



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



**ST ISIDORE'S BIGGAR &
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
FORTH (ML11 8BB)**
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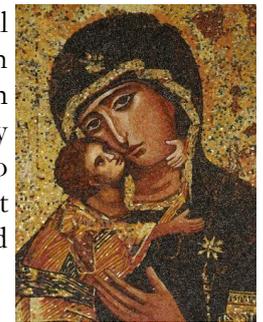
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**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
21st March 2021**

St Joseph and the Mysteries of March

This year is not one of them — but there are years when the major events of our faith all fall in the month of March. In fact, it can be, that the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th; the day on which we celebrate the beginning of our Redemption, the day when Christ was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, falls on Good Friday, Holy Saturday or even Easter Sunday: the days when Christ brought our redemption to fulfilment. In such years, there is a pleasing and special symmetry to things—the days that mark His saving work coming together and reflecting Christ himself: the beginning and the end.



There is another reason why these feasts all falling in March is special, appropriate and pleasing. St Ephrem, a fourth-century, Christian writer from the East puts it this way: *In the month of March, when the seed sprouts in the warm air, Christ, the Sheaf was sown in the earth. Death reaped and swallowed up this seed in Sheol, but the medicine of life, hidden within, burst Sheol open. In March, when lambs bleat in the meadow, the Paschal Lamb entered His Mother's*

And there is another reason, too, why this Spring month, March, is so appropriate for the mysteries of new life: In the middle of this month we celebrate the Solemn Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin, Mary. In this Jubilee Year it's appropriate to consider Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus, as one of the central Mysteries of March.

The 19th March is not only a welcome relaxation of the days of Lent but an important reminder of the role that this 'silent partner' had in the mysteries of our Redemption. We might keep the two images that St Ephrem offers in our minds: the soil in which the seed first began to sprout—and the place in which the Lamb first learned to bleat and play. Of course that soil, that place was Nazareth—the quiet home of the Holy Carpenter.



It was in the hidden life of Nazareth—in the mysterious life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph that the Word took flesh, that the Child grew to maturity, and that the saving mission of the Son of God took shape. St Joseph provided an essential part of the 'soil' of Nazareth: the saving words Christ spoke, had more than just the accent of his father, Joseph. In that home, that was quiet and prayerful, simple and shorn of wealth; in that home which was a place of charity—Jesus came to know Himself to be the Son of God.

Prayer—Simplicity —and Charity mark Nazareth and mark Lent—by them we come to know ourselves to be children of God—redeemed by the Lamb. Don't forget to ask St Joseph to play his part in the spiritual spring-time of 2021—in your rebirth this Easter.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday 21st March

- 10.30am Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent
12noon Holy Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent
5.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

Monday 22nd March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 23rd March

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

Wednesday 24th March

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

Thursday 25th March

9.00am - 12noon PHONE LINES OPEN TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES (ST MARY'S)

- 9.30am Holy Mass
6.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church

Friday 26th March

9.00am - 12noon PHONE LINES OPEN TO BOOK WEEKEND MASSES (ST MARY'S)

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

6.00pm EMAIL JACQUI TO BOOK WEEKEND MASS (ST ISIDORE'S)

Saturday 27th March

- 9.30am Holy Mass
5.00pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

Sunday 28th March

- 9.00am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Isidore's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

It will be lovely to welcome so many people back to Mass next weekend, just in time to begin Holy Week. It has now been a year since the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays was temporarily rescinded by the Bishops of Scotland. Although, this dispensation is still in place, I hope and pray that this Easter will see a return to Holy Mass by many parishioners. Things have greatly moved on since the first lockdown. We have a vaccine and many will already have received at least the first dose. There is good reason to be less anxious about coming back to church. If you are one of those who chose not to come to the church after the first and second lockdowns, please give some serious thought to reversing that decision.

To book Sunday Mass in St Mary's please call 01555 662234 or 07936306344 on Thursday or Friday Morning between 9am and 12noon.

To attend Sunday Mass in St Isidore's please email Jacqui (jacqui.dowd@me.com) no later than Friday evening.

Memorare to St Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not O Guardian of the Redeemer my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen



O blessed St. Joseph, pray for us.

