



**ST MARY'S LANARK
ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S FORTH**



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
FORTH (ML11 8BB)
6 Coulter Road
Biggar
ML12 6EP
stisidore@rcdom.org.uk
Charity No - SC011041**



**Father John-Paul McShane
St Mary's Church
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark ML11 7JS
01555 662234
frmcshane@rcdom.org.uk**

**ST MARY'S LANARK
70 Bannatyne Street
Lanark
ML11 7JS
01555 662234
stmarylanark@rcdom.org.uk
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**1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
21st February 2021**

Bishop Toal's Lenten Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this finds you and your family and friends well.

I heard someone remark in recent days that it has been a year-long Lent since last February. We have indeed come through an extraordinary period, marked for all of us by some deprivation and anxiety; an extended communal penance inflicted upon us by the coronavirus. For some the suffering has been more acute, because of personal illness, the illness of others, or the death of a loved one. We continue to hold each other in prayer, even when separated by the lockdowns, and we reach out to God for protection and healing. As we begin therefore the liturgical season of Lent and accompany the Lord in his suffering and death, we look forward to Easter and the hope of new life promised by his Resurrection.

The season of Lent mirrors the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in prayer and fasting, and these days also reflect the forty years the Jewish people spent wandering in the desert before they were able to reach the "Promised Land". The Old Testament books tell us of the difficulties of these years – the deprivations of food and water, the tensions and conflicts, the crises of leadership, the loss of hope for the future as they looked back to their past life, and, yes, anger at God and times of apostasy and loss of faith. It was a hard, almost brutal experience, but they survived it as a people and came at last to the "land of milk and honey". My thought as we begin this Lent is that the reality of life for us in the times ahead may be more akin to the forty years than the forty days, and it may take a long time and a lot of hardship before we fully recover from the travails of the past year. Our faith encourages us not to lose hope, and indeed we have the Lord Jesus within and among us to help us persevere, strengthening and protecting us through the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

In the reading at Mass today from the Book of Deuteronomy Moses instructed the people as they were about to enter the promised land after their long years in the desert:

"Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, in the love of the Lord your God, obeying his voice, clinging to him; for in this your life consists, and on this depends your long stay in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob he would give them."

God wants us to cling on to him, whatever happens, and in doing so we will experience and know his love within us and the life of grace and goodness he offers us when we obey his voice and place our hope in his promises. While we seek security and consolation here in our earthly homeland, we also trust that we will share eternal life with the Lord in our heavenly homeland, and that the way there is through, with, and in the Lord himself. Through Lent then let us cling to the Lord and ask him to cleanse and purify us of all that would keep us apart from him and from showing his love to all our brothers and sisters with whom we share our time here on Earth. This is our time – "The day of salvation" as St Paul told us on Ash Wednesday - and we must make the best of it. With the Lord Jesus we can do so, without him we may lose hope and patience. Let us cling on to Him!

Wishing a you a fruitful and holy Lent, full of faith, hope and love,

Yours in Christ,

*Bishop Joseph Toal
18th February 2021*



Weekly Schedule

Sunday 21st February

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

Monday 22nd February

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 23rd February

- 12noon Angelus & Holy Mass
6.00pm Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 24th February

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday 25th February

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Novena in Honour of St Joseph - Week 6

Friday 26th February

- 9.30am Holy Mass
3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 27th February

- 9.30am Holy Mass
12noon Angelus and Recitation of The Holy Rosary

Sunday 28th February

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

All of the above will be Livestreamed through St Mary's Facebook Page.

Novena Prayer to St Joseph

Saint Joseph, you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I come to you as an example for holiness, for you are especially close with God. Therefore, I humbly commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, pray for me to have a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore:

(Mention your request)

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.



