

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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St Mary's
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
11TH APRIL 2021

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

There are seven aspects to the Divine Mercy devotion. The devotion, focused on Christ's limitless mercy and love for mankind, is a relatively new one. It is based on the 1930s writings of Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Pope John Paul II canonised St. Faustina on April 30, 2000.

The point of the devotion is mercy - begging His mercy, trusting in His mercy, and showing mercy to those around us. It's interesting to note that there are seven aspects to this devotion. The number seven has long represented "spiritual completion," so in this case these seven aspects complete the devotion to The Divine Mercy.

The first aspect of this devotion is the actual Feast of Divine Mercy, or Divine Mercy Sunday, which is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter. The Church, through Pope John Paul II, made this an official feast day at the canonisation of St. Faustina. In His revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus made mention of His desires concerning Divine Mercy Sunday on 14 different occasions.

God in His great mercy is giving mankind a last chance for salvation.

The second aspect of the Divine Mercy devotion is the Image of The Divine Mercy. The Lord directed Sr. Faustina to have it made. It was to be signed, "Jesus, I trust You!" and was to be venerated. There are many variations of The Divine Mercy image around the world, the most famous is known as the Vilnius image, which was painted by the Vilnius artist Eugene Kazimirowski, who was retained by Sr. Faustina's spiritual director, Fr. Michael Sopocko. One aspect of the image is the unexplained fact that when this image is superimposed over the face of Christ visible on the famous Shroud of Turin it forms a perfect match.

The third aspect is the Divine Mercy Novena. Ideally, the novena is to begin on Good Friday and finish on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday, though it can be prayed at any time. The novena divides souls into different groups, which are prayed for on a specific day. Categories of souls include souls who are "lukewarm," "priests and religious," "devout and faithful," "sinful," and the "souls of little children."

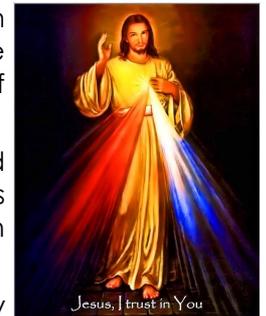
The fourth aspect is the Hour of Great Mercy, also known as the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the cross. Saint Faustina records in her Diary that "It is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. It is Jesus' desire that the moment of His Death on the Cross (3.00pm) be venerated."

That brings us to the fifth aspect of the Divine Mercy devotion, which is the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy. Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, so it is especially appropriate to use it after having received Holy Communion at Holy Mass. It may be said at any time, but Christ specifically told St. Faustina to recite it during the nine days before Divine Mercy Sunday. It is also appropriate to pray the chaplet during the Hour of Great Mercy. The chaplet is especially recommended to be said for those who are dying.

The sixth aspect of the Divine Mercy devotion is the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion through which we meet our Lord Jesus Christ and are enveloped in oceans of His Divine Mercy.

The seventh aspect is the deeds of mercy in answer to Jesus' call to mercy. In her Diary, entry 742. St. Faustina records Christ's words, "I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbours always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it."

Christ continued, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbour: *The first - by deed, the second - by word, the third - by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me.*



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 11th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
3.00pm	Divine Mercy Devotions & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 12th April

12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Second Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
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Tuesday 13th April

9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
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Wednesday 14th April

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Second Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 15th April

9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Second Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
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Friday 16th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Second Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
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Saturday 17th April

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 Third Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Sunday 18th April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If you wish to attend any of the Sunday Masses in our parish you need to send an email to the parish to request a place, you only need to send this email once. This is for all parishioners, whether they had previously been on the list or not. When you email you will automatically be placed on the list for attending Mass and will receive an email to confirm attendance at Mass for the coming weekend.

You must include the following details:

The name of each person wishing to attend Mass Your preferred Mass A contact number

EASTER COLLECTION

This weekend is the final opportunity for you to make a monetary gift to the parish according to your financial means. There will be a box available as you leave the church to contribute to this collection. Last year, due to lockdown and our churches being closed for such a long time, our income was down £25,000 from the previous year. Your financial support of the parish is greatly appreciated as it is the only source of income we have to maintain and manage the parish properties. May God reward you all for your continued financial support of the parish.

PARISH FINANCES

Easter Collection:	£1,700.91
Collection & Donations:	£742.00
Stall:	£37.00
Votive Candles:	£21.00
Standing Orders:	£505.00
TOTAL:	£3,005.91
SCIAF:	£779.27
The Holy Places:	£415.86
Retired Priests:	£285.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

FOODBANK COLLECTION

On the last weekend of this month, 24th & 25th April, we will hold another parish collection for the work of our local Foodbank. You can either donate items or you can donate money which would allow the Foodbank to purchase necessary items. It is hoped that as we return to some normality we will be in position to have a collection for the Foodbank on the final weekend of each month as we did previously before Christmas. Please be as generous as you always are.

ENROLMENT & PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Confirmation for the current **Primary 7** pupils of St Mary's will take place on **Thursday 29th April** at 7.00pm. Another celebration of Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 6th May** for the current **First Year** pupils who were due to be confirmed last March and have made contact with Fr Wyllie. Please keep the young people in your prayers as they prepare for this Sacrament. Plans for the celebration of the Sacrament have been forwarded on to parents/carers of the young people.

