



St Mary's, Lanark

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Sunday 7th June – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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

Feast Days:

Tuesday - St Columba

Thursday – St Barnabas

Friday – St Anthony of Padua

Anniversaries & Recent Deaths

We pray for those who have died recently; Alisdair McDonald and the Anniversary/Months Mind of; John Doolan

St Columba (Irish: *Colm Cille*, 'church dove'; Scots: *Columbkille*;^[3] 7 December 521 – 9 June 597) was an Irish abbot and missionary evangelist credited with spreading Christianity in what is today Scotland at the start of the Hiberno-Scottish mission. He founded the important abbey on Iona, which became a dominant religious and political institution in the region for centuries. He is the patron saint of Derry. He was highly regarded by both the Gaels of Dál Riata and the Picts, and is remembered today as a Catholic saint and one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland. In Ireland, he is commonly known as Colmcille.

Columba studied under some of Ireland's most prominent church figures and founded several monasteries in the country. Around 563 he and his twelve companions crossed to Dunaverty near Southend, Argyll, in Kintyre before settling in Iona in Scotland, then part of the Ulster kingdom of Dál Riata, where they founded a new abbey as a base for spreading Celtic Christianity among the northern Pictish kingdoms who were pagan. He remained active in Irish politics, though he spent most of the remainder of his life in Scotland. Three surviving early medieval Latin hymns may be attributed to him.

Prayer to the Trinity:

The Father is my hope.

The Son is my refuge.

The Holy Spirit is my protector.

*Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, now and
for ever.*

*Let us praise the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;
let us bless and exult God above all for ever!*

*Almighty and everlasting God, to whom we owe the
grace of professing the true faith,
grant that while acknowledging the glory of the eternal
Trinity and adoring its unity,*

*we may through your majestic power be confirmed in
this faith and defended against all adversities;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and
ever.*

Amen.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

*O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you and will a lively sorrow for my
sins.*

*I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to
your will.*

*Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you.
Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my
afflictions;
give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessings on all that I do, and the grace of a holy
death.*

*Within your heart I place my every care.
In every need let me come to you with humble trust
saying, Heart of Jesus, help me.*

Amen.

Fr Doyle's Homily:

I watched with great enthusiasm the take off from Cape Canaveral of Elon Musk's first commercial flight into space. He hopes that this will be the first steps on the way to Mars. Watching it I was reminded of my trip to Minsk, seeing the great Soviet monument to the Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

At the height of the Cold War Gagarin flew the first manned flight into space. He was the first human being to leave the earth's atmosphere. It was one of the most stupendous achievements in human history, and a tremendous shock to American self-esteem, because in the space race...the Russians got there first.

It was a huge publicity coupe and the Soviet Union did everything to cash in it! Gagarin was proclaimed a hero of the Soviet people and shown off everywhere, he became a potent tool of communist propaganda. He was even used to discredit faith in God. It was claimed by the atheistic authorities that while in space Gagarin had said "I don't see any God up here. Where is he?"

But Gagarin never said these words. A baptized Christian in the Russian Orthodox Church, when Gagarin looked up at the cosmos he saw not the vast emptiness of space devoid of God, but a wonderful testimony to the work of the Creator. For in the eloquent beauty of the universe: he saw the hand of the Creator.

The search for God lies at the very heart of human existence, as we try to find meaning to our own lives. But in our search for God, God does not play hard to get.

For he places in all of our hearts a deep desire for him. St Augustine summed this up in his famous phrase "Our hearts are restless Lord until they rest in you."

But many things distract us from our search for God; the struggles of our daily life, the noise and distraction of modern existence, skepticism, pride. And our selfishness and sin, which make us, hide from God.

But God is searching for us too. He initiates the dialogue!

So when we look for God he is there to be found: Seek him and you will find, knock and the door is already ajar.

The Trinity is the opening of that door to the mystery of God, himself.

For the Trinity tells us that God is love. Love by nature and action. Listen to the scripture reading today and the God they proclaim to us. The Gospel tells us:

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON FOR US
GOD SENT HIS SON INTO THE WORLD NOT TO CONDEMN THE WORLD
BUT THAT THROUGH HIM THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED

Moses in the first reading professes Israel's faith "The Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.

The God we know is in his very being love and self giving. And we are called to be like him...because we are made in his image and likeness. And the God we know is:

Our loving Father. who created us.
His beloved Son our brother who redeemed us.
Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and makes all things new.

The challenge in the world today, where so many deny God's existence is letting him be known by the way we live our own lives: by the strength of our faith, our willingness to forgive, the generosity of our mercy, the depth of our compassion and our infinite capacity to love.

In these things, we allow God to be known in our world today. For they are the Divine Light of the Trinity shining through us upon the world!

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland In Response to The

Reopening of Churches: The Bishops conference of Scotland has finalised its proposed infection control standards, which will govern the reopening of parishes, and confirmed that they have sent their guidelines to the Scottish Government.

Commenting on the progress being made towards parish reopening, the President of the Bishops' Conference, Bishop Hugh Gilbert, said;

"A great deal of work has been done to provide guidance and support to clergy as they prepare for the phased reopening of our parishes. The guidelines have been prepared to reflect advice given in the Scottish Government's Route Map on the gradual removal of restrictions. The Bishops' Conference continue to engage with the Scottish Government and have today (Wednesday 3 June) sent a copy of the guidance document to them."

Bishop Gilbert added;

"We would hope to be able to issue our infection control and liturgical guidelines within the coming week. They will highlight the fact that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains dispensed until further notice and everyone is asked to consider carefully whether or not they should return in the early phases. We are mindful of our duty of care to elderly clergy and lay people, which together with social distancing reductions in capacity will mean that the availability of Mass may reduce in some areas."

Bishop Gilbert concluded:

"We are asked, in the words of Pope Francis to show "wisdom, foresight, and common commitment, so that all the efforts and sacrifices made so far will not be in vain". In the hope that this pandemic will "stimulate our creativity, our ingenuity, and our ability to respond", in a way that helps us "on the path of praise of the Lord and service to our brothers and sisters"."

**** Please see the 'Updates and News' section of the Parish website for a link to documents on the most up to date information from the Bishops Conference of Scotland in response to the reopening of Churches.***

Pope Francis reflection on the readings for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity:

The Bible readings for this Sunday, feast of the Most Holy Trinity, helps us to enter into the identity of God. The second reading presents the departing words that Saint Paul bids to the community of Corinth: "the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you" (2 Cor 13:13). This — as we say — "blessing" of the Apostle is the fruit of his personal experience with God's love, that love which the Risen Christ revealed to him, which transformed his life and "impelled" him to take the Gospel to the peoples. Beginning from his experience of grace, Paul could exhort Christians with these words: "... rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another" (v. 11). The Christian community, even with all its human limitations, can become a reflection of the communion of the Trinity, of its kindness, of its beauty. But this — just as Paul himself testifies — necessarily passes through the experience of God's mercy, of his forgiveness.

Please see the 'Updates and News' Section of the website for the full version of 'Pope Francis reflection of the readings for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity' from 2017.



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

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.