



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

**Solemnity of the Epiphany
7th January 2024**



You're A Blank

I've been thinking about Noah's Ark a lot recently. Perhaps it's the flooding across the UK in recent months that has prompted my reflections on the familiar story of the ship through which God spares Noah, his family, and examples of all the world's animals from a global deluge.

One of the earliest interpretations of the story was by an Early Church Father, Origen of Alexandria (d.253AD). Origen's sermon on Noah's Ark drew heavily on an allegorical, that is symbolic, interpretation of the scriptures proposing the Ark prefigured the Church, the mystical body of Christ.



Just consider how much Origen's vision of the Ark as Church has inspired the physical space of a church building, especially the wonderful Gothic cathedrals. Perhaps an obvious connection is that of the central section of the church called the 'nave' from the Latin, *navis*, meaning boat. From the inside gaze up at the roof, which looks like an inverted hull of a mighty ship. Then cast your eyes around the walls and pillars and you will see depictions of every type of creation, from leaves and fruit to animals, people, and our heroes in the faith. Also, think here of Notre-Dame especially, where the flying buttresses look like huge oars propelling the building up river.

Origen's exegesis of Noah's Ark story calls to mind the Genesis creation narrative and the primal chaos, which stands for all that is opposed to God's intentions. God's Spirit hovers over it and so God has lordship and dominion over it. For Origen, the spiritual life is all about separating ourselves out from the chaos and sin, so that the dry land can appear and we can flourish. The story of the Bible is one of rescue plans, and so the Ark foreshadows God's ultimate rescue plan, Jesus Christ and his Church, the means by which the rescue plan continues.

To that point, Origen draws attention to the great planks, which make up the outer part of the Ark that protect it from the waves. These planks he says, stand for 'teachers, leaders, zealots in the Church'. Those engaged in teaching and evangelising come up against a culture that opposes them – very often in waves! Origen notes that these planks are covered with pitch on both the outside and inside. The pitch on the outside is the uprightness of our external acts, and the pitch on the inside is the purity of our soul. To a greater or lesser extent we are all evangelists, teachers and leaders, and if we're weak in our external acts, we'll mess us up; and if we're weak in our prayer life, we're going to give way.

When I was at school, to be called a 'plank' meant you were a bit thick, stupid or clumsy. Origen, though, is calling us to be a plank. Are we up to it? As we start a new year, let's make a resolution to be a plank in this great Ark of a Church, praying for protection from the storm and all that is opposed to God's intentions.

Ian Maxfield

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 7th January *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (Holy Trinity)

13.35pm Tea/Coffee/Home Baking (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany (St Mary's)

Monday 8th January *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 (St Mary's)

Tuesday 9th January

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

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

12noon Angelus and Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Wednesday 10th January

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Thursday 11th January

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Friday 12th January

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 13th January *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

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

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

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

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 14th January *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

NO EVENING MASS THIS WEEKEND

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

6th/7th January

5.00pm R. McConnell

10.30am J. Russell

5.00pm S. Casserly

13th/14th January

5.00pm R. Kane

10.30am M. McCusker

20th/21st January

5.00pm A. Haetzman

10.30am R. Colpitts

5.00pm M. Davis

27th/28th January

5.00pm G. Abernethy

10.30am P. Roberts

5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

6th/7th January

5.00pm P. Freel

R. Sinton

10.30am J. Littlejohn

M. Keenan

M. Kennan

13th/14th January

5.00pm A. Dempsey

C. Scott

10.30am J. Wilson

A. O'Neil

N. Kennan

20th/21st January

5.00pm M. Keenan

P. Stewart

10.30am P. Cunningham

A. Cruikshank

J. McFarlane

27th/28th January

5.00pm J. McEwan

C. McClafferty

10.30am G. Duddy

T. Mullen

B. Farrell



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Frances Neil St Nicholas Rd
Paul Reilly Glebe Court

Tom Hannah (Newmains); Margaret Toner (East Kilbride); Mary Somerville; Mark Watts; Margaret Donald (Chapelhall).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Matt Reilly Jnr; Gerry McGarrigle; John Renton; John Davis; Andrew Norton; Lily Donnelly; John A Cunningham; Maeve McDonald.

