



St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – *Fr. Thomas W. Doyle*



The Armorial Bearings of
The Parish Priest of
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Lanark.

Sunday the 9th August 2020 – Nineteenth Sunday of Year A

Feast Days This Week:

Monday - St Lawrence

Tuesday - St Clare

Friday - St Maximilian Kolbe

Next Sunday - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Mass Times

Saturday Evening Vigil Mass : 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Mass : 10.30am

Wednesday Morning Mass: 9.30am

Friday Morning 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: Thursday: 9am–12pm

Friday: 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 morning Masses, however we will require you to give details on arrival and continue with our current guidelines. We are also still under the Governments current restriction of a maximum of 50 attendees.*

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

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, our Brothers and Sisters, in our prayers.

Weekday masses:

Weekday masses this week will be held on both Wednesday and Friday morning at 9.30am.

As we are hoping to extend the number of weekday Masses, we need volunteers in order to safely open the Church for Mass.
Many thanks to all of our current volunteers

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please remember in your prayers the following whose anniversaries occur around now: Gerry Haetzman, Helen Donnachie, Wilma Jeffery & Mary Jane Brennan.

Sunday Reflection:

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

St Lawrence The esteem in which the Church holds Lawrence is seen in the fact that today's celebration ranks as a feast. We know very little about his life. He is one of those whose martyrdom made a deep and lasting impression on the early Church. Celebration of his feast day spread rapidly. He was a Roman deacon under Pope Saint Sixtus II. Four days after this pope was put to death, Lawrence and four clerics suffered martyrdom, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Valerian.

Legendary details of Lawrence's death were known to Damasus, Prudentius, Ambrose, and Augustine. The church built over his tomb became one of the seven principal churches in Rome and a favorite place for Roman pilgrimages.

A well-known legend has persisted from earliest times. As deacon in Rome, Lawrence was charged with the responsibility for the material goods of the Church, and the distribution of alms to the poor. When Lawrence knew he would be arrested like the pope, he sought out the poor, widows, and orphans of Rome and gave them all the money he had on hand, selling even the sacred vessels of the altar to increase the sum. When the prefect of Rome heard of this, he imagined that the Christians must have considerable treasure. He sent for Lawrence and said, "You Christians say we are cruel to you, but that is not what I have in mind. I am told that your priests offer in gold, that the sacred blood is received in silver cups, that you have golden candlesticks at your evening services. Now, your doctrine says you must render to Caesar what is his. Bring these treasures—the emperor needs them to maintain his forces. God does not cause money to be counted: He brought none of it into the world with him—only words. Give me the money, therefore, and be rich in words."

Lawrence replied that the Church was indeed rich. "I will show you a valuable part. But give me time to set everything in order and make an inventory." After three days he gathered a great number of blind, lame, maimed, leprous, orphaned, and widowed persons and put them in rows. When the prefect arrived, Lawrence simply said, "These are the treasure of the Church."

The prefect was so angry he told Lawrence that he would indeed have his wish to die—but it would be by inches. He had a great gridiron prepared with coals beneath it, and had Lawrence's body placed on it. After the martyr had suffered the pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he made his famous cheerful remark, "It is well done. Turn me over!"

Saint Clare of Assisi's Story

One of the more sugary movies made about Francis of Assisi pictures Clare as a golden-haired beauty floating through sun-drenched fields, a sort of one-woman counterpart to the new Franciscan Order.

The beginning of her religious life was indeed movie material. Having refused to marry at 15, Clare was moved by the dynamic preaching of Francis. He became her lifelong friend and spiritual guide.

At 18, Clare escaped from her father's home one night, was met on the road by friars carrying torches, and in the poor little chapel called the Portiuncula received a rough woolen habit, exchanged her jeweled belt for a common rope with knots in it, and sacrificed her long tresses to Francis' scissors. He placed her in a Benedictine convent, which her father and uncles immediately stormed in rage. Clare clung to the altar of the church, threw aside her veil to show her cropped hair, and remained adamant.

