

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

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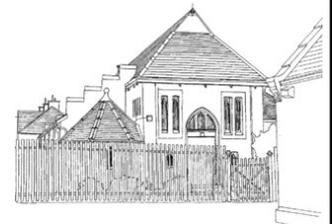
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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
22ND AUGUST 2021

FEW WORDS FROM FATHER WYLLIE

Last week was the first time we were able to gather for Holy Mass without any restrictions or limitations. It was a wonderful joy to welcome over 300 people back to Mass in our parish, especially seeing so many young people and families. We have a great opportunity to revitalise and build up our parish after the difficulties of the past year and a half. I am committed to working with all of you to achieve this over the next few months.



We will have the opportunity in a few weeks time to come together as a parish community for our Forty Hours of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, a prolonged period of prayer and adoration where we place Christ at the centre of our lives. I hope that all parishioners, whether from St Mary's or from Our Lady & St John's, will give generously of their time to spend periods of adoration before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This will be a wonderful expression of our love, faith and belief in the Lord's presence in Holy Communion.

Over the past week I have been in our two primary schools to speak with the staff and pupils and to plan and prepare the various aspects of the faith life of our young people. A letter has now been sent to all parents and carers of the pupils in our schools inviting them to join us for the Sunday celebration of Mass in our parish. It is hoped that many will take this opportunity to return and become engaged in the life of our parish. Parents have been asked to consider the vows they made when they brought their children to the church for baptism and to take this chance to make some time for God each week. Please pray for the parents and for our young people.

The life of the parish, except the liturgical aspect, has been practically on hold for the past year and a half. I invite the groups, club and societies which functioned in our parish to pick up where they left off.

A special word of thanks must go to the faithful band of stewards who ensured our safety and worked tirelessly over the past year. As they now take a well earned rest I want to put on record our deep gratitude to each of them. Without their commitment and generosity the parish would have been unable to function.

When the parish Forty Hours begins on Sunday 5th September we will resume opening the churches from 8.00am until 5.00pm each day to allow parishioners the opportunity to pop in and pray in the church. When we began this in Lent of last year it was wonderful to see the number of primary school pupils together with their families who came to the church before the school day, please endeavour to foster this beautiful practise in our young people.

A few months ago, the bulletin detailed the various groups which Fr Wyllie wished to establish or re-introduce to the parish. Without your willingness these groups will not work, so please make a special effort to support all that goes on in the parish. Further details of these groups will be available in the bulletin over the next few weeks.

I would like to thank all those who give so generously of their time and talents to enhance our parish community and I look forward to welcoming many more of you to take a more active part in the life of our parish.

Many thanks to all of you for your support of our parish community. May God bless you all.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 22nd August

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

Monday 23rd August

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

Tuesday 24th August

- 9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Bartholomew (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 25th August

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

Thursday 26th August

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
9.00am Confessions until 9.20am
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twenty First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 27th August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Monica (St Mary's)

Saturday 28th August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Augustine (St Mary's)
4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 22nd August

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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

23rd August - Memoria of St Rose of Lima - St Rose was born in Lima, Peru in 1586. Influenced by the example of St Catherine of Siena, she lived a life of prayer and penance and joined the Third Order of St Dominic. The first canonised saint from the Americas, she is venerated as the patron of Latin America and the Philippines. She is also the patron of embroiderers, gardeners and florists.

24th August - Feast of St Bartholomew - St Bartholomew was originally from Cana in Galilee and is usually identified with Nathaniel, who was introduced to the Lord by St Philip. According to tradition, after Pentecost he preached the Gospel in Arabia, India and Armenia, where he was flayed alive. He is thus the patron of tanners.

27th August - Memoria of St Monica - St Monica was born in Thagaste (now Algeria) around 331. She married Patricius and was mother of St Augustine. She prayed and suffered for her son's conversion and was overjoyed by his baptism in 387. She died shortly afterwards the same year at ostia and in the fifteenth century her relics were brought to Rome. She is patron of mothers.

28th August - Memoria of St Augustine - St Augustine was born in Thagaste (Algeria) in 354 and, despite the example of his mother, became a Manichean and fathered children out of wedlock. He was converted at the age of thirty-three and baptised by St Ambrose in Milan. St Augustine became Bishop of Hippo Regius (now Annaba, Algeria) and wrote and preached energetically in defence of the faith, making him one of the most influential Doctors of the Church. His principles concerning the religious life continue to inspire Augustinian friars, canons and nuns to this day. He is the patron of brewers, printers and theologians.

NUMBERS ATTENDING MASSES LAST WEEK & AT LAST CENSUS IN 2019

Last Week: 5.30pm - 90	10.00am - 124	12noon - 61	5.00pm - 29	Total - 304
Nov 2019: 5.30pm - 80	10.00am - 120	12noon - 90	5.00pm - 51	Total - 340

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

On Thursday 26th August at 7.00pm, Bishop Toal will celebrate the annual Vocations Mass to implore the Lord to send us many good and holy priests to minister in our parishes for the future. He asks that as many of us as possible gather with him in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell, to join our prayers together for many more young men to respond to the Lord's call to serve him as priests in our Diocese.



