

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
3RD OCTOBER 2021

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Many religions use beads to keep track of prayers. Our Rosary, a circle of beads, is like a garland offered to Mary because we pray a prayer on each bead. This well-loved prayer has its roots in the 150 psalms. People who couldn't read began praying 150 Hail Marys instead, the equivalent of three of our modern rosaries covering the original three sets of mysteries.

The story of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is an interesting one. In the 16th century Pope Pius V was having trouble with the Ottoman Turks, who were a real danger to Christianity. After months of disagreements and bickering, he was able to unite Spain, Venice, and the States of the Church in a naval expedition to fight the Turks.

The two navies met in the Gulf of Lepanto in Greece on October 7, 1571. On the same day, the Rosary Confraternity of Rome was meeting at the Dominican headquarters there. The Pope asked all Christians throughout Europe to recite the Rosary for the special intention of the Christians at battle. The Christians defeated the Turks in a spectacular victory and

believed it was the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin that won the victory. Pope Pius V dedicated the day as one of thanksgiving to Our Lady of Victory, for if the Christian fleet had been defeated then the Turks would have forced the people of Europe to convert to Islam.

Pope Gregory XIII later changed the name to the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The story of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary focuses on the intercessory power of Mary. It shows that when Christians are in danger, they can go to Mary. And when an individual is in pain, discouraged, or having trouble accepting God's will, he or she can also go to Mary. She will pray to her Son for anyone who calls on her. Anyone who prays to Mary no longer feels alone because she prays with them and for them. Mary encouraged praying the Rosary in her apparitions. At Lourdes when she appeared to Saint Bernadette, Mary had a Rosary. As Bernadette prayed it, Mary joined in on the Glory Be prayers. At Fatima Mary exhorted the three children who saw her to pray the Rosary for peace.

The Rosary is a deep prayer because as we recite the Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glory Bes, we meditate on the mysteries in the lives of Jesus and Mary.

For centuries the Rosary was prayed by families and communities on a very regular basis, sadly this beautiful tradition has waned over the past fifty years. Everyone is encouraged to pray at least a decade of the Rosary every day either as individuals or as families.

Our parish will recite the Rosary half an hour before each weekday Mass (Monday-Saturday) and also at October Devotions. Please, if you are a parent, carer, teacher or grandparent please help our young people to discover the beauty and power of the Most Holy Rosary.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 3rd October

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
1.00pm	Baptisms (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	October Devotions concluding with Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 4th October

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Francis of Assisi (St Mary's)

Tuesday 5th October

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Wednesday 6th October

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty Seventh Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Thursday 7th October

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 8th October

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Votive Mass in honour of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (St Mary's)

Saturday 9th October

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 10th October

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	October Devotions concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

4th October - Memoria of St Francis of Assisi - St Francis was born around the year 1182, the son of a wealthy merchant in Assisi, Italy, and, responding to the Lord's call, embraced poverty and preached the love of God to all. In 1210 Pope Innocent III approved his Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans); two years later he helped St Clare establish a female community (Poor Clares). In 1224, while praying at La Verna, he received the wounds of the crucified Lord, which caused him great pain in his final years. He died in 1226. He is the patron of animals and ecology.

7th October - Memoria of Our Lady of the Rosary - This memoria (originally Our Lady of Victories) commemorates the battle of Lepanto (7th October 1571), when a Christian fleet defeated the Muslim Turks who were trying to invade Europe. The victory was attributed by Pope St Pius V to the recitation of the Holy Rosary. This great Marian prayer is sometimes traced back to St Dominic and his confreres, preaching against the Albigensian heresy in the thirteenth century, although it seems more likely to have taken its familiar form in the fifteenth century. Since then it has spread all over the world and has produced marvellous fruits, bringing countless Christians 'to Jesus through Mary'.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 80

10.00am - 97

12noon - 47

5.00pm - 37

Total - 261

MANY THANKS

Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those who helped to make the Mass of Initiation into the Catholic Church so special for the new converts and their families. Particular thanks must go to the altar servers, the readers, the SSVP, the organist, cantor, florist and all those who cleaned the church for the Mass. It was a beautiful occasion and made more so with the number of parishioners who came out to pray with the new converts and to pray for them.

Many thanks to all those who came along to the function in the Parish Hall, to Angela and those who worked behind the bar and to those who arranged the buffet reception. A big word of thanks must also go to those who cleaned and set up the Hall last week, your help is greatly appreciated by all of us.

RCIA 2021-2022

There have already been a number of people who have expressed a wish to join the RCIA programme with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter 2022. If you have already expressed a wish, or have been thinking about becoming a Catholic please get in contact with Fr Wyllie. It is hoped that the new RCIA programme will begin early November.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume in Our Lady & St John's on Sunday 31st October at the 12noon Mass. The children will be taken to the Parish Hall as was previously the case. The Children's Liturgy is only available to children in P1-P4. When the children make their First Holy Communion they will be encouraged to take on some responsibilities in the parish at Mass.

