

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

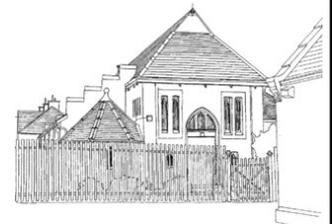
Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

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

THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
31ST OCTOBER 2021

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

In November, as the trees lose their summer vigour after the youthful vibrance of spring, they might appear lifeless and dead. But we know, of course, that nature is only dormant, hibernating, asleep. Fittingly, then, at this time of year our minds turn with the sacred Liturgy to the reality of death, to the dying, and to the dead, particularly the "Holy Souls" in Purgatory.



November is a time for remembering our mortality and the lives of those who have gone before us; this year in particular, the shades of our mortality and of death loom large. But with faith in Christ, we know that although we die and are buried, like those winter trees, the Christian soul is but dormant, asleep, waiting to be awakened at the Second Coming of Christ. As St Paul says: "We believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

Hence, our word 'cemetery' comes via Latin from the Greek word koimeterion, which means a dormitory, a place of sleep and rest. In this month, therefore, be sure to undertake the pious and charitable practice of visiting cemeteries and praying for the dead there. Indeed, the Church encourages us to pray for the dead, particularly the souls of the faithful departed in Purgatory (the Holy Souls). So from November 2-8 a plenary indulgence can be gained for them, so long as one visits a cemetery and says a prayer for the dead.

But why should we pray for the dead, and to what effect do we do this? There is, perhaps, no Christian practice other than prayer for the faithful departed which can more concretely express our belief that death is not the end. Rather, we continue to live in Christ.

In 1529, one Simon Fish, however, wrote a tract entitled "Supplication for Beggars" in which, among other things, he contested the doctrine of Purgatory, and so called into question the until-then universal Christian piety of praying for the dead which can be traced to the earliest days of the faith. Within months St Thomas More responded with a two-volume work entitled "The Supplication of Souls", which affirmed that the souls in Purgatory "have been recommended unto God and eased, helped, and relieved both by the private prayers of good virtuous people, and especially by the daily Masses and other ghostly [ie spiritual] suffrages of priests, religious, and folk of Holy Church".

St Thomas Aquinas does not explain at length how our prayers help the souls in Purgatory, he just says that they do help. For the souls in Purgatory are being purified from venial sin and worldly attachments – they must thus increase in charity, in love for God. So, by way of an explanation, St Thomas Aquinas appeals to the bond of charity that unites us in the Church, such that our suffrages, which are our prayers, lovingly offered for the dead in Purgatory, can console and offer relief.

The Holy Souls, like us, are somehow comforted and soothed and helped by acts of charity, by the works of love that we do for one another in the communion of the Church. Love brings healing and comfort amid isolation, sorrow, and suffering, which is something we all recognise especially in this time of a pandemic. In this month of the Holy Souls, therefore, let us pray for the dead in the hope that, as St Thomas More said, "We will merrily meet in heaven."

Fr Lawrence Lew O.P., Catholic Herald, November 2020

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 31st October

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
2.00pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	October Devotions (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 1st November

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (St Mary's)

Tuesday 2nd November

8.15am	Holy Mass for All Souls (St Mary's)
9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for All Souls (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for All Souls (St Mary's)

Wednesday 3rd November

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 the Memoria of St Martin de Porres (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Martin de Porres (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 4th November

9.30am	Requiem Mass for Christopher Crumley (Our Lady & St John's)
--------	-------------------------------------------------------------

Friday 5th November

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	School Mass for an increase in vocations to the priesthood (St Mary's)

Saturday 6th November

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 Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 7th November

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

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

1st November - Solemnity of All Saints - This Solemnity celebrates all those who are in heaven, in the light of God's face - both those recognised by the Church as saints and those known only to the Lord. We ask for their intercession and we strive to follow their example.

2nd November - All Souls' Day - Today we renew our hope in eternal life, truly founded on Christ's death and Resurrection. Today we pray for our beloved dead and pause at their graves.

3rd November - Memoria of St Martin de Porres - St Martin was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave. He became a Dominican lay brother and was exemplary in his care for the sick, his love of the poor and the Blessed Sacrament.

4th November - Memoria of St Charles Borromeo - St Charles Borromeo was born in 1538 into a noble family at Arona, Italy. He was created a Cardinal at the age of twenty-one. In 1564 he became the Archbishop of Milan. He zealously applied the teachings of the Council of Trent to his diocese, establishing seminaries and schools and renewing the life of the clergy. He died caring for the sick and destitute during the plague of 1576.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 99

10.00am - 99

12noon - 59

5.00pm - 36

Total - 293

FOODBANK COLLECTION

This weekend we will take up our monthly collection for our local foodbank. If you have forgotten to bring a bag of groceries with you to Mass then you can place a bag in the porch of either church throughout the day. Please be as generous as you can be to the collection this weekend. If you would wish to make a monetary donation then please place an envelope in the collection bag clearly marked 'Foodbank Collection'.