Christmas Remembrances: Bishop Frank Thomson; Bishop Joseph Devine; Fr Joseph Brannigan; Canon Willie Donnachie; All Deceased Members of The Vincentian Fathers; All Deceased Members of The Daughter's of Charity; Jim McShane; John & Mary McShane; Rosemary McShane MacIntyre; Frank McMahon; Annie & Arthur Lenagh; Hughie & Mary McShane; McShane Family; McGuire Family; Lenagh Family; McMahon Family; Kate & William Campbell; Bernie & Jim McEwan; Campbell Family; McCafferty Family; McEwan Family; James E. Reid; Gerry Wyllie; Wyllie Family; Deerin Family; Valentie Family; Bogan Family; Dunbar Family; McFarlane Family; Haney Family; Stewart Family; MacIntyre Family; Joseph & Betty McLeish; McLeish Family; Peter Brannen; Brannen Family; Edgar Family; Dan O'Neill; O'Neill Family; Thomas & Helen Lamb; Thomas Lamb Jnr; Lamb Family; McGuigan Family; William & Sarah Donnachie; Donnachie Family; Michael Pavilonis; Pavilonis Family; Paul & Cathie Millar; Paul & Nee Millar; Janice Millar; Millar Family; William Kay; Frank & Helen Carway; John & Frances Dickson; Michael, John & Annie Tierney; Charlie Lively; Lively Family; Laverty Family; Maher Family; May & Willie Reilly; Brian, Billy & Mary Heron; Mary, Jim & Michael McLaughlan; Mary, Bill & Stephen Murray; Anne & John Boyle; Karen Reilly; John Reilly Jnr; Maureen Logan; Thomas & Christina McNulty; Nora & John Byers; Mary Clark; Betty Hutchison; John Smith; Allan Steele; Cathy Travers; John Murray; Karen Murray; Tom & Sadie Palmer; Rona Palmer; Mary Jane & James Brennan; Agnes Jack; Anne Elder; James & Evelyn Brennan; John & Agnes Kennedy; Josephine & Willie Whitefield; Joseph McGuire; William & Martin McPhail; Harry & Jean McPhail; James & Mary McCrossan; Jim & Theresa Casagrande; Stuart McDougall; Margaret McCrossan; John Hughes; Jock, Sheena & John Craig; Sarah Savage; Arthur Kane; Joe McAllister; Peter & Susan Mulligan; Bridget Donnelly; Betty Dunlop; Mary, Tommy, May, Sadie, James & Jackie Martin; Connelly Family; Theresa & Roddy O'Connor; O'Connor Family; O'Neill Family; Michael Reilly; Reilly Family; John Doolan; Henry Doolan; Jane Doolan; Annie Skinner; Betty Sliman; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; Margaret, John & Bobby Dykes; Sandy McLean; Mary McLean; Catherine McLean; Jessie Clark; Frank Mackie; Susan Mackie; Leah & Albert Welsh; Graham Munro; Morton Family; Rodger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Alan & Beverley Milliken; John, Annie, Liam & Jane McConnell; Gerry Haetzman; Frank & Iza Devitt; Peter & Eleonora De-Schuster; Jerry & Josephine O'Leary; Jerry O'Leary Jnr; Jerry & Agnes O'Leary; John & Nora Docherty; Dan & Marion O'Donnell; Nan & Alex Hutton; Helen & Joseph McAreavy; John & Marion Renton; James & Mary Tait; Joe, Pat & Gerry McGarrigle; McGarrigle Family; Dean Family; Louise, Nan, Whitey & James Keenan; Betty & Moses Smith; James Stark; Moira & Alan Beattie; Martin Carway; Mary & Charlie Binnie; Bette & Davie Haggerty; Paul Donnachie; Donnachie Family; Sandy & Alex McLellan; Michael & Elizabeth McCue; Annie Cowe; Charles & Annie Coyle; Charles & Elizabeth Coyle; Dan & Marion O'Donnell; Arthur Christie; Sarah & Joseph Quinn; Jessica & John Christie; John Christie Jnr; Pat McTaggart; Mary McTaggart; Geraldine Murphy; Margaret McAllister; Kathleen Mangan; McAllister Family; Teresa Nelson; John Taggart; Michael McCulloch; Irene & Eddie O'Donnell; Dan McPhail; Stuart McDougall; Bert & Betty Sinton; Jimmy & Sarah McEwan; Anne Paisley; Anne Skeldon; Martha & Tam Smith; James McCardie; John Kerr; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty Thomson; Madge Reilly; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Bill & Annie Gebbie; Mary & Tommy Cavanagh; George Eddie; Steven, Mary, James & John Donnelly; Lisa McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Susan Mays; Gerard Marys Snr; Gerard Mays Jnr; John O'Neill; Fox Family; Harvey Family; Agnes Brown Foley (nee McKendrick); John (Johnny) Foley; Joseph Foley; Agnes Foley (nee McGuinness); Sheila Jackson (nee Foley); Foley Family; Fr Joseph Brannigan; Frank, Maryann, Frank Jnr, James, John, Nan, Louise, James Jnr & Lisa Keenan; Angela O'Connell; Jack Hamilton; Ray Ward; Elle-May McNally; O'Connell Family; Stewart Family; Jenny & Wullie Todd; Robert Scott; Henry McKenzie; All Souls with no-one to Pray for Them; Martin Hilland; Frank Hilland; Kathleen Grieve; Bill Grieve; Anne Kinsella; Phil Kinsella; Joe Jackson; Frances Jackson; Coulter Family; Kelly Family; McCafferty Family; James, Clare & Evelyn O'Leary; Jimmy & Sadie Littlejohn; Arthur & John Talbot; Frances & Monica Cassidy; Rosina Baird; William & Florence Kennedy & Family; Francis Vincent Larkins; James Donoghue; Ron Meldrum; Jean & Jimmy Meldrum; Catherine & Daniel Stewart; Meg McConville; McConville Family; Eileen Prior; Janette Irvine; May Quinn; Geoff Coyle; Deceased Members of Choir of St Mary's; Kate Hanlon; Edward Hanlon; Archie Lindsay; Anne Lindsay; Mary Sheehy; Kate Nevin; Michael Nevin; Lisa & Robert Geddes Snr; Vera & Johnny Livingstone; McGonagle Family; Fox Family; Lawrence, Jessie & Nettie Hynds; Robert & Jenny Clarkson; Michael & Laura Treanor; James & Vera Hynds; Colin Slevin; James & Mae Graham; Walter Graham; James Graham Jnr; Annette Patrick; Thomas & Cecilia Cloonan; Mark Cloonan; Cloonan Family (Liverpool); Rotherham Family (Liverpool); James Callaghan; Anna Callaghan; Agnes & Alice Bamford; Callaghan Family (Sligo); Gerod & Hughie Connally; Vincent Schmidt (USA); Paul Halloran; Halloran Family; Helen & Robert Dennis & Families; Maureen Mathers; May & Veronica Quinn & Family; Fr Brannigan; Fr Hughes; Mayes & McMorran Family; Victor Doolan; Noone Family; Dowds Family; Farrell Family; Woods Family; Kergan Family; Davis Family; Lynn Woods; Francis Vincent Larkins; Francis Larkins Jnr; John Cunningham .



