

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

9th February 2025

Offertory Collection

The offertory collection at Mass is a vital part of our worship, not merely a financial transaction but a meaningful act of faith, gratitude, and participation in the life of the Church. It reflects our willingness to give back to God a portion of what He has given us, just as the bread and wine are offered in the Eucharist.

Why is the offertory collection important?

1. An Act of Worship - Giving during Mass is an expression of our trust in God's providence and a way to actively participate in the liturgy. Just as the early Christians shared their resources, we, too, contribute as an act of faith.
2. A Sign of Gratitude - Everything we have is a gift from God. By making an offering, we acknowledge His generosity and respond with a thankful heart.
3. Supporting the Church's Mission - The offertory sustains the parish community, enabling the Church to provide sacraments, pastoral care, outreach programs, and support for those in need. Our giving helps spread the Gospel in both spiritual and practical ways.
4. A Call to Generosity - The offertory teaches us to give selflessly. Jesus praised the widow who gave her small offering because she gave from the heart. No matter the amount, our giving is valuable when done in love.
5. United as One Body in Christ - The collection is a communal act, reminding us that we are part of a larger family of faith. Our shared contributions build up the Church and strengthen the bonds of Christian unity.

In a positive light, the offertory is not just about money, it is about love, gratitude, and participation in God's work. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps the Church fulfil its mission and brings blessings to the giver. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), and through the offertory, we express our joy in being part of His divine plan.

In our parish the offertory collection has remained stable for many years, and is the biggest financial support to our parish; without which we would not survive. The offertory collection has developed over the years and is not just about those who put their money into the collection basket at Mass, many parishioners now prefer to contribute to the parish each month through standing order or bank transfer. The cashless society we live in has changed how people give.

Thank you to all those who give so generously to our parish each week/month and who also give donations throughout the year to aid the mission of the parish. Thank you also to those who are part of the Giftaid scheme who help us claim that little bit extra that is vital for parish life and progression.

**THANK
YOU**

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 9th 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 Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 10th February *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

Tuesday 11th February

- 11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
12noon Morning Prayer of the Church

Wednesday 12th February

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church
7.00pm **Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)**

Thursday 13th February

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

Friday 14th February

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church

Saturday 15th February *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church
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 16th 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)



Project Wellspring Deanery Coordinator

As Project Wellspring – our Diocesan Renewal Programme – enters its second year, the Bishop has made some significant changes to how the programme runs. One of the most exciting changes is that it is now time for the Diocese to ask volunteers to come forward to help parishes get the most out of Wellspring Spiritually, Pastorally and Operationally.

The intention is that we try to secure the help of 6 individuals who will support the parishes in each of our 6 Deaneries (which are geographical groupings of 6 – 12 parishes). If you have a passion for supporting the clergy and their parishes and experience of managing change (ideally with facilitation skills) could you approach your parish priest to find out more?

Typical activities include co-ordinating, facilitating and leading meetings / discussions and sharing practices and outcomes with teams across the Diocese.

This role is expected to require say 7 hours a week and you would be part of a team from across the Diocese; full support and training will be given.



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

The next Theology on Tap will take place in the Parish Hall of **Our Lady & St John's Blackwood on Monday 17th February gathering at 6.30pm with the talk beginning at 7.00pm**. This talk will be given by Professor Dr Valerie Fleming, a globally renowned clinician and researcher, who is also a Dr of Canon Law and judge on the Marriage Tribunal, on the Annulment Process and the work done by the Scottish Marriage Tribunal.

No Weekday Mass

Fr John-Paul will be in Rome next week on a short break before the rigours of Lent begin. Due to other commitments within the Diocese it has not been possible to get a priest to say weekday Mass, therefore, as per previous practice, Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed each day after the Rosary.

Morning Prayer is part of the Divine Office (official prayer of the Church), which the priest prays 5 times per day. This prayer therefore unites us to the Church universal.

HCPT Group 138 Coffee Morning St Brigid's Newmains

As part of being a volunteer for HCPT you are tasked with fundraising to pay the children's fares (each child costs £1,200). This year Group 138 hope to take 12 children to Lourdes at Easter as part of the HCPT Pilgrimage.

