

St Mary's Lanark

A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell (founded 1859) Charity No - SC011041

✉ 70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

✉ stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

☎ 01555 662234

🌐 www.stmaryslanark.org.uk



Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk



St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th February 2026

Faith in Action

At the heart of the spirituality of the Religious Society of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary is a simple but radical belief: every human person is created in love, for love, and with immeasurable dignity. This conviction shapes their prayer, their community life, and their mission in the world — especially their commitment to justice and peace in the face of grave human suffering.

One of the most painful realities confronting our global community today is human trafficking, a modern form of slavery that strips people of freedom, voice, and dignity.

Women, men, and children are bought and sold, coerced and exploited, often hidden in plain sight. For the Sacred Hearts community, responding to this injustice is not optional advocacy — it is a Gospel imperative.

The devotion to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary draws attention to God's deep compassion for humanity. The pierced Heart of Christ reveals a love that suffers with those who suffer, while the Heart of Mary reflects a faithful, courageous presence beside the wounded. From this spirituality flows a profound respect for human dignity — especially when that dignity is violated.

Human trafficking directly contradicts this vision. It treats people as objects rather than beloved children of God. It thrives on poverty, displacement, gender inequality, and silence. In recognising trafficking as a sin against both humanity and God, the Sacred Hearts commit themselves to standing with those whose dignity has been denied. Rather than approaching trafficking only as a political or legal issue, the Sacred Hearts emphasise a pastoral response rooted in compassion and presence. Their work seeks to create spaces where survivors are seen, believed, and accompanied with gentleness and respect.

For the Sacred Hearts, justice is not abstract. It is an expression of love made visible in the world. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of right relationships — where each person's dignity is honoured. Combating human trafficking, therefore, becomes an act of peace-making. By challenging systems that exploit the vulnerable and by nurturing communities of awareness and care, the Sacred Hearts help sow the seeds of a more just and compassionate world. Their involvement in education, advocacy, and prayer around trafficking is grounded in the belief that transformation begins with conversion of heart — a willingness to see the suffering of others and to respond.

While the reality of human trafficking is overwhelming, the Sacred Hearts continue to act in hope. Their hope is not naïve optimism, but a hope anchored in faith — faith that God's love is stronger than injustice, and that even the deepest wounds can be healed. By remembering those who are trafficked in prayer, by speaking their names when the world forgets them, and by working patiently for change, the Sacred Hearts offer a quiet but powerful witness: no one is disposable, no one is invisible, and no one is beyond God's love.

The work of the Sacred Hearts also serves as an invitation to the wider Church and society. Ending human trafficking requires vigilance, compassion, and shared responsibility. It calls each person to ask: Where is human dignity being threatened, and how am I being asked to respond? In standing with the trafficked and exploited, the Religious Society of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary reminds us that justice and peace begin in the human heart — transformed by love, attentive to suffering, and committed to restoring dignity wherever it has been lost.



Weekly Parish Schedule

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

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**

Monday 9th 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 10th February

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 11th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

10.00am Church Cleaning

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

Thursday 12th 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 13th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 14th 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 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 15th February *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Please Pray For The Following

Recently Dead: Mary Hughes Albany Drive
Sr Paula Bradshaw DC St Catherine's
Mamie McAvoy; John Gallagher; Dave Haney (Motherwell);

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Helen McAreavy; Ellen McPartlan; Helena Seelly (Lambert); Ella Lambert;

Funeral Arrangements: Mary Hughes Requiem Mass: Saturday 28th February 9.30am

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 this weekend
to support the work of Religious Society of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.**

Donations Received

We are very lucky in St Mary's to receive such generous support from the parishioners, especially through the weekly collection.

Over the last two weeks we have received a donation of £250 to help cover the cost of repairing the livestream camera. The donation was accompanied by a lovely letter speaking about the importance of livestreaming Masses to those housebound or unable to attend Mass on certain days, and the importance of those at home feeling part of the community.

We have also been lucky enough to received 2 individual donations, each for £3,000, which has helped cover the additional work required to the bell tower repair. Historic Environment Scotland have asked us to use code 4 lead flashing in the deck area of the tower (directly below the bell cradle) to prevent water running down the walls. This work we are hopeful will be completed soon and the tower will be ready for sign off.

We are very grateful to all who contribute regularly to St Mary's through the weekly offertory collection, standing order, and donations. Without your wonderful generosity we would not have the capacity to maintain or enhance areas of our church. Your generosity is never taken for granted and very much appreciated, especially in these times of financial difficulty.

