

St Mary's Lanark

A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell (founded 1859) Charity No - SC011041

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Parish Priest

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Feast of The Presentation of the Lord

2nd February 2025

Purification and Presentation

According to the Church's liturgical calendar, the feast held on February 2nd each year is in honour of the Presentation of the Lord. Some Catholics recall this day as the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary because such was the feast day named until the 1969 changes in the Church's calendar.

In fact, according to Luke's Gospel, the presentation of Jesus and the purification of the Blessed Mother took place in the Temple on the same day, and both are remembered during Mass on February 2nd. Also, in several countries, Candlemas is simultaneously celebrated on this day and involves a candlelight procession that was popularised in the Middle Ages. Until the Second Vatican Council the feasts on February 2nd ended the Christmas season. Today, the season ends in January on the feast of the Baptism of our Lord.



As early as the fourth century Christians commemorated the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, but, at the time, there was no feast name attached. In seventh-century Rome, the Church named the celebration the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother Mary, and it remained that way for nearly 1,300 years. In the reforms after Vatican II, the feast was given a stronger focus on Jesus (by stressing the Presentation of Jesus), but clearly the events of purification and presentation that took place when Jesus was 40 days old (see Lk 2:22-39) are tied together and thus commemorated together.

Under Mosaic law found in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, a Jewish woman who gave birth to a child was considered unclean (see 12:1-8). The mother of a newborn could not routinely go out into public and had to avoid all things sacred, including the Temple. If her child was a male, this exclusion lasted for 40 days. If the child was female, the period lasted 80 days. This was a ceremonial seclusion and not the result of sin or some kind of wrongdoing on the part of the mother.

At the end of the 40 or 80 days the woman presented herself at the Temple to be purified. If the baby was her firstborn male child, the infant was brought along to the Temple to be dedicated to the Lord. The law in Exodus specifies that the first male child belongs to God (see 13:2-16). This law is a tribute to God for His sparing the firstborn Israelite males during the time of the Exodus from Egypt.

The mother's purification ritual obliged her to bring, or purchase at the Temple, a lamb and a turtledove as sacrificial offerings. The lamb was offered in thanksgiving to God for the successful birth of the child; the turtledove was a sin offering. Families that could not afford a lamb could bring two pigeons or two turtledoves. After these animals were sacrificed, the Temple priest prayed over the woman and she could once again resume her normal role or status.

Mary, the ever spotless Mother of God, certainly did not have to comply with this ritual, but did so to honour God and observe all the rules handed down by Moses. She was the holiest of all women, but she still submitted to the humbling requirements of the law. She remained at home for 40 days, denied herself all association with sacred

Weekly Parish Schedule

Daily Mass & Devotions from St Mary's are broadcast on the parish YouTube Channel.

Sunday 2nd February *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for The Presentation of The Lord (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Moring (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for The Presentation of The Lord (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for The Presentation of The Lord (St Mary's)

Monday 3rd February *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 3pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Tuesday 4th February

10.00am Holy Mass (St Catherine's)

11.30am Confessions until 11.55am

11.40am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

12noon Angelus & Holy Mass

Wednesday 5th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

7.00pm [Online Zoom Rosary \(Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256\)](#)

Thursday 6th February

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

7.30pm [The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal \(Clubrooms\)](#)

Friday 7th February

9.00am **First Friday Confessions until 9.25am**

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 8th February *St Mary's Church will open at 8am and close after the 5pm Mass*

9.00am Confessions until 9.25am

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm

4.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary

5.00pm **Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

Sunday 9th February *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am **Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**

12noon **Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)**

5.00pm **Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)**



Liturgical Calendar

Monday 3rd February, St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr - Died in the early fourth century, believed to have been martyred during the persecution of the emperor Licinius. Bishop in Armenia, known as a healer, venerated since the eighth century and specially invoked to intercede for protection against diseases of the throat.

Wednesday 5th February, St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr - Agatha died in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr on this day since the sixth century and included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Noted in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

Thursday 6th February, Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs - They died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Paul Miki was a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution.

Theology on Tap - Our Lady & St John's Blackwood (ML11 9RZ)

The next Theology on Tap will take place in the Parish Hall of **Our Lady & St John's Blackwood on Monday 17th February gathering at 6.30pm with the talk beginning at 7.00pm**. This talk will be given by Professor Dr Valerie Fleming, a globally renowned clinician and researcher, who is also a Dr of Canon Law and judge on the Marriage Tribunal, on the Annulment Process and the work done by the Scottish Marriage Tribunal.

Memorial Plaques

All ordered memorial plaques have now been completed and collected from Paterson's Memorials, Wishaw. They are in the process of being checked for accuracy, and we hope they will be erected on the Memorial Wall at some point over the coming week. The next order will be placed after summer (space permitting).

