

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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5th Sunday of Lent

6th April 2025

The Sacrament of Confession

Confession, or Penance, or Reconciliation, is the sacrament by which we, repenting and confessing our sins, are absolved of our sins through the ministry of a priest. Confession is important because it is the normal way we can be forgiven serious sin after baptism. Regular Confession is important because it helps us deal with our sins quickly and to develop a mature conscience. It also gives grace to resist temptation. The act of confessing itself bestows healing and a sense of release from the burden of sin.

Scripture states that only God can forgive sins (Mk2:7). However, Jesus Christ gave his power to forgive sins to his apostles. The format of the sacrament has varied over time; however, the requirement for priestly absolution and verbal confession has remained constant. By these means, the mercy that Christ brought is perpetuated until the end of time.

God wants to forgive us our sins and restore us to the life of grace, but sacramental Confession is God's chosen means for a baptised person to receive forgiveness for serious sin.

The method of verbal confession and absolution from a priest can also be seen as fitting for the following reasons. 1) We relate to God as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, and so God's forgiveness comes to us by means of the Church. 2) We need assurance that we are forgiven, which is what absolution from a priest guarantees. 3) We are notoriously bad at judging ourselves, either being too lax or too harsh; the priest, acting in the person of Christ, brings a steadying objectivity and helps prevent self-deception. 4) When we recognise and acknowledge our sins this helps us form a healthy conscience, not an unhealthy and debilitating guilt that may cause despair. 5) Confession is one of the most perfect remedies for pride, the most dangerous of all sins. By humbling ourselves and asking for forgiveness, God raises us up.

The sacrament of confession is primarily a sacrament of healing. Sin dehumanises us and cuts us off from God and from each other. Many lives are blighted by sin and guilt, by the need for conversion and forgiveness. The sacrament of confession gives us the opportunity to express our sorrow for the things we have done wrong, to heal broken relationships, to forgive ourselves and others, to open up the channels of full communication between us and God.

It is always worth remembering the "seal" of confession. The "Seal" of confession is the undertaking by the priest that nothing said by the penitent in confession will ever be repeated. What the penitent has made known to the priest remains "sealed". The confidentiality of the confession is absolute. The priest cannot even act upon the knowledge given to him in confession. There have been cases where priests have been prosecuted by civil authorities for refusing to give evidence because that would mean divulging something told them under the confessional seal.

It is also worth noting, that in Confession, we received God's love and mercy; we come face to face with Jesus just like we do in Holy Communion. There is no sin too bad that God will not forgive us, and we should never feel too ashamed or embarrassed to come to confession, if that is how we feel, then that is a sign we need to go!

There is more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than 100 virtuous men



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 6th April *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)

12.35pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

Monday 7th April *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

10.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.55am

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

12noon Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 8th April

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Stations of the Cross

12noon Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony

Wednesday 9th April

9.10am Stations of the Cross

9.30am Holy Mass

10.00am Church Cleaning

10.00am Prayer Group (St Catherine's)

7.00pm Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)

Thursday 10th April

9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph

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

Friday 11th April

9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am

9.00am Confessions until 9.25am

9.10am Divine Mercy Chaplet

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 12th April *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

10.00am St Mary's Big Tidy

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

5.30pm Confessions until 6pm

Sunday 13th April *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.00am Confessions until 10.20am

10.30am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

5.30pm Confessions until 6pm



Wishaw Deanery Adoration & Stations

In this Jubilee Year, we are encouraged, as 'Pilgrims of Hope,' to visit a church outside of our own parish. To facilitate this endeavour, the Wishaw Deanery is offering opportunities for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Day	Location	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Station of the Cross
Monday	St Mary's, Lanark	10.00am until 12noon	12noon
Monday	St Ignatius', Wishaw	6.00pm until 7.00pm	7.00pm
Tuesday	St Aidan's, Coltness	10.30am until 12noon	12noon
Tuesday	St Athanasius', Carlisle	6.00pm until 7.00pm	7.00pm
Wednesday	St Ignatius', Wishaw	10.00am until 12noon	12noon
Thursday	St Patrick's, Craigneuk	6.00pm until 7.00pm	7.00pm
Friday	St Mary's, Lanark	9.00am until 9.25am	-----
Saturday	St Mary's, Lanark	10.00am until 12noon	12noon
Sunday	St Thomas', Wishaw	4.30pm until 5.00pm	4.00pm

