



St Mary's, Lanark

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Sunday 26th April 2020 - Third Sunday of Easter Year A

Mass Times - There are currently no masses at St Mary's Church, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Church's Great Easter prayer to Our Lady *Regina Caeli*:

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. The Son you merited to bear, alleluia. Has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray to God for us, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia. Let us pray. God of life, you have given joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Holy Father's prayer for those with Covid 19

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Feast Days: Tuesday - St Louis de Montford, Wednesday - St Catherine of Siena, Friday - St Joseph the Worker, Saturday - St Athanasius.

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please remember in your prayers: Henry Daly, Fr. John Sweeny MHM & Fr. Richard Rodgers who died recently and the Anniversary of Maise Conlon.

Pope Francis's beautiful concluding words of his extraordinary Urbi et Orbe address "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith"? Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter's rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God's blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).

Fr. Doyle's Sunday Message: *Footprints* is a popular religious poem that tells the story of someone looking back on their lives. They see two sets of footprints in the sand: their own and God's, as they have journeyed through life. But one thing puzzled them, at the most difficult times of life, there was only one set of footprints. Troubled by this, the poet asks why in those moments when "I need you most did you abandon me." To which the Lord replies: "When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

In the story of Emmaus, Jesus journeys with two disciples and they don't know it. Downcast and devastated, they have escaped Jerusalem after the events of Good Friday. On the road they share their story with the stranger.

Jesus unrecognized speaks to their hearts and opens their minds to the scriptures as they walk the road together. And when they reach Emmaus he makes as if to go on and they press him to stay. "It is almost night" they say and invite him to table. And it is at the table their eyes are open and they finally recognize him in the breaking of bread, "did not our hearts burn as he spoke to us on the road" they exclaim.

In our own journey of life we too might wonder if the Lord is at our side? Perhaps like those disciples at the beginning of their journey to Emmaus, we feel keenly his absence from our lives; believing we make the journey alone and never recognizing the presence of Christ who never leaves or abandons us. Like doubting Thomas from last week's Gospel, perhaps our doubt and disbelief robs us of the hope and comfort our faith should bring. Skeptical and dubious we refuse to believe unless I see the wounds the nails made. But blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

And that is us! Christ's faithful who do not doubt him but rather trust him and place all our hope in him. Our simple faith is strong and built on rock. It sees with the eyes of faith the empty tomb and believes he is risen. It hears his voice in the word proclaimed and recognizes him in the breaking of bread. That is the joy and gift of faith, its comfort and reassurance to feel Christ present here and now. To know that he is always with me and carries me in my darkest hour, that in these difficult and uncertain days, God enfolds us in love and carries us in the hardest part of our journey.

Keeping In Touch

If you or anyone you know requires help or information, please get in touch on 01555 662234, if there is no answer please do leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

To keep up to date with any Parish news or updates please visit:

Facebook page –
St Mary's RC Church

Website –
www.stmary.org.uk

St Joseph the Worker: To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor. Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."