

# 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



St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**7TH FEBRUARY 2021**

## MEMORIA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

On Thursday of this week, the Church celebrates the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. The Marian apparitions began on 11th February 1858, ended July 16 that year and received the local bishop's approval after a four-year inquiry.

The Virgin Mary's appearances at Lourdes turned the town into a popular travel destination. Thousands of people say their medical conditions have been cured through pilgrimage, prayer and the water flowing from a spring to which Bernadette was directed by the Blessed Virgin. Experts have verified 69 cases of miraculous healing at Lourdes since 1862.

Born in January 1844, the future visionary was the first child of her parents Francois and Louise, who both worked in a mill run by Francois. Their family life was loving but difficult. Many of Bernadette's siblings died in childhood, and she developed asthma. Economic hardship and an injury suffered by her father cost them the mill in 1854. Years of poverty followed, during which Bernadette often had to live apart from her parents and work rather than attending school.

On 11th February, 1858, Bernadette went to gather firewood with her sister and a friend. As she approached a grotto near a river, she saw a light coming from a spot near a rosebush. The light surrounded a woman who wore a white dress and held a rosary. Seeing the lady in white make the sign of the Cross, Bernadette knelt, took out her own rosary, and began to pray. When she finished praying, the woman motioned for her to approach. But she remained still, and the vision disappeared. Her companions had seen nothing. Bernadette described the lady in white to them, demanding they tell no one. But the secret came out later that day. The next Sunday, Bernadette returned to the grotto, where she saw the woman again. The identity of the apparition, however, would remain unknown for several weeks. The woman in white asked the girl to return for two weeks. "She told me also," Bernadette later wrote, "that she did not promise to make me happy in this world, but in the next." A group of family members and others went with her to the cave the next day, but only the young peasant girl saw the woman and heard her words.

As she conveyed the repeated message to Fr. Peyramale, the priest grew frustrated and told Bernadette to ask the woman her name. But when she did so, the woman smiled and remained silent. Her identity remained a mystery after the initial two-week period. Three weeks later, on the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette visited the cave again. When she saw the lady, she kept asking to know her identity. Finally, the woman folded her hands, looked up and said: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Bernadette did not know what these words meant. She related them to Fr. Peyramale, who was stunned and informed his bishop.

Bernadette saw the Blessed Virgin Mary two more times in 1858: on the Wednesday after Easter, and on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. In 1862, the local bishop declared the apparitions worthy of belief. St. Bernadette left Lourdes in 1866 to join a religious order in central France, where she died after several years of illness in 1879 at the age of 35. By the time of her death, a basilica had been built and consecrated at the apparition site.



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## Sunday 7th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Novena with Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

## Monday 8th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Monday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Novena to the Holy Family & Prayers for our families

## Tuesday 9th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

6.00pm Novena to the Holy Family & Prayers for our families

## Wednesday 10th February

11.00am Livestreamed Private Requiem Mass for Jim Jordan

## Thursday 11th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes

6.00pm Angelus, Rosary & Prayers for the Sick and those who care for them with Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

## Friday 12th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Friday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

*(The pupils of St Mary's are encouraged by their teachers to tune into Mass each Friday)*

## Saturday 13th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Sunday 14th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**10th February - Memoria of St Scholastica** - St Scholastica was the twin sister of St Benedict. She followed the rule of her brother near Montecassino and is regarded as the first Benedictine nun. When she met her brother for the last time, a sudden rainstorm providentially prolonged their meeting; three days later St Benedict saw her soul ascend to heaven as a dove (her symbol in art). She died in 543AD. She is the patron saint of Benedictine nuns, education, and convulsive children, and is invoked against storms and rain.

## NOVENA TO THE HOLY FAMILY & PRAYING FOR OUR FAMILIES

We continue, as a parish, to pray the Novena to the Holy Family and offer prayers for our own families, for the families of our parish community and for the strengthening of families in our society. Please join with us through livestream at 6.00pm each evening as we implore the Holy Family to bless our families. We will pray for those families who are struggling at the moment and for those members of our families who need our prayers.

## MEMORIA OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This Thursday we celebrate the Memoria of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. At 6.00pm that evening we will pray to Our Lady of Lourdes for all those who are sick and for those who care for them, remembering in a special way all our NHS workers. After this time of prayer there will be Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

Pope Francis has declared a Year of St Joseph on the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Pope encourages us to pray this prayer together:

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.**

## PARISH FINANCES

### St Mary's:

Collection & Donations: No info  
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: £897.00

### Our Lady & St John's:

Collection & Donations: £371.30  
Crib Collection £63.71  
Stall £7.60  
Votive Candles £6.00

*The above figures are from before Lockdown*

Standing Orders & Bank Transfers: No info

**TOTAL: £1435.61**

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

## MASS CARDS & ANNIVERSARIES

If any parishioner is in need of a Mass card for someone who has died or needs a Mass card signed, then please contact Fr Wyllie to arrange a suitable time to come and collect the card.

If you would like a deceased loved one included in the bulletin on the occasion of their months mind or anniversary, or a Mass for an intention, you can place the envelope through the Parish House letter box or email the name to ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk for inclusion in the bulletin. Could all items for the bulletin be handed in by Thursday evening.

## CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Sadly, it looks as though plans will have to change regarding the celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion. Fr Wyllie is in regular contact with both head teachers, so we will hold back on making any firm commitment to how the Sacraments will be celebrated this year until guidance is given from the Diocese of Motherwell and the Scottish Government. This will permit us to assess the most up-to-date guidance on what will be permitted and how we can prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments in a safe and dignified way. Baptisms are currently postponed and weddings can only be attended by five people. We hope that this won't last for much longer and that we will be able to celebrate the Sacraments again in the near future.

## VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

The Diocese of Motherwell currently has five young men in formation for the priesthood in Major Seminaries: Colum Martin, Chris Furmage, Christopher Morris, Ronan McQuade & Kieran Burt, and we continue to remember them in our prayers each day. A number of men have come forward with the hope of beginning the preparation period in Salamanca, Spain in 2022 before beginning seminary in 2023. This is very encouraging news and a fruit of our fervent prayers for more priests.

If any young men in the parish feel called to the priesthood, please speak to Fr Wyllie by phoning the Parish House or sending an email to the parish email address. You can also contact Fr Charles O'Farrell, the Diocesan Vocations Director, Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Anne's, Hamilton, if you would like to explore this more. Fr O'Farrell's email is: frofarrell@rcdom.org.uk

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, make me a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself, more faithful to you. Help me find my true vocation in life and grant that through it I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.

Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to enter the priesthood may have the generosity to answer your call, so that those who need your help may always find it. Amen.



## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,**

**I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**

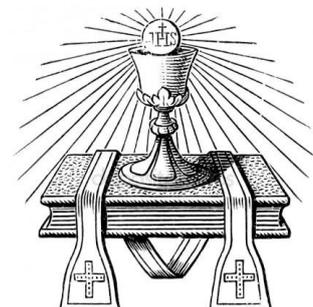
**I love You above all things,**

**and I desire to receive You into my soul.**

**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

**I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.**

**Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Kevin Feeney, John Gowans, Gerard Lyons, Mandy Murray McVie, Jerry Hillsinger, Kathleen Brannigan, Irene Tonner (Corr), Liz Rees OCV, Mary Shanks, Annette Thomson, David Hillhouse, Janet McIntosh, Rory Quigley, Susie Tierney, Alice Goodwin, Alice Cumming

**RIP** - Jim Jordan (**Requiem Mass on Wednesday 10th February**), Margaret Corrigan (**Requiem Mass on Tuesday 16th February**), Rose Aitken

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Joan Smith, Charles Morrison, The Morrison, McGuire & McStay Families, William (Billy) Douglas, Eileen Douglas, Mary Dawson (NZ), Jean Gordon, Alice Watters

## STATISTICS FOR 2020

Each year all parishes have to return their annual statistics for the previous year. Our statistics were sent to the Diocese to be compiled and forwarded to the Vatican. Below you will find the statistics for 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020 compared to the figures for 2019:

	2020	2019
Estimated Catholic Population	<b>2,200</b>	2,200
Total number of parishioners at Mass on 2nd Sunday of November	<b>147</b>	341
Number present as percentage of population	<b>6.68%</b>	15.5%
Average number of weekday Mass attendees	<b>55</b>	35
Number of children attending primary school	<b>169</b>	171
Number of children attending secondary school	<b>102</b>	98
Number of Infant Baptisms	<b>6</b>	9
Number of Adult Baptisms	<b>0</b>	0
Number of Adult Receptions into the Church	<b>0</b>	0
Number of First Holy Communions	<b>0</b>	28
Number of Confirmations	<b>30</b>	0
Number of Marriages	<b>1</b>	2
Number of Funerals	<b>23</b>	12

## MERGING OF THE PARISH BANK ACCOUNTS

You may recall that back in October we attempted to merge the two parish bank accounts into one central account for the parish of Our Lady of Fatima rather than having two accounts for St Mary's & Our Lady & St John's.

Due to the current pandemic, merging the two accounts has taken much longer than expected.

We attempted to do this through the Royal Bank of Scotland Switching Service but they were unable to do this for us. This would have transferred all Standing Orders and Direct Debits from the Our Lady & St John's account to the new Bank of Scotland account without the parish or individuals having to do anything. Sadly, this was not possible and we need your help.

Anyone who contributes to the parish through the Our Lady & St John's Royal Bank of Scotland account is asked to change their Standing Order to the Bank of Scotland account. At the moment this is named - Larkhall RCDM St Mary's - but once all the Standing Orders & Direct Debits have been switched over it will assume the new name of - RCDM Our Lady of Fatima.

The details of the account are as follows:

**Name of Account - Larkhall RCDM St Mary's**

**Account Number - 00499758**

**Sort Code - 80-08-77**

The parishioners from Our Lady & St John's who currently pay the parish by Standing Order are asked to contact their own bank and ask them to change your Standing Order from the RBS account to the above bank account.

Fr Wyllie and the Parish Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes so generously to the parish and to thank those parishioners who need to make this change.