

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27TH JUNE 2021

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

One of the most comforting symbols in Catholicism is the sanctuary lamp – the small red flicker of the flame burning before the tabernacle – a sign that Christ is truly Emmanuel, “God among us.” In fact, you cannot even begin to understand the ending of the Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* until you appreciate the profound symbolism of this little flicker before the tabernacle. The entire novel hangs upon this. The most recent film is certainly not true to the original novel.

In the Old Testament, God told Moses that a lamp filled with pure oil should perpetually burn in the Tabernacle (Ex 27:20-21). This is the precedent for the Catholic Church's custom of burning a candle (at all times) before the tabernacle – the gold house where the Eucharistic Body of Christ is reserved under lock and key.

Protestants often note that Catholic churches always seem to be open to the public, whereas Protestant congregations are typically closed throughout the week. The difference is the Holy Eucharist. Praying in a Catholic church before the Eucharist is different than praying at home. Christ is substantially present in the tabernacle. The lamp is always burning in the Catholic Church – it is a sign saying, “Christ is here in the Holy Eucharist within this tabernacle. His heart is burning with love for you.” If you entered a vacant Catholic Church at night, you would not be in total darkness. A single burning light would guide your way.

An oil lamp or wax candle, known as the sanctuary lamp, would be continuously aglow above or near the tabernacle. It is a symbol that Christ is present. The General Instruction to the Roman Missal, a guide for how to celebrate Mass, states, “*In accordance with traditional custom, near the tabernacle a special lamp, fuelled by oil or wax, should be kept alight to indicate and honour the presence of Christ.*”

Catholics have always shown their respect for the reservation of the Eucharist in the tabernacle. The church's guidelines for art and architecture states: The tabernacle “should be worthy of the Blessed Sacrament – beautifully designed and in harmony with the overall decor of the rest of the church. To provide for the security of the Blessed Sacrament the tabernacle should be ‘solid,’ ‘immovable,’ ‘opaque’ and ‘locked.’ The tabernacle may be situated on a fixed pillar or stand, or it may be attached to or embedded in the High Altar or one of the walls. A special oil lamp or a lamp with a wax candle burns continuously near the tabernacle as an indication of Christ's presence.”

The Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle was originally intended for the Communion of the sick and dying and for those unable to attend Sunday Mass. “But as the appreciation of Christ's presence in the Eucharistic species became more developed, Christians desired through prayer to show reverence for Christ's continuing presence in their midst... “In reverent prayer before the reserved Eucharist, the faithful give praise and thanksgiving to Christ for the priceless gift of redemption and for the spiritual food that sustains them in their daily lives. Here they learn to appreciate their right and responsibility to join the offering of their own lives to the perfect sacrifice of Christ during the Mass and are led to a greater recognition of Christ in themselves and in others”.

The sanctuary lamp is only extinguished on Good Friday when the body of Christ is removed from the main church and relit at Easter.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 27th June

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 28th June

12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Irenaeus (St Mary's)
--------	--

Tuesday 29th June

9.30am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul (St Mary's)

Wednesday 30th June

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of the First Martyrs of Rome (St Mary's)
	NO 7.00PM MASS IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

Thursday 1st July

9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
--------	---

Friday 2nd July

10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
---------	--

Saturday 3rd July

	NO 10.00AM MASS IN ST MARY'S
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 4th July

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

28th June - Memoria of St Irenaeus - The writings of St. Irenaeus entitle him to a high place among the fathers of the Church, for they not only laid the foundations of Christian theology but, by exposing and refuting the errors of the gnostics, they delivered the Catholic Faith from the real danger of the doctrines of those heretics. He was born about the year 130. Irenaeus became a priest and then the bishop of Lyon, France. His body was buried after his death in 202 but Calvinists desecrated his tomb in 1562 and sadly his relics have disappeared.

29th June - Solemnity of St Peter & St Paul - St Peter was the brother of St Andrew and a Galilean fisherman. He was called by the Lord and, despite his obvious human weakness, eventually chosen as leader of the Twelve, the 'rock' on which the Church was built. After Pentecost, he became particularly associated with Antioch and then Rome. He was crucified under Nero around the year 64 and buried at the Vatican with St Peter's Basilica built above his grave. St Paul was a tent-maker from Tarsus (then capital of the Roman province of Cilicia, now in Turkey), a Pharisee and a Roman citizen. He was initially a persecutor of the Christian community but was converted by the Lord on his way to Damascus. He became the Apostle of the Gentiles, preaching the Gospel to the non-Jews, reaching Greece, Italy, Malta and possibly even Spain. He was beheaded along the Via Ostiense and buried nearby, on the site of the current Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls.

30th June - Memoria of the First Roman Martyrs - The Church celebrates this feast in memory of the martyrs who suffered during the persecution of Nero, following the fire that destroyed much of Rome in 64AD. Christians from every background were put to death with ingenious cruelty. Some martyrs were burned as living torches at evening banquets while the wealthy ate their food, some were crucified, others were fed to wild animals before large cheering crowds.



LIVESTREAMED MASSES

There will be no livestreaming of our Masses this weekend or during this coming week. Masses next weekend will be livestreamed.

A VERY WARM WELCOME

This week we welcome Mgr Millar & Fr Coyle who will celebrate our parish Masses while Fr Wyllie is away on holiday. Mgr Millar is the parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes East Kilbride and Fr Coyle is the curate in the same parish. Fr Wyllie spent a very happy two and a half years as a curate in Our Lady of Lourdes with Mgr Millar and latterly with Fr Coyle. We congratulate Fr Coyle on his recently announced appointment as the new parish priest of St Anthony's & St Mark's Rutherglen, effective from August. We keep Fr Coyle in our prayers as he embarks on this new chapter in his priestly life. Mgr Millar will be leaving the diocese to take up his new role as Spiritual Director of St Mary's College, Oscott later this summer. We wish Mgr Millar well in his new appointment as he helps shape and form the priests of the future. We'll miss him in the diocese.

CLERGY CHANGES IN THE DIOCESE

His Lordship Bishop Toal has announced the following clergy changes within the Diocese of Motherwell. We remember the priests involved in our prayers and their parishioners:

Fr Francis Dougan, currently Parish Priest of St Anthony's & St Mark's, Rutherglen, has been appointed as the **new Parish Priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride**, to succeed Mgr Thomas Millar who will leave the Diocese to become the Spiritual Director in St Mary's College Oscott.

Fr Charles Coyle, currently Curate of Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride, has been appointed as the **new Parish Priest of St Anthony's & St Mark's, Rutherglen**, to succeed Fr Francis Dougan.

Fr Bernardine Muoka, currently Administrator of St Teresa's, Newarthill, will be **returning to his home diocese** after spending two years in our diocese.

Fr Kevin Lawrie, currently Curate of St Joseph's & St John Ogilvie, Blantyre, has been appointed the **new Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Newarthill**.

PRAYING FOR MORE PRIESTS

With the recently announced clergy changes within the diocese, after the summer we will have only two curates in the Diocese of Motherwell. We will continue to have our Mass praying for Vocations to the Priesthood each month but please pray each day for the Lord to send us more priests for the future. After the summer we will have six young men in seminary for the Diocese of Motherwell but over the next seven years or so there will be around ten active priests who will reach retirement age.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£672.05
Stall:	£20.00
Votive Candles:	£177.44
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£110.00
TOTAL:	£979.49

Many thanks for your very generous support

PETER'S PENCE

The Special Collection box will be available throughout the month of July for us to contribute to the Peter's Pence collection.

JULY - MONTH OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Church traditionally uses the month of July to contemplate on the Precious Blood of the Lord. It is a recognition of Jesus' sacrifice and how he spilled his blood for the salvation of humanity. Furthermore, this blood is made present through the gift of the Eucharist and is something we can consume at Mass. Within the Sacred Host is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ.

During the First Italian War for Independence in 1849, Pope Pius IX went into exile to Gaeta. He went there with Don Giovanni Merlini, third superior general of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. While the war was still raging, Merlini suggested to Pope Pius IX that he create a universal feast to the Precious Blood to beg God's heavenly aid to end the war and bring peace to Rome. Pius IX subsequently made a statement on June 30, 1849 that he intended to create a feast in honour of the Precious Blood. The war soon ended and he returned to Rome shortly thereafter. He proclaimed that the 1st Sunday in July would be dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Later, Pope Pius X assigned July 1 for this celebration. After Vatican II the feast was completely removed from the calendar.

We are encouraged to meditate on the profound sacrifice of Jesus in pouring out his blood.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Murray Brown, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Rory Quigley, Janet McIntosh, David Hillhouse, Annette Thomson, Liz Rees OCV, Kathleen Brannigan, Jerry Hillsinger, Mandy Murray McVie, Gerard Lyons, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Anne Kildea (Motherwell)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - David O'Neill, Marie McLaughlin, Sharon Moncur, Ina Williamson, Sadie Semple & the Hunter Family, For the Holy Souls who no longer have family in the parish to have them prayed for, John & Catherine Deerin

Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for on their anniversaries & months mind

“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER”

Over the past few weeks the noise levels in both our churches before Sunday Mass has been quite considerable. The church is of course a meeting place for us to gather as a community but it is primarily a place of prayer. As a sign of our reverence and respect for the Lord present in the tabernacle, when we come into the church, whenever that may be, our voices should not be at a normal conversational volume, we should have a quiet voice for necessary conversation.

Any furniture to be moved or jobs around the church which have to be carried out should be done so with as little noise as possible. Please be considerate of people in the church trying to say their prayers. A sacred silence should be maintained at **all** times.

As the weather is so nice outside at the moment, it might be a nice idea to have our conversations before entering the church porch or waiting until we leave the church. The stewards could also greet parishioners at the front of the church to minimise the noise in the porch area in St Mary's or the back of the church in Our Lady & St John's.



**SILENCE
PLEASE**

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S 12NOON MASS

At the last count there are around eighty people signed up to come along to the Sunday 12noon Mass in Our Lady & St John's. Due to the restrictions placed on us, we are only able to fit around forty into the church for the celebration of Mass.

From next Sunday, 4th July, we will have the church and the Parish Hall open for Mass to accommodate all those who would wish to attend Mass each week.

As was previously the case, the Mass will be celebrated in the church with the livestream being fed into the Parish Hall. Holy Communion will be distributed in the Hall at the normal time during the Mass.

It is understandable that many people would prefer to be in the church as Mass is being celebrated but others have expressed a deep desire to be able to receive Holy Communion each week. Fr Wyllie has decided to go ahead with this plan to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion, particularly to give young families the opportunity to get back into the rhythm of being at Mass each Sunday.

Please be patient with the stewards and please be aware that you may be asked to watch the livestream in the Parish Hall rather than being in the church.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION IN ST MARY'S

From Monday 5th July, we will return to the normal practice of parishioners coming forward to the foot of the altar to receive Holy Communion, rather than Fr Wyllie making his way around the pews. This will be done adhering to social distancing between individuals and different family groups. Families can come forward together to receive Holy Communion but the stewards will be there to guide you. This is another step to returning to some normality in the parish.

There will be a kneeler at the front of the church for those who wish to kneel to receive Holy Communion, as we have been doing over the past few months. It's been lovely to see so many parishioners kneeling in adoration to receive the Lord in Holy Communion.