RCIA 2021-2022

An information evening will take place on Monday 8th November at 7.00pm in St Mary's Chapel House for those who wish to learn more about the RCIA process and what is involved in becoming a Catholic. Anyone who has considered becoming a Catholic is invited to come along to this short meeting which will explain how the course will work over the next few months between now and Easter.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£794.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£180.00
Stall:	£27.00
TOTAL:	£1,001.00
Missio Collection:	£1,159.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume in Our Lady & St John's today 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.



PRAYING FOR OUR DEAD

Many thanks to those parishioners who have completed their November Lists for their deceased relatives and friends. If you haven't done so already, you can still pick up a November list at the back of the church and place completed lists together with a donation in the box at the back of the church. Mass will be offered each day during the month of November for all those on our November Lists.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

We now have two parish representatives for the parish/diocesan stage of the Synod on Synodality. Many thanks to Vivien Stewart and Margaret Wilson who have agreed to lead our parish discussions which will then be discussed by the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in 2023. More information will be coming soon.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This weekend you will find Christmas cards available for sale in both our parish stalls. In today's society we should try our best to keep Christ in Christmas by purchasing religious themed cards and gifts. Please have a look at the selection of cards we have this weekend, if you need anything please let us know.

SSVP REQUIEM MASS

On Wednesday 17th November at 7.00pm we will celebrate a special Requiem Mass for members of both of parish conferences of the SSVP who have died. This Mass will take place in Our Lady & St John's and all parishioners are warmly invited to join with the SSVP of both churches to pray for the deceased members of the society.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

On Tuesday 23rd November at 7.00pm in St Mary's there will be a special Mass to pray for all the dead of our parish but to remember in a special way those who have died over the past twelve months. The next of kin of those who have died over the past twelve months will receive an invitation to this Mass but you are all warmly invited to pray for our dead.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE CAMPAIGN

You can celebrate the life of someone special and make a difference to the lives of our patients and their loved ones this Christmas. The Hospice is extremely fortunate that we have been able to adopt some local authority and community Christmas trees in towns throughout Lanarkshire and people can choose to dedicate a light in memory or in honour of a loved one. You can sponsor a light in a number of ways:-

Online at www.st-andrews-hospice.com Visiting one of our Hospice shops By telephoning our Fundraising Department and making a payment over the phone. Please ask for Lorna McCafferty on 01236 772087.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Pat Tierney, Paul Fleming, James Ferguson, 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 - Christopher Crumley (*Requiem Mass Thursday 4th November at 9.30am*), John Fox, Susie Tierney, Bunt McDonald

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES -

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

HALL COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Hall Committee will take place this coming Wednesday in the Hall after the 7.00pm Mass. All members of the Hall Committee are asked to attend. The members of the Hall Committee for our parish are: Angela Stewart, Bert Lynch, Tom Corrigan, Stevie Reilly & Pauline Reilly.

CATECHETICS & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

An initial meeting will take place for the Parish Catechetical Team and the leaders of the Children's Liturgy this Tuesday after the 7.00pm Mass in St Mary's. This meeting is to get ideas of how we can push forward with plans to provide a catechetical programme for the those preparing for the Sacraments.

OLSJ SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The SSVP are conscious that many families will be struggling at this time of year especially as a result of high gas prices and the loss of £20 a week from their benefits. If anyone needs assistance then please contact Our Lady & St John's SSVP on the telephone number below: 07522925723.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who, on any and each day from November 1st to 8th, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed; on All Souls' Day, devoutly visit a church or an oratory and recite an Our Father and the Creed. To gain a plenary indulgence you must: receive the sacrament of confession, receive the Holy Eucharist, and recite prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father as well as the requirements mentioned above for the dead.

ST MARY'S SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

For uplift & delivery enquiries please call the Furniture Unit on 07483904658 or 07483363888 on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11.00am until 3.00pm.

If you know of anyone in the community who would like a visit from members of the SSVP or anyone struggling with daily needs or household effects please let Fr Wyllie or any conference member know.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY

The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help will continue each Tuesday in St Mary's and each Wednesday in Our Lady & St John's, until Christmas, please consider joining us as we pray to Our Lady asking her intercession and guidance. Many of us will be making plans and arrangements for the celebration of Christmas, but this is a perfect way to help us to prepare spiritually for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

HOLY GHOST FATHERS CARFIN

The Holy Ghost Fathers' Charity Shop in Carfin will now be open Monday to Saturday from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

HEATING IN OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S

Investigative work will begin to source the problem with the heating system in Our Lady & St John's shortly. Hopefully when the new Hive system is installed and the thermostats are placed on the radiators we will be able to manage the heating much better.

MONSIGNOR MILLAR

Monsignor Millar will return to St Mary's College Oscott this weekend. We thank him for all that he did in our parish over the past week and assure him of our prayers for him and for the work of the seminary in Oscott. We look forward to welcoming him back at Christmas.