

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
18TH APRIL 2021**

GRACE AT MEALS

In ancient Israel, bread was what made a meal a meal. A meal was incomplete without bread. Indeed, for most families, bread made up the most substantial portion of every meal. Meat was a luxury. So the customary prayers at mealtime - what we have come to call 'Grace at meals' - were, in those days, called 'blessing over bread'. It was the blessing that transformed a natural occurrence - that is, feeding - into a sacred event.



The ancient Jewish table blessing will resonate with Catholics, as it has had a profound influence on the prayers of the Mass. The earliest Christian liturgies - the Syriac Liturgy of Addai and Mari and the Egyptian Liturgy of St Mark - include the text, more or less intact.

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe. You nourish the whole world with goodness, tender love, and mercy. Blessed are you, Lord, who nourish the universe. We will give you thanks, Lord our God...

Every meal, then, was a celebration of God's creation and his goodness. By means of the common prayers, every meal was united with the historic meals of the Old Testament: the hospitality of Abraham toward his three heavenly visitors (Genesis 18:1-8), the king's table on Mount Zion (2 Samuel 9:12), Wisdom's banquet of bread and wine (Proverbs 9:1-5), the feast of fulfilment in the prophet Isaiah, so common at Requiem Masses: "On this mountain the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food" (Isaiah 25:6).

The New Testament shows us Jesus as he vividly brings all these meals to fulfilment. Commentators note that the drama of St Luke's Gospel unfolds over the course of ten meal scenes, culminating in the Last Supper and the Eucharist at Emmaus. We have already seen how this New Covenant meal established communion, *chaburah*, not only among God's people, but also between God and man. Now, it is more than a meal taken in God's presence. It is a meal shared with God himself - and with God himself as the sustenance of the meal.

The question sometimes arises whether we should say grace in public places, or when eating with a mixed groups of Christians and non-Christians. It's always a good idea, even if we offer our prayer silently. The simple gesture of the Sign of the Cross sometimes has a profound effect on bystanders. We must not underestimate the power of such a simple public witness. Sometimes a quiet gesture speaks louder and more eloquently than a thousand words shouted on a street corner. This is especially true when that gesture is so suggestive of the Holy Eucharist - and every meal, the Old Testament and the New, that finds fulfilment in the Eucharist. 'Grace' can be a mighty conveyor of the grace we have in our hearts as God's people.

The most common grace before meals is this one:

**Bless us, O Lord, and these, thy gifts, which we are about to receive
from thy bounty. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

All of us should recommit ourselves to praying the grace before meals, especially those of us with young people at home. Let us thank God for the wonderful gifts he has bestowed upon us.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 18th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 19th April

12noon	Holy Mass for Pope Benedict XVI on the anniversary of his election as Pope (St Mary's)
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Tuesday 20th April

9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
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Wednesday 21st April

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 22nd April

9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.30am
9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 23rd April

10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Third Week of Eastertide with Baptism (St Mary's)
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Saturday 24th April

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 Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Sunday 25th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If you wish to attend any of the Sunday Masses in our parish you need to send an email to the parish to request a place, you only need to send this email once. This is for all parishioners, whether they had previously been on the list or not. When you email you will automatically be placed on the list for attending Mass and will receive an email to confirm attendance at Mass for the coming weekend.

You must include the following details:

The name of each person wishing to attend Mass Your preferred Mass A contact number

SINGING IN CHURCH

A major part of our Catholic liturgy is praising God by singing, as St Augustine said, 'To sing is to praise God twice'. Due to the current restrictions placed on us by Covid regulations we are unable to allow the congregation to sing, we are limited to one cantor and a musician leading the singing at all our Masses. Hopefully it won't be long until we can all join in the singing at Mass once again, but until that time all parishioners are reminded that we are not permitted to sing while in church. A neighbouring parish was reported and investigated for people singing at Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,127.02
Stall:	£25.00
Votive Candles:	£21.00
Standing Orders:	£423.50
TOTAL:	£1,596.52
Easter Collection Total	£1,920.91
SCIAF Total:	£950.08

Many thanks for your very generous support

FOODBANK COLLECTION

On the last weekend of this month, 24th & 25th April, we will hold another parish collection for the work of our local Foodbank. You can either donate items or you can donate money which would allow the Foodbank to purchase necessary items. It is hoped that as we return to some normality we will be in position to have a collection for the Foodbank on the final weekend of each month as we did previously before Christmas. Please be as generous as you always are.

SIGNING UP TO GIFTAID

Many of those who attend Mass in our parish are paying UK Tax on their wages or pensions, if all those parishioners signed up to Giftaid you could be helping the parish enormously without any additional cost to yourself.



