

St Mary's Lanark

A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell (founded 1859) Charity No - SC011041

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Parish Priest

Fr John-Paul McShane

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St Mary's Clubrooms Bookings: 07300857616

Saint Vincent de Paul Helpline: 07565396878

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

3rd November 2024

Why we offer Mass for the dead

As Catholics, we believe the Church is a living, breathing, visible reality. Besides its spiritual attributes, it can be identified and seen. Traditionally, the Church has been understood in three parts: “the Church Militant,” “the Church Triumphant” and “the Church Suffering.”

- ◆ We who are alive today belong to the Church Militant — involved in living out our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ, and making and forming disciples by passing on the faith. Fundamentally, we “fight the good fight” of the Christian life.
- ◆ The Church Triumphant is the saints in heaven — all the people, whether formally canonized or not, who are with the Lord Jesus and who pray for us here on earth. Triumphantly, they cheer us on by their prayers and example.
- ◆ Finally, we have the Church Suffering. They are the souls of the dead, who are saved and being prepared for heaven in purgatory. They are greatly helped by our prayers.



As we can see, the Church is bigger than just here and now. It transcends time and space. With this preamble, what is the purpose of Mass intentions for the dead? Mass intentions can be applied to living persons, but why pray for the dead? What is the spiritual purpose?

As Catholics, we believe the Mass is the highest act of worship — the greatest form of prayer. Every Mass is a participation in the one, infinite sacrifice of Jesus Christ to save us from our sins. Each Mass also continues the Last Supper where Jesus feeds us with his Body and Blood. Fundamentally, at Mass we worship God and offer our prayers along with the priest to God the Father, through the saving action of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We know the practice of Masses for souls of the dead dates to the early church. But if the souls of those who have died are in heaven, they don't need our prayers. Correct! And if the souls of those who have died are in hell, our prayers will do no good since their souls are lost for eternity. Sadly true.

However, if those who have died are being purified in purgatory and on their way to heaven, our prayers can be enormously helpful. Praying for the dead is a great act of mercy. We pray that their time of purification might be quick and complete and that, through God's grace, they might enjoy the glories of heaven. What better way to pray for those who have died than to apply the most powerful prayer of the Mass?

Hence, we see the origin and rationale of Mass intentions for the dead. Incidentally, references to this practice can be found in the 12th chapter of the Second Book of Maccabees as well as various places in the New Testament. Praying for the dead and the reality of purgatory remains a dogmatic teaching of our Catholic faith. Remember that what we do here on earth has spiritual ramifications. Praying for the dead, lighting a candle which symbolizes this prayer and offering a Mass for these souls is a beautiful and powerful way to live our faith. We are all united in this one Church — militant, triumphant and suffering. And we care for each other by our prayers.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Francis Snow St Leonard Street

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Father Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Daniel Kennedy; Andrea Oakes; Jimmy McClafferty; Arthur Christie; Ernest & Rosemary Steele; Rosina Baird; Joe Scott.

Funeral Arrangements: Francis Snow Reception: Sunday 3rd November 4pm
Requiem Mass: Monday 4th November 9.30am

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord, let their good deeds go with them.

Safeguarding

As part of the Diocese of Motherwell, St Mary's parish strives to follow all safeguarding protocols and procedures, especially when it comes to the protection of young people and vulnerable adults. All our volunteers undergo safeguarding training and, when appropriate, are enrolled on the PVG scheme. We are very lucky that we have good parish coordinators and safeguarding leaders who keep our training and risk assessments up to date. For any more safeguarding information, or if you have any areas of concern or would like to seek support or report abuse, please contact Veronica McKenna Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor veronicamckenna@rcdom.org.uk, or alternatively contact our parish Safeguarding Coordinators: Joan Highton joanhighton@btinternet.com or Anne Hilland anne.hilland@me.com We are extremely grateful to Anne and Joan, along with other safeguarding leaders, who dedicate so much time to keeping us all safe.



St Mary's 300 Club

Subscription to the 300 Club is available through cash payment - placing your subscription in an envelope clearly marked 300 CLUB along with YOUR NAME and handing it into the sacristy or placing in the offertory collection with your weekly offering, or by bank transfer **St Mary's Lanark 80-12-97 10246763**

Holy Trinity Chapel Livestream

After discussions with the parishioners who attend Holy Trinity Chapel, Lamington, and receiving encouragement and support from the Biggar Museum Trust Trustees, we are delighted to announce that Holy Mass will be livestreamed from Holy Trinity Chapel on the second Sunday of each month on the parish Facebook page.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,090.00
Standing Orders: £ 645.30
Votives: £ 206.00
Stall: £ 110.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