St Mary's Church Insurance & Clubrooms Security (300 Club money)

It's that time of the year again when we receive our annual insurance renewal premium. This year, due to the Coronavirus and the extended period of church closures, the Catholic Insurance Service have been able to offer discount on all church properties, therefore, this year St Mary's insurance renewal will be £11,203.37. As many of you are aware, the 300 Club is set up to help cover the cost of the annual insurance, so we would just like to thank all those who support the 300 Club for their continued contributions and subscriptions, it is due to your help and support that we are able to cover the annual insurance premium.

Over the last few months, and in previous years, we have experienced some vandalism to the Clubrooms. Within the last few months we have had several of the led windows, and also the gents toilet window, smashed. This as you can imagine is a costly expense, and after some advice we have decided to fit the Clubrooms with window grills, matching the ones that are on the church. This will both protect the Clubrooms and also help our insurance. The cost to supply and fit, black powder coated grills, is £7,483.20 including VAT. After paying the annual insurance there is a small amount of money left in the 300 Club which will be used to cover some of this cost. Once again this essential work would not be possible without the great support of the 300 Club funds.



If you would like to learn more about joining the 300 Club and supporting our parish, please email Shona at clubrooms@outlook.com

St Mary's Donation

Thank you very much to the parishioner who very generously donated £500 to St Mary's. This money will be used to purchase a gold altar frontal, which will be used at Eastertide and Christmastide. The frontal will be in memory of the parishioner's family. The frontal itself will be similar material of that which is behind the crucifix on the High Altar (Fairford Brocade). The hope is that we will eventually get the same frontal in all five liturgical colours.

St Mary's church flooring

Over the last two weeks we have been able to carry out some essential work on the parquet flooring in St Mary's. The floor was loose in places and severely scuffed in others. In order to repair the floor involved moving the benches, so Lockdown was the ideal opportunity to have the floor stripped, repaired and resealed. It would have been very difficult to do this repair when the church was opened, so Lockdown has allowed for this work to be completed.

Wee Box Appeal

Once again SCIAF are rolling out their Wee Box Appeal this Lent. Wee Boxes are available from St Mary's church porch on a Sunday or Monday between 12noon and 1pm, when the porch will be opened for those who wish a paper copy of the bulletin. SCIAF are also offering other ways to support the charity and make donations. For more information please visit the SCIAF website: www.sciaf.org.uk



Clydesdale Foodbank Collection

Next weekend will be our Monthly Foodbank Collection, to help support the Clydesdale Foodbank. If you would like to donate food, or make a monetary donation, you can do so on Sunday or Monday between 12noon and 1pm, when the church porch will be open for those who wish to collect a paper copy of the bulletin. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Paper Copy of Bulletin

Each week during Lockdown there will be paper copies of the bulletin available for collection. Every **Sunday 12noon - 1pm & Monday 12noon - 1pm**, St Mary's church porch will be open for those, who on their daily exercise, would like to collect a copy. It may also be worthwhile thinking of neighbours or others who cannot get out and do not have access to the internet, if they would benefit from a copy being posted through their door.



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - Mary Ramage Newtonhead Road, Rigside
 Jeanette Donnachie Burnfoot Poultry Farm, Forth
 Alys Scott Braedale Road
 Grace Malone Bank House Care Home, Lesmahagow
 Sister Mary Crowley; Mario Porcelli; Rose Kelly.

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Mary Kennedy; Jock Craig; Patrick Grant; Duncan McGonagle.

O'Hanlon Family - Norma would like to thank all parishioners and friends at St Mary's for the very many gestures she received after Gerry's death. She was very touched by the kind words, the many Mass Cards and the assurance of prayers received on the news that Gerry had died. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Parish Bank Details

God bless your continued generosity and support to our parishes, especially during these difficult times of Lockdown and uncertainty.

For those who are able, and would like to contribute to the parish through Bank Transfer or Standing Order, the details are as follows:

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Parish of St Isidore's
83-16-11 00235026

A Prayer For Protection In Time Of Pandemic

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.



An Act Of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
 I believe that You are present
 in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things,
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite myself wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