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



Votive Candles St Mary's

If you would like a candle lit in St Mary's you can put your intention on an envelope, with the number of candles you require, and post it through the chapel house door, or hand it into the church porch on a Sunday or Monday, 12noon-1pm. If you wish your intention to be private please just write 'candle' on the envelope. Candles will be lit and placed before the altar.



Paper Copy of Bulletin

Each week during Lockdown there will be paper copies of the bulletin available for collection. Every **Sunday & 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.

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.



St Mary's Church Cleaning

As we prepare to re-open St Mary's Fr John-Paul would like to take this opportunity to thank all those dedicated men and women who have so faithfully cleaned our beautiful church over the years. The work and effort that has been put in to keep our church so clean and welcoming is second to none, and we are very grateful to all who care for St Mary's. Some parishioners have asked to be part of a 'Cleaning Group' which would help lighten the load of the church cleaners. If you would be willing to help clean our church please email Fr John-Paul. We hope that we will be able to establish a regular cleaning system that will operate on a weekly/biweekly basis.

St Mary's Gardens & Grounds

As we start to experience a welcomed change in the weather, and the easing of lockdown restrictions, St Mary's will once again begin to blossom, thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers. The Calvary Shrine that welcomes us when we come into the grounds of St Mary's is absolutely spectacular, and it is enhanced by the beautiful flowers which adorn the shrine. In past years, when visiting St Mary's, I have always been impressed by the beautiful grounds. It is on behalf of all parishioners that I would like to thank our volunteer gardeners for all their hard work in keeping St Mary's at such a high standard. God reward you all for your dedication and talents!

Parish Finances

Sincere thanks to all who continue to contribute to the parishes financially by handing in envelopes with your offerings and also to the many who now contribute regularly through the banking system. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated in these difficult and challenging times.

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

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



Please Pray For The Following:



Recently Dead - William Reilly; Breige McGee (Mother of Bishop Brian McGee).

Months Minds & Anniversaries - Mother Jarlath; Jane Frances Greene; Martha Diplacito; Jim McCulloch; William Kay; Dan McPhail; Fie & Harry Duddy; Bill Grieve.

Easter Remembrance: If you would like Holy Mass offered for your beloved dead and their names recorded in the Easter Bulletin, please hand in their names before FRIDAY 2ND APRIL. Names can be handed into the sacristy, posted through the chapel house door or placed in the basket with your weekly collection; please remember to mark your envelope as 'EASTER REMEMBRANCE'.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday 28th March

9.00am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary Magdalene's)
10.30am Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Isidore's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

Monday 29th March

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am Confessions (St Mary's)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross (Livestream only)

Tuesday 30th March

9.30am Morning Prayer of The Church (Livestream only)
11.00am Confessions (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass (St Mary's)
12.30pm Confessions (St Mary's)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross (Livestream only)

Wednesday 31st March

9.30am Holy Mass (St Mary's)
10.00am Confessions (St Mary's)
12noon Angelus & Holy Rosary (Livestream only)
3.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Livestream only)
6.00pm Stations of the Cross (Livestream only)

Thursday 1st April

9.30am Morning Office (Livestream Only)
12noon Confessions at the Calvary Shrine (St Mary's)
7.00pm Mass of The Lord's Supper (St Mary's)
9.45pm Watching before the Altar of Repose (Livestream only)
10.00pm Night Prayer of The Church (Livestream only)

Friday 2nd April

9.30am Morning Office (Livestream only)
12noon Stations of the Cross & Distribution of Holy Communion (St Mary's)
3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion (St Mary's)
7.00pm Stations of the Cross & Distribution of Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Saturday 3rd April

9.30am Morning Office (Livestream only)
8.00pm Easter Vigil (St Mary's)

Sunday 4th April

9.00am Holy Mass for Easter Day (St Mary Magdalene's)
9.45am Holy Mass for Easter Day (St Mary's)
11.00am Holy Mass for Easter Day (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Easter Day (St Isidore's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for Easter Day (St Mary's)
6.00pm Evening Prayer of The Church (Livestream only)

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Bookings

To book Mass of The Lord's Supper or any Service on Good Friday in St Mary's please call 01555 662234 or 07936306344 on Thursday 25th March or Friday 26th March between 9am and 12noon.