

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

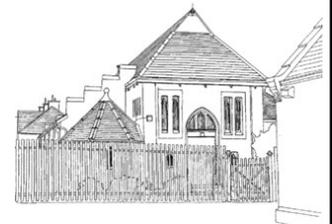
Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

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

**SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**  
**30TH MAY 2021**

St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## THE HOLY TRINITY - ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS

The Blessed Trinity is the foundational image that God has revealed to us. The Trinity is the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons. It is the central mystery of the Christian faith, and we call it a mystery because it cannot be understood by reason alone - God has made it known to us.

Belief in one God is called monotheism. But the belief in the Trinity distinguishes Christians from other monotheistic religions (like Judaism and Islam), because these religions do not believe there are three Persons in God.

The belief in one God comes to us through our Jewish ancestry. One of the primary prayers of the Jewish religion comes from the Book of Deuteronomy: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might". This was a truly unique revelation. Other ancient people - the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans, for example - believed in and worshipped a collection of gods and goddesses. God revealed himself to the Chosen People as the one and only God.

But how did we come to believe that there were three Persons in the one God? This belief came later and was revealed by the life and words of Jesus Christ. First the Apostles came to understand that Christ was God. The Gospel of John says, "No one has seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known". A little later the Apostles came to know and understand that the Holy Spirit was also God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf".

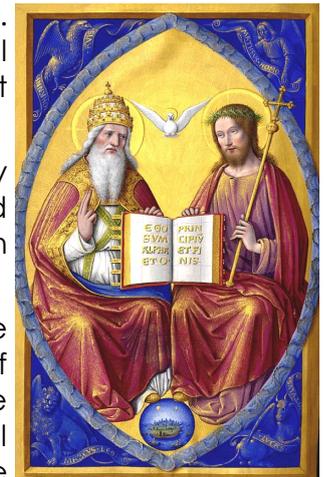
The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three Gods, but one God. To use philosophical terms, they share the same 'substance' or 'essence'. Yet we believe that the three are also distinct from one another. They are really three different 'Persons', not just three ways of describing how God works.

On the other hand, when we describe their roles, we do think of the Father primarily as Creator, the Son as Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier (the one who helps us become holy). Yet we must remember that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are inseparable from one another and they all share in things together.

If you're confused don't worry! Great minds have been struggling to understand the mystery of the Trinity for more than two thousand years. Just remember this:

The central thing that the Trinity teaches us is that God is not solitary. God exists as a communion of Persons who perfectly communicate with one another and perfectly support one another. If this is true for God, it is also true for us, who are made in God's image and likeness. We are made for community; acknowledging our need for other people is honouring the Trinity!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## Sunday 30th May

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	May Devotions with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Our Lady & St John's)

## Monday 31st May

11.30am	Holy Rosary & Litany of Loreto (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 1st June

9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memorial of St Justin (Our Lady & St John's)
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## Wednesday 2nd June

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Wednesday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass praying for Vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

## Thursday 3rd June

9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.20am
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Charles Lwanga & Companions (Our Lady & St John's)

## Friday 4th June

10.00am	First Friday Mass in honour of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (St Mary's)
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## Saturday 5th June

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Boniface (St Mary's)
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (St Mary's)

## Sunday 6th June

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Solemn Vespers with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Our Lady & St John's)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**31st May - Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - The Visitation commemorates the meeting between Our Lady & her cousin St Elizabeth at Ein Kerem, just outside Jerusalem. Feeling the presence of his Divine Saviour, St John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb on the Blessed Virgin's arrival. Following St Elizabeth's words of greeting, Our Lady proclaimed the Magnificat, a hymn praising the Lord for all that he had done for his handmaid and expressing her attitude of faith and humility.

**1st June - Memoria of St Justin** - St Justin was born in Nablus, Samaria around the year 103AD. Having studied the Platonist philosophers he converted to Christianity at the age of about thirty-three. As a lay apologist he travelled around preaching the faith, defending it from attack and writing works such as the Apologies and Dialogue. He was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Marcus Aurelius around 165AD. He is one of the patron saints of philosophers.

**3rd June - St Charles Lwanga & Companions** - The Ugandan martyrs suffered under King Mwangi of the Baganda in 1885-1886. They included St Joseph Mkasa, master of the pages at the royal court, who had criticised Mwangi and was beheaded on 15th November 1885, and his successor St Charles Lwanga, who was burned alive with other Christians (of several denominations) on 3rd June 1886 at Namugongo. St Charles Lwanga is the patron saint of Uganda, converts and those who suffer through torture.

**5th June - St Boniface** - St Boniface was born around 673AD at Crediton in Devon, England. As a child he entered a Benedictine community and in 716AD set out for his first missionary expedition to Frisia. This was unsuccessful but he returned two years later, with papal approval, and evangelised much of southern Germany. He was appointed bishop of Mainz but was martyred around 754AD. He is the patron saint of Devon and Germany.

# FOODBANK

We will hold our monthly collection for the Foodbank this weekend. Don't worry if you've forgot, you can hand in donations at any point today by leaving them at the door of either of the chapel houses. If you are not at Mass this weekend you can hand bags of groceries or monetary donations into the church before or after any Mass this Saturday or Sunday. Those at Mass are asked to leave their donations at the back of the church.



## PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The first meeting of this newly formed group will take place on Tuesday 1st June at 7.00pm in St Mary's Parish House. The main item of business will be looking back over the past year and looking forward to building our parish up again after the difficulties of the past year. More details to follow soon.

## PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£793.27
Stall:	£9.10
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£230.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,032.37</b>

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

## SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Fr Wyllie is keen to visit the sick & housebound of our parish. If you or a family member would like Fr Wyllie to bring you Holy Communion, hear your confession and/or give you the Sacrament of the Sick please let him know. Many families may still be anxious about the risks of Covid so permission must be sought.

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

New boxes of envelopes will be available as you enter the church this weekend. These envelopes are only available for those who contribute to the parish through the Gift Aid scheme who do not pay through Standing Order. Please get your box of envelopes as you enter the church today.

## YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING IN FAITH

The celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation have been very different this year than we have been used to in the past, but we have now completed the Sacraments for the boys and girls who were due to receive the Sacraments last year and this year, and also Confirmed a good number of our S1's as well as the P7 pupils of St Mary's. Many thanks to Mrs McCart, Mrs Colgan and the staff of both schools for their commitment and dedication to the faith formation of our young people.

## FR BRIAN LOGUE

On Friday of this week, 4th June, Fr Brian Logue celebrates 60 years of ordination to the priesthood. As a parish we pray for Fr Logue as he celebrates this very important milestone and we give thanks to God for the many years of faithful service he has given to the people of the Diocese of Motherwell and further afield over those years. On that day we will celebrate the first Friday Mass with a Votive Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, a very fitting day for Fr Logue's anniversary as the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.

## CARFIN GROTTO & POPE FRANCIS

Carfin Grotto has the honour of being selected as one of the Marian Shrines throughout the world to participate in a live global Rosary led by Pope Francis. The Rosary from Carfin will be connected via satellite to the event being held in the Vatican Gardens where the Pope will see the pilgrims in Carfin praying the Rosary alongside him.

This will take place on Monday of this week, 31st May at 5.00pm and will be broadcast to millions throughout the world. It is not only a great honour for the Grotto but for the Diocese of Motherwell and the whole Catholic Church in Scotland. We're all being asked to pray for good weather.

The event will be livestreamed on the Carfin Grotto Facebook page as well as other social media outlets. **The Grotto will also be able to welcome pilgrims for the event too. You must be in the Grotto no later than 4.15pm to be seated in good time for the broadcast beginning and for instructions to be given.** The Grotto can accommodate 500 seated, 250 standing.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

**SICK** - John Peter Smith, Niranjan & Devki Niranjan Balani (Mumbai), Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Susie Tierney, 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** - Charles Clews, Jim Matthews

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - John Nugent, James Curivan, Susan Girvan, Michael Wilson, The Morrison, Maguire & McStay Families, Mrs Mary Maguire, John Maguire

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

## **LOOKING AHEAD AT MASS PROVISION IN THE PARISH**

### **LIVESTREAMING**

Over the past year we have been very fortunate to have the livestream facility on Facebook to broadcast our Masses and Liturgies at a time when we were unable to physically attend Mass. We are now able to attend Mass unhindered, except for the limited space we have in both churches for our Sunday Masses. There is ample space at our weekday Masses and other devotions. From next Monday, 7th June, we will cease the livestreaming of weekday Masses and other devotions but we will keep the Sunday Mass livestreaming for the time being.

### **QUIET WEEK**

We will have a quiet week in the parish from Monday 21st June until Saturday 26th June. This will mean that from after the Sunday 5.00pm Mass on 20th June there will be no Mass celebrated in the parish until the Saturday Vigil Mass on 26th June at 5.30pm.

### **OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S SUNDAY MASSES**

From Sunday 4th July we will have both the church and the hall opened to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend the 12noon Mass. As things stand at the moment, this would mean that the 74 parishioners who wish to attend this Mass can come along each week. This may change as the numbers attending Mass increases after the summer holidays, but hopefully the restrictions will be lifted by that point. In the meantime, we will issue a card with the dates you can attend Mass between now and the 27th June. Currently the 35 parishioners who wish to attend the 5.00pm Mass can be accommodated in the church with little difficulty.

### **ST MARY'S SUNDAY MASSES**

At the moment we have 211 parishioners wishing to attend Mass in St Mary's over the weekend. Our current maximum capacity in St Mary's is 64, but this number is unachievable due to the combinations of family groups, couples and individuals who attend Mass, so we never really reach the maximum number at any of our Masses. Parishioners will receive a card which will indicate when you can come along to Mass. This means you will know well in advance when you will be invited to Mass rather than being emailed on the Thursday with confirmation of your attendance. The current system worked well when our freedoms were limited, but as we begin to experience more freedom it is suspected that many parishioners will be off on holiday or have other things planned which may impact the numbers attending Mass from week to week. Some parishioners will be able to attend Mass for a number of weeks at a time and others may only be invited once a fortnight but this arrangement will swap around from time to time so that it is fair for everyone. For those parishioners who are attending Mass each week please note that you may receive an email to alert you that you may not attend Mass on a specific weekend if demand for places at Mass exceed the space we have available. Please keep your card safe as you will no longer receive an email to confirm your attendance at Mass each week.

### **FR WYLLIE'S HOLIDAY**

Fr Wyllie will be on holiday from Friday 25th June until Saturday 3rd July. During this time Masses will be celebrated by Monsignor Millar and Fr Coyle from Our Lady of Lourdes, East Kilbride. Monsignor Millar will be well known to many of you from his time spent in the parish a few years ago and Fr Coyle supplied in St Mary's back in September. Trying to find priests to supply is extremely difficult at the moment so Fr Wyllie is extremely grateful to Monsignor Millar and Fr Coyle for agreeing to cover while he gets some time off.