In order to help with fundraising, a Coffee Morning is being held in St Brigid's Parish Centre Newmains on Sunday 9th March 2025 - tickets cost £10 and are available from Mary: 07903251723.

Storm Damage

The recent storm and high winds have caused some damage to the roof of the house and also one of the stained glass windows in the church. The roof will be repaired within the next 2 weeks and will cost us around £3,000. The stained glass is more complex and Rainbow Glass, a stained glass specialist who have carried out work on our windows before, are assessing our options and will return to us with a full report and price structure.

New Readers Required

We have so many dedicated readers in the parish, but as a growing parish we are always looking to encourage others to join the team. If you are someone who used to be a reader at Mass and would like to go back on the rota, or if you have never read at Mass before but would like to, please email Fr John-Paul.

NO experience is needed and training will be given.

Parish Finance & Fabric Committee

Fr John-Paul would like to thank all those who served on the Parish Finance & Fabric Committee over these last 3 years. As per diocesan policy, membership on this Committee is refreshed every 3 years. The Finance & Fabric Committee have achieved so much over the past 3 years and we thank them for their work. A new Committee will be formed by Fr John-Paul focusing on Finance & Pastoral Outreach, and will meet in February.

World Day for Marriage

The Scottish Bishops Marriage, Family and Life Commission invite all parishes to celebrate World Marriage Day this Sunday 9 February. Held on the Sunday closest to St. Valentine's Day, World Marriage Day is a beautiful opportunity to reflect on the blessing of married love. On World Day for Marriage we pray for married couples that God may daily give them the strength and energy to support one another and their families. We especially pray that those who are experiencing difficulties in their relationship may seek help, either from diocesan marriage counsellors Marriage Counselling | Marriage and Family Life or from organisations such as Retrouvaille www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Liturgical Calendar

Monday 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.

Tuesday 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.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Maureen Lynch Stewart Drive
Charlie McShane (Carfin); Mary McFarlane (Cleland); Thomas Bailkoski (Bellshill); Vena Kelly;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Ron Meldrum; Janette Irvine; Eileen Prior; Ellen McPartlan; James Callaghan; Estelle Higgins;

Funeral Arrangements: Maureen Lynch Requiem Mass: Monday 17th February, 9.30am

lux perpetua luceat eis

Deanery Appeal Second Collection

At all Masses on **Sat 15th/Sun 16th February** there will be a second collection after Holy Communion to support the work of the Comboni Missionary Sisters. The Comboni Missionaries are an international Catholic religious and missionary Order founded by Bishop Daniel Comboni in Verona (Italy) in 1867, serving those in poorer and less fortunate parts of the world.



Alpha Course Setting Dates & Signing-Up

Over the past few weeks Alpha has been reintroduced to the parish through the homilies and as part of the weekly bulletin. It has been quite inspiring listening to people discuss Alpha with such enthusiasm, and just as fruitful to listen to peoples concerns and uncertainties.

As we plan to take Alpha forward you will start to hear some short testimonies at the end of Mass, and we will start to gather information from those who wish to attend. Before a day or time is set for the course, it is important we know our “audience” and establish a day and time that is best for everyone; if required we can run an afternoon session and an evening session.

If you are interested in finding out more regarding Alpha and wish to sign-up for the session, please use the sign-up sheet at the back of the church and note your preferred day and time. Once people have signed-up we will then issue more information.



Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,185.00
Standing Orders: £ 214.50
Votives: £ 201.00
Stall: £ 45.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
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Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary’s Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>8th/9th February</u>		<u>22nd/23rd February</u>	
5.00pm	C. Jackson	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	E. McCabe	10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	S. Casserly
<u>15th/16th February</u>			
5.00pm	G. Abernethy		
10.30am	M. McCusker		
5.00pm	N. Donnelly		

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>8th/9th February</u>		<u>22nd/23rd February</u>	
5.00pm	R. Sinton	5.00pm	C. Scott
	F. McBride		S. Callaghan
10.30am	G. Duddy	10.30am	V. Hilland
	A. Gillespie		M. Thompson
	M. Keenan		B. Farrell
<u>15th/16th February</u>			
5.00pm	A. Dempsey		
	J. McBride		
10.30am	J. Littlejohn		
	A. O’Neill		
	N. Keenan		