If you sign up to Giftaid, for every £1.00 you donate to the parish, the UK Government gives the parish 25p. Last year, through the Giftaid scheme we received a donation of over £11,000.00. For example, if you sign up to Giftaid and donate £5.00 a week to the parish, at the end of the financial year we receive £65.00 from the UK Government at no extra cost to yourself. It's a wonderful scheme which generates much needed funds for the furthering of the Church's mission and also helps with the upkeep and maintenance of our parish buildings,

Everyone, no matter the age or how much they pay in tax is encouraged to sign up to Giftaid today. You can take a form as you leave the church today. If you wish to set up a Standing Order for your donation to be paid directly into the parish bank account, please tear off the back page, titled 'STANDING ORDER MANDATE' and send it off to your bank and then return the front page to the parish. If you wish to use the Giftaid envelopes then please just complete the first page, which is very simple, and return to the parish.

GIFTAID ENVELOPES

The current batch of Giftaid envelopes run out at the end of May/beginning of June so a new batch has been ordered and will hopefully be with us over the next few weeks for you to collect as you leave the church.



These envelopes will only be available for those who contribute through Giftaid and do not have a Standing Order set up for the parish. The envelopes are quite expensive so this is one of a variety of ways we are trying to save money as a parish after losing over £25,000.00 last year in income. Some parishioners who are not in the Giftaid scheme currently use envelopes but from the beginning of June this will no longer be the case. Those who donate to the parish through Standing Order will have a special envelope at Christmas and Easter to donate to the Easter & Christmas collections. This envelope will be attached to the weekly bulletin before Easter & Christmas for you to make your gift to the parish.

RCIA

By the end of this weekend, Fr Wyllie will have met with all those wishing to join the RCIA programme. It is proposed that we begin the course at the end of this month which will run through May and June, have a break in July, recommence in August and September with a view to receiving those who have completed the course into the Catholic Church on Friday 1st October at 7.00pm in St Mary's followed by a parish celebration afterwards in the Parish Hall at Our Lady & St John's.

BAPTISMS

If you wish your child to be baptised in our parish you must contact Fr Wyllie either by phone or by speaking to him after Mass to begin the preparation period for the celebration of the sacrament. Baptisms can take place either during Sunday Masses or during weekday Masses but cannot be celebrated at any other times at the moment. This seems a very strange rule but we have to go along with it. Please keep this in mind when you make contact.

LARKHALL 100 CLUB

Many thanks to those who have made contact with regard to joining the 100 Club. It would be great to have all the spaces filled as soon as possible. There are still plenty of spaces left so please consider joining today.

You can contact Patsy Walker on 07957222769 or you can set up a Standing Order for £1.00 a week to the following account:

Name of Account **Larkhall 100 Club**
Sort Code **80-22-60**
Account No. **17418369**

The
100
CLUB

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

RIP - Donna Camillo (English Teacher, Holy Cross High School), Catherine Dowdalls (Hamilton), Liz McNamee (Shieldmuir), Jacqui Cameron (Shieldmuir), James Fox (Shieldmuir)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Betty Lyons, John Creechan, Thomas & Catherine Kennedy, Michael & Annie Creechan, Margaret Love, George & Cathie Gibney, Catherine Ann Bews, James & Catherine McLaren

NEW STATUES FOR OUR CHURCHES

The new statue of St John has arrived and will be in place for the re-opening of Our Lady & St John's at the beginning of May. The new statue will be blessed during the 12noon Mass on Sunday 2nd May. This statue will be placed on the back wall of the church to balance with St Therese. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of this statue then please place a donation marked 'St John's Statue' in the Donations for the Church box as you leave the church.

On St Patrick's Day, Fr Wyllie mentioned that he intended to purchase a statue of St Patrick for St Mary's. He is hoping to have one ordered and in place over the next few weeks. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchasing of this statue then please place a donation marked 'St Patrick's Statue' in the Donations for the Church box as you leave the church.

Last year we had mentioned getting a statue of Our Lady for outside St Mary's, to replace the original one which sat between the church and house. A family from the parish have very generously donated the money for a new statue in memory of their parents. A 55" statue of Our Lady Help of Christians has been sourced and should be with us in the not too distant future. We have gone for a white statue to resemble the statue which was previously in the grounds.

If there are any builders in the parish who could build a suitable plinth for the new statue of Our Lady in the grounds of St Mary's, please contact Fr Wyllie.

NOVENA PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Next Sunday we will celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. From this weekend we will intensify our prayers asking the Lord to send labourers into his vineyard. Leading up to this special day of prayer for vocations to the priesthood this prayer will be said after Mass each day:

Heavenly Father,

in Baptism you called us by name and made us members of your family, the Church.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life, and to respond by living a life of holiness.

For your greater glory and service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Motherwell Diocese. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen our parishes, our seminarians and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen.

GROUNDS OF ST MARY'S

Many thanks to those parishioners who gave the grass behind the church at St Mary's its first cut of the year. The place is already looking much tidier. Over the next few years it would be good to utilise this space for some other purpose.

GIFTAID

If you are a UK Tax payer please complete the Gifaid form attached to this bulletin and return it to the parish once you have set up your Standing Order. **There are a few parishioners who pay the parish through Our Lady & St John's Gifaid envelopes from last year, 2019-2020. If you use the following envelope numbers, with Our Lady & St John's written at the top, please contact Fr Wyllie as soon as possible -**

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