As yet there has been no response in St Mary's to resume the Children's Liturgy.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY

We will begin our parish Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in preparation for Christmas. This Novena will begin on Tuesday 26th October in St Mary's and continue for each of the successive nine Tuesdays. At the conclusion of the Novena we will have Benediction. The Novena will begin on Wednesday 27th October at 6.30pm in Our Lady & St John's and continue for each of the successive nine Wednesdays.

PARISH FINANCE MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee will take place on **Wednesday 13th October** at 2.30pm in St Mary's. Please note change of date. The members of the Finance Committee are: Patricia, Weir, Gerry McCaughey, Mary McDermott and Irene McGoldrick.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£847.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£170.00
Stall:	£90.00
TOTAL:	£1,107.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The proposed date of the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team is this Tuesday, 5th October at 7.00pm at St Mary's.

The members of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team (PPPT) are: Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Scott Smith, Ciaran Reilly, Suzanne McCaughey & Laura Kennedy.

BENCHES FOR OUR LADY STATUE

The two benches have arrived with one now in place before the new statue of Our Lady at St Mary's. The donors would like to remain anonymous but please say a little prayer for them when you next visit the statue.

FOODBANK

Many thanks to all those who made donations of food and monetary donations to our parish efforts to help the local foodbank last weekend. As we know, there will be many families struggling this coming winter with the expected rise in gas prices and to shopping bills. The next collection for the foodbank will take place on the weekend 30th/31st October.

NOVEMBER LISTS

Next weekend you will find November Lists at the back of the church. A box will be provided from the following weekend for you to place your completed November Lists in time for November. Mass will be offered each day during the month of November for all those named in our November Lists, the Book of Remembrance will be blessed on All Souls Day.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Paul Fleming, James Ferguson, Bunty McDonald, Murray Brown, Alice Cumming, Alice Goodwin, Rory Quigley, Janet McIntosh, David Hillhouse, Annette Thomson, Liz Rees OCV, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Gerard Lyons, John Gowans, Kevin Feeney

RIP - John Williams, Charlie Dunsmore, Gloria Briggs

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jane McMurray, John McMurray, Eddie O'Mara, Jimmy Craighs, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn

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

OPENING OUR CHURCHES DURING THE DAY

Last year over the first few weeks of Lent, before lockdown, both our churches were open during the day for private prayer and visits. It was wonderful to see so many school children and adults coming into the church to say a prayer, light a candle and just spend some time before the Lord in the tabernacle. From tomorrow (Monday 4th October), St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's will be opened from 8.00am until 5.00pm or until after the evening Mass or Liturgy for parishioners to pop in and pray in the church. All those who visit the church are asked to ensure that they sanitise their hands when they enter and leave the church and also, those who are over the age of twelve, to keep a face covering on for the duration for their visit.

CLERGY CHANGES

It was announced last weekend that Fr Tom Devine, Parish Priest of St Patrick's in Strathaven will be stepping down as Parish Priest and will join Fr John-Paul McShane in St Mary's Lanark as priest in residence. We pray for Fr Devine as he begins this new chapter in his priestly ministry.

Fr Devine will be replaced in Strathaven by Fr Francis McGachey, the former Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier's, Carfin and Guardian of Carfin Grotto who, due to ill health, stood down as Parish Priest of Carfin in November 2019. He is now much better, thank God, and will look after the parish from Sunday 17th October. Please pray for Fr McGachey as he takes up this responsibility and also for the parishioners of St Patrick's.

BAPTISMS

From the summer until now we have been blessed to have welcomed ten new children into the Catholic Faith through the waters of Baptism. Our prayers and congratulations go to: Rory, Elsie-Jane, Matthew, Daniel, Harriet, Lorena, Charlotte, Ethan, Lara and Hollie and their parents, that they may always love and serve God faithfully in the Catholic Church and grow as members of our parish community.

If you have a child or children who have not been baptised then please speak with Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks to begin the preparation for Baptism.

SECOND COLLECTION

On Sunday 24th October a second collection will be taken up for the work of Missio. Missio works to provide for the various needs of the Church in the developing countries by sending missionaries, training future priests and sisters overseas and catechising the young.

STATUE OF ST THERESE

St Therese of Lisieux is the patron saint of the missions. During the month of October we are asked to pray for and support the Church in mission lands materially, praying for the priests and religious who work there and also our poorer brothers and sisters in those countries. As a visual reminder of this and also to honour the Little Flower, her statue will be placed at the front of both churches for parishioners to ask her intercession and light candles to her throughout the month of October. Many of us will recall the wonderful visit of the relics of St Therese to our country back in 2019, tens of thousands of Scotland's Catholics came before her relics to pray and ask her intercession, we do the same in our parish before her image in both our churches.

PARISH STALL

We have a selection of Rosaries on sale in the Parish Stall during this month of the Holy Rosary.