Sixteen days later her sister Agnes joined her. Others came. They lived a simple life of great poverty, austerity, and complete seclusion from the world, according to a Rule which Francis gave them as a Second Order. At age 21, Francis obliged Clare under obedience to accept the office of abbess, one she exercised until her death.

Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe's Story "I don't know what's going to become of you!" How many parents have said that? Maximilian Mary Kolbe's reaction was, "I prayed very hard to Our Lady to tell me what would happen to me. She appeared, holding in her hands two crowns, one white, one red. She asked if I would like to have them—one was for purity, the other for martyrdom. I said, 'I choose both.' She smiled and disappeared." After that he was not the same. He entered the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Lviv—then Poland, now Ukraine—near his birthplace, and at 16 became a novice. Though Maximilian later achieved doctorates in philosophy and theology, he was deeply interested in science, even drawing plans for rocket ships.

Ordained at 24, Maximilian saw religious indifference as the deadliest poison of the day. His mission was to combat it. He had already founded the Militia of the Immaculata, whose aim was to fight evil with the witness of the good life, prayer, work, and suffering. He dreamed of and then founded *Knight of the Immaculata*, a religious magazine under Mary's protection to preach the Good News to all nations. For the work of publication he established a "City of the Immaculata"—Niepokalanow—which housed 700 of his Franciscan brothers. He later founded another one in Nagasaki, Japan. Both the Militia and the magazine ultimately reached the one-million mark in members and subscribers. His love of God was daily filtered through devotion to Mary.

In 1939, the Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanow was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, then released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

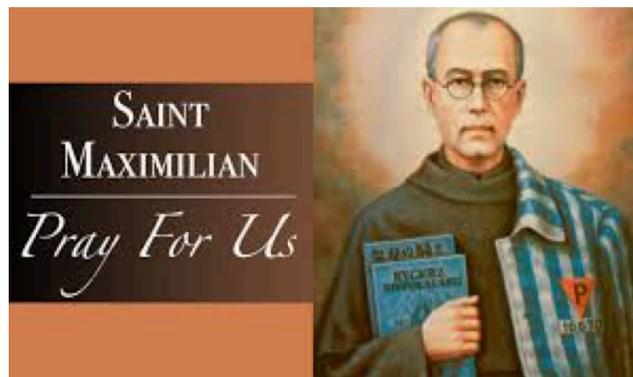
In 1941, Fr. Kolbe was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, three months later in Auschwitz, after terrible beatings and humiliations.

A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that 10 men would die. He relished walking along the ranks. "This one. That one." As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line. "I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children."

"Who are you?"

"A priest."

No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant, dumbfounded, perhaps with a fleeting thought of history, kicked Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek out of line and ordered Fr. Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death" they were ordered to strip naked, and their slow starvation began in darkness. But there was no screaming—the prisoners sang. By the eve of the Assumption, four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He lifted his fleshless arm to receive the bite of the hypodermic needle. It was filled with carbolic acid. They burned his body with all the others. Fr. Kolbe was beatified in 1971 and canonized in 1982.



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 and wishing to protect our brothers and sisters we wish to remind you of the current guidelines:

- Wear a **face covering** in the Church.
- Observe **social distancing**.
- **Sanitise your hands** at sanitising 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.

St Mary's Lanark Public Mass will currently include Vigil on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10.30am. This week we will hold Wednesday and Friday morning mass, at 9.30am. NB only 50 attendees at each mass.

Volunteers

As we now prepare to open the church safely for Mass we require volunteers to clean the church and to act as pass keepers.

Volunteers should be over 18 and have no underlying health conditions making them vulnerable to covid-19.

Volunteers will be trained and given gloves, aprons and facemasks, and will be asked to complete a safeguarding form.

If you are able to volunteer please contact Fr. Doyle or the parish team at St Mary's 01555 662234/
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk

Thank you.

300 Club -

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all who support the parish through their participation in 300 Club.

Just to assure that we have continued to hold a weekly draw and issue prizes during the lockdown period, however, we have not published names of winners on social media because data protection laws do not allow us to do this.

But please be assured that the weekly draws do continue to be made, prizes awarded, and our winners are informed by telephone.

Once again our grateful thanks to all who are able to take part and participate in the 300 Club.

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.org.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