During this Mass we will also pray for the six seminarians in major seminaries studying at the moment for our Diocese and also for the three young men who are about to begin the preparatory year with a view to beginning seminary next summer.

If any young man feels that the Lord is calling them to serve him as a priest please speak with Fr Wyllie or contact Fr Charles O'Farrell, the Diocesan Vocations Director at Our Lady & St Anne's, Hamilton.

KEYS FOR PARISH BUILDINGS

Anyone who has a key for any of our parish buildings is asked to ensure that by the end of today, Sunday 22nd August, they have handed a note to Fr Wyllie with their name, address and the doors on parish property they have keys for. A prompt response is necessary!

NEW ALTAR SERVERS

Young people serving at the altar has been a long tradition in the Catholic Church and it is a beautiful and worthy thing to foster and encourage. Fr Wyllie encourages all of our young people, especially the boys to serve at the altar for Sunday Masses. If you have a child who has received their First Holy Communion please speak to them about joining our serving team. The meetings for new servers are:



St Mary's on Saturday 28th August at 11.00am.

OLSJ's on Sun 29th August after 12noon Mass.

COLLECTION

The custom of taking the weekly collection up at the Offertory will now return to both churches from this weekend. When the collection has been taken up the pass keepers are asked to place the collection bags before the statue of Our Lady near the sacristy. The new teams which have been set up for the counting of the money will empty the bags. The collection will be counted in alternate churches every week. The new Our Lady of Fatima bank account is now operational.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We wish two parishioners a very happy birthday this weekend, Kathleen Alston who celebrates her 80th and Frank Brady his 90th. Ad multos annos (To many more years!).

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£904.00
Stall:	£43.00
Building Fund (St Mary's):	£670.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£280.00
TOTAL:	£1,897.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

SHRINES TO OUR LADY

Work will hopefully begin this week on the plinth for the statue of Our Lady, Help of Christians in the grounds at St Mary's. We are hopeful that we will be able to bless this statue at the conclusion of our Forty Hours on 7th September, the Vigil of Our Lady's birthday.

A statue of Our Lady has been donated to Our Lady & St John's and a similar plinth will be built at the very front of the church where the church Mass Times board is at present. The statue is currently being restored at the generosity of the donor and will hopefully be ready soon. Any builders able to help with the plinth would be very helpful.

MASS FOR THE SICK & INFIRM

On Monday 6th September, as part of our Forty Hours celebrations, we will have a special Mass for all the sick and infirm of the parish in St Mary's at 1.00pm. The Sacrament should only be received by those who are suffering physically or mentally, those who are fit and able should not receive this Sacrament.

The SSVP of both churches have very kindly offered to transport the sick and infirm to the Mass that day. All of those who are on the list for Holy Communion to be brought to them will be contacted in due course to make arrangements. Anyone who is not on the list but would like to receive the Sacrament, is of course invited too, making their own way.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Bunty McDonald, 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 - Pat McGarrigle (Lanark), Tony Morgan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Anne Wilson & Elizabeth Ward (Strathaven), Harriet Keane, Jean Tierney, Pearl Hamilton, Mary Goodwin, Margaret Girvan

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

PARISH FORTY HOURS

The Forty Hours is a beautiful tradition in the Church which allows a prolonged period of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We will observe this time of prayer in St Mary's from Sunday 5th September until Tuesday 7th September. All parishioners, from both churches, are asked to make an extra special effort to support this time of blessing and grace.

Sunday 5th September

10.00am Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until
3.00pm Blessed Sacrament Procession
3.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until
6.30pm Solemn Evening Prayer followed by Benediction

Monday 6th September

8.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.00am
9.00am Confessions
9.30am Holy Rosary
10.00am Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until
1.00pm Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick
2.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.00pm
6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm
7.00pm Holy Hour concluding with Solemn Benediction

Tuesday 7th September

8.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10.00am
9.00am Confessions
9.30am Holy Rosary
10.00am Holy Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 7.00pm
12noon Prayers for the parish followed by simple Benediction
1.00pm Visits from the Primary School children until 3.00pm
6.00pm Confessions until 6.45pm
7.00pm Holy Mass*

* *This Holy Mass is a parish Mass with a special invitation to all those who perform any ministry or job in our parish community (both churches) - Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers, Cleaners, Stewards, members of Committees, Societies or Groups which function in our parish.*



WATCHING LISTS

The Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar should never be left unaccompanied. To ensure that there is someone with the Blessed Sacrament at all times there will be sign up sheets for half hour slots throughout the Forty Hours. Please try and be generous with your time and commit to spending some private or family time with the Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Lists will be available from this weekend on the notice boards in St Mary's nearest to the stall.

BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION

The whole parish is invited to join us as we proclaim our faith and love for the Blessed Sacrament.