sunday 29th March** *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
- 12noon Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (Holy Trinity)
- 12.35pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
- 5.30pm Evening Prayer of the Church and Solemn Benediction (St Mary's)



## Easter Raffle/Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 5th April after 10.30 Mass. The Easter Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. Raffle tickets are now available. Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received.



*Thank you for your continued support.*

## SCIAF Lenten Campaign

This Lent the SCIAF appeal focuses on Ethiopia, where decades of progress is being undone by conflict, droughts, floods and cuts in International Aid. Millions are being pushed back into poverty, essential services are collapsing and clean water is becoming hard to access.



**WEE BOXES should be returned before Holy Thursday (Thursday 2nd April).**

## Gift Aid Envelopes

As we prepare for the new Financial Year those who are part of the gift aid system, and use the weekly envelopes, are asked to collect their new box of envelopes from the back of the church.

Once again, thank you to those who contribute financially to our parish through the gift aid scheme, last year we were able to reclaim £22,233.63 from HMRC.

## No Tuesday 12noon Mass or Confessions

Due to a Lenten Clergy Day of Recollection, that all the priests in the diocese have to attend, there will be no Confessions, Devotions or Mass on Tuesday 24th March.

The church will be open for private prayer.

## Liturgical Calendar

**Wednesday 25th March, The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-** This feast originated in the East during the sixth century and gained universal observance in the West during the eighth century. It is a feast of the Lord, commemorating the announcement to the Virgin Mary of the Word made flesh, Mary's acceptance of God's will, and the conception of Christ nine months before Christmas. Its occurrence close to Easter links the incarnation with the whole mystery of human redemption in Christ.

## St Mary's Choir Lenten Reflection

The Choir of St Mary's presents *With Mary to Calvary* on Monday 30th March at 7pm in St Mary's Church.

We are very blessed to have such an active and wonderful choir in our parish, if you can, come along for this hour of reflection and enjoy what the choir has to offer.



All are welcome.

## Mass of Chrism

Bishop Toal invites all the Lay Faithful from the Diocese of Motherwell to join him on Holy Thursday at 11am for the Mass of Chrism, in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell (ML1 1PP).

This is one of the most significant and beautiful liturgies of the Church's year. It is also a moment to pray for priests, who gather with their Bishop, and renew the promises they made at their ordination.

## Trinity Light Bite

The donations from Holy Trinity Chapel's March Light Bite was £100, in aid of Cancer Research UK. The next Light Bite will be held on **Sunday 29th March** at 12.35pm, to leave Easter Sunday clear for family time.

## Theology on Tap - Our Lady & St John's Blackwood ML11 9RZ

Once again, we are delighted to join Our Lady & St John's Blackwood for Theology of Tap, on Tuesday evening beginning at 6.30pm. The talk will be delivered by Fr Philip Caldwell, a priest of the Salford Diocese, and soon to be Spiritual Director at Allen Hall Seminary in London.

Fr Philip is a wonderful preacher and will deliver his talk based on The Last Seven Words of Jesus. Please make the effort to come along if you are free, this will be a great way to prepare for Easter.



**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

**St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings:** 07300857616

**St Vincent de Paul Helpline:** 07565396878



**Please Pray For The Following**



**Recently Dead:** Margaret Moore Wellgatehead

**Months Minds & Anniversaries:** Bill Grieve; Frank Brady; Fie Duddy;

**Funeral Arrangements:** Margaret Moore Requiem Mass: Thursday 26th March 9.30am

**Easter Remembrances:** If you would like Mass offered for your departed loved ones, or indeed someone who is alive, over the Easter Octave, please put their names on an envelope and hand into the sacristy, or place in the collection bag with your weekly donation, before GOOD FRIDAY. Please ensure all names are printed and mark clearly EASTER REMEMBRANCE if they are deceased and EASTER MASS if alive. Thank you.

**SCIAF Collection**

A huge thank you to those who contributed to the SCIAF second collection last weekend. A total of £1,480.00 was donated, which will be used to help those in Ethiopia, where decades of progress is being undone by conflict, droughts, floods and cuts in International Aid. Thank you for your continued generosity to SCIAF.

**Parish Weekly Finances**

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,431.00  
Standing Orders: £ 428.30  
Votives: £ 220.00  
Stall: £ 115.00

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

Thank you *for your*  
*continued generosity.*

**St Mary's Ministry Rota**

**Readers:**

<b><u>21st/22nd March</u></b>	<b><u>4th/5th April</u></b>
5.00pm G. Abernethy	See Triduum Rota
10.30am J. Russell	
5.00pm M. Davis	
 <b><u>28th/29th March</u></b>	 <b><u>11th/12th April</u></b>
See Triduum Rota	5.00pm F. Chung
	10.30am P. Roberts
	5.00pm M. Davis

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

<b><u>21st/22nd March</u></b>	<b><u>4th/5th April</u></b>
5.00pm C. Scott	8.00pm J. Russell
S. Callaghan	
10.30am V. Hilland	10.30am K. Lawrence
M. Thomson	J. McFarlane
B. Farrell	M. Russell
 <b><u>28th/29th March</u></b>	 <b><u>11th/12th April</u></b>
5.00pm K. Bryce	5.00pm A. Dempsey
A. McGowan	J. McBride
10.30am C. Duddy	10.30am G. Duddy
I. Maxfield	A. Gillespie
J. Russell	M. Keenan