

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
11TH JULY 2021

VOTIVE CANDLES

The custom and practice of lighting candles is a significant convention in Catholic and Orthodox churches, communities and families, originating from Old Testament times where an oil lamp was lighted to 'sustain a perpetual flame.' In current Catholic tradition, this light has a precisely distinct status for it symbolises Christ who said, 'I am the Light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light and life' (John 8:12). The candle represents Jesus as the Light of the world, but also the light and fire as representing the presence and power of God (similar to the pillar of fire that led the children of Israel in the exodus).



Many individuals light a candle prior to worship to symbolise their life as an offering, being burned up in service to God. Christian faith is filled with symbolism, all of which is effective in teaching us to appreciate our faith in a way that goes beyond the intellectual level. Anything you do, like getting on your knees in prayer as an act of humility, can be very helpful and meaningful for communicating our faith which goes way beyond our available intellect. Candles form a significant part of Catholic celebrations and rituals, and the lighting of candles play a considerable role. They are lit during the celebration of the Mass, in other liturgies and processions. One is lit before the Tabernacle to signify the Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the sanctuary, and to call for reverence and veneration on the part of the faithful.

In the Sacrament of Baptism, as a person is initiated into the Church, a candle is lit from the Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ's Paschal Mystery - His passion, death and resurrection. That individual receives the Light of Christ that they may live and walk the path of God's children and sustain that flame of faith burning alive in their heart. As they receive this indelible baptismal mark, they encounter the Lord and are one with all the saints in Heaven when the time comes.

Candles are lit before a statue or likeness of Christ's image demonstrating our devotion and reverence for Him who deserves our adoration and thanksgiving and who alone can absolve our sins and return us to a more profound relationship with God. Catholics do this; not to honour the image itself, but the one it truly represents. The lighted candle symbolises a prayer offering where we present our petitions to the Lord and ask the saints to pray with us and to pray for us during our most urgent needs. This light, when kept burning, represents our longing to remain in God's companionship as we go about our daily duties at home and in the workplace. As we commemorate our sacred liturgies, sacraments and regular prayers, Christ, the Source of all Light, shall come to us and is ever present to strengthen us, instruct us, inspire us and offer us hope that His Light will never burn out as long as we live in faith.

Here is a prayer to say when you have your votive candle lit in the church:

LORD, MAY THIS CANDLE BE A LIGHT FOR YOU TO ENLIGHTEN ME IN MY DIFFICULTIES AND DECISIONS. MAY IT BE A FIRE FOR YOU TO BURN OUT OF ME ALL PRIDE, SELFISHNESS AND IMPURITY. MAY IT BE A FLAME FOR YOU TO BRING WARMTH INTO MY HEART TOWARDS MY FAMILY, ALL THOSE WHOM I MEET, AND WHOM I HOLD DEAR AND TO MY NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES. THROUGH THE PRAYERS OF MARY VIRGIN AND MOTHER I PLACE INTO YOUR CARE THOSE I COME TO PRAY FOR, ESPECIALLY (name those people you wish to pray for). AMEN.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 11th July

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
2.00pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 12th July

12noon	Votive Mass in honour of the Most Precious Blood of the Lord (St Mary's)
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Tuesday 13th July

9.30am	Votive Mass in honour of the Most Precious Blood of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
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Wednesday 14th July

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

Thursday 15th July

9.30am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Bonaventure (Our Lady & St John's)
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Friday 16th July

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (St Mary's)
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Saturday 17th July

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 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

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)
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

15th July - Memoria of St Bonaventure - St Bonaventure was born in Bagnorea, near Viterbo in Italy in 1221 and entered the Franciscan Order. A friend of St Thomas Aquinas, he taught at the University of Paris and became Master General of the Franciscan Order. He was chosen Archbishop of York, England in 1265 but was never consecrated. He was eventually created Cardinal Bishop of Albano and died during the Council of Lyons. Remembered chiefly for his philosophical and theological works, he is known as the 'Seraphic Doctor'.

16th July - Memoria of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Mount Carmel is the beautiful mountain, facing west, just north of the Holy Land. It is midway between the country of the Jews and the cities of the Gentiles. It is the mountain where the Prophet Elijah dwelt and started the long tradition of contemplative life and prayer which still prevails in the Catholic Church. It was from the mountain of Carmel that the first group wanting to be baptised by water came down to Jerusalem on the feast of Pentecost. They were many Gentiles with a few believing Jews. They were the first large group of official and sacramental Christians given to the Church. One of the fruits of the tradition of Mount Carmel has been the Carmelite Order. This is a religious group of both men and women which has given the Catholic Church such illustrious saints as Saint John of the Cross and Saint Simon Stock, among men, and Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, among women. It was on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in 1251, that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a Carmelite priest in England, Saint Simon Stock, and gave him the brown scapular. She promised that anyone who would wear this little emblem of love and loyalty to her would receive the grace of final perseverance. She is the model of prayer.

MR MICHAEL SHIELS

On the last day of the school term, St Mary's Primary bid farewell to Mr Michael Shiels. Mr Shiels has taught in the school for twenty nine years. Fr Wyllie, on behalf of all the parish, thanked Mr Shiels for all that he has done to help the young people of St Mary's in their faith development and for the many ways he gave our young people an example of Christian discipleship. We wish him a very happy and long retirement. He will be missed by staff and pupils alike.

