



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

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
4th February 2024**



Integral Ecology

When I first read the phrase 'Integral Ecology' in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* I thought I knew what it meant, but wasn't really sure. I certainly knew what each word meant - 'integral' is essential or fundamental to, and 'ecology' is the study of an environment and everything in it, but I really wasn't quite sure how the two fitted together, although they did appear to be as one.



The other phrase that Pope Francis uses frequently in *Laudato Si'* is 'everything is connected'. And I came to realise that's what 'integral ecology' means - everything is connected.

For instance, did you know that some trees and fungi have a connection which benefits them both? The fungi attach themselves to the roots of the trees and gain access to the sugars that they themselves can't produce, while the trees benefit as the process extends the roots, allowing for greater absorption of nutrients for them. Because of the scale of the fungus' growth along its roots, these spread further and overlap with other trees, and as a result the trees can communicate with each other, particularly in times of distress. An amazing example of interconnectedness - integral ecology - everything working with everything else for the common good.

One of my favourite stories of interconnectedness is that of Yellowstone Park. Wolves had disappeared from the Park in the 1930s, and as a result their main prey, the elk, had flourished. This had proved detrimental to the vegetation the elks ate, which in turn affected the smaller mammals, birds and insects which had the same diet. In fact, the whole ecosystem was faltering, and the biodiversity of the Park was threatened. In the mid-nineties it was decided to re-introduce wolves, which by then had become a protected species. The results have been amazing, and far more beneficial to the Park's ecosystem than was envisaged. There are fewer elks, which allows more vegetation to be available to badgers, who have flourished and greatly improved the drainage of the area, allowing more species to thrive, and so the ecosystem is being restored. Everything is connected.

Humans are not always very good at seeing themselves as part of nature, often considering themselves superior to and in charge of the rest of the created world. But as Pope Francis says in his recently published apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, 'Human beings must be recognised as part of nature' and continues that 'a healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment'. He tells us that we should be able 'to recognise ... that human life is incomprehensible and unsustainable without other creatures'.

This is the integral ecology that Pope Francis promulgates; an understanding that the wonderful world which God has created out of pure love is totally interconnected, and that everything, including humankind, is, according to *Laudato Si'*, 'linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect'.

*Jane Lavery
Volunteer with the Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology Team.*

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 4th February *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm Tea/Coffee/Home Baking (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 5th February *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 Our Lady of The Miraculous Medal (St Mary's)

Tuesday 6th February

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am (St Mary's)

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Angelus, Holy Mass & Novena to St Anthony (St Mary's)

Wednesday 7th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

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

Thursday 8th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass & Novena to St Joseph (St Mary's)

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

Friday 9th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 10th February *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)

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm (St Mary's)

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

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

Sunday 11th February *St Mary's Church will close after 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)

St Mary's Memorial Plaques

Memorial Plaque forms are now available from the stall. We are aiming to send all completed forms to the engraver at the end of February. If you would like a plaque for a loved one please fill in a form and return it to Fr John-Paul. This is perhaps the last bulk order of plaques that we will be able to make, and depending of space and availability of materials, more plaques will be ordered on an individual basis.

Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **this weekend.**



Bags of groceries can be handed in to the sacristy or to a Passkeeper, and any monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket in an enveloped cleared marked 'FOODBANK'.

Lent 2024

Lent is only a few weeks away, and now is the time to prepare! Below are a list of Mass times for Ash Wednesday (14th February). At present Fr John-Paul is putting together a spiritual timetable of devotions and services for the Season of Lent, if there is anything you would like to see happen during Lent, or a particular devotion celebrated, please speak to Fr John-Paul, or drop him an email.

