



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &  
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Charity No - SC011041

**ST MARY'S LANARK  
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR  
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



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***FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
27TH DECEMBER 2020***

**BISHOP TOAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**



In recent days, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a Year in honour of St Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of St Joseph's proclamation as Patron of the Universal Church by Blessed Pius IX. In doing so Our Holy Father has written a beautiful Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, offering some personal reflections on St Joseph, "this extraordinary figure so close to our own human experience". In extolling his greatness as spouse of Mary and legal father of Jesus, he acknowledged how St Joseph placed the whole of his life in God's hands and at the service of God's plan of salvation in a quiet, discreet way, unnoticed almost, but vitally important in caring for and protecting Mary and Jesus through the years he shared with them in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth. His figure in our Christmas cribs portrays this quiet reassuring presence who lovingly looks down on the infant Jesus, accepting the vocation as father and guardian which God has asked of him.

Pope Francis encourages us to discover in St Joseph an intercessor, a support, and a guide in time of trouble, and reminds us that is often those who appear hidden or in the shadows who play an incomparable role in God's plan for our salvation. Indeed he makes a comparison between St Joseph and the many wonderful people who have assisted us through the present time of pandemic, remarking that "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper or magazine headlines, or in the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history." We have certainly become very aware through recent times of how much we depend on the "essential" workers and volunteers in our society, and, in recognising in them a reflection of the generous and self-giving qualities of St Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis offers a word of recognition and gratitude to them all. I am sure we echo these sentiments as we hope and pray for the health and well-being of all who continue to suffer in our present situation.

As we ponder with Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and wise-men, the child in the manger, we place our hope in him as Our Lord and Saviour, and renew our desire to serve and love him in the fullest way possible with the help of his grace. He is indeed "the loving kindness of the heart of our God, who visits us like the dawn from on high" as proclaimed in the lovely prayer of Zechariah, the *Benedictus*, in St Luke's Gospel.

The *Benedictus* concludes "He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace". May these words dwell in our hearts as we implore the Lord's blessing on all our loved ones, and indeed the whole of humanity. May the Lord grant us his peace this Christmas.

**+ Joseph Toal  
Bishop of Motherwell  
December 2020.**

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday 27th December

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9.00am  | Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary Magdalene's) |
| 10.00am | Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)           |
| 11.00am | Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)           |
| 12noon  | Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Isidore's)        |
| 5.00pm  | Holy Mass for the Feast of The Holy Family (St Mary's)           |

### Monday 28th December

**9.00am - 12noon** [PHONE LINES OPEN TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES \(ST MARY'S\)](#)  
**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

### Tuesday 29th December

**9.00am - 12noon** [PHONE LINES OPEN TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES \(ST MARY'S\)](#)  
**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**6.00pm** [EMAIL JACQUI TO BOOK WEEKEND MASS \(ST ISIDORE'S\)](#)

### Wednesday 30th December

**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

### Thursday 31st December

**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
**7.30pm** Holy Mass (St Isidore's)

### Friday 1st January

**10.30am** Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalen's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass (St Mary's)

### Saturday 2nd January

**12noon** [Annual Requiem Mass for Father Joseph Brannigan \(St Mary's\)](#)  
**5.00pm** Vigil Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary's)  
**6.00pm** Vigil Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary's)

### Sunday 3rd January

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 9.00am  | Holy Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary Magdalene's) |
| 10.00am | Holy Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary's)           |
| 11.00am | Holy Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary's)           |
| 12noon  | Holy Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Isidore's)        |
| 5.00pm  | Holy Mass for The Epiphany of The Lord (St Mary's)           |

## LEVEL 4 RESTRICTIONS

As announced by the First Minister, South Lanarkshire has now entered Level 4 of local restrictions, as from Saturday 26th December. Local restrictions will remain in place for a minimum of 3 weeks.

Level 4 restrictions mean that Holy Mass will be limited to only 20 people. Although this is less than half of our previous allowance, it does mean we are still able to keep our churches open for public Mass.

In order to afford as many people as possible the opportunity to attend Holy Mass, especially at the weekend, there are additional Masses scheduled in St Mary's (please see Mass times above).

Weekday Mass will go ahead as scheduled, however, with limited numbers, it will be on a first come first served basis. Daily Mass will be Livestreamed on St Mary's Parish Facebook Page for those unable to join us.

## WEEKDAY MASS

Please note that from Saturday 26th December to Saturday 2nd January  
**Weekday Mass** will be celebrated at 12noon in St Mary's.

