



# St Mary's Lanark

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle



## Sunday 12th July 2020 – Fifteenth Sunday of Year A

### Feast Days:

Wednesday – St Bonaventure

Thursday – Our Lady of Mount Carmel

### Mass Times

While there are still **no masses** in St Mary's Church, the Church will be open for short periods of **private prayer** on:

**Sundays and  
Wednesdays  
between  
10am and 12noon**

*If attending for private prayer please:*

- wear a face covering
- maintain social distancing
- observe the one way system
- sanitise hands regularly

### Reopening St Mary's for Private Prayer

- Many thanks to all our volunteers who helped ensure a safe and joyous reopening of St Mary's for the last couple of weeks. I know many people will not feel it is quite appropriate to return just at this juncture, and I would wholeheartedly endorse their decision and ask them to remember their duty is to care and look after themselves. You remain at the heart of our parish family in our thoughts and prayers, although you cannot yet return to the church you can unite yourself to the parish and universal church by your prayers and know that Christ is Lord remains close to you in this time of difficulty. For those who are able to visit the Church for private prayer under these new circumstances, in keeping with the current government advice and wishing to protect our brothers and sisters please wear a **face covering** in the Church. Please be assured we have done everything we can to create a safe environment for you, when you arrive a pass-keeper will meet you and guide you to a safe place to pray and will be on hand to look after you during your visit. For your wellbeing and that of your brothers and sisters in the parish we must observe **social distancing**. I know this will be hard seeing our friends after such a long absence we want to catch up with them. When you visit the Church you will be invited **to sanitise your hands** and **observe the one-way system**, entering and leaving the Church by different doors. It is wonderful for us to be able to pray again in the Church and we look forward to the return of public Mass in the near future. **St Mary's Lanark will open this Sunday and Wednesday from 10 am to 12 Noon for private prayer. Public Mass will resume next weekend with Vigil on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10 30 am. NB only 50 attendees.**

### Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please pray for the recently Deceased: James Ramage & Geoff Coyle

Also, please pray for the anniversaries of: William Kennedy & Martin McPhail

### Volunteers

As we now prepare to open the church safely for Mass we require volunteers to clean the church and to act as pass keepers. Volunteers should be over 18 and have no underlying health conditions making them vulnerable to covid-19.

*Volunteers will be trained and given gloves, aprons and facemasks, and will be asked to complete a safeguarding form.*

If you are able to volunteer please contact Fr. Doyle or the parish team at St Mary's 01555 662234/  
[stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk)

Thank you.

## **Sunday Reflection**

Today's readings, like last week's, ask us to meditate on Israel's response to God's Word—and our own. Why do some hear the word of the kingdom, yet fail to accept it as a call to conversion and faith in Jesus? That question underlies today's Gospel, especially. Again we see, as we did last week, that the kingdom's mysteries are unfolded to those who open their hearts, making of them a rich soil in which the Word can grow and bear fruit.

As we sing in today's Psalm, in Jesus, God's Word has visited our land, to water the stony earth of our hearts with the living waters of the Spirit (see John 7:38; Revelation 22:1).

The first fruit of the Word is the Spirit of love and adoption poured into our hearts in Baptism, making us children of God, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle (see Romans 5:5; 8:15–16). In this, we are made a “new creation” (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth (see 2 Peter 3:13).

Since the first humans rejected God's Word, creation has been enslaved to futility (see Genesis 3:17–19; 5:29). But God's Word does not go forth only to return to Him void, as we hear in today's First Reading. His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God's will in our lives. As Jesus warns today, we must take care lest the devil steal it away or lest it be choked by worldly concerns.

In the Eucharist, the Word gives Himself to us as bread to eat. He does so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness.

And we await the crowning of the year, the great harvest of the Lord's Day (see Mark 4:29; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:10)—when His Word will have achieved the end for which it was sent.

### **Our Lady of Mount Carmel:**

Hermits lived on Mount Carmel near the Fountain of Elijah in northern Israel in the 12th century. They had a chapel dedicated to Our Lady. By the 13th century they became known as “Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.” They soon celebrated a special Mass and Office in honor of Mary. In 1726, it became a celebration of the universal Church under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. For centuries the Carmelites have seen themselves as specially related to Mary. Their great saints and theologians have promoted devotion to her and often championed the mystery of her Immaculate Conception.

Saint Teresa of Avila called Carmel “the Order of the Virgin.” Saint John of the Cross credited Mary with saving him from drowning as a child, leading him to Carmel, and helping him escape from prison. Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus believed that Mary cured her from illness. On her First Communion day, Thérèse dedicated her life to Mary. During the last days of her life she frequently spoke of Mary.

