

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18TH JULY 2021

THE TABERNACLE

One of the primary and most distinctive fixtures of any Catholic church is a box or cabinet, typically made of gold placed in the front and centre of a church. The exact shape varies, but you will most often find a red vigil lamp lighted next to it. As Catholics we call the box a tabernacle and it contains the "holy of holies," Jesus present in the Eucharist.

The word tabernacle means "dwelling place" and refers to the "tent of meeting" that the Israelites built to facilitate their worship of God in the desert (Exodus 26). God commanded Moses' brother Aaron, the chief priest, to offer sacrifice within the Tabernacle, and specified that three things be kept inside: 1. The Ark of the Covenant. 2. The golden lampstand (Menorah). 3. The golden table of the Bread of the Presence

Additionally, within the Ark of the Covenant, Moses was to put some of the manna that God gave to the Israelites. The manna is often described in the Old Testament as the "bread of angels," and was a heavenly bread that the people of Israel ate in the desert (Psalm 78:25). Both the manna and the Bread of the Presence (a sacrificial offering of bread that was eaten by the priests, along with wine) have distinct parallels to the Eucharist that we consume.

When celebrating the Mass, the early Christians knew that they could not simply dispose of the left-over Eucharistic bread and at first, because they were being persecuted and did not have churches, they distributed all the remaining hosts to be carried to the sick and housebound. When the persecution ended Christians started to build churches and, at the same time, tabernacles to house the reserved Blessed Sacrament. The first tabernacles were often shaped like a golden dove within a tower suspended over the altar.

It wasn't until the 17th century that more specific guidelines were laid down and tabernacles began to resemble those that we see in our churches today. The Catechism further explains the history of the tabernacle and how "the tabernacle was first intended for the reservation of the Eucharist in a worthy place so that it could be brought to the sick and those absent outside of Mass. As faith in the real presence of Christ in his Eucharist deepened, the Church became conscious of the meaning of silent adoration of the Lord present under the Eucharistic species. It is for this reason that the tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church and should be constructed in such a way that it emphasises and manifests the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament." (1379).

As mentioned above, the use of a tabernacle in Catholic churches rests solely on the doctrine of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the knowledge that Jesus himself is truly present under the appearances of bread (and wine). In other words, the tabernacle is not used in a symbolic way, to symbolise God's presence among us, but in a real way (like the Tabernacle of the Old Testament) to house and protect the real presence of God in the Eucharist.

This is also why Catholics genuflect when passing the tabernacle. We do so in honour of the real presence of Christ present in the Eucharistic bread reserved and protected in the tabernacle. The vigil lamp burns as a sign of Christ present. For the period from Holy Thursday night through the beginning of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night, a time when we recall Jesus' death and burial, the tabernacle is empty, with the door left wide open and the vigil lamp extinguished.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 18th July

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

Monday 19th July

- 12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 20th July

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

Wednesday 21st July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 22nd July

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

Friday 23rd July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Bridget of Sweden (St Mary's)

Saturday 24th July

- 10.00am Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
1.30pm Wedding Service (St Mary's)
4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 25th July

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

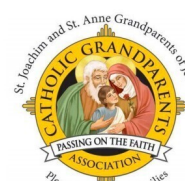
FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

22nd July - Feast of St Mary Magdalene - St Mary Magdalene, originally from Magdala in Galilee, was one of the Lord's most intimate disciples and is often associated with the woman from whom the Lord drove out seven demons. She remained with the Lord during his last agony on the cross and, according to St Mark and St John, was the first to see him after the resurrection. Tradition relates that she spent her last years as a hermit in Provence, France. She is the patron saint of contemplative life, converts, glove makers, hairdressers, penitent sinners, people ridiculed for their piety, perfumeries, pharmacists, sexual temptation, tanners and women.

23rd July - Feast of St Bridget of Sweden - St Bridget (Birgitta) was born in 1303 in Sweden and married Ulf Gudmarsson in 1316. It was a happy marriage and the devout couple brought up eight children, including St Catherine of Sweden. After Ulf's death in 1344, she founded a religious community (Bridgettines) and received a number of mystical revelations. She corresponded with European monarchs, promoting peace and the return of the papacy from Avignon to Rome. She made pilgrimages to Jerusalem and Rome, where she spent her final years. She died in 1373. She is the patron saint of Sweden.

FIRST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

On Sunday 25th July, we will celebrate the first World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the elderly. Pope Francis announced in January that the fourth Sunday of July, the Sunday closest to the Feast day of St Joachim & Anne (grandparents of the Lord) would be the day of prayer for the whole Church to appreciate and give thanks for the role grandparents play in family life and in our society and also to grow in our appreciation of the elderly. In his theme chosen for this inaugural year 'I am with you always', the Holy Father is highlighting that promise of closeness that generations share with each other. Not only are our young people called to be present in the lives of older people, but so too grandparents and elders have a mission to encourage young people on their faith journey. Our little domestic churches are always enriched by the inclusion of grandparents and elders.



FOODBANK COLLECTION

On **Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th July** we will hold our monthly collection of groceries and monetary gifts for the local foodbank. For those who are attending Mass that weekend please leave your donations at the back of the church as you come in. For those who are not attending Mass that weekend you are able to drop your donation off at the church before or after any of our Sunday Masses.

Items in short supply in the Foodbank are: **Long life milk (blue or green) Tins of carrots, spaghetti hoops, macaroni cheese, Lentil soup mix, stock cubes. Red / brown sauce, Crisps. Cup a soup, Shampoo, Cleaning cloths, Detergent (small packets).**

SINGING AT MASS

On Tuesday of last week, Nicola Sturgeon announced that we will be moving into Level 0 from 19th July. This is very welcome news indeed.

