



# St Mary's, Lanark

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Parish Priest – Fr. Thomas W. Doyle



***Sunday the 20th of September 2020 – Twenty Fifth Sunday of Year A***

## **Feast Days:**

*Monday – St Matthew*

*Wednesday – St Pius of  
Peitrelcina, Sts Cosmos &  
Damien*



## **Mass Times**

**Saturday Evening Vigil Mass : 5.00pm**

**Sunday Morning Mass : 10.30am**

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday Weekday Mass: 9.30am**

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

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

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

**Fridays: 9am -12pm**

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

- There is no need to book for weekday mass, however we will require contact details on arrival and still require to maintain the current guidelines. We are still under the Government's protocol of only 50 Parishioners at each Mass.

- Morning prayer sessions have been suspended with the resumption of 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.***

## **PLEASE SUPPORT ST MARY'S CHURCH 300 CLUB**

- £100 weekly prize to be won
- Over 18's only
- £1 per week

Numbers available, please contact St Mary's Church Office on 01555 664432 for more details or to join.

Money raised from the 300 Club helps to pay for the annual Church insurance.'

## **Anniversaries & Recent Deaths**

Please pray for the Recently Deceased: Martin Comford & Brian Wilson

And for the Anniversaries of: Margaret Dempsey, James Somerville, Hugh Kennedy Snr, Fr James Boyle S.J., Frank Devitt, James McEwan & Dan O' Donnell Snr

**Sunday Reflection** -The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (see Isaiah 5:7; 27:2–5). Israel failed to yield good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (see Psalms 80:9–20). But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (see Amos 9:15; Hosea 14:5–10).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (see Ephesians 2:11–13). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (see Luke 15:29–30)? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin.

But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

**Important Excerpt from Cardinal Sarah's (Prefect for Divine Liturgy, Vatican) Letter 'Let us return to the Eucharist with joy'** As soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as “the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10).

*Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord's altar as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness. As soon as is possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love, and hope...*

*As much as the means of communication perform a valued service to the sick and those who are unable to go to church, and have performed a great service in the broadcast of Holy Mass at a time when there was no possibility of community celebrations, no broadcast to personal participation or can replace it. On the contrary, these broadcasts alone risk distancing us from a personal and intimate encounter with the incarnate God who gave himself to us not in a virtual way, but really, saying: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him” (Jn 6:56). This physical contact with the Lord is vital, indispensable, irreplaceable. Once the concrete measures that can be taken to reduce the spread of the virus to a minimum have been identified and adopted, it is necessary that all resume their place in the assembly of brothers and sisters, rediscover the irreplaceable preciousness and beauty of the celebration of the liturgy, and invite and encourage again those brothers and sisters who have been discouraged, frightened, absent or uninvolved for too long.*

***St Pius of Pietrelcina*** In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul's pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter's Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity. "This is the most concrete synthesis of Padre Pio's teaching," said the pope. He also stressed Padre Pio's witness to the power of suffering. If accepted with love, the Holy Father stressed, such suffering can lead to "a privileged path of sanctity."

Many people have turned to the Italian Capuchin Franciscan to intercede with God on their behalf; among them was the future Pope John Paul II. In 1962, when he was still an archbishop in Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked him to pray for a Polish woman with throat cancer. Within two weeks, she had been cured of her life-threatening disease.

Born Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. Twice his father worked in Jamaica, New York, to provide the family income.

At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these decisions, which were soon reversed. However, he wrote no letters after 1924. His only other writing, a pamphlet on the agony of Jesus, was done before 1924.

Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned.

Padre Pio saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. At his urging, a fine hospital was built on nearby Mount Gargano. The idea arose in 1940; a committee began to collect money. Ground was broken in 1946. Building the hospital was a technical wonder because of the difficulty of getting water there and of hauling up the building supplies. This "House for the Alleviation of Suffering" has 350 beds.

A number of people have reported cures they believe were received through the intercession of Padre Pio. Those who assisted at his Masses came away edified; several curiosity seekers were deeply moved. Like Saint Francis, Padre Pio sometimes had his habit torn or cut by souvenir hunters.

One of Padre Pio's sufferings was that unscrupulous people several times circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999.

***Saint Matthew:*** Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the "tax farmers" got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as "publicans," were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with "sinners" (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and "those known as sinners" came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus' answer was, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners" (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important.



### 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.



In keeping with the current government advice we 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.*

### Clydesdale Food Bank

Any contributions to the food bank can be given to a passkeeper before Mass or handed in to the Church House.

May God Bless you for your generosity & kindness.

**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

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)