There is a tradition—which may not be historical—that Mary appeared to Saint Simon Stock, a leader of the Carmelites, and gave him a scapular, telling him to promote devotion to it. The scapular is a modified version of Mary's own garment. It symbolizes her special protection and calls the wearers to consecrate themselves to her in a special way. The scapular reminds us of the gospel call to prayer and penance—a call that Mary models in a splendid way.

Perhaps not a household name for most people, **Saint Bonaventure**, nevertheless, played an important role in both the medieval Church and the history of the Franciscan Order. A senior faculty member at the University of Paris, Saint Bonaventure certainly captured the hearts of his students through his academic skills and insights. But more importantly, he captured their hearts through his Franciscan love for Jesus and the Church. Like his model, Saint Francis, Jesus was the center of everything—his teaching, his administration, his writing, and his life. So much so, that he was given the title “Seraphic Doctor.”

Born in Bagnorea in 1221, Saint Bonaventure was baptized John, but received the name Bonaventure when he became a Franciscan at the age of 22. Little is known about his childhood, but we do know that his parents were Giovanni di Fidanza and Maria Ritell. It seems that his father was a physician and a man of means. While Saint Francis died about five years after the saint's birth, he is credited with healing Bonaventure as a boy of a serious illness.

Saint Bonaventure's teaching career came to a halt when the Friars elected him to serve as their General Minister. His 17 years of service were not easy as the Order was embroiled in conflicts over the interpretation of poverty. Some friars even ended up in heresy saying that [Saint Francis](#) and his community were inaugurating the era of the Holy Spirit which was to replace Jesus, the Church, and Scripture. But because he was a man of prayer and a good administrator, Saint Bonaventure managed to structure the Order through effective legislation. But more importantly, he offered the Friars an organized spirituality based on the vision and insights of Saint Francis. Always a Franciscan at heart and a mystical writer, Bonaventure managed to unite the pastoral, practical aspects of life with the doctrines of the Church. Thus, there is a noticeable warmth to his teachings and writings that make him very appealing.

Shortly before he ended his service as General Minister, Pope Gregory X created him a Cardinal and appointed him bishop of Albano. But a little over a year later, while participating in the Second Council of Lyon, Saint Bonaventure suddenly died on July 15, 1274. There is a theory that he was poisoned.

Saint Bonaventure left behind a structured and renewed Franciscan Order and a body of work all of which glorifies his major love—Jesus.

***Preparing for the resumption of Mass:*** The bishop has offered us the following thoughts on the way ahead; “When we are given the go ahead to have public worship in our churches, I ask that the public celebration of Holy Mass recommence with the Sunday Liturgy at the weekend following the announcement. By that I mean both the Saturday and Sunday celebrations of the Sunday Mass. I think we should pay attention to the emphasis placed on the weekends in our guidance and concentrate on getting the weekend programme in place, particularly in regard to the number of Masses, which we celebrate. There is no expectation on my part that the previous very generous provision of Weekday Masses in the Diocese can, or should, be immediately reinstated. Time will tell what is possible and what will be necessary. It is encouraging to hear of the good number of volunteers who have offered their services and it will be good to take into account the time they can offer and so set our schedules accordingly.

The guidelines offered to us propose brevity and simplicity in the celebration of the Eucharist. I understand this is necessary because of the desirability of keeping the time people are together in interior spaces as short as possible. While the virus is still among us to some degree, this seems sensible although it will curtail some of our Liturgies. I think that the same thinking would apply to Funeral Masses – although in normal circumstances cantors are sometimes used and spoken tributes offered, at present the basic celebration of the Mass and the Church’s Funeral Rites are what really matter, and the faithful can be encouraged to appreciate the prayers of the Liturgy itself.”

We are currently looking at how best to manage numbers and accommodate parishioners in the church, with the drastically reduces place as a result of social distancing. This will most probably involve some kind a “booking system” for mass. I know this sounds utterly foreign to ears as Catholics but it is to avoid people being “turned away” if the capacity in the church reached. We would never wish to do so such thing and it goes against the grain so to avoid this we hope to have a booking system both online and by phone. Please be patient and understand and be reassured we have the wellbeing of our parishioners at heart. Thank you Fr. Doyle

### **Liturgical Guidelines for Holy Mass**

Recognising that the virus is predominantly contagious through the breathing in of air droplets, these guidelines are based on the need to reduce the length of time when parishioners are together. These are tentative steps for returning to Mass and may be reviewed at any time:

