



St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle

Sunday the 28th June 2020 – Solemnity of St Peter & Paul

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 only, beginning this Sunday the 28th June 2020.

(Please note St Mary's Church will not be open before the above date. Please also be aware that we are uncertain of how many people will come to the Church for private prayer and can only open for a short time due to the strict health and safety measures in place, as well as the limited capacity due to social distancing. Therefore you may have to wait to enter the Church. For more details please see the box below.)

Feast Days:

Tues – First Martyrs of Rome

Fri – St Thomas Apostle



Reopen the Churches:

We are so looking forward to welcoming you back to the Church for private prayer.

We are asking you to prepare yourselves for this spiritually, of course, but in these new circumstances, physically too by wearing a **face covering** in the Church.

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 sanitize 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 on Sundays and Wednesday from 10 am to 12 Noon.

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

We pray for the Anniversaries of: Laura & Michael Treanor, Jim Brannan and Helen Callahan.

Excerpt from the HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI, Feast of Peter & Paul 29 June 2012:

"...Chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel, dedicated to the life of the ecclesial community, we find another saying of Jesus addressed to the disciples: "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt 18:18). Saint John, in his account of the appearance of the risen Christ in the midst of the Apostles on Easter evening, recounts these words of the Lord: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven: if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:22-23). In the light of these parallels, it appears clearly that the authority of loosing and binding consists in the power to remit sins. And this grace, which defuses the powers of chaos and evil, is at the heart of the Church's mystery and ministry. The Church is not a community of the perfect, but a community of sinners, obliged to recognize their need for God's love, their need to be purified through the Cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus' sayings concerning the authority of Peter and the Apostles make it clear that God's power is love, the love that shines forth from Calvary. Hence we can also understand why, in the Gospel account, Peter's confession of faith is immediately followed by the first prediction of the Passion: through his death, Jesus conquered the powers of the underworld, with his blood he poured out over the world an immense flood of mercy, which cleanses the whole of humanity in its healing waters.

Dear brothers and sisters, as I mentioned at the beginning, the iconographic tradition represents Saint Paul with a sword, and we know that this was the instrument with which he was killed. Yet as we read the writings of the Apostle of the Gentiles, we discover that the image of the sword refers to his entire mission of evangelization. For example, when he felt death approaching, he wrote to Timothy: "I have fought the good fight" (2 Tim 4:7). This was certainly not the battle of a military commander but that of a herald of the Word of God, faithful to Christ and to his Church, to which he gave himself completely. And that is why the Lord gave him the crown of glory and placed him, together with Peter, as a pillar in the spiritual edifice of the Church..."

Sts. Peter & Paul: On June 29 the Church celebrates the feast day of Sts. Peter & Paul. (This year celebrated on the nearest Sunday the 28th of June) As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.

Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church.

Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion.

Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith.

St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world.

Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said of Sts. Peter and Paul: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

First Martyrs of the Church of Rome

There were Christians in Rome within a dozen or so years after the death of Jesus, though they were not the converts of the "Apostle of the Gentiles" (Romans 15:20). Paul had not yet visited them at the time he wrote his great letter in 57-58 A.D.

There was a large Jewish population in Rome. Probably as a result of controversy between Jews and Jewish Christians, the Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in 49-50 A.D. Suetonius the historian says that the expulsion was due to disturbances in the city "caused by the certain Chrestus" [Christ]. Perhaps many came back after Claudius' death in 54 A.D. Paul's letter was addressed to a Church with members from Jewish and Gentile backgrounds.

In July of 64 A.D., more than half of Rome was destroyed by fire. Rumor blamed the tragedy on Nero, who wanted to enlarge his palace. He shifted the blame by accusing the Christians. According to the historian Tacitus, many Christians were put to death because of their "hatred of the human race." Peter and Paul were probably among the victims. Threatened by an army revolt and condemned to death by the senate, Nero committed suicide in 68 A.D. at the age of 31.



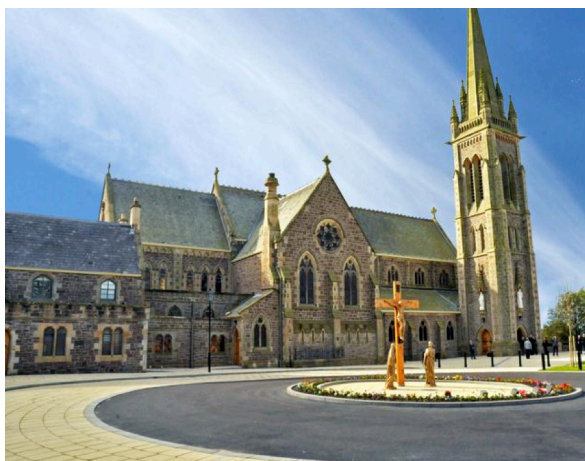
Helping the Holy Father to help our brothers and sister in need: Today it is customary for the Church to take up the collection for Peter's Pence, the collection which funds the charitable

activities of the Church around the world, to provide the Holy Father with the financial means to respond to those who are suffering as a result of war, oppression, natural disaster, and disease.

Pope Francis calls each of us to witness to charity and to show God's mercy to one another. He encourages us to **"open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognise that we are compelled to heed their cry for help!"** (Misericordiae Vultus (no. 15)). The Peter's Pence Collection unites us in solidarity to the Holy See and its works of charity to those in need. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters.

The Peter's Pence Collection has raised nearly £160 million to support our suffering brothers and sisters around the globe. Last year, the Peter's Pence Collection in Motherwell Diocese raised £37,370, an excellent testimony to the charity of people in the diocese. Thank you for standing in solidarity with the Holy See through your generosity. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in faith who are facing adversity.

As we have not as yet been able to return to the practice of public Mass in the diocese, there will be an opportunity for parishioners to make an online contribution via the donation facility on the front page of the diocesan website – www.rcdom.org.uk. On clicking this button, the donor is taken to a donations page which has four specific charities, one of which is for Peter's Pence, and also offers the opportunity to make one-off or recurring donations, which can be gift-aided, to any of the parishes in the diocese also.



Volunteers

As we prepare to open the church safely we urgently need volunteers to clean the church and to act as pass keepers. In order to protect the volunteers themselves the following advice must be followed:

- volunteers should not be under 18 years old (*NB the guidelines excluding volunteers older than 70 years old has been reevaluated and removed*)
- they should have no underlying health problems that makes them vulnerable to the Covid19 virus.

Volunteers will be trained and given gloves, aprons and facemasks.

If you can volunteer please do so: contact Fr. Doyle or the parish team at St Mary's
01555 662234/
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
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