VISITING THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND OF THE PARISH

Beginning this week, Fr Wyllie will be visiting the sick and housebound of the parish to bring them Holy Communion and/or anointing of the sick and the Sacrament of Confession. Current Diocesan policy states that a priest can only visit one household a day, so this may take much longer than would normally be the case. Some Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have mentioned how they have missed contact with the sick they normally visited. If any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion would like to accompany Fr Wyllie on his visit to the sick then please speak with him to arrange a day and time. Arrangements will be made with each of the sick by telephone to plan a visit.

QUIETER TIME

Some of you will have noticed that our weekly parish schedule has been curtailed a little over the summer months. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession on weekdays has been postponed over the next few weeks as well as preaching on a Sunday. This is to allow all of us a bit of breathing space for a month when the pace of life slows down a little.

On Sunday 25th July and for five consecutive weeks, we begin reading the Bread of Life discourse from St John's Gospel. This passage of scripture highlights the Lord's teaching on the Holy Eucharist. While we focus on this important tenet of our faith there will be a return to the normal weekly parish schedule of confession, adoration and preaching.

Over these next few weeks as we take things a bit easier please consider joining us for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the week to spend some time with the Lord present before us in the Eucharist. Confession is an integral part of us responding to the Lord's call of repentance and turning away from sin, please find time to come along to confession too. This time should not just be about renewing our bodies and minds but also our souls.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Fr Wyllie wishes all parishioners who may be getting away for a few days a very happy and restful break. If you are on holiday from work, have the children and young people on holiday from school or are retired or unemployed why not consider joining us for weekday Mass over the next few weeks. It would be lovely to have our young people join us for the celebration of Holy Mass to instil in them the graces that come from attending weekday Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£825.00
Stall:	£45.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£320.00
TOTAL:	£1,190.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

PETER'S PENCE

Many thanks to those who contributed to the Peter's Pence collection last weekend. The box will be available throughout this month to help the Holy Father in his administration of the Universal Church. Please give generously.

ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL (SCOTLAND)

Liam McArthur, the Liberal Democrat MSP for Orkney Islands, is leading a new campaign to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland. Mr McArthur is expected to lodge a Bill in the Scottish Parliament. It is the third time assisted suicide legislation has been tabled at Holyrood.



Anthony Horan, Director of Catholic Parliamentary Office, commented: "People of all faiths and none oppose assisted suicide because it has a profoundly harmful impact not only on individuals and families affected, but also on vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. "Legalising assisted suicide puts immeasurable pressure on vulnerable people to end their lives prematurely, for fear of being a financial, emotional or care burden on others, and it undermines efforts to prevent suicide. Moreover, incremental extensions and the removal of protections and safeguards is inevitable and has happened where legislation has been passed.

"It is little surprise that a majority of doctors involved in end-of-life care oppose assisted suicide. Deliberately bringing about a patient's death is crossing the Rubicon for a profession entrusted to always act in the best interests of the patient and to first do no harm. MSPs should be preventing suicide, not assisting it." Please contact your MSP to oppose this legislation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - 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 - Margaret Moran, John Maxwell Canning (Altrincham), Michael Sweeney (Hamilton), Linda Smith, Carolyn Nixon, Sadie Gray

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Catherine Kennedy, John Creechan, Thomas Kennedy, The Creechan Family, The Kennedy Family, John & Betty Connachan, Joseph & Margaret Cassidy, Charles Shields, Ina McManus

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO RELAXING OF CURRENT RESTRICTIONS

It is expected that the First Minister will relax the current restrictions placed on us over the next week or so. Although we cannot know with certainty we are expecting the following changes:

- * Social Distancing in the Church will be reduced to one metre
- * Congregational singing will be permitted once again

The following will not change:

- * Sanitising of hands will still be required on entering and exiting the church
- * Face masks must still be worn in the church (except for those who are exempt)
- * Track and Trace will still be required

The date for a complete easing of restrictions is expected to be 9th August, we hope and pray that this is the case and we can once again return to complete normality. Due to prior experience, however, let's not get our hopes up until we hear officially from Nicola Sturgeon and the Bishops' Conference of Scotland.

Fr Wyllie would like to make it known that he shares the frustrations of so many parishioners. It is difficult to understand how those who are in a pub, restaurant or coffee shop can sit with no mask on with only one metre of a distance, yet in the church we are required to wear a mask even though we are two metres apart. Some of the regulations and rules are confusing and, quite simply put, stupid. Let's hope that the powers that be see how silly this is and allow us the same freedoms as the churches in England & Wales.

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Last year we should have celebrated the 140th anniversary of the opening of Our Lady & St John's on 16th December, but sadly we were unable to do so. It is hoped that once we have confirmation of when the current restrictions will be lifted that we can plan to mark this important milestone together as a parish. Bishop Toal will have a very full diary due to confirmations taking place from August - December as he has all the P7 pupils in the Diocese to confirm this coming academic year. Fr Wyllie will be in contact with Bishop Toal to find out when he would be available to come and offer a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving to mark this special event.

St Mary's became a permanent parish in 1872, although there was a mission in Larkhall from 1861. This year we celebrate the 160th anniversary of the founding of the mission in Larkhall, but next year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the parish, a very important moment. We will mark this with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving, again with Bishop Toal celebrating the Mass. We will celebrate this special occasion in various ways throughout the year 2022, God-willing.

PLASTERER NEEDED

Fr Wyllie has been waiting on a plasterer carrying out work on a ceiling in one of the rooms in the chapel house at Our Lady & St John's for some months now. If there are any plasterers who could help with this work please speak with Fr Wyllie. There's also part of a wall in the chapel house at St Mary's which needs to be filled in. Any help would be gratefully received.