- Singing of Mass parts and hymns may be omitted.
- Both the Gloria and the Creed may be omitted.
- At Sunday Mass the second reading may be omitted.
- The sermon should be brief.
- In place of the words “Body of Christ” for each communicant, before the Celebrant receives Holy Communion, he may say the words ***May the Body and Blood of Christ keep us all safe to eternal life,*** to which the congregation responds ***Amen.***
- In accordance with the national protocol on Infection Control, it is recommended that Holy Communion be received in the hand for the duration of the pandemic.
- The communicant should extend his/her hands to receive the host and then step two paces to the side in order to place the host on the tongue.
- Holy Communion may be distributed after the Final Prayer. Parishioners may be directed to leave the Church immediately after receiving Holy Communion.

***Preparations are still underway to return to Mass in St Mary’s, we will keep everyone up to date with any changes, through Bulletins, Facebook, Website and Emails.***

**BOOKING SYSTEM:** You may be aware that many Parishes are currently looking into a booking system when public mass is resumed on the weekend 17/18th July. We are doing this too, as the number of seats available in the church will be much fewer (only 50 people) because of the Government requirements for social distancing and the need for us to be 2m apart to keep everyone safe.

Many of our parishioners may not have access to an internet booking system so a telephone option seems preferable and we will give you full details of this as soon as we can. This will be an unusual situation for all of us and I ask for your support and help with this. Everything we are asking you to do is for your care and safety, and to allow as many parishioners as possible to attend Mass within the guidelines.

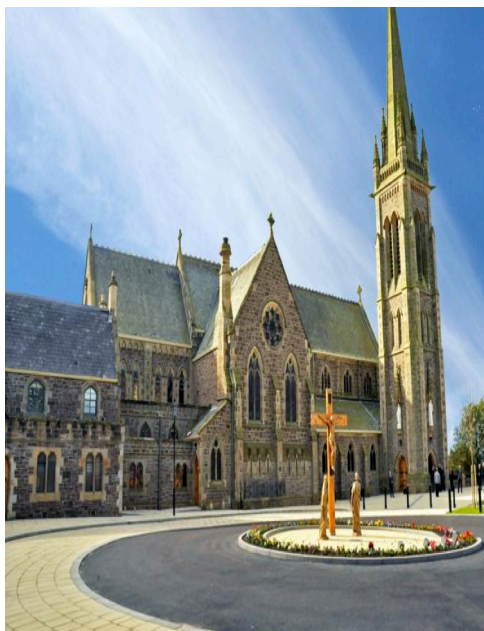
We believe that “a first come first served” policy seems only fair and just, and bookings will be taken on a weekly basis only (no block bookings). We will ask for your name, address and a contact number. We will ask you to sit in an allocated seat, with a number, and ask you to come in by a specific entrance, (side or main door). This is for a number of reasons. Firstly to ensure we are all 2m apart, the seat allocation in the church is complex and we want also to welcome as many of you as possible into the church. Secondly and critically, this will also assist in tracing if an outbreak were to occur. Please be assured that your data will be held securely in accordance with data protection requirements. On the day our Paskeepers will warmly welcome you to the church and assist you to your seat, and can help with any queries or concerns you have. It would be greatly appreciated, were possible, if families and couples could attend the same Mass, as this would greatly increase our capacity. Many of us may be used to “our own seat” in the church, and I ask your understanding and patience in these extraordinary circumstances to graciously accept the allocated seat our team will give you.

As with any new system there will be an element of adaptation and learning from our mistakes, I assure you we will keep these procedures under constant reappraisal, so that can best serve the needs of the our parish family.

I greatly look forward to welcoming you back to Holy Mass. As your parish priest, I’m also acutely aware that given the restricted numbers in the church that some of you may have to wait a little while longer before returning to Mass. Please do not feel you are being “turned away” this is your parish family and your parish church and we could never do that, but we all have to work together and accept as best we can these new circumstances.

*Please see the website ‘Updates & News’ section for more information on the booking system.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Could any items for the Bulletin please be sent to us no later than Thursday 5pm, anything received after this will go in the following weeks Bulletin. You can email, phone or put a note through the Parish House door.*  
*Many thanks*



### Keeping In Touch

As always, if you or anyone you know, requires help or information, or you would like to offer help within our Parish, please get in touch on 01555 662234 or email us at [stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk)  
To keep up to date with any Parish news or updates please visit:

**Facebook page** - St Mary's RC Church  
**Website** - [www.stmaryslanark.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslanark.org.uk)