

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8TH AUGUST 2021

WHY DO WE USE INCENSE AT MASS?

Catholicism is sometimes called the religion of "bells and smells". Our tradition engages the whole person. God created us as a unity of body and soul, and we return ourselves entirely to him in worship. We worship him in spirit and truth; and in our "spiritual worship" we "present our bodies" too "as a living sacrifice". Thus, the Church's worship engages all that we are, including our bodily and spiritual senses. In the liturgy, we contemplate the Gospel, but that's not all. We hear it, see it, feel it, taste it, smell it as well. We ring bells to herald the Lord's appearance. We burn fragrant incense before his altar.

Dr Scott Hahn, a convert to Catholicism from Calvinist Presbyterianism, describes the first time he attended a Catholic Liturgy. He says, "My Calvinist background had not prepared me for this experience - the incense and icons, the prostrations and bows, the chants and the bells. All my sense were engaged. Afterwards a seminarian asked me, 'What do you think?' All I could say was 'Now I know why God gave me a body: to worship the Lord with his people in liturgy'."

Our worship is not just good and true. It is beautiful. We make it beautiful because it is for God. A generation or two ago, incense was used much more commonly in the Mass. Many converts, especially young people, are enchanted by their initial experience of incense. Some critics of Catholicism will use the words from the Book of Isaiah to criticise our use of incense where it says, "Bring no more vain offerings, incense is an abomination to me".

Yet God was not abolishing external forms of worship. He wanted his people to cease neglecting their interior lives. In fact, through the prophet Malachi, he foretold a day when "from the rising of the sun to its setting... in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering".

Indeed, incense was an important part of biblical religion - and it remains so - because God himself took care to make it so. The offering of incense was an essential duty of the priests of the Old Covenant, and the ancient law took special care to prescribe its fragrances, vessels, and rites. Of the high priest Aaron, God said: "I chose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense".

And so priests did, from the time of Moses to the time of Jesus, and beyond. Incense became the most emblematic form of worship. Grains of incense, once dropped into a thurible with hot coals, rise heavenward as fragrant smoke. It's meant to be an outward sign of the inner mystery that is true prayer.

Incense belongs with worship. It is not necessary, but it is beautiful and expressive, and worthy of divine worship. God prescribed it in the Law, not for his sake, but for ours, so that we might see, through this sign, the beauty of worship.

The earliest Christian documents - the didache, St Justin, St Irenaeus spoke of the Holy Mass as a pure offering, the always and everywhere offering of incense to God.

Incense is another beautiful expression of our ancient faith and helps us to deepen our relationship with the Divine Godhead.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 8th August

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

Monday 9th August

- 12noon Holy Mass for the Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (St Mary's)

Tuesday 10th August

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

Wednesday 11th August

- 9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am
9.30am Confessions until 9.50am
10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Clare (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Clare (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 12th August

- 9.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am
9.00am Confessions until 9.20am
9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 13th August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Saturday 14th August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Maximilian Kolbe (St Mary's)
4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)

Sunday 15th August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (OLSJ)
2.30pm Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (OLSJ)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

9th August - Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross - St Teresa Benedicta was born Edith Stein in 1891 at Wroclaw, the eleventh child of a Jewish family. She showed great ability in her philosophical studies and became a popular lecturer and writer. After reading the autobiography of St Teresa of Avila, she sought baptism in 1922 and eleven years later joined the Carmelite nuns at Cologne. She was moved to the Carmel at Echt in the Netherlands to avoid the growing Nazi threat but was eventually arrested, and gassed at Auschwitz on 9th August 1942. She is one of the patron saints of Europe.

10th August - Feast of St Lawrence - St Lawrence was one of seven deacons of Sixtus II killed during the persecution of Valerian in 258. On his arrest, he was ordered to hand over the riches of the Church but pointed to a crowd of poor people, saying 'Here are the true treasures of the Church'. According to tradition, he was roasted to death on a grid. He is the patron saint of school children, poor people and comedians.

11th August - Memoria of St Clare - St Clare was born in Assisi around 1193 and became a disciple of St Francis. She founded the Order of the Poor Clares and lived a life of radical poverty at the convent on San Damiano. She wisely led her community for forty years and gave counsel to many high-ranking prelates. Such was the fame of her holiness, she was canonised two years after her death. She is the patron saint of televisions, goldsmiths, laundry workers and computers.

14th August - Memoria of St Maximilian Kolbe - St Maximilian Kolbe was born in 1894 near Lodz, Poland and joined the Conventual Franciscans. Marked by an ardent devotion to the Blessed Virgin, who had appeared to him as a child, he set up the Militia Immaculata, preached Marian consecration and founded monasteries in Niepokalanow in Poland and Nagasaki in Japan. Eventually imprisoned by the Nazis in Auschwitz, he offered his own life in exchange for a father who was to be starved to death. John Paul II canonised him in 1982 and proclaimed him the patron of the 'suffering' twentieth century.