Ash Wednesday (14th February)

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| 8.00am | Mass with Imposition of Ashes (Brief Mass for workers) |
| 9.30am | Mass with Imposition of Ashes |
| 7.00pm | Mass with Imposition of Ashes |

All Masses will be in St Mary's

Wellspring - Our New Diocesan Renewal Project

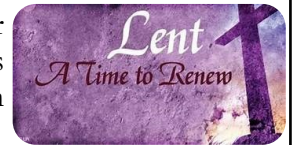
Wellspring – This is a word we hope you will become familiar with. It is the name of our new diocesan renewal project which launches next week. It takes its name from the medieval 'Our Lady's Well' which gives its name to the town and Diocese of Motherwell. The image of water and Our Lady is familiar to us also from Lourdes, where Our Lady caused a spring of water to gush forth for St Bernadette to wash and drink. Water is a symbol of the Lord's healing, forgiveness and life giving power.



We pray that through Wellspring, our diocese will experience a new and abundant spring of living water that we may grow as faithful disciples ready to share the riches of our faith.

The Lenten Circle

We are a small group of Parishioners who meet during Lent and Advent to prepare for the great feasts of the Church. We meet in St Catherine's after Mass on the Wednesdays of Lent for an hour, following a pastoral programme called "Around The Lenten Circle".



Please feel free to join us or speak to Sr Margaret Brady for more information.

The first meeting will be Ash Wednesday 14th February 2024.

Special Collection 25th February

This year, as in previous years, Bishop Toal asks that the Diocesan Lenten Collection to support Sick and Retired Priests to be taken up on the Second Sunday of Lent, 25th February 2024.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to this Special Collection, and please pray for those priests who are no longer in active ministry and have offered their life in service to God.

Altar Servers - St Mary's

We are urgently needing some Altar Servers in St Mary's for weekend Masses. If your child would like to serve please stay on for a short meeting after Mass on **17th/18th February**. Children primary 5 and older are encouraged to serve.

The meeting will take 10 mins, and even if your child can't commit to serve Mass every week, that is ok; we are flexible and happy to involve the children.

Volunteer Drivers Required

To meet with demand in the Lanark and Biggar areas, Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust are actively seeking more Volunteer Drivers to join our charity. We are a small local charity. We provide Volunteer Drivers to take Lanarkshire Cancer Patients to and from their much-needed hospital treatments and clinical appointments.

Our free service is primarily for people who have no other means of getting to their appointments and who couldn't cope with hospital transport. Our drivers give their time and vehicles free of charge, with many driving for as little as one-day-per-week. We repay them 45p in fuel costs for every mile they travel on behalf of those who most need our help.

More information is available on the leaflet at the back of the church or www.lcctdrivers.com



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



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Diane Curran; John Clegg (Wishaw); David Mitchell; Ella McRae; Molly Towhig nee McCrossan (London).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Margaret & Jimmy Campbell; Agnes Coulter; Helen McAreavy; Margaret McGinnis; Ellen McPartlan.



Sunday Coffee Mornings

Our next Coffee Mornings will take place today after morning Mass. As always, there will be a variety of home baking and sandwiches available, along with home made soup in St Mary's.

A huge thank you to all those who make the Coffee Mornings possible in both churches, to those who make/bring food, and to the organisers. Thank you to those who take the time to attend and foster community.



This month St Isidore's Coffee Morning is in aid of Mary's Meals.

Parish Finances

St Mary's

Offertory Collection: £ 1,156.00
Standing Orders: £ 189.00

St Isidore's

Offertory Collection: £ 82.00
Standing Orders: £ 25.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
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St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

3rd/4th February

5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm N. Donnelly

17th/18th February

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm S. Casserly

10th/11th February

5.00pm R. Kane
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm M. Davis

24th/25th February

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am P. Roberts
5.00pm N. Donnelly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

3rd/4th February

5.00pm J. McClafferty
K. Bryce
10.30am C. O'Brien
M. Davis
J. McAlavey

10th/11th February

5.00pm A. Dempsey
C. Scott
10.30am C. Duddy
V. Hilland
D. McFarlane

17th/18th February

5.00pm J. McEwan
C. McClafferty
10.30am J. Littlejohn
M. Keenan
M. Kennan

24th/25th February

5.00pm P. Frell
R. Sinton
10.30am J. Wilson
A. O'Neill
N. Kennan