

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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27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

6th October 2024

The Guardian Angels

The fact that every person is assigned a personal guardian angel is deeply rooted not only in Scripture but also in the writings of the saints and the teachings of the Church. In the Psalms we read, "For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11–12). Saint Jerome, in commenting on the above-mentioned passage from the Gospel of Matthew, says, "The worth of souls is so great that from birth each one has an angel assigned to him for his protection." Saint Thomas Aquinas says, "Each man has an angel guardian appointed to him. This rests upon the fact that the guardianship of angels belongs to the execution of Divine providence concerning men" (Summa Theologiae 1.113.2). More recently, Pope Saint John Paul II taught, in a General Audience on August 6, 1986, "God has entrusted to the angels a ministry in favour of people. Therefore the Church confesses her faith in the guardian angels, venerating them in the liturgy with an appropriate feast and recommending recourse to their protection by frequent prayer, as in the invocation "Angel of God." Finally, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting Saint Basil, says, "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life" (CCC #336).



Though the reality of guardian angels is often spoken of to children as a comfort to them when they face fears, the guardian angels are for all of us, and we ought not forget about our own. Angels are not only intercessors, they are mediators. This means that God entrusts them with His divine power, to act in His name and on His behalf, to deliver His grace, reveal His Truth, direct us down the right path, and protect us from evil. Though God is fully capable of distributing His grace Himself, it is His will that all He bestows upon us come to us through mediators who are instruments, cooperating with His divine plan.

The memorial of the Guardian Angels did not become a universal feast until the latter part of the seventeenth century, when Pope Clement X placed it on the Roman Calendar. Pope Leo XIII elevated the feast and emphasised its importance in the late nineteenth century. Around the time he did so, he also composed the "Saint Michael the Archangel" prayer and mandated that it be prayed at the end of every Mass. The feast of the Archangels is celebrated September 29, and a few days later, the memorial for all the guardian angels. These two feasts emphasise the fact that God uses some angels for specific purposes that affect all people and that He uses guardian angels to care for each of our specific needs.

As we honour the celestial hosts of the guardian angels, ponder your own angel today.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here; ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

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Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Susan Campbell Glebe Court

Monsignor Henry Docherty (Retired Priest of the Diocese of Motherwell); Ann Baxter (Blantyre); John Gillespie; Betty Considine (Glasgow).

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Father Joseph Brannigan; Monteith Family; Thomas Bowie; Jim McShane; Dick McKeown (Hamilton); Anna Clemmitt (Kent); Paul Halloran; William John Kelly; James Keenan Jnr; Agnes Foley.

Funeral Arrangements: Susan Campbell Committal Service: Thursday 17th October, 1pm, West Lothian Crem

Day of Fast & Prayer - Monday 7th October

Pope Francis has called for a day of prayer and fasting for on October 7th, the one-year anniversary of the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war. "In this dramatic hour of our history," the Pope said, "while the winds of war and the fires of violence continue to devastate entire peoples and nations," the Christian community is reminded of its call to "put itself at the service of humanity."

The Pope was speaking after Mass in St Peter's Square for the opening of the second session of the General Assembly of the Synod. He invited all the synod members to accompany him on a visit to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on October 6th, the day before the anniversary, where, he said, he will "address a heartfelt petition to the Virgin" for peace.

Monday Club

The Club meets on the 7th of October at 1pm. This week you will be tested on your QUIZ skills.
New friends are always welcome.

300 Club

As our 300 Club year draws to an end at the end of September, we take this opportunity to give everyone a gentle reminder to make sure all payments are up to date. We also ask that you let us know of any recent changes to address or telephone number as we use these to contact winners. We thank everyone for the continued support to the 300 Club as the funds from this help us cover essential running costs for the parish.

