



# St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle

***Sunday the 19th July 2020 – Sixteenth Sunday of Year A***

***Feast Days:*** Wednesday – St Mary Magdalene / Thursday – St Bridget of Sweden / Saturday – St James Apostle

## **Mass Times**

**Saturday Evening Vigil Mass :** 5pm

**Sunday Morning Mass :** 10.30am (doors will open 30 mins before these Mass times)

**Mass will also be available live at 10.30am on Sunday morning, and available to watch anytime after that on our Facebook page.**

***\* Please note that there will be no weekday mass or private prayer session this week.***

Due to the **currently restricted numbers of 50 for Mass**, these Masses are by appointment only.

To book for next weekends Masses please call **01555 662234** or **07936306344** between the following times:

**Booking Times: Thursdays : 9am-12pm**

**Fridays: 9am -12pm (Please Note the Change in times)**

For more details on booking Mass, please see the Updates & News Section of the website.



It is with great joy today that we can publically celebrate Holy Mass once again in the Church. We thank God for the gift of the Mass, the perfect sacrifice of praise in which we are united with Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray that this time of separation from the Eucharist may help renew our faith, understanding and appreciation of the great mystery and gift we have in the Mass.

**Please Remember:** The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has been suspended.

Those who are shielding should not come to mass until advised it is safe to do so by the Scottish Government. Those in other health categories should follow the Government's advice in coming to their decision to attend mass or not.

If you have symptoms of coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has please stay at home.

***For those in the above categories and anyone who cannot currently make it to Mass, please be assured we always remember you, our Brothers and Sisters, in our prayers .***

**Weekday masses:** The bishop has suggested a cautious and measured approach to the resumption of weekday masses. He was much more concerned that Sunday Mass should be safely resumed in keeping with the guidelines of the Scottish Government. In order to open the Church for any mass we require many volunteers, this will mean recruiting and maintaining our body of volunteers not just for Sunday masses, but weekday mass as well. I also remind you that the Scottish Government have set a limit of 50 on the number allowed to attend mass at present. With all this in mind we hope to make provision for weekday mass as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

## **Anniversaries & Recent Deaths**

Please pray for the Recently Deceased: Frances Cassidy

And for the Anniversary of: Tommy Law

**Sunday Reflection:** God is always teaching His people, we hear in today's First Reading.

And what does He want us to know? That He has care for all of us, that though He is a God of justice, even those who defy and disbelieve Him may hope for His mercy if they turn to Him in repentance.

This divine teaching continues in the three parables that Jesus tells in the Gospel today. Each describes the emergence of the kingdom of God from the seeds sown by His works and preaching. The kingdom's growth is hidden—like the working of yeast in bread; it's improbable, unexpected—as in the way the tall mustard tree grows from the smallest of seeds.

Again this week's readings sound a note of questioning: Why does God permit the evil to grow alongside the good? Why does He permit some to reject the Word of His kingdom?

Because, as we sing in today's Psalm, God is slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He is just, Jesus assures us—evildoers and those who cause others to sin will be thrown into the fiery furnace at the end of the age. But by His patience, God is teaching us—that above all He desires repentance, and the gathering of all nations to worship Him and to glorify His name.

Even though we don't know how to pray as we ought, the Spirit will intercede for us, Paul promises in today's Epistle. But first we must turn and call upon Him, we must commit ourselves to letting the good seed of His Word bear fruit in our lives.

So we should not be deceived or lose heart when we see weeds among the wheat, truth and holiness mixed with error, injustice and sin.

For now, He makes His sun rise on the good and the bad (see [Matthew 5:45](#)). But the harvest draws near. Let's work that we might be numbered among the righteous children—who will shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father.

**St James Apostle** This James is the brother of John the Evangelist. The two were called by Jesus as they worked with their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had already called another pair of brothers from a similar occupation: Peter and Andrew. "He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him" (Mark 1:19-20). James was one of the favored three who had the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration, the raising to life of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in Gethsemani.

Two incidents in the Gospels describe the temperament of this man and his brother. Saint Matthew tells that their mother came—Mark says it was the brothers themselves—to ask that they have the seats of honor in the kingdom. "Jesus said in reply, 'You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' They said to him, 'We can'" (Matthew 20:22). Jesus then told them they would indeed drink the cup and share his baptism of pain and death, but that sitting at his right hand or left was not his to give—it "is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father" (Matthew 20:23b). It remained to be seen how long it would take to realize the implications of their confident "We can!" The other disciples became indignant at the ambition of James and John. Then Jesus taught them all the lesson of humble service: The purpose of authority is to serve. They are not to impose their will on others, or lord it over them. This is the position of Jesus himself. He was the servant of all; the service imposed on him was the supreme sacrifice of his own life.

On another occasion, James and John gave evidence that the nickname Jesus gave them—"sons of thunder"—was an apt one. The Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to hated Jerusalem. "When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?' Jesus turned and rebuked them..." (Luke 9:54-55).

James was apparently the first of the apostles to be martyred. "About that time King Herod laid hands upon some members of the church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also" (Acts 12:1-3a).

This James, sometimes called James the Greater, is not to be confused with James the Lesser or with the author of the *Letter of James* and the leader of the Jerusalem community.

**St Mary Magdalene:** Except for the mother of Jesus, few women are more honored in the Bible than Mary Magdalene. Yet she could well be the patron of the slandered, since there has been a persistent legend in the Church that she is the unnamed sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50.

