



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

**5th Sunday Lent
17th March 2024**



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 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)

Monday 18th 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 19th March

- 10.00am** Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am** Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)
- 11.40am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Michael (St Mary's)
- 6.30pm** First Confessions for the Children from St Mary's Primary School (St Mary's)

Wednesday 20th March

- 9.10am** Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass & Novena to St Michael (St Mary's)
- 10.00am** Lenten Prayer Group (St Catherine's)
- 7.00pm** Fatima Mass & Meeting (Our Lady & St John's Blackwood ML11 9RZ)
- 7.00pm** *Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)*

Thursday 21st March

- 9.10am** Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
- 9.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary's)
- 7.30pm** The Choir of St Mary's Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Friday 22nd March

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

Saturday 23rd 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 (St Mary's)
- 4.15pm** Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)
- 4.30pm** Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
- 5.30pm** Confessions until 6pm (St Mary's)
- 7.00pm** Parish Disco Night (St Mary's Clubrooms)

Sunday 24th March *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.00am** Confessions until 10.25am (St Mary's)
- 10.30am** Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
- 11.00am** Confessions until 11.30am (St Mary's)
- 12noon** Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (Holy Trinity)
- 4.30pm** Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)
- 5.00pm** Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (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: £ 1,036.00

SCIAF Collection: £ 836.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 94.00

SCIAF Collection: £ 73.00



Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish

St Marys Mission RCDM

80-17-02 00265809

Holy Places Collection 29th March

As is custom, at the direction of Pope Francis, a Retiral Collection will be taken up on Good Friday at the 3pm Passion.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

New QR Code

Don't carry cash? Why not try our new QR Code at the back of the church for online giving or scan the QR Code from the bulletin. [#projectwellspring](#)

Easter Raffle & Coffee Morning

The Easter Coffee Morning will take place on Sunday 31st March after 10.30am 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.

Storm Isha Repairs Update

As reported to you in February, Storm Isha caused some severe damage to the roof of the upstairs study. During this repair, which included replacing lead on the roof and tiles, along with the ceiling and carpet in the study, it was noticed that the floorboards were found to contain severe dry rot and woodworm. Urgent repairs had to be carried out, which involved replacing 5 full length floor joists in the study, along with the floorboards, plasterboard walls and the ceiling of the sitting room down below. The work is almost complete on this repair, costing in excess of £25,000.00 +vat.

Whilst the builders were on site I asked them to check further water ingress areas in the house and further rot repairs have been identified, along with some major structural repairs. An independent structural survey was carried out on the presbytery on Thursday of last week, and we are awaiting the report; however, we know from a discussion with the engineer work is required.

In preparation for other costly repairs, not covered by our insurance, I have asked the Diocese for some financial leeway with our diocesan levy; I am awaiting their response. I will keep you updated as things progress and we receive the relevant reports and plan a way forward.

Fr John-Paul



Easter Remembrances

If you would like Mass offered for your departed loved 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.

The Choir of St Mary's Presents

With Mary to Calvary

Monday 25th March 7pm

St Mary's Church

Free entry and everyone welcome!



Holy Trinity Chapel
Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest
Father John-Paul McShane
St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
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St Mary's
70 Bannatyne Street
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Charity No - SC011041



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Roseann Briggs
Elizabeth Reilly
Seamus Coll

Milton Grange Nursing Home Carluke
Braxfield Terrace
Kirkfieldbank

Charlie Kelly; Jack Knox (Redditch); Jimmy White; Tommy McAvoy (Rutherglen).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fie Duddy; Harry Duddy; Brigid De-Schuster; Paul Donnachie; James Hynds.

Funeral Arrangements: Elizabeth Reilly
Roseann Briggs

Requiem Mass: Monday 25th March 9.30am, St Mary's
Cremation Service: Tuesday 26th March 1pm, SL Crematorium

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.



This weekend printed Mass Readings and Mass Prayers will be available

This 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:

16th/17th March

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm N. Donnelly

23rd/24th March

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

30th/31st March

Separate Rota

6th/7th April

5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

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
T. Mullen
B. Farrell

31st March

10.30am C. Duddy
V. Hilland
D. McFarlane

6th/7th April

5.00pm P. Freel
R. Sinton
10.30am P. Cunningham
A. Cruikshank
J. McFarlane