

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
21ST FEBRUARY 2021**

THE CHAIR OF ST PETER

When we think of a chair, perhaps we think of a soft recliner or our mind turns to a classroom chair, a chair in a waiting room, or one at a restaurant. But the chair the Church commemorates today is more like the judge's chair in a courtroom or that unique high-backed chair called a throne. These are not ordinary chairs. They are seats of authority and judgement. They hold power more than people. We stand before them while their occupants sit. Judges and kings retire or die, but chairs and thrones remain to hold their successors. The Nicene Creed even describes Jesus as "seated" at God's right hand. The fuller, symbolic meaning of the word "chair" is what today's feast commemorates.



Against the farthest wall of St Peter's Basilica in Rome is a heroic-sized sculpture with a chair as its central focus, seen above. To celebrate the Chair of St. Peter is to celebrate the unity of the Church. The chair is a symbol of St Peter's authority, and that authority is not meant for conquest like military power. Ecclesiastical authority is directed toward unity. Jesus Christ could have gathered an unorganised group of disciples united only by their common love of Him. He didn't. He could have written the Bible Himself, handed it to His followers, and said, "Obey this text." He didn't. Jesus called to Himself, by name, twelve men. He endowed them with the same powers He possessed and left this organised band of brothers as an identifiable, priestly fraternity specifically commissioned to baptise and to preach. In North Africa at the time of St Augustine, twelve co-consecrating bishops were canonically required at the ordination of a bishop, mirroring "The Twelve" called by Christ. What a profound liturgical custom! Today the Church requires only three co-consecrators.

What is even more striking about Christ's establishment of an orderly Church structure is its double organising principle. What does that mean? The Twelve's headship over the Church is itself subjected to the internal headship of St Peter. He is the keeper of the keys, the rock upon which the Lord built His Church. This all makes sense. Any authoritative text needs a living organ to stand outside and above it to arbitrate, interpret, and define, with authority equal to the text itself, any and all misinterpretations, confusions, or honest disputes. Just as our legal system needs a court, the Bible needs a Magisterium. And that Magisterium needs a head as well.

Peter was important. The office of Peter continues, along with the office of all the Apostles, despite their deaths. As long as there is a Church, it will teach objective truth, and objective truth requires objective leadership. And that objective leadership, symbolised in the Chair of St Peter, is directed toward unity. One Lord. One faith. One Shepherd. One flock. The united fabric of the Church, so fought for, so torn, so necessary, is worth honouring in the liturgy of the Church.



God in Heaven, we thank You for the ordered community of faith we enjoy in the Catholic Church. Your chosen vicar, Saint Peter, guided the early Church and guides Her still, ensuring that we remain one, holy, catholic, and apostolic until the end of time. Continue to grace Your Church with the unity so necessary to accomplish Her mission on earth.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 21st February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for the First Sunday of the Season of Lent

6.00pm Livestreamed Vespers, Adoration & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday 22nd February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for the Feast of the Chair of St Peter

6.00pm Livestreamed Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 23rd February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass praying for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood

6.00pm Livestreamed Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.30pm

Wednesday 24th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Wednesday of the First Week of Lent

6.00pm Livestreamed Stations of the Cross

Thursday 25th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Thursday of the First Week of Lent

6.00pm Livestreamed Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.30pm

Friday 26th February

11.00am Livestreamed Holy Mass for Friday of the First Week of Lent

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

6.00pm Livestreamed Stations of the Cross

Saturday 27th February

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

9.00pm Livestreamed Night Prayer of the Church

LENT 2021

Sadly, we are unable to gather together to observe this sacred season of Lent. In order to mark this special time we will have various devotions each evening during the five weeks of Lent. Please have a look below at what will be available through livestream:

Stations of the Cross: A traditional part of our Lenten observance is contemplating on the suffering and death of the Lord, which brought about our salvation. Stations of the Cross will be prayed through livestream on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at 6.00pm on the normal weeks of Lent. Please make a special effort to join us for this traditional way of uniting ourselves to the passion and death of the Lord during the Season of Lent.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The Season of Lent calls us to increase our prayer life after the example of Our Lord who spent forty days and forty nights in the desert praying. In order to help us deepen our relationship with the Lord there will be periods of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the Season of Lent. On a Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evening we will have the opportunity to worship and adore the Lord during a period of half an hour of exposition. This will take place through livestream from 6.00pm-6.30pm. On a Sunday this will be preceded by Evening Prayer and concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Night Prayer: It is a beautiful thing to end our day in prayer and to look back over the course of the day to thank God for his blessings and to think of those moments we failed to love him and others. Night Prayer will be prayed each Saturday evening during Lent at 9.00pm.

