

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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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

17th November 2024

Death and Eternal Life

Death is a reality that we all face, no matter our faith or lack thereof. However, the perspective one takes on death varies widely from one worldview to another. Death is often viewed with dread, but according to Catholic teaching, it is not the end of existence. Rather, it is a passage from this world to eternal life. The Catechism states, *“Death is the end of man’s earthly pilgrimage, of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan, and to decide his ultimate destiny”* (CCC 1013).

In simpler terms, our time on Earth is a journey. It’s a chance for us to get to know God, follow His teachings, and decide whether or not we want to be with Him forever. When we die, that journey doesn’t end; it just changes. We move from this life to something eternal.

The Catholic Church teaches that immediately after death, each person will undergo what is known as the *“Particular Judgement.”* This is an individual, immediate judgment by God where the eternal destiny of the person is decided (CCC 1022). Basically, right after you die, God will determine whether you go to Heaven, Hell, or Purgatory.

Heaven is the ultimate goal for Catholics. It is described as a state of eternal life and union with God, where one experiences full happiness and satisfaction (CCC 1024). Heaven is where we get to be with God forever. As the Bible says, *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”* (John 14:2).

Contrary to the view that God condemns people to Hell, the Catholic Church teaches that Hell is a state of definitive self-exclusion from God. In simpler words, people who go to Hell choose to be away from God. It’s not God kicking them out; it’s them walking away. The Catechism describes Hell as *“eternal fire”* and notes that *“the chief punishment of Hell is eternal separation from God”* (CCC 1035).

Purgatory is often misunderstood. It is not a *“second chance”* or a place between Heaven and Hell. Rather, it’s a state of purification for those who die in God’s grace but still need to be purified to enter Heaven (CCC 1030). Think of it as a cleaning process for your soul before going into God’s holy presence.

Catholics also believe in the resurrection of the body. This means that at the end of time, everyone will be resurrected and undergo what’s known as the *“Last Judgment.”* According to the Church, *“In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man’s relationship with God will be laid bare, and each person who has justified will go to eternal blessedness, and those who have rejected Him to eternal damnation”* (CCC 1039).

For Catholics, understanding death and the afterlife is not about fear, but about hope. St Paul writes, *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”* (1 Corinthians 15:55). With a faithful understanding of what comes after death, Catholics are encouraged to live a life in close relationship with God, ever striving for holiness and the eternal joy that is Heaven.

The Catholic view on death and the afterlife is rooted in the teachings of Scripture and the Catechism. It offers a perspective that goes beyond the grave, providing hope for an eternal life with God. Whether it’s the immediate judgment after death, the concept of Heaven, Hell, or Purgatory, or the resurrection and Last Judgment, these teachings are meant to guide the faithful towards a life centered on God and the hope of eternal life.

By keeping our eyes on the eternal, we can navigate the challenges and joys of this earthly life with a sense of purpose and direction, ever preparing for the life that is to come.



Please Pray For The Following



Recently Dead: Patricia Brien Friarsfield Road
Linda Tierney; Fr Brendan Curley (Priest of the Diocese of Salford); Cathie Stainthorpe (Lesmahagow); George McDougal; Elsie Melley.

Months Minds & Anniversaries: Kate Campbell; John Hughes; Nettie Hynds; Pat McGarrigle; Anne Elder; Karen Murray; John Donnelly.

Funeral Arrangements: Patricia Brien Requiem Mass: Thursday 21st November, 9.30am

Journey Through Advent 2024

The Advent Prayer Group will once again meet this year to journey through the holy season of Advent. The group is small, and they meet in St Catherine's on a Wednesday after 9.30am Mass to reflect on the Sunday readings. Everyone is welcome to come along and join.

'There's a Welcome in the Mat and a Cuppa in the Pot'

St Mary's Social Committee

St Mary's Social Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the Afternoon Tea. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with food, fun and fizz!

A special thank you to everyone who came along to the tea, those who donated raffle prizes, our helpers on the day and our talented bakers! We are lucky to have so many parishioners contributing to make the event such a success. A magnificent sum of £1200 was raised from ticket sales and raffle.

Thank you to everyone who supports the monthly Coffee Mornings. This year £1000 has been raised from coffee morning donations.

Fr John-Paul would like to thank the Social Committee for their tremendous efforts in fundraising this year, but also too, in helping develop the social aspect of parish life. The revenue from the Social Committee fundraising events are pivotal to our parish growth, and we thank the girls for their outstanding efforts and commitment to the parish. We also recognise the wonderful group of helpers and bakers they have, and all those who support the Social Committee's events, thank you to each and everyone of you.

Parish Weekly Finances

Offertory Collection & Donations: £ 1,126.00
Standing Orders: £ 345.00
Votives: £ 155.00
Stall: £ 235.00

St Marys Mission RCDM
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Thank you *for your*
continued generosity



St Mary's Ministry Rota

Readers:

<u>16th/17th November</u>		<u>30th Nov/1st Dec</u>	
5.00pm	G. Abernethy	5.00pm	J. McBride
10.30am	R. Colpitts	10.30am	A. Servers
5.00pm	M. Davis	5.00pm	M. Davis
<u>23rd/24th November</u>		<u>7th/8th December</u>	
5.00pm	R. McConnell	5.00pm	A. Haetzman
10.30am	J. Russell	10.30am	E. McCabe
5.00pm	S. Casserly	5.00pm	S. Casserly

