



St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle



Sunday the 6th of September 2020 – Twenty Third Sunday of Year A

Feast Days: Tuesday – The Birthday of Our Lady
Wednesday – St Peter Claver
Saturday – Most Holy Name of Mary

**** Please Note there will be no 9.30am Mass on Friday morning of this week.***

Mass Times

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass : 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Mass : 10.30am

Monday/Wednesday Weekday Mass: 9.30am

Mass will also be available live at 10.30am on Sunday morning, and available to watch anytime after that on our Facebook page.

- To book for next weekends Masses please call **01555 662234** or **07936306344** between the following times:

Booking Times: Thursdays: 9am–12pm

Fridays: 9am –12pm

(For more details on booking Mass, please see the Updates & News Section of the website.)

- There is no need to book for weekday mass, however we will require contact details on arrival and still require to maintain the current guidelines. We are still under the Government's protocol of only 50 Parishioners at each Mass.

- Morning prayer sessions have been suspended with the resumption of Mass.



Thank You

Again, I wish to extend a huge thank you to all of our volunteers for the time and effort they have given, to allow our beautiful Church to open for us to come together to celebrate Mass.

If you wish to volunteer to help with stewarding and/or sanitising the Church please contact the Church Office on 01555 662243.

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please pray for the Recently Deceased: Rita Ramsey

And for the Anniversaries of: Frank Hilland & Wilma Jeffrey

Sunday Reflection - As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today's first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church (see [Galatians 6:16](#)).

He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on rules of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel (see [Leviticus 19:17-20](#); [Deuteronomy 19:13](#)). The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers—similar to those given to Peter (see [Matthew 16:19](#)). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (see [John 20:21-23](#)).

But the powers He gives the Apostles and their successors, depends on their communion with Him. As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

But today's readings are more than a lesson in Church order. They also suggest how we're to deal with those who trespass against us, a theme that we'll hear in next week's readings as well.

Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in today's Epistle says we owe to our neighbors. To love our neighbors as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation. We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths.

We should never correct out of anger or a desire to punish. Instead, our message must be that of today's Psalm—urging the sinner to hear God's voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, and the rock of our salvation.

Next Sunday Begins a week of Vocations

Awareness: Each year, the Church in Scotland sets aside this week as a time for parishes and schools to reflect on the idea of vocation - whether the vocation each of us has as baptised Christians to live our faith or the specific vocation some have in the Church to live and work as priests, deacons or in some form of religious life.

*I have a vocation from God. If I already know
what it is, I pray to be faithful.*

*If I am still searching, I pray to hear God's
voice and to respond generously.*

Amen

Prayer for Priests

*Lord Jesus, the ministry of priests is a
sign of your unfailing care.*

*Call from among us the priests needed
for the Church of today and tomorrow.*

Bless all students for the priesthood.

*Grant them joy, wisdom, courage and a
generous spirit.*

*Sustain priests with a real sense of your
love and the support of those they are
called to serve.*

Keep them faithful to their calling.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace. Holy Name of Mary: "And the name of the virgin was Mary." (St. Luke, I, 27) In this simple phrase, St. Luke sums up the greatness of Mary, as epitomized in her holy name. That the Church recognizes this is quite apparent when we realize the numerous times the name of Mary occurs in her various prayer, invocations, and seasonal liturgy.



Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Mass

Recognising that the virus is predominantly contagious through the breathing in of air droplets, these guidelines are based on the need to reduce the length of time when parishioners are together. These are tentative steps for returning to Mass and may be reviewed at any time:

- Singing of Mass parts and hymns may be omitted.
- Both the Gloria and the Creed may be omitted.
- At Sunday Mass the second reading may be omitted.
- The sermon should be brief.
- In place of the words "Body of Christ" for each communicant, before the Celebrant receives Holy Communion, he may say the words ***May the Body and Blood of Christ keep us all safe to eternal life***, to which the congregation responds ***Amen***.
- In accordance with the national protocol on Infection Control, it is recommended that Holy Communion be received in the hand for the duration of the pandemic.
- The communicant should extend his/her hands to receive the host and then step two paces to the side in order to place the host on the tongue.
- Holy Communion may be distributed after the Final Prayer. Parishioners may be directed to leave the Church immediately after receiving Holy Communion.

In keeping with the current government advice we remind you of the current guidelines:

- Wear a **face covering** in the Church.
- Observe **social distancing**.
- **Sanitise your hands** at sanitizing units in Church
- **Enter and exit the Church using the door you have been given** on the telephone when booking for Mass.

Please be assured we have done everything we can to create a safe environment for you, when you arrive a pass-keeper will meet you and guide you to a your seat and will be on hand to look after you during your visit. These guidelines have been set by the Scottish Government and are for your wellbeing as well as that of your brothers and sisters in the parish.

Please Remember:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended.

Those who are shielding should not come to mass until advised it is safe to do so by the Scottish Government. Those in other health categories should follow the Government's advice in coming to their decision to attend mass or not.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has please stay at home.

For those in the above categories and anyone who cannot currently make it to Mass, please be assured we always remember you in our prayers.



Foodbank

Many thanks to all our generous parishioners who support their brothers and sisters in need through donations to the food bank.

Over the last couple of weeks we have donated 4 large shopping bags of food and almost £100 cash to the Clydesdale Food Bank, who were very thankful of these generous donations.

Any contributions to the foodbank can be given to a passkeeper before Mass or handed in to the Church House.

Once again, may God Bless you for your generosity & kindness.



PLEASE NOTE: *Could any items for the Bulletin please be sent to us no later than Thursday 5pm, anything received after this will go in the following weeks Bulletin. You can email, phone or put a note through the Parish House door. Many thanks*

Keeping In Touch

If you or anyone you know, requires help or information, or you would like to offer help within our Parish, please get in touch on 01555 662234 or email us at stmarylanark@rcdom.or.uk
To keep up to date with any Parish news or updates please visit:

Facebook page - St Mary's RC Church

Website - www.stmaryslanark.org.uk