ALMSGIVING DURING LENT

Even though we are unable to gather in the church we are still called upon to give alms to those in need. SCIAF, the overseas charity of the Scottish Bishop's Conference does lots of good work and supports many worthwhile causes on our behalf, in the poorest countries and communities around the world. Please consider setting some money aside for the work of SCIAF during Lent. During Holy Week you can hand in the money you have put aside for this very worthwhile cause and it will be forwarded on from the parish to assist SCIAF in their work throughout the world.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£743.00
Stall:	£36.70
Votive Candles:	£0.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£175.00
TOTAL:	£954.70

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a standing order to the parish for your weekly collection please use the bank details which are to be found on the back page of this bulletin. If you are in a position to contribute to the parish we would be very grateful for your contribution.

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.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE - 'MAKE A WILL' MONTH

Make or update your Will and support St Andrew's Hospice during the month of March. Several Lanarkshire Legal Firms have agreed to write a basic Will or update an existing Will and waive their legal fee in return for a donation to St Andrew's Hospice. For further information please contact Lorna McCafferty, Trusts, Legacy and Individual Giving Manager at St Andrew's Hospice on 01236 772087 or email lorna.mccafferty@standrews.scot.nhs.uk or visit the Hospice website: www.st-andrews-hospice.com for details of solicitors taking part.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

The P3 pupils from St John's were to receive the Sacrament of Confession for the first time this Wednesday followed by the pupils of St Mary's on Thursday evening. Sadly this is not possible. The children will receive this Sacrament in school on a date which will be published by the schools over the next few days. Please remember to pray for the boys and girls as they prepare to receive the mercy and forgiveness of God for the first time.

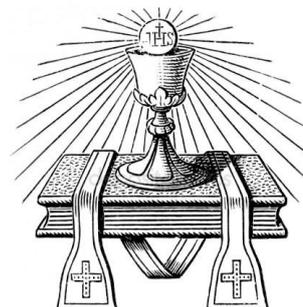
The P4 & P5 pupils of both schools are due to receive their First Holy Communion in May, we are hopeful that this will still go ahead but may have to be divided into more than one celebration for each class. Again, the Primary Four and Five pupils will receive this Sacrament before the end of this current school year no matter the restrictions. Please pray for the children preparing to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time, that they may love and respect the great gift of the Eucharist in their lives.

The current P7 pupils of St Mary's and some of last years P7 pupils are still to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Fr Wyllie will be in a position to announce new dates for the celebration of this Sacrament at the beginning of March. It is very important that these young people receive the Sacrament before the end of the academic year and every effort will be made to ensure that this happens.



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, Liz Rees OCV, Mary Shanks, Annette Thomson, David Hillhouse, Janet McIntosh, Rory Quigley, Susie Tierney, Alice Goodwin, Alice Cumming

RIP - Margaret Corrigan, John Ferrie (Craigneuk)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Guy Mitchell, Corr Family, Jennifer Cochran, William Tait, Jim Higgins

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT BY POPE BENEDICT

Following their Teacher and Lord, Christians also enter the Lenten desert in spirit in order to face with him the "fight against the spirit of evil". The image of the desert is a very eloquent metaphor of the human condition. The Book of Exodus recounts the experience of the People of Israel who, after leaving Egypt, wandered through the desert of Sinai for forty years before they reached the Promised Land.

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

During that long journey, the Jews experienced the full force and persistence of the tempter, who urged them to lose trust in the Lord and to turn back; but at the same time, thanks to Moses's mediation, they learned to listen to God's voice calling them to become his holy People. In meditating on this biblical passage, we understand that to live life to the full in freedom we must overcome the test that this freedom entails, that is, temptation.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRED TRIDUUM

The Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday) is the most sacred and important time in the Church's calendar. Normally we would be preparing for these most special days but, as things stand at the moment, we do not know what will be permitted at that time. Although there is uncertainty as to whether our churches will be open by that stage, Fr Wyllie can advertise the times of the Masses and Liturgies for these three days. These times will remain the same whether the churches are open for public worship or not, except where stated:

HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper at 7.00pm

Watching at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 9.00pm (if closed) or 10.00pm (if open)

GOOD FRIDAY

Morning Prayer of the Church at 10.00am

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 3.00pm

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord at 7.00pm (if church is open)

Prayers at the Foot of the Cross at 7.00pm (if church is closed)

Night Prayer at 9.00pm

HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer of the Church at 10.00am

Easter Vigil & Mass of the Lord's Resurrection at 8.00pm

MERGING OF THE PARISH BANK ACCOUNTS

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 contribute to the RBS account are asked to contact their bank to have their Standing Order redirected to the Bank of Scotland account.