*Thank
you!*

Lenten Scripture Reflections

This Lent, we are hoping to organise a Scripture Reflection session each week on zoom. It will take place on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and will focus on a piece of scripture. It will be a prayerful session lasting roughly 30 minutes and people will have the opportunity to share or just listen.

We hope this will be something people might enjoy, it is a new venture for us in St Mary's and will really build upon the great foundation already set by the Lenten Circle Prayer Group who meet every Wednesday morning in person.

If you would like to be involved in organising these weekly meets online, please speak to Fr John-Paul after Mass.

Planning for Lent

This Lent we will see the return of many novenas and devotions, some we have used annually, some we have not used in a few years, and also the introduction of some new events and prayer opportunities. We will also use the weekly bulletin to reflect on the documents of the Second Vatican Council to deepen our understanding of the Council.

Please take this opportunity to attend the additional Masses/Devotions and allow your friendship with the Lord to flourish and your faith to deepen.

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<p><u>7th/8th February</u></p> <p>5.00pm T. Coia 10.30am E. McCabe 5.00pm S. Casserly</p> <p><u>14th/15th February</u></p> <p>5.00pm F. Chung 10.30am J. Angus 5.00pm M. Davis</p>	<p><u>21st/22nd February</u></p> <p>5.00pm R. McConnell 10.30am M. McCusker 5.00pm N. Donnelly</p> <p><u>28th Feb/1st March</u></p> <p>5.00pm A. Haetzman 10.30am A. Servers 5.00pm S. Casserly</p>
--	---

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<p><u>7th/8th February</u></p> <p>5.00pm A. Dempsey J. McBride 10.30am J. Littlejohn A. O'Neill N. Keenan</p> <p><u>14th/15th February</u></p> <p>5.00pm C. Scott S. Callaghan 10.30am V. Hilland M. Thompson B. Farrell</p>	<p><u>21st/22nd February</u></p> <p>5.00pm K. Bryce A. McGowan 10.30am J. McAlavey I. Maxfield J. Russell</p> <p><u>28th Feb/1st March</u></p> <p>5.00pm M. Kennan C. Callaghan 10.30am K. Lawrence J. McFarlane M. Russell</p>
--	---

St Mary's Bell Tower Works Update February 2026

We are pleased to let you know that our project on the bell tower and spire is now at final stages following successful site meetings and progress reports with our architect and funders, Historic Environment Scotland and National Churches Trust.

Even at this stage of the project we have benefited from work done as even in the recent torrential rain and high winds we had no water ingress.

The work carried out has led to a remarkable difference in the tower itself and we look forward to sharing more information and images online and via our interactive system.

We are very fortunate to have such a beautiful church but the success of this project lies equally in the goodness of our parish. In addition to the monies raised by the Social Committee we have had further donations totalling £6000 from parishioners for which we are extremely grateful.

A huge thank you to Margaret Davis for all her work and efforts making this project possible through grant funding and for the countless hours she has dedicated to facilitating meetings and liaising with grant bodies and builders. We are very hopeful that the works will be completed within the next few weeks, and then once again, our bell will toll.



Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 1,760.00
Standing Orders:	£ 483.50
Votives:	£ 175.00
Stall:	£ 195.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

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.

Liturgical Calendar

Tuesday 10th February, St Scholastica, Virgin - Born at Norcia (Italy) about 480; died near Monte Cassino in the 540s. Like Saint Benedict, her brother and twin, she dedicated herself to God through the monastic life. Noted for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.

Wednesday 11th February, Our Lady of Lourdes - Observed since 1907, this memorial celebrates the immaculate Virgin Mary as honoured in Lourdes (France). This site of apparitions to the young Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 has become a focus of devotion to Mary. It is a place of prayer and pilgrimage, of conversion and healing for Christians from every land.

Saturday 14th February, St Cyril & St Methodius, Missionaries - Agatha Cyril: A monk who was born about 826 in Thessalonica (Greece); died at Rome in 869. Methodius (his brother): Born about 815; died in Velehrad (Czech Republic) in 885. With papal approval they preached the gospel in Moravia using their own translations of the Scriptures and the liturgy in the local language. These translations into Slavonic were based on an alphabet they invented, now called Cyrillic. The success of their preaching aroused jealous Frankish opposition. Honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples, for their contribution to Slavic culture, their missionary inculturation of the Christian faith, and for establishing links between East and West.

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. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused and we thank you for your patience.