2nd/3rd November		16th/17th November	
5.00pm	T. Coia	5.00pm	G. Abernethy
10.30am	A. Servers	10.30am	R. Colpitts
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	M. Davis
9th/10th November		23rd/24th November	
5.00pm	C. Jackson	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	M. McCusker	10.30am	J. Russell
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

2nd/3rd November		16th/17th November	
5.00pm	A. Dempsey	5.00pm	K. Bryce
	J. McBride		A. McGowan
10.30am	J. Littlejohn	10.30am	C. Duddy
	M. Keenan		D. McFarlane
	N. Keenan		I. Maxfield
9th/10th November		23rd/24th November	
5.00pm	C. Scott	5.00pm	M. Keenan
	S. Callaghan		C. Callaghan
10.30am	V. Hilland	10.30am	P. Cunningham
	M. Thompson		K. Lawrence
	B. Farrell		J. McFarlane

St Mary's Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting an Afternoon Tea on **Sunday 10th November** at 1.30pm for 2pm in the Clubrooms. Tickets are priced £10 and this includes afternoon tea with Prosecco.



**Tickets on sale at all Masses or alternatively
please see any of the girls on Social Committee if you want a ticket.**

St Vincent de Paul Outreach

We are very lucky to have such an active and committed St Vincent de Paul Conference in our parish, who strive to seek new ways of reaching out to others.

Our St Vincent de Paul Conference needs your help!

If you are no longer able to get out much, or if you are looking for a regular visit or phone call, the St Vincent de Paul would like to help. Perhaps you know of someone who would benefit from a visit or phone call from St Vincent de Paul, then please seek their permission before contacting us.

The work of St Vincent de Paul is completely confidential and no one will know of their visit. It is important to remember that the St Vincent de Paul Society is not all about offering practical help, like money or food, but it is based on friendship and outreach.

If you would like a visit or phone call or if you know of someone else who would benefit, please contact our St Vincent de Paul Conference: 07565396878

St Mary's Church Heating

With the constant rise in church heating it is important that we try and preserve as much heat as possible. One way to do this is by keeping the main doors of the church closed on cold mornings. As you enter or leave the church please close the door behind you.

Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

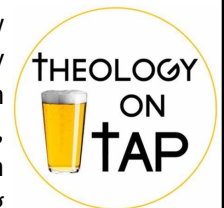
Our Monthly Foodbank Collection will take place **this weekend**.

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 clearly marked 'FOODBANK'.



Theology of Tap

Over the past few years a new initiative has grown in popularity called 'Theology on Tap'. It's main aim is to foster catechesis, fellowship and evangelisation in an informal environment allowing parishioners of all ages to come together one evening a month to learn about an aspect of the Catholic Faith while enjoying a few beverages in an informal setting.



The first talk will be held on Tuesday 12th November at Our Lady and St John's Blackwood (ML11 9RZ) with the evening beginning at 6.30pm and talk beginning at 7.00pm. The talk will be given by Fr Stephen Reilly, Episcopal Vicar for Youth in the diocese.

The Unique History of St Mary's Church by Siobhan Gainford

Siobhan Gainford will be at the back of the church after every Mass this weekend to record the names of those interested in purchasing her book on 'The Unique History of St Mary's Church'. She will be funding the book and intends to publish only the number of copies ordered. She will be happy to answer any queries that you have.

Siobhan has worked on this book for several years now and we are delighted it is going to print. The book covers various interesting points about our wonderful history, here in St Mary's, along with the many "characters" that lived here.

We take this opportunity to thank Siobhan for her hard work and long hours of research, along with all those who assisted in any way, and we look forward to reading the book very soon.

Monday Club - 4th November

The next meeting of the Monday Club is on the 4th of November when we will welcome Joanne from the Scottish Tea House. This will be of great interest to those of us who enjoy 'Afternoon teas'. Anyone and everyone most welcome.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 3rd November *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
- 12noon Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)
- 12.30pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)
- 4.00pm Vigil and Reception of Frank Snow
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 4th November *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Frank Snow

Tuesday 5th November

- 10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)
- 11.30am Confessions until 11.55am
- 11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 6th November

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 10.00am Church Cleaning
- 7.00pm Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)

Thursday 7th November

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

Friday 8th November

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 9th November *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

- 9.00am Confessions until 9.25am
- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 9.30am Holy Mass
- 4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- 4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 10th November *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
- 12noon Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)
- 1.30pm Afternoon Tea - Ticketed Event (St Mary's Clubrooms)
- 5.00pm Holy Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



November - Month of the Holy Souls

November is the month traditionally dedicated to praying for the Holy Souls; those men, women and children who have gone before us in faith, helping them pass through purgatory and reach the eternal joys of heaven.

During November Holy Mass will be offered each day for all those names on our November Lists, which are placed before our altar. Lists are available at the back of the church, and completed lists can be handed into the sacristy, placed in the 'November List' box at the Lady Altar or placed in the collection basket with your weekly offering.