This weekend at all Masses representatives from the 300 Club will be available for people to check/pay membership, take out membership, ask questions, or change contact details.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£ 886.00
Standing Orders:	£ 182.00
Votives:	£ 160.00
Stall:	£ 155.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
80-17-02 00265809

Thank you *for your*
continued generosity



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>5th/6th October</u>		<u>19th/20th October</u>	
5.00pm	J. McAlpine	5.00pm	R. McConnell
10.30am	R. Colpitts	10.30am	M. McCusker
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	M. Davis
<u>12th/13th October</u>		<u>26th/27th October</u>	
5.00pm	G. Abernethy	5.00pm	F. Chung
10.30am	E. McCabe	10.30am	P. Roberts
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>5th/6th October</u>		<u>19th/20th October</u>	
5.00pm	M. Keenan	5.00pm	J. McClafferty
	P. Stewart		K. Bryce
10.30am	P. Cunningham	10.30am	J. McAlavey
	A. Cruikshank		M. Davis
	J. McFarlane		C. O'Brien
<u>12th/13th October</u>		<u>26th/27th October</u>	
5.00pm	J. McEwan	5.00pm	A. Dempsey
	C. McClafferty		C. Scott
10.30am	C. Duddy	10.30am	J. Littlejohn
	V. Hilland		M. Keenan
	D. McFarlane		N. Keenan

New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thank you to those who have accepted the invitation to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in our parish.

There will be a short training session (10mins) after all Masses next weekend, please wait behind.

Memorial Plaques

We have now received enough requests to place another order of Memorial Plaques. It is best that the orders are in bulk and not individual. If you would like to order a Plaque please hand a completed form, with payment, directly to Fr John-Paul, no later than **Sunday 27th October**.

St Mary's Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting an Afternoon Tea on **Sunday 10th November** at 1.30pm for 2pm in the Clubrooms. Tickets are priced £10 and this includes afternoon tea with Prosecco.

Tickets will be on sale at Masses on 5th and 6th October or alternatively please see any of the girls on social committee if you want to a ticket.



Parish Coffee Mornings & Light Bite

As well as developing the spiritual aspect of the parish it is so important to continue to encourage parishioners to celebrate the social aspect too. An easy way to do this is to attend the Monthly Coffee Mornings or Light Bite after Sunday Mass. It is good to come together and meet new people or spend time with people we already know. A massive thank you to all those who do an incredible job each month organising and catering for all those who attend.

As winter is approaching homemade soup will be on offer at the Coffee Morning next week.

Mass Census Figures

For the last 12 months we have been carrying out the census on the first Sunday of every month in both churches. The census confirms that the attendance has increased post-covid, however, as part of Project Wellspring it is our mission to continue to grow and encourage others back to Mass. The average per Mass is as follows: Sat 5pm: 100, Sun 10.30am: 213, Sun 12noon: 20, Sun 5pm: 44. This gives us an average of 377 people attending Mass, with a Catholic population of approx 1200. What can be done to improve this number? How do we get people back? Let us know!

New Security Fencing

For many years St Mary's piazza has become a social gathering for young people, especially at lunch time, and then again in the evening. Over the last few months we have experienced antisocial behaviour and damage to the property. After erecting a fence at the side of the church we are now entering the next phase of our security measures and erecting a gate at the Clubrooms gas meter and railings along the wall. The work will cost around £3,000 and will be completed next month. This is an expense we should not have to make, but unfortunately in today's world it is required to keep our church safe and prevent damage.

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

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 6th October *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

11.15am Coffee Morning (St Mary's Clubrooms)

12noon Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

12.35pm Light Bite (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 7th October *St Mary's Church will be opened Monday - Friday from 8am until 5pm*

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Tuesday 8th October

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 9th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

10.00am Church Cleaning

7.00pm *Online Zoom Rosary (Meeting ID: 832 0468 2198 Passcode: 746256)*

Thursday 10th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

7.30pm *The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)*

Friday 11th October

9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary

9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 12th October *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 Recitation of the Holy Rosary

4.30pm Confessions until 4.50pm

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 13th October *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

10.30am Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Parish Disco - Saturday 19th October

St Mary's Social Committee are hosting a disco on Saturday 19th October. Tickets are £7, which includes entry and nibbles. The bar will be opened from 7.30pm til late.



For tickets, please contact any of the girls on the social committee.

Praying for Vocations

As part of St Mary's Parish ongoing efforts to pray for vocations to the priesthood in our diocese, we will recite the Vocations Prayer, issued by the Diocese for Vocations Awareness Week, at the end of the Holy Rosary every day.

It is important we pray for vocations in our parish, school and families, and the prayer card provides us with the perfect way to do that.