



# St Mary's, Lanark

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Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A

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

#### **Feast Days:**

Today, is 'World Communications Day',

Next Sunday, is the Solemnity of Pentecost

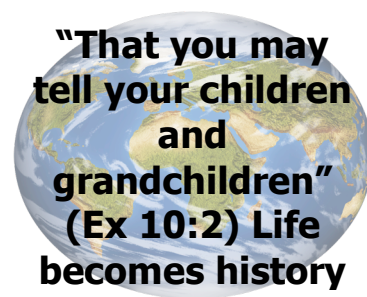
Monday - The Venerable Bede,

Tuesday - St Philip Neri,

Wednesday - St Augustine of Canterbury

Friday - St Pope Paul VI

Please find a copy of 'A Message From His Holiness Pope Francis For The 54<sup>th</sup> World Communications Day' on the website or Facebook Page, details of which are at the bottom of this Bulletin.



*St Philip Neri was a sign of contradiction, combining popularity with piety against the background of a corrupt Rome and a disinterested clergy: the whole post-Renaissance malaise.*

*At an early age, Philip abandoned the chance to become a businessman, moved to Rome from Florence, and devoted his life and individuality to God. After three years of philosophy and theology studies, he gave up any thought of ordination. The next 13 years were spent in a vocation unusual at the time—that of a layperson actively engaged in prayer and the apostolate.*

*As the Council of Trent (1545-63) was reforming the Church on a doctrinal level, Philip's appealing personality was winning him friends from all levels of society, from beggars to cardinals. He rapidly gathered around himself a group of laypersons won over by his audacious spirituality. Initially, they met as an informal prayer and discussion group, and also served poor people in Rome.*

*At the urging of his confessor, Philip was ordained a priest and soon became an outstanding confessor himself, gifted with the knack of piercing the pretenses and illusions of others, though always in a charitable manner and often with a joke. He arranged talks, discussions, and prayers for his penitents in a room above the church. He sometimes led "excursions" to other churches, often with music and a picnic on the way.*

*Some of Philip's followers became priests and lived together in community. This was the beginning of the Oratory, the religious institute he founded. A feature of their life was a daily afternoon service of four informal talks, with vernacular hymns and prayers. Giovanni Palestrina was one of Philip's followers, and composed music for the services. The Oratory was finally approved after suffering through a period of accusations of being an assembly of heretics, where laypersons preached and sang vernacular hymns!*

*Philip's advice was sought by many of the prominent figures of his day. He is one of the influential figures of the Counter-Reformation, mainly for converting to personal holiness many of the influential people within the Church itself. His characteristic virtues were humility and cheerfulness. After spending a day hearing confessions and receiving visitors, Philip Neri suffered a hemorrhage and died on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1595. He was beatified in 1615 and canonized in 1622.*

#### **Anniversaries & Recent Deaths**

We pray for those who have died recently; Barry McDermott, May Welsh, Betty Heron, James Hoey; and for the Months Mind/Anniversaries of Helen McSloy, Josephine Mooney, May Quinn, Maria Sheridan, Kathleen Donnelly, Bobby Elder, James Brennan Jnr., Dr Gerry Murphy, Alex McLean, Jessie McKeown and Mary Dowds.

***Novena of the Holy Spirit is the first Novena prayer of the Church prayed by Mary and the Apostles from the Ascension to Pentecost:***

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

***Fr Doyle's Homily for Sunday:*** We sometimes say to people "You haven't got a prayer." by which we mean t there is no chance of getting what you want.

Apparently, I owe my sister money for books she bought for me and now she is looking for settlement in full! A vain hope, I'm afraid - she hasn't got prayer! I'll pay her eventually, of course! However, it won't be the answer to prayer, but based sound financial principals: i.e. the appearance of bailiffs at the door!

You haven't got a prayer, certainly doesn't reflect the spirit of the reading today; where the importance of prayer forms the essence of their message. These days between the Ascension and Pentecost are days dedicated principally and exclusively to prayers. In a sense this is the church's first retreat, the original nine days of novena prayers.

The disciples remain excluded from the world in the upper room. In accordance with the instructions of Christ they are to remain in prayer; praying for, and awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And at the heart of the Apostles and life of the early Church is Mary, the Mother of God praying with and for the disciples at the very beginning of the Church.

A reminder to us that Mary, the Mother of the Church remains always at the very heart and centre of the church's life: praying for us, teaching us her children how to pray. And that is why Mary is always the first we turn to in our need, for she as our greatest intercessor with Christ and our best advocate with God.

When Pope Benedict spoke about Mary in the Easter season this is what he said about her: "Mary teaches us the necessity of prayer, and shows us that it is only through a constant, intimate loving bond with her son that we can fulfill our Christian vocation."

Prayer is everything, if we want to get close to God and fulfill our Christian vocation we need to pray. Pray not for things: but for God himself. The most important prayer we make is praying for God himself; that God may dwell in my heart and soul and be part of my life.

And it's important to recognize that the disciples prayed and waited for God, the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They weren't praying for things but for the gift of God himself.

In the beautiful words of the Gospel we hear Jesus at prayer, and he prays for us.

I pray for them;  
I am not praying for the world  
but for those you have given me,  
because they belong to you.

For us prayer should be a part of daily life. We should of course always pray with Our Lady. Our first duty and obligation in life is love God and we do that through charity and prayer. We can pray anywhere and everywhere, at all times and any time. But, as Catholics the most important place of prayer is before Christ, in the Blessed Sacrament. And, of course, in these days we feel keenly the pain that our Churches are closed to us because of the pandemic.

Yet, we ardently desire to be once again in the healing, consoling presence of Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. As we await the coming of the Holy Spirit, let us ask the Holy Spirit to renew in each of us a deep longing for Christ in the Eucharist, for the Spirit teaches us to pray and understand, to hunger and thirst for Christ.

**Invitation to an  
Interfaith Time for  
Prayer Sunday 24 May  
at 5pm - Praying  
Together on Eid:**

Last week we were able to respond to Pope Francis' call to pray for humanity in a short time of prayer with our Muslim friends on Zoom. People joined us from all over and were appreciative of this opportunity. This weekend the Muslim community celebrates Eid, which will be difficult for them because of lockdown and self-isolation. It is usually at time of family and community celebrations.

To show our support and friendship there will be another opportunity for prayer. It will only last about 10-15 mins. and will take place at **5.00 pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May via Zoom**. Bishop Brian McGee will be representing the Catholic Church.

**Thy Kingdom Come 21st - 31st May 2020**

The Church Leaders' Forum of Scotland has invited all Churches in Scotland to participate in the annual prayer initiative "Thy Kingdom Come", a global prayer movement that calls on Christians of all denominations to join together in prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. This initiative has been endorsed by His Holiness Pope Francis and will run from *21 to 31 May 2020*. Details are available at the website below:

1. <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/prayers/thy-kingdom-come>

2. International Information is available at:  
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global>

3. Many of us continue to participate in Pope Francis' Call to pray the ***Holy Rosary daily in response to COVID-19***. The letter and prayers are available at:

Vatican News [vaticannews.va](http://vaticannews.va) provides the full text of Pope Francis' Letter on the Month of May, addressed to all the faithful throughout the world. Read and download/print at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>



**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)

*The recent announcements from the Scottish Government regarding Covid-19 are suggesting positive steps to gradually ending lockdown, we will keep you up to date with any changes within our Parish on our Facebook page and website. We pray that we will soon be able to worship together again, stay safe and God Bless.*