

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

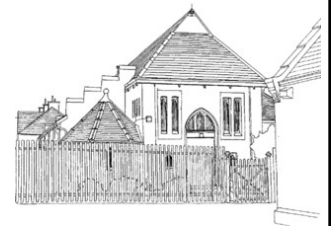
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Our Lady & St John's  
Carlisle Road  
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

**TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**12TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## CATHOLIC ROOTS OF HOLYROOD

Nowadays we hear much news coming from Holyrood, the name given to the Scottish Parliament, but how did it get its name and why is it important this week?

Holyrood was founded as an Augustinian abbey in 1128 by David I, son of St Margaret of Scotland, an Anglo Saxon princess who fled to Scotland after the Norman Conquest. According to legend, it was built on the site where the King had a vision of the Cross – the Holy Rood – glowing between the antlers of a stag, while out hunting on Holy Cross Day.



In the church was preserved, in a golden reliquary, an object said to be a fragment of the True Cross brought by David's mother, St Margaret, from Waltham Abbey, and known thereafter as the Black Rood of Scotland, the Holy Rood (Cross). At the battle of Neville's Cross, in 1346, this precious relic fell into the hands of the English, and it was placed in Durham Cathedral, from where it disappeared at the Reformation.

The abbey was originally served by a community of Augustinian Canons Regular from Merton Priory. The layout of the original church at Holyrood, now known only from excavations, probably came from the 1125 church at the priory. In 1177 the papal legate (Popes Representative) Vivian held council here. In 1189 the nobles and prelates of Scotland met here to discuss raising a ransom for William the Lion.

The original abbey church of Holyrood was largely reconstructed between 1195 and 1230. Among the chief benefactors of Holyrood during the four centuries of its existence as a religious house were Kings David I and II; Robert, Bishop of St. Andrews; and Fergus, Lord of Galloway. Around the abbey was an enormous five mile area of sanctuary, taking in much of Holyrood Park, where debtors and those accused of crimes could appeal to the Bailie of Holyroodhouse for protection. Brass sanctuary stones mark the boundary of the sanctuary on the Royal Mile. Those granted sanctuary would be given lodgings in the buildings around the abbey and obtained the nickname 'Abbey Lairds'.

The Parliament of Scotland met at the abbey in 1256, 1285, 1327, 1366, 1384, 1389 and 1410. In 1326, Robert the Bruce held parliament there, and there is evidence that Holyrood was being used as a royal residence by 1329. During the War of the Rough Wooing, the invading English armies of the Earl of Hertford inflicted structural damage on Holyrood Abbey in 1544 and 1547. Lead was stripped from the roof, the bells were removed, and the contents of the beautiful abbey were plundered. In 1559, during the Scottish Reformation, the abbey suffered further damage when a mob of John Knox's followers desecrated and destroyed the altars and looted the rest of the church. With the reformation and the end of monastic services the abbey fell into the hands of the Presbyterian reformers and was eventually left to rot in the 18th century.

Many are unaware that the meaning of the name of our national parliament and the official residence of the monarch in Scotland is Holy Cross. As Holyrood is again the seat of our national government it is a timely reminder, as we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14th September, of our nations close links with the Catholic Church and how, even today, the cross of Christ shapes our public discourse.

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## Sunday 12th September

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

## Monday 13th September

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Chrysostom (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 14th September

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

## Wednesday 15th September

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows (Our Lady & St John's)

## Thursday 16th September

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Feast of St Ninian (Our Lady & St John's)

## Friday 17th September

10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
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## Saturday 18th September

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 Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

## Sunday 19th September

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

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**13th September - Memoria of St John Chrysostom** - St John Chrysostom was born at Antioch around 350 and went on to train as a lawyer. He became a monk, then later a priest and became a famed theologian and preacher, gaining the name Chrysostom or 'the golden-mouthed'. In 398 he became Archbishop of Constantinople and faced much opposition in his reforms. He died in exile and is honoured as one of the four Greek Doctors of the Church. He died in 407. He is the patron of lecturers, orators and those who suffer from epilepsy.

**14th September - Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross** - The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates the rescue of the relic of the True Cross by Emperor Heraclius in 629 after it had been captured by the Persians; it also marks the original dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where relics of the Cross were kept, in 335. The Feast celebrates the Cross, the instrument of our salvation, and is in many ways an extension of Good Friday. The Cross is a great and powerful sign of God's love for us - a love stronger than death - and also a daily reality in our lives: the only true path to holiness.

**15th September - Memoria of Our Lady of Sorrows** - This feast originated as a memorial of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, most of which were linked to the events of Good Friday, when she stood at the foot of the cross. We remember that the Blessed Virgin had to live through the personal tragedy of seeing her Son die. She had a unique share in our redemption, offering her Son's life to the Lord, trusting that it was part of his plan.

**16th September - Feast of St Ninian** - St Ninian is thought to have been a British bishop who was educated in Rome and sent to preach the Gospel to the Picts. He built a 'white house' or stone church at Whithorn, south of Wigtown, which was his base and the site of a monastic community. St Ninian is witness to the antiquity of the Church in Scotland and its early links with the Holy See.