Holy Trinity Chapel

Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest

Father John-Paul McShane

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St Mary's

70 Bannatyne Street
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Charity No - SC011041

St Mary's Coffee Morning

As a result of your support to the Coffee Mornings this year, the Social Committee have been able to invest in a number of items for the Clubrooms: speaker and microphones for events; a gazebo for the BBQ and also much needed new aprons for our volunteers.

With the remainder of the coffee morning money raised, the Social Committee plan to donate £500 to St Andrew's Hospice.

Our next Coffee Morning is today, Sunday 7th January 2024, homemade soup will be served as well as home-baking.

We look forward to welcoming you
and thank you for your continued support.

Justice & Peace Special Collection

Next Sunday we celebrate Justice & Peace Sunday, a day in which we dedicate to praying for peace in our world. A donations box will be at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to donate to this worthwhile cause.

Crib Collection

Thank you to those who generously donated to the Crib Collection this year, through the donations box next to the crib. Society. If you are unable to visit the Crib, you can make a donation online at www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk

Bulletin - Front Cover

Thank you to all those who have composed, or selected articles for inclusion on the front cover of the weekly bulletin. Many parishioners have enjoyed reading them. If you have a topic you would like to see on the front cover of the bulletin, or indeed if you would like to write your own article (500 words), please email Fr John-Paul.

Financial Returns

Fr John-Paul has now completed the Annual Financial Returns due to the Diocese, for year ending 31st December 2023, and they will be submitted within the next few days. A Financial Report will be made available to each parish in due course. It is important that you are aware of parish finances and the running costs of each parish.

Weddings in St Mary's 2024

If you have booked a wedding in St Mary's for 2024, or you would like to book a wedding, please email Fr John-Paul to arrange a meeting, and to start the official paperwork.

It is important you make contact to confirm dates and times in order to secure your pre-booked date.

frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk

St Mary's Primary School Enrolment

Parents/carers of children who are five years of age between 1 March 2024 and the end of February 2025 are required to register their child for school. From Monday 8 January 2024, parents should use the catchment area checker on SLC website to select their preferred catchment school and enrol their child online. Your catchment school will then be in touch to discuss your application from 15 January 2024.