

ST ANTHONY & ST MARK'S

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YouTube: [@CatholicG73](https://www.youtube.com/@CatholicG73)



Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell

Scottish Charity No. SC011041

All Masses in this Parish are livestreamed on YouTube

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) 21ST DECEMBER 2025

HOLY MASS	Mon	9.30am at St Mark's	Sat	5.00 pm Vigil at St Mark's
	Tues	7.00 pm at St Anthony's	Sun	10.00 am at St Mark's
	Wed	9.30am at St Mark's & Christmas Vigil Masses	Sun	11.30 am at St Anthony's
	Thu	Christmas Day	Sun	9 am at St Anthony's: Syro-Malabar Qurbana
	Fri	11 am at St Mark's	Sun	5.00 pm at St Anthony's
	Sat	11am at St Anthony's		
HOLY ROSARY	Tue	6.40pm at St Anthony's	Sat	9.00 am at St Anthony's
CONFESSION	Sat	9-9.20am St Anthony's	Sat	4.30-4.50pm St Mark's
			Sun	4.30-4.50pm St Anthony's

Exposition of the Blessed sacrament for 30 mins before each weekday/Saturday Mass

SUNDAY READINGS

Reading 1	Isaiah 7:10-14	Behold, the virgin shall conceive.
Psalm	Ps 24(23):1-2.	Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.
Reading 2	Romans 1:1-7	Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.
Acclamation	Matthew 1:23	Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means, God with us.
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24	Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently: Conceição Alexandre; John Hendren; Robert Peden; Brian McFarlane; Maureen McNeill; John Kelly
Anniversaries: Jim & Isabel McLaughlin; Charles McLaughlin; Teresa McKeown; Catherine & Patrick McCarry; Margaret McKell; Susane McConnellogue; George Walsh; Janet Gallagher; Janice Green
Sick & housebound : Cathy Callaghan; Maureen Maguire; Michael Leslie; John Mulheron; Rose McCorley; Catherine Scott; Erin Lavery; Beatrice Hannah; Pauline Mahon; Mary McColgan; Ella Connolly, Finn McGuinness, Hope McKenna, Margaret Rice; Sandra Morgan; Neil Morton; Steven Murphy; Cathline McNiel; Sandra Burke.

FOOD BANK

We supported 75 visitors at our Foodbanks this week. Massive thanks once again for your support. It has been incredible. Our focus is on Christmas treats this week in the build up to the holidays. Any donations will be gratefully received.

Here is a note of our opening hours for the foodbank over the festive period.

Tuesday 23rd December: St Anthony's: 8.30am—10am St Mark's: 11.30am—1pm

Tuesday 30th December: St Anthony's: 8.30am—10am St Mark's: 11.30am—1pm

Please share with anyone who may need our help at this time. Thank you.

CARITAS J&P HOLY HOUR AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT THANKS

A big thanks to everyone who was involved in these outstanding parish events over the past couple of weeks, especially those who led the music and all the young people who were involved from our primary and secondary schools. The future is bright!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR PROGRAMME: CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Vigil Mass (St Anthony's) 5.00pm

First Mass of Christmas by Candlelight (St Mark's) – 8.00pm (with carols from 7.30pm)

Christmas Day: Dawn Mass (St Mark's) – 10am Mass during the Day (St Anthony's) - 11.30am

No evening Mass on Christmas Day

Weekday Masses from 26th Dec—1st January **11.00am: please note the change of time**

Hogmanay and New Year:

Hogmanay Thanksgiving Mass St Mark's— 7pm

Parish Hogmanay party St Mark's hall 8pm—1am

New Years' Day Mass Thursday 1st January: St Anthony's – 11.00am

BISHOP TOAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2025

At Christmas this year we will bring to a close the Jubilee Year of 2025, so let us give thanks for the blessings received and the Spirit of Hope renewed. Through Advent that same Hope has been stirred up as we look forward with expectancy to the Celebration of Our Saviour's Birth, and to the Lord coming again in glory and majesty. The Advent liturgies have called on us to be ready and watching so that we "may inherit the great promise in which now we dare hope". Yes, we are indeed "Pilgrims of Hope", and each Christmas is a mile-stone on our earthly pilgrimage and an opportunity to be refreshed and renewed in our personal faith and its practice in the community of the Catholic Church.

It was the 1700th Anniversary recently of the Council of Nicea, whose great proclamation of the Christian faith we profess at Sunday Mass. We will do also with special fervour at the Christmas Masses, emphasising in particular the Lord's Incarnation, his birth at Bethlehem – "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man". We are a people of faith in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and we are proud to profess it, particularly on Christmas Day. So let us be at Mass to do so!

Of course, we need to put our faith into action through our works of charity, our love for our neighbour, and Christmas is a time of generosity and sharing with those we love. Let us try also to extend our kindness to those who are more in need, both locally and further afield, recognising that the Lord asks us to do so in his name and with his compassion and self-giving. The Word did become flesh, and continues to dwell among us through those who show his love.

I wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas, praying especially that the Peace sung of by the Angels at Bethlehem may reign within and among us, and throughout the whole world.

May the Lord bless you, your families and friends, and keep you strong in faith, hope, and charity.

With my prayers and best wishes, + Joseph Toal

P1 ENROLMENT FOR ST MARK'S AND ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS COMING SOON

Enrolment for entry into Primary 1 in August 2026 opens on 5th January 2026. We are blessed with two excellent Catholic primary schools in our parish and we would encourage all parishioners with children of the relevant age to consider enrolling their children there: just contact the school. If you are a parishioner but you live outside the boundaries of the parish, you can easily ask for a placing request for your child to attend St Anthony's or St Mark's, even if you live in a different local authority e.g. Glasgow City Council. We are particularly keen to reassure the many New Scots parishioners that—unlike in most parts of the world—Catholic schooling is not private and fee-paying, but is free and part of the state system.

Online registration is available from 5th January 2026 on the South Lanarkshire Council website.

CRIB COLLECTION FOR ST MARGARET'S CHILDREN AND FAMILY CARE SOCIETY

As is traditional, beside the crib in each church is an opportunity to donate to St Margaret's Children and Family Care Society. St Margaret's, which is supported by Glasgow, Motherwell, Paisley, and Galloway Dioceses, helps families adopt children, and, as well as requiring financial support, finding adoptive parents is a great need. There are currently over 1000 children in Scotland looking for parents to adopt them, so the society's work is more needed than ever. Please give generously.

FREE PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE

Once again we have produced parish Christmas cards to greet our neighbours and friends and to inform them about our parish and how they can worship with us over Christmas and New Year. PLEASE take some cards and put them through the letter boxes of your neighbours or pass on to family and friends: this will not be taken as an imposition but as an act of neighbourliness and care.

ALTAR SERVERS' / LIFETEEN ANNUAL CARNIVAL TRIP

Once again our altar servers will have a well-deserved treat by going to the In Bru Carnival on **Friday 2nd January**. Information letter and permission slips are available in the servers' sacristy. Parents are not required to attend but are welcome to do so.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SCIAF

This Christmas, SCIAF would like to thank all our supporters for your generosity and prayers throughout the year. We wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace and hope. At this holy time, please continue to keep SCIAF and the communities we serve in your prayers.

QR CODE FOR PARISH GIVING If parishioners or visitors would prefer to use their mobile phones to make a donation at Sunday Mass, then please feel free to use this QR code.