# PARISH FORTY HOURS

The parish celebration of Forty Hours proved to be a very graced and blessed time for the whole parish. Fr Wyllie would like to thank all those who played any part in making it such a success. Many thanks to all those who spent some time in the church praying before the Blessed Sacrament, to those who came along to the various liturgies, to our altar servers, sacristan, readers, SSVP, our organists, to the sick and those who accompanied them to the Mass for the Sick, to those who carried the canopy at the Blessed Sacrament Procession and to all those who attended the Parish Mass on the Tuesday evening. May God bless and reward you all.

## ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS FUND

**A Second Collection will be taken up at all Masses this weekend to help in meeting the cost of training our seminarians.** The cost of training our seminarians this year is in the region of £150,000. The Diocese ask that we give as generously as we can to training our future priests. Today begins a week of prayer for Vocations in the Catholic Church in Scotland, so please make a special effort to remember this intentions in your prayers each day. Please support this important intention both spiritually and materially.

## PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£900.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£340.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£1,240.00</b>

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

## MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 92	10.00am - 98
12noon - 72	5.00pm - 30
<b>Total - 292</b>	

## OCTOBER DEVOTIONS

On the Sundays of October we will have our traditional October Devotions. The Devotions will be split over the two churches throughout the month. Details are below:

St Mary's: **3rd October, 10th October at 6.30pm**  
OLSJ: **17th October, 31st October at 6.00pm**

**NO OCTOBER DEVOTIONS ON 24TH OCTOBER.**

## CATECHISING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Fr Wyllie would like to resume the Children's Liturgy in both churches when the schools return after the October break. Could anyone who is willing to help with this speak with him as soon as possible to arrange a meeting to discuss how best to coordinate the material and subjects to be covered with our young people.

A few months ago the bulletin included a notice about setting up a Catechetical group within the parish to assist in catechising our young people who are preparing for the Sacraments and their families. An initial meeting to discuss how best to do this will take place in October. If you have any experience of Religious Education, Fr Wyllie would be very keen to get you onboard. The Catechetical group would be involved in two catechesis sessions with the children and their parents/carers to cover the important points of what the Church teaches regarding the Sacraments. We will begin with the First Holy Communion children and their families this year to deepen their awareness and appreciation of the importance of the Sacrament.

## NOVENA TO OUR LADY

We will begin our parish Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in preparation for Christmas. This Novena will begin on Tuesday 26th October in St Mary's and continue for each of the successive nine Tuesdays. At the conclusion of the Novena we will have Benediction. The Novena will begin on Wednesday 27th October at 6.30pm in Our Lady & St John's and continue for each of the successive nine Wednesdays. Please try to come along and pray to our Blessed Mother.

## FLOWERS & CANDLES

It is customary during the Forty Hours to have a box for parishioners to make a donation towards the cost of the candles and flowers. The box was available during the Forty Hours and will be available this weekend in St Mary's for those who wish to make a donation. Please be as generous as you always are.

## ROSARY

Many thanks to the parishioners who have resumed the recitation of the Holy Rosary before our weekday Masses. Please make a special effort to pray to join us for the Rosary.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Paul Fleming, James Ferguson, Bunty McDonald, 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** - Jean McDonald, Jan Cunningham

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Michael Weir, Jim Somerville, Hilda Keane, David O'Neill, Marie McLaughlin, Sharon Moncur, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn

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

## WELCOMING OUR NEW CONVERTS TO THE PARISH

On Friday 1st October the four RCIA candidates will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. All parishioners are invited to the Mass as we celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion of those who are being received into the Church. The Mass will take place in St Mary's to allow as many people as possible to attend and then the reception afterwards will take place in Our Lady & St John's Hall.



It would be lovely to have as many parishioners at the Mass and function afterwards so it is being proposed to run a bus from St Mary's after the Mass to allow as many people as possible to come along and enjoy the evening.

A list is at the back of St Mary's for those who would like to come along and enjoy a few refreshments. The bus will leave after the Mass and return to Larkhall after the function. Please place your name on the list if you wish to make use of the bus.

This will be a great opportunity to get the whole parish together to celebrate such a joyful event.

## SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FOODBANK

There was no Foodbank collection in August but we will resume with the monthly collections this month, with the collection for food stuffs and monetary donations taking place on the weekend 25th/26th September. Please place the bags of donations at the back of the church as you come in for Mass and place any envelopes with donations in the collection bag, with the envelope clearly marked 'FOODBANK'. Many thanks to all those who so generously donate to the parish efforts for our local foodbank.

## REMINDER

During our Masses the main church doors should be kept wide open to allow for proper ventilation of our buildings. Please do not close any of the doors during Mass or any other liturgy which is taking place in the church.

Children under the age of 12 are exempt from wearing facemasks.

Unless you have an exemption we should all be wearing a face covering when in the church.

Parishioners are invited to light their own votive candles, trying to avoid congregating around the candle stands.

You can leave your pews of your own accord now, leaving the church when you like rather than been shown from your seats by stewards.

Please stay in your place until the priest has left the altar.

All parishioners should be sanitising their hands on entering and leaving the church whether this is for public Mass or for private visits.