KEYHOLDERS FOR PARISH PROPERTIES

After the devastating fire which completely destroyed St Simon's in Partick we have to assess the safety of our parish properties (churches, houses, hall). If any incident were to take place in any of our properties one of the first questions asked would be who has keys for our premises. As things stand at the moment, Fr Wyllie does not have a complete list of those with access to our buildings. If you have a key for any of our parish properties could you please drop a little note through the chapel house door or email with the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your telephone number
3. The doors you have keys for (e.g. front door, side door, house, sacristy, hall etc)

Please have this information with Fr Wyllie by 22nd August.

FAMILIES & YOUNG PEOPLE

In response to the Bishops' letter last weekend, Fr Wyllie has drafted a letter to the parents/carers of all the children in our primary schools inviting them to join us for the celebration of Sunday Masses. It is hoped that the young people, especially those who are to receive the sacraments this year, will join us for the celebration of Sunday Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£861.20
Stall:	£18.00
Votive Candles:	£51.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£1,547.00
TOTAL:	£2,477.20

Many thanks for your very generous support

RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS

At last we are now moving in the right direction with the relaxation of current restrictions from this coming Monday. We are now in the position of welcoming everyone back to Mass unhindered from next weekend. Please spread the word and let as many people know as possible. This is a very welcome move towards a more normal way of living of our lives. Although the First Ministers announcement is favourable we will not be abandoning the current protocols which we have in the church, they will just be relaxed. More information can be found on the back page of this weeks bulletin as to what will change & remain.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Fr Wyllie had planned to have Rosary, Adoration & Benediction on Sunday 15th August to mark the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Carfin is having a Torchlight procession, to which we are all encouraged to attend, we will not have an evening liturgy in the parish to allow as many parishioners as possible to join in the celebration at Carfin. The Torchlight procession will begin at 8.00pm to give thanks to God and his Holy Mother for bringing us through these tumultuous times, to pray for those who have died and to come together to celebrate this joyful Solemnity.

MONTHS MIND MASS

His Lordship Bishop Toal has invited the whole diocese to a special Months Mind Mass for the late Michael Weir at Carfin Grotto on Sunday 15th August, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at 3.00pm. This will allow those who were unable to attend Michael's Requiem Mass on Friday 23rd July in St Mary's to gather together and pray for the repose of his soul and to give thanks for all he did in the service of the Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalite. All parishioners are warmly invited.

PARISH STALL

Our parish stalls will be open from this weekend. Please support the parish by purchasing some items.

RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

In our parish you are free to receive Holy Communion standing or kneeling at all our Masses. You also have the option to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or on the hand. If you stand please bow before receiving Holy Communion as a sign of reverence.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE PARISH

Please be generous toward the Second Collection for the maintenance of our parish buildings.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Bunty Macdonald, 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 - Rose Campbell (**Reception of Body Wednesday at 6.30pm, Requiem Mass Thursday at 9.30am**), Maureen Weir, Annie Johnstone (Motherwell)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Michael Weir, David O'Neill, Marie McLaughlan, Sharon Moncur, Gavin Young

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

RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS

Below you will find a list of things which are remaining the same when we move to the relaxation of restrictions and those things which will change. All of us are reminded to be cautious and not to view this as a 'free for all'. We must take into consideration that many people are still rather nervous about the return to more normality and fear the risk of infection. We all must play our part in preventing the spread of the virus especially in the church.

The Diocese has issued the following guidelines which we must follow on our visits to the church from Monday 9th August:

UNCHANGED

- We will still have to sanitise on entering and leaving the church
- We will still be required to wear a face covering while in the church
- We ask that you limit your movement around the church
- There will be no sign of peace
- There will be no Precious Blood offered from the chalice at Holy Communion
- The stewards will still direct you from your pews at Communion time
- Only Fr Wyllie will distribute Holy Communion
- We will only need two stewards at each Mass for ensuring everyone is sanitising on entering and leaving the church and for directing from pews at Communion and the end of Mass

CHANGED

- There will be no need for your details to be given when you arrive at the church
- You will be free to sit where you like (bearing in mind people may like to keep a safe distance)
- You will be able to light your own votive candles
- The Mass cards, with the Mass prayers will be available again
- In St Mary's both readers can come up to the sanctuary after the Opening Prayer and leave together after the Second Reading
- In Our Lady & St John's the readers will continue to come up separately to read
- Holy Communion will be distributed at the foot of the altar again in Our Lady & St John's
- You will be able to enter and exit through the main doors of the church in St Mary's
- Both Parish Stalls will be open
- Seats will no longer be sanitised after every Mass
- Weekday Masses will have only one or no stewards

FR STUART CHAPPLE

Fr Stuart Chapple was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Saturday 26th June at Lancaster Cathedral. He studied with Fr Wyllie at St Mary's College Oscott for a number of years. He will be visiting on holiday for a few days this coming week. Fr Wyllie has a Requiem Mass to celebrate in St Monica's Coatbridge on Monday of this week and Fr Chapple will celebrate the 12noon Mass in St Mary's that day. After the Mass, Fr Chapple will impart his first blessing to those who wish. Just come forward as you would for Holy Communion and receive a blessing at the foot of the altar. We keep Fr Chapple in our prayers as he begins his life of service to the Lord and his people.