



# St Mary's, Lanark

70 Bannatyne Street, Lanark, ML11 7JS

Tel. 01555 662234

Email – [stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk)

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

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

**Feast Days:** *Wednesday* – Our Lady of Fatima *Friday* – St Matthias Apostle

Saint Matthias' Story: According to Acts 1:15-26, during the days after the Ascension Peter stood up in the midst of the brothers—about 120 of Jesus' followers. Now that Judas had betrayed his ministry, it was necessary, Peter said, to fulfill the scriptural recommendation that another should take his office. "Therefore, it is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us, become with us a witness to his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22).

They nominated two men: Joseph and Matthias. They prayed and drew lots. The choice fell upon Matthias, who was added to the Eleven. Matthias is not mentioned by name anywhere else in the New Testament.

What was the holiness of Matthias? Obviously, he was suited for apostleship by the experience of being with Jesus from his baptism to his ascension. He must also have been suited personally, or he would not have been nominated for so great a responsibility. Must we not remind ourselves that the fundamental holiness of Matthias was his receiving gladly the relationship with the Father offered him by Jesus and completed by the Holy Spirit? If the apostles are the foundations of our faith by their witness, they must also be reminders, if only implicitly, that holiness is entirely a matter of God's giving, and it is offered to all, in the everyday circumstances of life. We receive, and even for this God supplies the power of freedom.

Our Lady of Fatima: Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

## Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently Edward McDade & Margaret Sheila Kelly and those whose anniversaries occur about now Mary Binnie, Andrew Bancewicz, Michael McLaughlan, Hugh Starrs, Frank Oliver.

**Fr. Doyle's Sunday Reflection:** "When I was at home I was in a better place." in Shakespeare's play *As You Like It* the character of the fool, Touchstone speaks those words. They are spoken far from home and express the depth of longing that lies in the heart of a world wearied traveller.

Having spent much time at home under lockdown many of us, I am sure, have begun to feel restive and impatient for the world beyond our threshold. Hoping soon for a return to normality, when we can resume our lives and once again come and go as we please.

Speaking to parishioners by phone many have asked when we can resume the celebration of Holy Mass and the Churches be opened. The short answer is the bishops are working on it, the long answer is the Scottish Government have set up a commission to look into it, it may be some time yet, I'm afraid.

So our homes must continue to be the sanctuary where we are called to meet and encounter God, to say our prayers and if possible stream mass online. But the family and home are also "the church in miniature" what the Second Vatican Council called the Domestic Church. In his great document on the family *Familiaris Consortio* St. Pope John Paul II described the family and home as the "living image and historical representation of the mystery of the Church" in the reality of the world.

Pope Paul VI, in his writings on evangelization, taught that the family possesses all the essential features of the Church. Therefore, it is somewhat inaccurate for families to say that they go to church, because they are already Church at home. This may not bring us great consolation cut off as we are from the Mass and our larger extended parish family, and our second home our parish church. But it does assure us in the words of two popes and a council of the church that our homes are sacred and holy places too, where God dwells and makes His home. In St John's Gospel Jesus invites us to make our home in Him as He make His home in us. It's a powerful and reassuring message at this time, when we feel such sadness and deprivation separated from the Church, Mass and the sacraments. But the words of Christ, reassures us that He has made his home with us. Coming to the final weeks of Eastertide, as we begin our preparation for the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost. Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel prepares his disciples for his departure from them at the Ascension, and assures them that he isn't going to abandon them but rather he goes ahead of them to prepare a place for them. His words are deeply reassuring:

*"There are many rooms in my Father's house;  
I am going now to prepare a place for you,  
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,  
I shall return to take you with me;  
so that where I am you may be too."*

But Jesus not only prepares and builds a place for us in heaven. He also makes us the living stones by which he will build the kingdom of God. Christ himself is the foundation and keystone on which is built the foundation of new and better world. A world where, as we see in the first reading, the poor, the widow and orphan are cared for. And this, the Acts of the Apostles says is the work of the entire church to build and construct a more caring world. In this difficult time, so many parishioners and neighbours have been caring and looking out for each other, building the up the family of the church by the loving care and attention they are showing one another.

We are the living stones that make up the church, but Christ is the mortar that holds us all together in this most difficult time of trial.



*In Pope Francis's prayer intention for the month of May 2020, he asks everyone to pray for permanent deacons, who live their vocation in and with their family.*

*Deacons are not second-level priests, they are part of the clergy.*

*They are dedicated to the service of the poor, who carry within them the face of the suffering Christ. They are the guardians of service in the Church. Let us pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church. Please also see the 'Updates and News' section of the website to read the - **Letter Of His Holiness Pope Francis To The Faithful For The Month Of May 2020.***

Sunday Scripture Reflection by Scott Hahn: By His death, Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body.

As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth (see Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; 28:16).

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building (see 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16). In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work, and intentions—to God.

This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises (see Exodus 19:6). By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies (see 1 Corinthians 6:19–20; Romans 12:1).

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up, as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word." The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled, but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father.

His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power (see Acts 19:20), and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew (see 1 Peter 1:23).

#### 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](http://www.stmary.org.uk)

#### **Justice & Peace Scotland**

Remind us of the plight of refugees in many areas of the world during this COVID19 pandemic. They are in the worst of plights imaginable, crowded unsanitary camps with rudimentary medical facilities. The world must not forget their plight or grow indifferent to their needs and aspirations.



**SCIAF**

Many thanks for the continued support you have shown in the Wee Boxes and Lenten campaign. A reminder that you can give on-line to SCIAF via their website and the UK Gov. will double your Wee Box donations up to the 20<sup>th</sup> May.