



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

**Solemnity of the Holy Family
31st December 2023**



Christmas Message

Dear Friends,

Christmas can be a very difficult time of the year for many as there are multiple financial restraints placed upon families. It can also be hard to celebrate Christmas without someone we love, whether they are working, living away from home, or gone to the Lord. This Christmas seems to be more difficult with world unrest, particularly the war in the Holyland, and the continued cost of living crisis affecting so many. As we celebrate Christmas this year, 2023, and bring to memory the birth of Jesus, may our lives be deeply touched by God's love. As we contemplate the child Jesus who is born, may our hearts be filled with joy. Through this holy season of Christmas we pray that the Infant King of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, may come afresh into our world and relieve us of our woes and worries.



Christmas is a time of the year when many people return to Mass, either with their family, or on their own, and it is also too a time when we welcome many visitors to our churches, and we hope that everyone feels very welcome and at home in our beautiful churches. Perhaps this Christmas many may feel inspired to return to Mass on a more regular basis and experience more regularly the love and mercy of God in their lives through the Sacraments. This year, at Christmas Masses, we welcomed over 750 people into our churches. It was wonderful to see so many people come to Mass to keep Christ in Christmas!

As we continue to celebrate Christmas 2023 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who decorated our churches, for all those who clean and maintain our churches on a regular basis, and for those who are so gifted in floristry and adorn our churches with beautiful flowers. You truly have made this day more special with your gifts and talents. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who give of their time each week, all year round. For our wonderful Sacristans, Passkeepers, Organists, Church Cleaners, Groundsmen, Gardeners, Social Committee and everyone who works behind the scenes. Thank you for all you do for us and the Church!

I would like to thank in a special way the Choir of St Mary's for their commitment to our parish, and for leading us so beautifully in our music each week, but especially on the first Sunday of the month. It is such a joy to have the choir and I thank them for all their commitment to our parish and their willingness to enhance our Liturgy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who so kindly handed in Christmas cards, gifts or donations for myself, Saul and Petra. In this current cost of living crisis and with the many financial restrictions placed upon people's finances, it was so humbling to receive so many gifts and cards. I truly feel like the most fortunate priest in the diocese, and I thank you most sincerely for that!

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family, that Emmanuel, God-with-us, will bless and guide each of us to a happy and peaceful 2024.

Father John-Paul

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 31st December *St Mary's Church will close after 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Family (St Mary's)
 12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Family (Holy Trinity)
 5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Holy Family (St Mary's)

Monday 1st January

- 10.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
 10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Tuesday 2nd 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 3rd January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
 11.30am Holy Mass to Celebrate Sister Julie Marie's 100th Birthday (St Mary's)

Thursday 4th January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
 9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Frank Pellow (St Mary's)

Friday 5th January

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 6th 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 Solemnity of the Epiphany (St Mary's)

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

St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

30th/31st December

- 5.00pm G. Abernethy
 10.30am E. McCabe
 5.00pm N. Donnelly

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
 5.00pm N. Donnelly

20th/21st January

- 5.00pm A. Haetzman
 10.30am R. Colpitts
 5.00pm M. Davis

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

30th/31st December

- 5.00pm J. McClafferty
 J. McAlavey
 10.30am C. Duddy
 V. Hilland

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



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead: Frank Pellow Plymouth
Frances Neil St Nicholas

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Jim McShane; Mary Starrs; Thomas Starrs; Roberta Goldie; Maureen Logan; Chrisy, Thomas & Betty McNulty; Mary McLean; James Callaghan.

Funeral Arrangements: Frank Pellow **Requiem Mass: Thursday 4th January 9.30am, St Mary's**

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.



Holy Trinity Chapel

Lamington
Biggar
ML12 6HW



Parish Priest

Father John-Paul McShane

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St Mary's

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Charity No - SC011041

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At Christmas we enjoy singing Christmas Carols. We also enjoy listening to others singing them, particularly children and those in our parish and Diocesan Choirs. I express a special word of thanks, therefore, this Christmas to all our musicians and singers, and acknowledge the time and effort you put into preparing for the Carol Services, and most especially for the Christmas Liturgies.

In the Sacred Liturgy we celebrate the Mystery of the Incarnation, the Birth of Our Saviour, Christ the Lord, at Bethlehem. In recalling his birth, as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist we renew our faith in his living presence within and among us, and place our hope in life in Christ in its fullness in eternity. As Christians we desire to be "other Christs" as we journey through life and seek to show the love of Jesus in our relationships and activities. What we celebrate at Mass we strive to put into practice in who we are and in all that we do.

This year Christmas falls on a Monday. We have two important religious days – the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas – on top of one another. We have a fine opportunity to make it a particularly spiritual and holy Christmas by attending two Masses, from the time the Vigil on Saturday Evening to Christmas Day itself. We always have plenty to pray for and this Christmas will be a particularly good time to do so. St Paul offered us great words of encouragement last Sunday in his letter to the Thessalonians: "Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus."

Our Christmas Carols often refer to Bethlehem, O Little Town of Bethlehem being especially well known and loved. Our thoughts and prayers at Christmas this year are particularly for the people of the Holy Land, Palestinians and Jews, and for a lasting peace to end the war and hatred. May the Angels' song as they appeared to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem ring true: "Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour".

I wish you all a holy, and peace-filled Christmas, and the blessing of God for 2024.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Joseph Toal

Sister Julie Maria

As many of you know, Sister Julie Marie will be celebrating her 100th birthday in the coming week. To mark this very special day a celebration will be held in Sister Julie Marie's honour. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am on Wednesday 3rd January, to which everyone is invited. Afterwards the Daughters of Charity Community will continue the celebrations in St Catherine's. *Ad multos annos*

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.

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 will be next 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.