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

<u>16th/17th November</u>		<u>30th Nov/1st Dec</u>	
5.00pm	K. Bryce	5.00pm	F. McBride
	A. McGowan		R. Sinton
10.30am	C. Duddy	10.30am	G. Duddy
	D. McFarlane		A. O'Neill
	I. Maxfield		J. McAlavey
<u>23rd/24th November</u>		<u>7th/8th December</u>	
5.00pm	M. Keenan	5.00pm	A. Dempsey
	C. Callaghan		J. McBride
10.30am	P. Cunningham	10.30am	J. Littlejohn
	K. Lawrence		A. O'Neill
	J. McFarlane		N. Keenan

Synod Report October 2024

Please find in your bulletin this weekend a 4 page report from Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll & the Isles, on the recent Second Assembly of the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in October on Synodality. Bishop Toal feels it is enlightening, offering comment from our synod participant and direction for the future. Bishop Brian has penned a lovely accessible report for the faithful, and clergy, to read at their leisure.



The Unique History of St Mary's Church by Siobhan Gainford

Siobhan Gainford is looking to publish a book called, 'The Unique History of St Mary's Church'. Siobhan will be funding the book herself, however, she will only be ordering enough copies for those who have registered interest. We are unsure at this time of the cost per copy, but Siobhan is not making profit from the sale of any books, but rather covering her costs.

Siobhan has worked very hard on this book for a number of years and it gives great insight into the history of our wonderful parish. If you are interested in buying a copy, or indeed you have any questions, you can contact Siobhan directly: siobhan.gainford@gmail.com

St Mary's Coffee Morning & Christmas Raffle

The next Coffee Morning will take place on **Sunday 8th December** after 10.30 Mass. The Christmas Raffle Draw will also take place at this event. The girls will start selling raffle tickets for this event at Masses from 9th and 10th November.

Donations for raffle prizes will be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support.



Security Measurers Phase 2

As previously reported in the bulletin, for some time now we have experienced antisocial behaviour in the church grounds and damage has been caused to the church and Clubrooms. It was decided that new security fencing and gate would be erected at the stairs and side of the Clubrooms to deter young people gathering and protect the property. We are delighted to announce that the security fencing and gate are now erected and the Social Committee have suggested using some of their fundraising money to cover these costs (£3,120). We are very grateful to the Social Committee for this gesture and very much thank all those who support their events - this shows that all money raised goes back into St Mary's and is crucial to the maintenance and advancement of our parish. Phase 3 (planting a laurel hedge along the west wall of the property) will also be completed this week.

Monday Club 18th November

The next meeting will be the 18th of November at 1pm. This week we will be entertaining ourselves and the most popular pastime for the members is BINGO. Please remember everyone and anyone is most welcome

Liturgical Calendar

Thursday 21st November, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - This memorial originally marked the dedication of a sixth century church of the Virgin Mary near the Temple of Jerusalem. The East took it up as a celebration of Mary's presentation to God in the Temple at the age of three, a non-biblical story from the apocryphal gospel of James. Established in the West late in the Middle Ages, the feast was universally observed by the sixteenth century. It celebrates Mary in her grace-filled life, wholly given over to the Holy Spirit from the time of her conception.

Friday 22nd November, St Cecilia Virgin & Martyr - Though a late fourth century church in Rome was named after her, nothing is known of her life or death. Popular legends were written about her in the late fifth century, and in the sixteenth century she was named the patron of music. Honoured by the Church as a virgin, martyred for the faith, her name is included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon).

Saturday 23rd November, St Clement I Pope & Martyr - Clement died in New Testament times, at the end of the first century. His name is included in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Noted for a letter written from the Church at Rome to the Church at Corinth, an important witness to the emergence of ministries and authority in the Church and to the pastoral responsibility of Rome to another Church.

Weekly Parish Schedule

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

Sunday 17th November *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Trinity)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Monday 18th November *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 19th November

- 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 20th November

- 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 21st November

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Patricia Brien
7.30pm *The Choir of St Mary's Weekly Rehearsal (St Mary's Clubrooms)*

Friday 22nd November

- 9.10am Recitation of the Holy Rosary
9.30am Holy Mass

Saturday 23rd November *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 Solemnity of Christ the King (St Mary's)

Sunday 24th November *St Mary's Church will close after the 5pm Mass*

- 10.30am** Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King (Holy Trinity)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Christ the King (St Mary's)



St Mary's Annual Requiem Mass

It is important that we make a special effort during this month of November, the month dedicated to the Holy Souls, to pray in a special way for all those from our parish who have died in the last twelve months. This year we are delighted that the Choir of St Mary's will provide the music for our Mass; it is very fitting as members of the choir sing at each funeral in the parish. The Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday 28th November at 7pm**, please make a special effort to attend this Mass and pray for your departed loved ones. This year we remember in a special way:

Moira Healy
Maureen Boyle
Frank Pellow
Frances Neil
Paul Reilly
Diane Curran
Helen Anderson
Kathleen Macmillan

Susan Gibb
Estelle Higgins
Baby Luca Gunning
Liz Reilly
Sr Anne L'Estrange DC
Roz Briggs
June Hutton
Sr Angela Hanevy DC

Seamus Coll
Kevin Reilly
Evelyn Quinn
Brian McCardie
Mary Tiltford
Margaret Maxfield
Bill Smith
Corrine Walkinshaw

Marion Wright
Maureen McCulloch
Therese Kennedy
Betty Reilly
Susan Campbell
Frank Snow
Linda Tierney