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**ST MARY'S LANARK  
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR  
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**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  
**15th August 2021**

**The Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII  
on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted: all they did was to bring it out into the open, to explain its meaning and substance in other terms. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.



Thus St John Damascene, who is the greatest exponent of this tradition, compares the bodily Assumption of the revered Mother of God with her other gifts and privileges: It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and be honoured by every creature as God's Mother and handmaid.

St Germanus of Constantinople considered the preservation from decay of the body of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, and its elevation to heaven as being not only appropriate to her Motherhood but also to the peculiar sanctity of its virgin state: It is written, that you appear in beauty, and your virginal body is altogether holy, altogether chaste, altogether the dwelling-place of God; from which it follows that it is not in its nature to decay into dust, but that it is transformed, being human, into a glorious and incorruptible life, the same body, living and glorious, unharmed, sharing in perfect life.

Another very ancient author asserts: Being the most glorious Mother of Christ our saviour and our God, the giver of life and immortality, she is given life by him and shares bodily incorruptibility for all eternity with him who raised her from the grave and drew her up to him in a way that only he can understand.

All that the holy fathers say refers ultimately to Scripture as a foundation, which gives us the vivid image of the great Mother of God as being closely attached to her divine Son and always sharing his lot. It is important to remember that from the second century onwards the holy fathers have been talking of the Virgin Mary as the new Eve for the new Adam: not equal to him, of course, but closely joined with him in the battle against the enemy, which ended in the triumph over sin and death that had been promised even in Paradise. The glorious resurrection of Christ is essential to this victory and its final prize, but the blessed Virgin's share in that fight must also have ended in the glorification of her body. For as the Apostle says: When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the scripture will be fulfilled that says "Death is swallowed up in victory".

So then, the great Mother of God, so mysteriously united to Jesus Christ from all eternity by the same decree of predestination, immaculately conceived, an intact virgin throughout her divine motherhood, a noble associate of our Redeemer as he defeated sin and its consequences, received, as it were, the final crowning privilege of being preserved from the corruption of the grave and, following her Son in his victory over death, was brought, body and soul, to the highest glory of heaven, to shine as Queen at the right hand of that same Son, the immortal King of Ages.

## St Mary's Primary School

We wish all the Staff and Children well at St Mary's Primary School as they begin this new academic year. We especially offer our prayers and support to Mrs Allen, who has been appointed Acting-Headteacher.

Fr John-Paul will send a letter to all parents encouraging them to return to Mass each Sunday, and we very much look forward to welcoming the children back for School Masses and also to see the children more involved within the parish.

**Just a little reminder: Children in P2-P7 start School at 9am on Monday 16th August  
Children in P1 start school at 9.30am on Monday 16th August**

### St Mary's Annual BBQ

Our Annual BBQ will take place on **Sunday 22nd August at 11am**. We hope you will be able to join us!

This year we will have all the usual entertainment, for both children and adults. For more information please see the poster in the porch.

If you would like to donate any bottles or prizes for the raffle or tombola please bring them along to weekend Mass.

*Most importantly...pray for sunshine...*



### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

As we begin to welcome more people back to Holy Mass, Fr John-Paul will now look at re-establishing Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion within St Mary's. Fr John-Paul will approach some parishioners and ask them to take on this responsibility and they will be commissioned in the next few Weeks. We thank all those who have previously carried out this responsibility so faithfully over the last few years.

### Scotland in Bloom

On Thursday, 12th August, the judges from 'Scotland in Bloom' visited St Mary's grounds and gardens. I am sure everyone will agree how beautiful the church grounds are looking, and we take this opportunity to thank all those who very kindly offer their time and talents each week to keep them looking so good. We are sure to get top marks



### St Mary's Cemetery

A few months ago Fr John-Paul asked for volunteers to help maintain St Mary's Cemetery. We received around 12 volunteers, who have worked so hard every week, in order to cut the grass and keep the place maintained. We thank those who so kindly volunteer in the Cemetery and are dedicated to making it so welcoming and tidy. God bless your efforts!!

## COVID Changes

Below you will find a brief guide in what to expect as the COVID restrictions are now relaxed in our churches. We thank Jim, Kathleen, Shona, Jacqui, Andrew, Rowena and Susan, along with all our volunteers for keeping us safe over the past year, and for giving us the ability to re-open our churches. Without our coordinators and volunteers we would not be in such a good position to allow people back to Mass. From everyone, thank you very much!

Please be advised that you are still required to wear a face covering, sanitise your hands when entering and exiting the church, and your details will still be collected for track and trace purposes.

#### St Mary's

- ◆ Singing is now encouraged
- ◆ The weekly collection box will remain in the porch
- ◆ Communion will return to its proper place (please follow the directions of the volunteers)

#### St Isidore's

- ◆ Singing is encouraged
- ◆ The Offertory Collection is reinstated
- ◆ Holy Communion returns to its proper place
- ◆ Enter and exit through the main door of the church

#### St Mary Magdalene's

- ◆ Singing is encouraged
- ◆ The weekly collection box remains at the back of the church
- ◆ Holy Communion returns to its proper place



# Weekly Parish Schedule

## Sunday 15th August

- 8.30am Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)  
9.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption (St Mary's)  
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption (St Isidore's)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption (St Mary's)

## Monday 16th August

- 9.30am Holy Mass & St Therese Novena - Week 3 (St Mary's)  
5.30pm Rosary for the repose of the soul of Pat McGarrigle (Livestream)

## Tuesday 17th August

- 10.00am Holy Rosary (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St Mary Magdalene's)  
12noon Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Pat McGarrigle (St Mary's)

## Wednesday 18th August

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
10.00am Church Cleaning (St Mary's)  
7.00pm Weekly Rosary Group (Zoom: ID 828 0546 0960 Passcode 638016)

## Thursday 19th August

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
10.30am Holy Mass (St Isidore's)

## Friday 20th August

- 9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

## Saturday 21st August

- 9.10am Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)  
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Sunday 22nd August

- 8.30am Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary Magdalene's)  
9.00am Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary Magdalene's)  
10.30am Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
12noon Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Isidore's)  
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

## Liturgical Calendar

**Tuesday 17th August Our Lady of Knock** - The story of Knock began on the 21st August 1879 when Our Lady, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. This miraculous apparition was witnessed by fifteen people, young and old. Knock is an internationally recognised Marian Shrine and was visited by St John Paul II, as part of his 1979 papal pilgrimage to Ireland. The date of the memorial is within the annual novena conducted at the Shrine.

**Friday 20th August St Bernard of Clairvaux** - Born near Dijon (France) in 1090; died at Clairvaux on this day in 1153. Joined the impoverished, reformed abbey of Citeaux at the age of 21. Soon became the founder and abbot of Clairvaux and pioneered the reform and expansion of the Cistercian Order. A prolific writer on theology and spirituality, an eloquent preacher, and an adviser of popes and kings.

**Saturday 21st August St Pius X** - Born Giuseppe Sarto at Riese (Italy) in 1835; died at Rome on 20 August 1914. Elected pope in 1903, after being bishop of Mantua and patriarch of Venice. In pursuit of his motto, "to renew all things in Christ", he initiated reforms of the liturgy and of canon law and took stern measures against "modernist" trends in theology. His efforts to avert world war were frustrated. Noted for his poverty and for his promotion of liturgical participation, especially of frequent communion, to which he admitted young children.