St Mary's Social Committee Suggestions

The Social Committee are looking for suggestions from parishioners of what fundraising events they would like to see us host. We will consider every suggestion and potentially plan for future dates. We are really keen to attract as many parishioners to events as possible to raise funds for the benefit of all. There is a suggestion box at the back of the church and slips at the side just pop it in the box.

New Readers Required

We have so many dedicated readers in the parish, but as a growing parish we are always looking to encourage others to join the team. If you are someone who used to be a reader at Mass and would like to go back on the rota, or if you have never read at Mass before but would like to, please email Fr John-Paul. NO experience is needed and training will be given.

Deanery Appeal Second Collection

At all Masses on **Sat 15th/Sun 16th February** there will be a second collection after Holy Communion to support the work of the Comboni Missionary Sisters. The Comboni Missionaries are an international Catholic religious and missionary Order founded by Bishop Daniel Comboni in Verona (Italy) in 1867, serving those in poorer and less fortunate parts of the world.

Parish Finance & Fabric Committee

Fr John-Paul would like to thank all those who served on the Parish Finance & Fabric Committee over these last 3 years. As per diocesan policy, membership on this Committee is refreshed every 3 year term. The Finance & Fabric Committee have achieved so much over the past 3 years and we thank them for their work. A new Committee will be formed by Fr John-Paul focusing on Finance & Pastoral Outreach, and will meet in February.

Readers Guidelines

Through the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to his people, and therefore, it is important that His Word is proclaimed in a dignified manner, and that people are ready to listen. Below are a few guidelines in order to allow the readings to penetrate the hearts and minds of those who are listening.

When to move: The Reader should start to move forward when the congregation respond "Amen" to the Opening Prayer. This will give the congregation enough time to be seated and settled for the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word.

Announcing the Readings: We do not need to say "The First Reading" or "The Second Reading" we simply proclaim, "A reading from..." and continue the reading; reading slowly and clearly in order for people to listen to God speak through you.

Responsorial Psalm: Again we do not need to say phrases such as, "The Responsorial Psalm" or "The Response is", simply read the Response at the beginning and look up for the congregation to repeat. At the end of each verse again simply look up to indicate to the congregation to respond.

Gospel Acclamation: The Gospel Acclamation will be sung by the choir/priest or omitted, therefore, after the Psalm or the Second Reading, please return to your place.

If you have any questions please speak to Fr John-Paul



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Maureen Lynch Stewart Drive

Charlie McShane (Carfin); Mary McFarlane (Cleland); Mary Bernadette O’Neil (Holytown); Jeanette Duffy (Shotts); Jean-Claude Adrian;

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Fr Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; John Hughes; Helen Beveridge; Helen McAreavy; Jim & Esther Oliver;

Funeral Arrangements: Maureen Lynch Requiem Mass: Monday 17th February, 9.30am

lux perpetua luceat eis

Alpha Course Setting Dates & Signing-Up

Over the past few weeks Alpha has been reintroduced to the parish through the homilies and as part of the weekly bulletin. It has been quite inspiring listening to people discuss Alpha with such enthusiasm, and just as fruitful to listen to peoples concerns and uncertainties.

As we plan to take Alpha forward you will start to hear some short testimonies at the end of Mass, and we will start to gather information from those who wish to attend. Before a day or time is set for the course, it is important we know our “audience” and establish a day and time that is best for everyone; if required we can run an afternoon session and an evening session.

If you are interested in finding out more regarding Alpha and wish to sign-up for the session, please us the sign-up sheet at the back of the church and note your preferred day and time. Once people have signed-up we will then issue more information.

Alpha is friends brining friends!
No pressure! No follow up!



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 14th- 21st July 2025

We are delighted to announce that 10 parishioners plus Fr John-Paul will be going to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage in July. Beforehand, the opportunity for prayer requests and candle money will be available.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,086.00
Standing Orders: £ 412.50
Votives: £ 105.00
Stall: £ 25.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity

St Mary’s Ministry Rota

Readers:

1st/2nd February

5.00pm A. Haetzman
10.30am A. Servers
5.00pm S. Casserly

15th/16th February

5.00pm G. Abernethy
10.30am M. McCusker
5.00pm N. Donnelly

8th/9th February

5.00pm C. Jackson
10.30am E. McCabe
5.00pm M. Davis

22nd/23rd February

5.00pm R. McConnell
10.30am R. Colpitts
5.00pm S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

1st/2nd February

5.00pm M. Keenan
 C. Callaghan
10.30am K. Lawrence
 J. McFarlane
 M. Russell

15th/16th February

5.00pm A. Dempsey
 J. McBride
10.30am J. Littlejohn
 A. O’Neill
 N. Keenan

8th/9th February

5.00pm R. Sinton
 F. McBride
10.30am G. Duddy
 A. Gillespie
 M. Keenan

22nd/23rd February

5.00pm C. Scott
 S. Callaghan
10.30am V. Hilland
 M. Thompson
 B. Farrell