## VOLUNTEERS

I would just like to take this opportunity to offer my personal thanks to all those who are volunteering in our three churches; keeping us safe. It has been a long period of time now that has passed since we were first allowed to open for Private Prayer, and then Holy Mass, but our volunteers have really given of their all to make sure that our churches are as safe as they possibly can be. At any one Mass we have between three and five volunteers: checking people in, showing them to the appropriate seat and then cleaning the church after every Mass. To add extra peace of mind we have ionizer machines which operate over night, to sanitise the church environment and kill any germs or bacteria. It is due to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers that we have the ability to keep our churches open, and only because of their willingness are we able to celebrate so many Masses, especially over the Christmas period, whilst maintaining our high standards of safety. Of course, there is also a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, organising rotas and dealing with phones and seating plans, along with regular risk-assessments that are carried out. I very much thank our COVID Coordinators for all they do behind the scenes and for their organisation skills. Thank you to all our parish volunteers for your service to our parishes and may God bless your efforts. Fr John-Paul

### CRIB COLLECTION

Due to the logistics of COVID19 in the Church, we are unable to put a donations basket at the Crib to support the work of St Margaret's Children and Family Care. If you would like to make a donation you can do so online at [www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsadoption.org.uk) or by placing your donation in the collection basket clearing marking it as "CRIB COLLECTION".

### 300 CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS

*Week 6th December: 85      Week 13th December: 183*  
*Week 20th December: 126      Week 27th December: 242*  
Congratulations to all our winners!!

We still have limited spaces available. If anyone would like to join the 300 Club please email the parish, it costs £1 per week, and helps support parish funds.

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Father John-Paul and Saul would like to thank all those who very kindly sent in gifts and Christmas cards this year. It was very humbling to receive so many cards, gifts and well wishes from the parishioners of St Mary Magdalene's, St Mary's and St Isidore's. Although Christmas was restricted this year, it was wonderful to see our churches so beautifully decorated, and I would like to thank all those who helped prepare our churches. I would especially like to thank those men and women who work tirelessly behind the scenes every week to make sure our parishes function so smoothly and efficiently. It was encouraging to see so many people attend Mass at Christmas this year, and we hope and pray, that the Infant King will bless and guide us to a better 2021. On behalf of Fr John-Paul and Saul, we wish you a very happy and holy Christmas, and we wish you every good blessing for 2021.

### ST MARY'S DONATIONS

Thank you very much to the parishioner who donated money in order to purchase the new altar candlesticks and crucifix. Thank you also to those who have donated money over the last few months, again this money was used to help cover the cost of new altar linen and will go towards more furnishings for the sanctuary, which will arrive in the next few weeks. God bless you for your generosity, and your continued acts of kindness.

### ST MARY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Many thanks to all those who organised, and supported the Christmas Raffle this year. The amount raised was £1038. What a wonderful effort during very difficult times. Over the past twelve months the Social Committee have raised nearly £5000 for parish funds, I am sure you will all agree this is an incredible achievement. Thank you to the Social Committee and to those who have supported their endeavours.

## SINGING AT MASS

It has been lovely hearing the Cantors sing during Sunday Mass at St Mary's; and many people have commented how beautiful it has been to receive such hope that things are slowly returning to normal. All this said, twice now we have received complaints through South Lanarkshire Council's Environmental Health Department for COVID19. It seems that people watching on Facebook have reported hearing "multiple voices" singing with the cantors. At present we are awaiting a response from South Lanarkshire Council regarding this, but in the meantime can I remind the congregation not to join in with the singing. Thank you for your understanding.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**RECENTLY DEAD** - Father Paddy Walsh; Phyllis Carty; Thomas Murphy; Alys Lynn; Christine Duddy; Bernard Topping (Kent).

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Father Joseph Brannigan; The Monteith Family; Jim McShane; John Gordon; Ella Caddle; Jimmy Woodlock; Joseph McGuire; Tommy Starrs; Mary Starrs.

**CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE** - Bishop Frank Thomson; Bishop Joseph Devine; Father Joseph Brannigan; All Deceased Members of The Vincentian Fathers; All Deceased Members of The Daughter's of Charity; John Vallely; Andrew Barbour; Patricia Duffy; Freel Family; Stewart Family; Sandy McLean; Mary McLean; Catherine McLean; Jessie Clark; Graham Munro; Albert & Lee Welsh; Morton Family; Foley Family; McGuinness Family; McKendrick Family; Morton Family; Jackson Family; Frank, Maryann, Frank Jnr, James, John, Nan, Louise & Lisa Keenan; Ray Ward; Jack Hamilton; Elle May McNally; O'Connell Family; Stewart Family; Jenny & Wullie Todd; Diane Jamieson; Robert Scott; Henry (Guy) McKenzie; James & Mary Tait; Jock & Sheena Craig; John Hughes; Sarah Savage; James & Clare O'Leary; Jimmy & Sadie Littlejohn; Francis & Monica Cassidy; May Kelly; Rosemary Sherry; Joe McAllister; Peter & Susan Mulligan; Bridget Donnelly; John Reilly Jnr; Thomas & Christina McNulty; Mary Ferguson; John & Nora Byers; Annie Veitch; William Kay; Frank & Helen Carway; John & Frances Dickson; Michael, John & Annie Tierney; Arthur Christie; Jessica & John Christie; John Christie Jnr; Rena & Jimmy Travers; Gerry Hartzman; Frank & Iza Devitt; Devitt Family; Hartzman Family; Anne Collins; Anne Marie Dempz; Cathy Travers; Jane Doolan; John Doolan; Joe Hughes; John, Mary, James & Steven Donnelly; George Eddie; John Doolan; Dan O'Donnell; Marion O'Donnell; Nan Hutton; Alex Hutton; Irene & Eddie O'Donnell; Lisa McAlavey; John McAlavey; Blanche McAlavey; Susan Mays; Gerard Mays Sr; Gerard Mays Jnr; John O'Neill; William & Martin McPhail; Jean & Harry McPhail; Dan, Harry & Doreen McPhail; James & Mary McCrossan; Theresa Casagrandar; Bert & Betty Sinton; Stuart McDougall; Matt & Peggy Reilly; Betty Thomson; Ann & Alasdair MacDonald; Bill & Annie Gebbie; Marjory Reilly; Owen, Margaret & John Dempsey; Martin Hilland; Frank Hilland; Kathleen Grieve; Bill Grieve; Anne & Phil Kinsella; Frances & Joe Jackson; Michael & Vittoria Bonanno; Margaret, John & Bobby Dykes; Lynas Family; Bancewicz Family; Lisa & Robert Geddes Jnr; Johnny & Sammy Livingstone; Alex Sweeney; Martin Carway; Annie Main; Eddie Main; David Main; Annie McCulloch; James McCulloch; Michael William Maybank; Napier Family; Patrick & Catherine Grant; Margaret Gallagher; James Patrick Callaghan & Family; Thomas Maurice Cloonan; Cecelia & Joan Cloonan & Family; Agnes & Alice Bamford; Mary & Jim McLaughlan; Anne Boyle; Mary Murray; Michael McLaughlan; Joe McGarrigle; Gerry McGarrigle; McGarrigle Family; Dean Family; Louise, Nan & Whitey Keenan; Moses & Betty Smith; Alan & Moira Beattie; James Stark; Major Cameron Quinn; Quinn Family: Christopher Campbell; Rodger McConnell; Bernard & Rose Scott; Beverley & Allan Milliken; John, Annie & Liam McConnell; James McCardie; Karen Murray; James Roberts; James Murray; Bride Murray; Anne Stars; Anmarie Neilson; Margaret Gorden; Jill McAllister; Christine McAllister; Robert Douglas; Marion Douglas; Jim Snow; Thomas Snow; Agnes Snow; Ron Meldrum; Jean & Jimmy Stewart; Catherine & Daniel Stewart; Meg McConville; Eileen Prior; Janette Irvine; McConville Family; Jon, Kate & James McAvay; Edith, Patrick, Stuart & John O'Neill; Agnes & Ted Hamilton; Ellen & Tom Small; Mary & Charlie Binnie; Dave & Bette Haggerty; Donnachie Family; Alex & Sandy McLellan; Joseph & Helen McAreavy; Jim McShane; John & Mary McShane; Rosemary McShane MacIntyre; Frank McMahan; Annie & Arthur Lenagh; Hughie & Mary McShane; McShane Family; McGuire Family; Lenagh Family; McMahan Family; Kate & William Campbell; Bernie & Jim McEwan; Campbell Family; McCafferty Family; McEwan Family; James E. Reid; Gerry Wyllie; Wyllie Family; Deerin Family; Valentie Family; Dogan 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; O'Dowd's Family; Orsk Family; Michael Pavilonis; Pavilonis Family; Mary & Jim Brennan;

Agnes Jack; Jenny & Willie Jack; John & Agnes Kennedy; James Brennan; Joseph McGuire; Robbie Nicholson; Bobby Elder; Mary & Bill Dowds; James & Clare Farrell; Noone Family; Dowds Family; Farrell Family; Paul & Mary Quinn; Woods Family; Kergan Family; Davis Family; Mr & Mrs F. Brady; Michael Reilly; Margaret Reilly; Kevin Reilly; Peter Reilly; Patrick Reilly; Edward Reilly; Maureen Hogan; Peter Murray; Tommy Starrs; Mary Starrs; Jimmy & Sarah McEwan; Anne Paisley; Anne Skeldon.