There will be one or two minor changes to how we currently do things in the church.

From this weekend singing will be permitted at our Masses and Liturgies. Fr Wyllie hopes that after resting our voices for such a long time we will raise the roof in giving praise and thanks to God in singing our hymns at Mass.

Hymn sheets will be provided for each Sunday Mass with the words of the hymns and other parts of the Mass such as the response to the psalm. Please make sure you get a hymn sheet as you enter the church from now on.

From that same day we will move to a 1 metre distance in the church which will afford us extra spaces in both churches, although it won't make such a big difference due to the size of our buildings. We all long for the day when we can all gather together unhindered.

Unfortunately, masks, track and trace and sanitising will be with us for some time yet.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Please consider coming along to our weekday Masses if you are on holiday from work, retired, work shifts or are unemployed. The numbers attending our weekday Masses could be much healthier if you came along even once a week when you are able. There are plenty of spaces in both churches for our celebrations of weekday Masses so please come along and spend some time during the week being nourished by Sacred Scripture and with the Holy Eucharist.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£723.00
Stall:	£46.00
Votive Candles:	£189.70
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£575.00
TOTAL:	£1,533.70

Many thanks for your very generous support

PETER'S PENCE

The box will be available throughout this month to help the Holy Father in his administration of the Universal Church. The final total will be published next month.

CHURCH GROUNDS

We are very fortunate in this parish to have a faithful band of volunteers who care for our grounds with great devotion and attention. From the very regular cutting of grass, to potting baskets and pots, weeding, clearing up litter and many other odd jobs which help to enhance the grounds around both churches. On behalf of all of us, Fr Wyllie would like to thank those who plod on and get on with keeping our grounds so tidy and well presented.

Over the next few weeks some work will begin on the front grounds of Our Lady & St John's. The rose bushes in the memorial area of the garden have been killed by the frost, although four are still alive. If you know who planted these in memory of their loved one could you please let them know so that they can remove them if they wish. Over time there will be small shrubs planted in that area to commemorate those who have died to replace the rose bushes. It is our plan to allow the grass to grow right up to the church fence. Soil will be delivered over the next week or so to begin this process.

The plinth for the new statue of Our Lady will hopefully be in place by the end of August and the statue should be blessed on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady on 8th September to conclude our time of 40 Hours Adoration and to rededicate ourselves to her maternal care & protection.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Mary Goodwin, Jamie Lyons, 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 - Michael Weir (Academy Street), Peter Goldie, Margaret Moran, Brian Aldred, Franco Manzella (South Africa)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary Corr, Jennifer Cochran, William Tait, The Stewart & McGonagle Families, Hutchens, Carr, Munro, Tipo, Green, Cook, Burns, Rafferty, Pringle, Anderson, Cullen, Law, Fraser & McFarlane Families, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, The Gallacher Family, Grace Girvan

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

FOODBANK DONATION

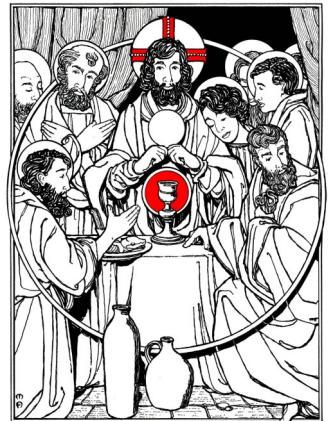
Recently, a donation of £500.00 was given to the parish to form part of our donation to the local foodbank. This is a very generous donation which will enable the foodbank to provide much needed assistance to those in our community who need it most.

The donation was made by the late Linda Smith, who died recently. Linda wished that a donation was made in her name after her death to the parish efforts for the foodbank. We thank Linda's family who ensured that her wishes were carried out.

As Catholics we believe that any good we have done in this life will not be forgotten when we stand before the judgment seat of God, so we pray that Linda will receive the reward of her generosity and enjoy the light, happiness and peace of God's kingdom forever.

GOSPEL FOR TODAY

In today's Gospel, we read the report of the return of the Twelve, who were sent by Jesus to preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. When the Twelve return to Jesus, he invites them to come away from the crowds and rest. But the crowds will not give them peace. As the Twelve have shared in Jesus' ministry, they now appear to share in his popularity. The crowds continue to approach them, and Mark reports that the disciples don't even have time to eat. In an effort to get away, Jesus and his disciples board a boat in hopes of finding a deserted place. But the crowds notice this and arrive ahead of them. The crowds are so persistent that Jesus and his disciples cannot find a place to be alone. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus is moved with pity and begins to teach the crowds.



Our Gospel for today stops here, but Mark's report of the unyielding demands of the crowd continues in the verses that follow. If we were to continue reading from Mark's Gospel, we would hear Jesus instruct his disciples to feed the crowd in the familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The work of Jesus and his disciples appears to be a round-the-clock job. In the next few weeks, we will hear the story of Jesus' feeding of the multitude, but our Lectionary will turn to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John to report and reflect on this story.

In today's Gospel, we hear the Twelve referred to as "apostles." The word apostle is a Greek word meaning "one who is sent." Jesus chose twelve men from among his disciples whom he sent to share in his ministry of preaching and healing. The first report of this is found in the third chapter of Mark's Gospel, where the Twelve are also called apostles and the names of this select group are listed.

We who are Jesus' disciples today have also been sent to share the Gospel with others. Perhaps our commitment to following Jesus as his disciple leaves us feeling tired and overwhelmed. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm the importance of times of rest and renewal. Jesus wanted his disciples to come away and spend time alone with him. This is what we seek and find in our life of prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist.