



St Mary's, Lanark

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Tel. 01555 662234

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle

Sunday the 5th July 2020 – Fourteenth Sunday of Year A

Feast Days:

Monday - St Maria Goretti

Thursday - Our Lady of Aberdeen

Saturday - St Benedict Abbott Patron of Europe

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***

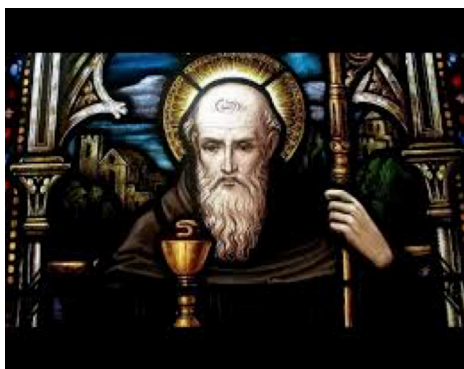
If attending for private prayer please:

- 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 last Sunday. 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 on Sunday and Wednesday from 10 am to 12 Noon.



St. Benedict of Nursia, founder of the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino and known as the father of Western monasticism; the monastic rule of life that St Benedict established became the norm for monastic living throughout Europe. In 1964, in view of the work of monks following the Benedictine Rule in the evangelization and civilization of so many European countries in the Middle Ages, Pope Paul VI proclaimed him the patron saint of all Europe. The bishop of Aberdeen was the Abbott Scotland's only remaining Benedictine monastery before being consecrated a bishop.

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

Please pray for the recently deceased: Dina Connetta

And for the anniversaries of: Anne Lindsey, Sean Flafferty, Eddie Welsh, Karen & John Lynas

Sunday Reflection:

Jesus is portrayed in today's Gospel as a new and greater Moses.

Moses, the meekest man on earth, was God's friend. Only he knew God "face to face." And Moses gave Israel the yoke of the Law, through which God first revealed Himself and how we are to live. Jesus too is meek and humble. But He is more than God's friend. He is the Son who alone knows the Father. He is more also than a law-giver, presenting Himself today as the yoke of a new Law, and as the revealed Wisdom of God.

As Wisdom, Jesus was present before creation as the firstborn of God, the Father and Lord of heaven and earth. And He gives knowledge of the holy things of the kingdom of God.

In the gracious will of the Father, Jesus reveals these things only to the "childlike"—those who humble themselves before Him as little children. These alone can recognize and receive Jesus as the just savior and meek king promised to daughter Zion, Israel, in today's First Reading.

We too are called to childlike faith in the Father's goodness, as sons and daughters of the new kingdom, the Church.

We are to live by the Spirit we received in Baptism putting to death our old ways of thinking and acting, as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle. Our "yoke" is to be His new law of love, by which we enter into the "rest" of His kingdom.

As we sing in today's Psalm, we joyously await the day when we will praise His name forever in the kingdom that lasts for all ages. This is the sabbath rest promised by Jesus—first anticipated by Moses, but which still awaits the people of God .

Saint Maria Goretti: One of the largest crowds ever assembled for a canonization—250,000—symbolized the reaction of millions touched by the simple story of Maria Goretti. She was the daughter of a poor Italian tenant farmer, had no chance to go to school, never learned to read or write. When Maria made her First Communion not long before her death at age 12, she was one of the larger and somewhat backward members of the class.

On a hot afternoon in July, Maria was sitting at the top of the stairs of her house, mending a shirt. She was not quite 12 years old, but physically mature. A cart stopped outside, and a neighbor, 18-year-old Alessandro, ran up the stairs. He seized her and pulled her into a bedroom. She struggled and tried to call for help. "No, God does not wish it," she cried out. "It is a sin. You would go to hell for it." Alessandro began striking at her blindly with a long dagger.

Maria was taken to a hospital. Her last hours were marked by the usual simple compassion of the good—concern about where her mother would sleep, forgiveness of her murderer (she had been in fear of him, but did not say anything lest she cause trouble to his family), and her devout welcoming of Viaticum, her last Holy Communion. She died about 24 hours after the attack.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison. For a long time he was unrepentant and surly. One night he had a dream or vision of Maria gathering flowers and offering them to him. His life changed. When he was released after 27 years, his first act was to beg the forgiveness of Maria's mother.

Devotion to the young martyr grew, miracles were worked, and in less than half a century she was canonized. At her beatification in 1947, her 82-year-old mother, two sisters, and her brother appeared with Pope Pius XII on the balcony of St. Peter's. Three years later, at Maria's canonization, a 66-year-old Alessandro Serenelli knelt among the quarter-million people and cried tears of joy.

Our Lady of Aberdeen: Commemorates a famous and venerable statue of the Mother of God sacred to Scotland. The statue was made from oak in Aberdeen sometime in the early 1500s, and was placed in St Machar's Cathedral in Aberdeen, where it was known as Our Lady of Pity. During the Reformation it was removed to safeguard it from desecration and destruction. It has a colourful history of near misses and rescue its survival is an important link to the strong Catholic faith before the Reformation. The statue still reigns today in a church in central Brussels, where it is known as *Notre Dame du Bon Succes*.

There are countless thousands of statues dedicated to Our Lady, but few with such humanity and charm as Our Lady of Aberdeen.

Mary is holding the baby Jesus up on her right arm, with her elbow slightly bent to provide support for him. In her right hand she carries a sceptre, a symbol of royalty, and a bunch of grapes, a symbol of the future and the enduring covenant in the communion of the blood and wine. Her left hand is holding on to Jesus' right foot, with true maternal care for the safety of her baby. Just as any baby, feeling a little insecure up his mother's arm, Jesus is shown to have his left hand firmly gripping on to his mother's gown, while she has her head turned slightly towards him, keeping an eye on her precious child. Altogether it is a wonderful image of the intimate tenderness, love and care, trust and compassion between a mother and her baby. Jesus has a closed crown on his head, indicating that there is no higher authority, while Mary has an open crown. So we have the imposing authority and power of the crowns, the sceptre and the message of the grape and salvation, with the touching human tableau of a mother and her son, caring and trusting each other.

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 St Mary’s Church, with drastically reduced places 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 is 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.

**Pope Francis Prayer for Our Lady's
protection during the Pandemic**

**O Mary, you shine continuously on our
journey as a sign
of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the
Sick.
At the foot of the Cross you participated in
Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.
You, Salvation of the Roman People, know
what we need.
We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this
moment of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:
He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the
Resurrection.
Amen.
We seek refuge under your protection, O
Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to
the test
– and deliver us from every danger, O
glorious and blessed Virgin.**



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

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.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