Most Scripture scholars today point out that there is no scriptural basis for confusing the two women. Mary Magdalene, that is, "of Magdala," was the one from whom Christ cast out "seven demons" (Luke 8:2)—an indication at the worst, of extreme demonic possession or possibly, severe illness. Writing in the *New Catholic Commentary*, Father Wilfrid J. Harrington, O.P., says that "seven demons" "does not mean that Mary had lived an immoral life—a conclusion reached only by means of a mistaken identification with the anonymous woman of Luke 7:36." In the *Jerome Biblical Commentary*, Father Edward Mally, SJ, agrees that she "is not...the same as the sinner of Luke 7:37, despite the later Western romantic tradition about her."

Mary Magdalene was one of the many "who were assisting them [Jesus and the Twelve] out of their means." She was one of those who stood by the cross of Jesus with his mother. And, of all the "official" witnesses who might have been chosen for the first awareness of the Resurrection, she was the one to whom that privilege was given. She is known as the "Apostle to the Apostles."

## 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.

**Excerpt of Homily of Pope Francis on anniversary to Island of Lampedusa:** *Our efforts to seek the face of God are born of the desire for an encounter with the Lord, a personal encounter, an encounter with his immense love, with his saving power. The twelve apostles described in today's Gospel (cf. Mt 10:1-7) received the grace to encounter him physically in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. Jesus – as we heard – called each of them by name. He looked them in the eye, and they in turn gazed at his face, listened to his voice and beheld his miracles. The personal encounter with the Lord, a time of grace and salvation, entails a mission: "As you go", Jesus tells them, proclaim the good news: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand'" (v. 7). Encounter and mission must not be separated. This kind of personal encounter with Jesus Christ is possible also for us, who are the disciples of the third millennium. In our effort to seek the Lord's face, we can recognize him in the face of the poor, the sick, the abandoned, and the foreigners whom God places on our way. This encounter becomes also for us a time of grace and salvation, and summons us to the same mission entrusted to the Apostles.*



*Today marks the seventh year, the seventh anniversary of my visit to Lampedusa. In the light of God's word, I would like to repeat what I said to those taking part in the meeting "Free from Fear" in February last year: "The encounter with the other is also an encounter with Christ. He himself told us this. He is the one knocking on our door, hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned; he is the one seeking an encounter with us, asking our help, asking to come ashore. And lest we have any doubt, he tells us categorically: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me'" (Mt 25:40). "Whatever you did..." for better or for worse! This admonition is all the more timely today. We ought to use it as a basic starting point for our daily examination of conscience. Here I think of Libya, detention camps, the abuses and violence to which migrants are subjected; I think of journeys of hope, rescue operations, and cases of rejection. "Whatever you did... you did to me."*

In keeping with the current government advice and wishing to protect our brothers and sisters we wish to remind you of the current guidelines:

- Wear a **face covering** in the Church.
- Observe **social distancing**.
- **Sanitise your hands** at sanitizing units in Church
- **Enter and exit the Church using the door you have been given** on the telephone when booking for Mass.

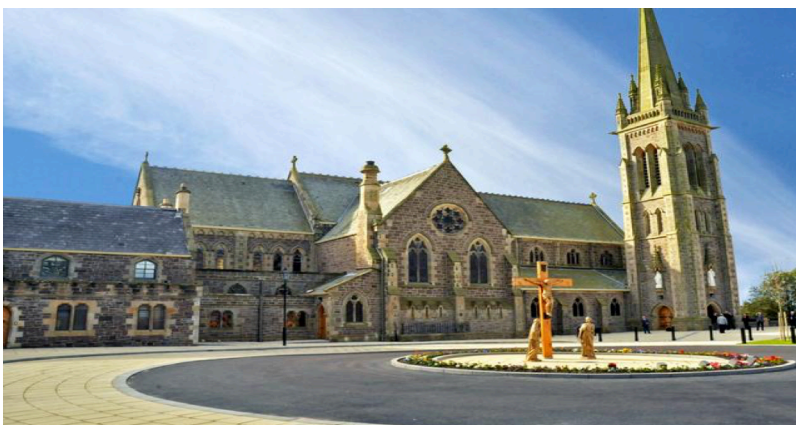
*Please be assured we have done everything we can to create a safe environment for you, when you arrive a pass-keeper will meet you and guide you to a your seat and will be on hand to look after you during your visit. These guidelines have been set by the Scottish Government and are for your wellbeing as well as that of your brothers and sisters in the parish.*

**St Mary's Lanark Public Mass will resume with Vigil on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10 30 am. NB only 50 attendees, (this will be reviewed by the Scottish Government at the end of this month.)**

**An excerpt from Bishop Toal's Pastoral Letter on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

'Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I join with your Parish Priests in welcoming you back to the public celebration of Holy Mass this weekend. While offering warm greetings to those present at Mass, I extend my prayers and good wishes to those not able to come, particularly those still shielding and those anxious about sharing enclosed spaces with others. Our prayers at Mass today are for all members of our parish communities, especially the most vulnerable. Our dear ones and fellow parishioners who have passed away over the last four months are very much in our prayers also, and we ask the Lord's consolation for all who grieve their loss. Many people therefore to hold in our prayer and commend to God's mercy and protection.'

*\* For a full copy of this Pastoral letter from Bishop Toal please see our 'Updates and News' section on the website.*



**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.

**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.or.uk](mailto:stmarylanark@rcdom.or.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)