St Mary's Big Tidy - Saturday 12th April

In preparation for summer Fr John-Paul is asking for volunteers to help tidy the grounds of St Mary's Church on **Saturday 12th April from 10am until 12noon**. We plan on carrying out the following tasks and we really need your help: cutting the grass; strimming the borders; weeding Calvary Circle and boxes; house, church & clubrooms gutters; painting the main gates and railing; varnishing external doors.

All material and equipment will be provided, and hopefully we can also get some volunteers to make tea/coffee in the Clubrooms for those helping. Please consider coming along and giving a few hours to benefit the parish.

St Mary's Easter Raffle/Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will take place on **Sunday 20th April** after 10.30am Mass. The Easter Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. The girls will start selling raffle tickets at Masses this weekend.

Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support.

St Mary's Readers

Just a gentle reminder for ALL parish readers in St Mary's to fill out a Readers Form, found in the stall, and return to the sacristy at your earliest convenience.

New readers are also welcome and asked to fill out the same form and return in the same way.

Confession in St Mary's

As we prepare for Easter it is important to prepare spiritually, and this includes attending the Sacrament of Confession.

There will be additional times for Confession over the weeks ahead to allow parishioners to avail themselves of the Sacrament and receive God's love and mercy.

School Lenten Masses

Thank you to the pupils, teachers and parents/carers as well as adult parishioners who have come along to the 8.30am Mass over the past four weeks of Lent in St Mary's Primary School.

The 8.30am Mass finished on Thursday due to the boys and girls now being on holiday from school. It was very heartwarming to see so many people attend these Masses.

St Mary's Church Heating

Now that we have officially entered British Summer Time, the heating in St Mary's will be adjusted to reflect the weather. This year, to date, our total heating costs have amounted to £4,333.66. At these prices we simply cannot afford to heat the church for any longer than we have to.

Please dress appropriately for the current weather and we appreciate your understanding.



Easter Remembrances: If you would like Mass offered for your departed loves one, 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.

As part of preparing spiritually for Holy Week, Fr Andrew Robinson, Scripture Scholar and Professor of New Testament at St Mary's College Oscott, Birmingham, will be giving a talk on the Passion Gospel of St Luke, which is the Gospel for Palm Sunday this year. Fr Andrew preached in Lanark last year for the Triduum and has a very dynamic way of presenting and conveying the message of the scriptures. This talk will take place in Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall on Thursday 10th April beginning at 7.00pm. This is a great way for us to come together and learn more about the events surrounding the Passion and Death of the Lord. A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners, and we thank Fr Sean for organising this event and inviting our parish to attend.

Reader One	E. O'Brien
Reader Two	S. O'Brien
Intercession	M. Mouat
<u>Good Friday 3pm Solemn Passion</u>	
1st & 2nd Reader	C. Jackson
Narrator	A. Haetzman
Other Voices	E. McCabe
Intercessions	M. Hadnett

The money raised will be used to alleviate poverty in some of the poorest parts of the world.

<u>5th/6th April</u>		<u>19th/20th April</u>	
5.00pm	K. Bryce A. McGowan	8.30pm	F. McBride R. Sinton
10.30am	C. Duddy D. McFarlane I. Maxfield	10.30am	G. Duddy A. Gillespie M. Keenan
<u>12th/13th April</u>		<u>26th/27th April</u>	
5.00pm	M. Keenan C. Callaghan	5.00pm	A. Dempsey J. McBride
10.30am	K. Lawrence J. McFarlane M. Russell	10.30am	J. Littlejohn A. O'Neill N. Keenan