A reminder of First Holy Communions in our parish:

1st May	St John's P5	12noon
8th May	St Mary's P4&P5	12noon
15th May	St John's P4	12noon



After discussion with both head teachers, Fr Wyllie has decided that the parish must play its part in the preparation of the children for their Sacraments rather than leaving it all with the school.

As from August of this year, the children will no longer be automatically enrolled for the celebration of the Sacraments in P3, P4 and P6 or P7 by the school. From then on, each parent/carer will have to enrol their child through the parish. This will begin the formal preparation period for the celebration of the Sacraments.

Parish, home and school should be working shoulder to shoulder in preparing our young people for the Sacraments but sadly, in most parishes in Scotland, it is the school which is left to fully prepare and catechise the children for these very important moments. In many cases the children have no relationship with the life of the parish community and the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments, that is a culture we need to change if we wish our parish to thrive.

Over the next few months Fr Wyllie will establish a Catechesis Group within the parish who will help catechise our young people in preparation for the celebration of the Sacraments. This will be geared towards the young people but the parents/carers will also attend the same sessions with Fr Wyllie leading them. We cannot lament the fact that young families are not coming to Mass when we as a parish do not reach out to them, hopefully this will foster a sense of belonging to the parish.

THANKS FROM FR WYLLIE

Fr Wyllie would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parishioners who handed in Easter cards, gifts and eggs for him over the past week or so. The huge amount of chocolate and sweets handed in must mean that you're trying to fatten him up. He's slowly making a dent in all that's been handed in. Thank you too from Baloo for the gifts that were handed in for him. Your kindness is very much appreciated. So thank you very much. May God bless you all.

BAPTISMS

If you wish your child to be baptised in our parish you must contact Fr Wyllie either by phone or by speaking to him after Mass to begin the preparation period for the celebration of the sacrament. Baptisms can take place either during Sunday Masses or during weekday Masses but cannot be celebrated at any other times at the moment. This seems a very strange rule but we have to go along with it. Please keep this in mind when you make contact.

LARKHALL 100 CLUB

As mentioned in last weeks bulletin, we have plenty of spare numbers in our 100 Club and it would be great to have them all filled. Congratulations again to our two lucky winners from last week who won £100.00 each.

Please consider joining the 100 Club this week. You can contact Patsy Walker on 07957222769 or you can set up a Standing Order for £1.00 a week to the following account:

Name of Account **Larkhall 100 Club**
Sort Code **80-22-60**
Account No. **17418369**

The
100
CLUB

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

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

RIP - Frank Lynch (Newmains), Ian Grimes

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn, Isa & Walter Freeland, John & Jane McMurray, Jim Sinclair

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

NEW STATUES FOR OUR CHURCHES

On St Patrick's Day, Fr Wyllie mentioned that he intended to purchase a statue of St Patrick for St Mary's. He is hoping to have one ordered and in place over the next few months. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchasing of this statue then please place a donation marked 'St Patrick's Statue' in the Donations for the Church box as you leave the church.

Last year we had mentioned getting a statue of Our Lady for outside St Mary's, to replace the original one which sat between the church and house. As things stand at the moment it is proving difficult to source one which is the right height and in the right price range. We will continue to look out for a suitable statue and then plans will be put in place to bless and place the statue in the church grounds.

A statue of St John has been ordered for Our Lady & St John's and we are hoping that will be with us for the re-opening of the church at the beginning of May. If you would like to make a donation toward the purchasing of this statue then please place a donation marked 'St John's Statue' in the Donations for the Church box as you leave the church.

RCIA

Fr Wyllie has now contacted all those who have expressed a wish to begin the RCIA Programme with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church. This programme will run from later this month through to the end of September with those who have completed the course being received into full communion with the Catholic Church on the Memoria of St Therese of Lisieux, Friday 1st October at 7.00pm. All going well, this will be followed by a function in the Parish Hall afterwards, to which all parishioners will be invited. Please pray for these five adults as they begin their journey into the Catholic Church.

GIFTAID

If you are a UK Tax payer please complete the Gifaid form attached to this bulletin and return it to the parish once you have set up your Standing Order. **There are a few parishioners who pay the parish through Our Lady & St John's Giftaid envelopes from last year, 2019-2020. If you use the following envelope numbers, with Our Lady & St John's written at the top, please contact Fr Wyllie as soon as possible -**

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NOVENA PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide we will celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, a day of prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. From Friday of this week we will intensify our prayers asking the Lord to send labourers into his vineyard. This prayer will be prayed after Mass each day from Friday of this week until Saturday of the Third Week of Eastertide:

Heavenly Father,

in Baptism you called us by name and made us members of your family, the Church.

Help all your people to know their vocation in life, and to respond by living a life of holiness.

For your greater glory and service of your people, raise up dedicated and generous men who will serve as priests for the Motherwell Diocese. Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen our parishes, our seminarians and all who are discerning their vocation. Amen.