

# OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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

**TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**17TH OCTOBER 2021**

St Mary's  
Raploch Road  
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

## WHAT IS A SYNOD IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

We're hearing lots on the media and in the Church about the upcoming synod. What does it mean and what does it do?

The word "synod" comes from the Greek *synodos*, meaning "an assembly." Synods in the Catholic Church generally feature an assembly of bishops, who come together to assist the Holy Father in addressing the needs of the Church. Initially, many of these synods were held locally, within various regions of the world, to deal with local disciplinary issues. Synods date back to the 4th century.



Pope Paul VI revived the idea of the synod and established the Synod of Bishops in 1965 with the *Motu Proprio Apostolica Sollicitudo*. The current Code of Canon Law details the purpose of this smaller group of bishops who meet together to discuss various topics.

The synod of bishops is a group of bishops who have been chosen from different regions of the world and meet together at fixed times to foster closer unity between the Roman Pontiff and bishops, to assist the Roman Pontiff with their counsel in the preservation and growth of faith and morals and in the observance and strengthening of ecclesiastical discipline, and to consider questions pertaining to the activity of the Church in the world.

Furthermore, "It is for the synod of bishops to discuss the questions for consideration and express its wishes but not to resolve them or issue decrees about them unless in certain cases the Roman Pontiff has endowed it with deliberative power, in which case he ratifies the decisions of the synod."

The bishops may meet together to discuss issues that involve the universal Church, or "considers affairs that directly pertain to a determinate region or regions."

There were many synodal assemblies held during the pontificate of St John Paul II, such as one held in 1994 on "The Consecrated Life and Its Role in the Church and in the World." Pope Benedict XVI similarly held synods, including one on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church."

Since John Paul II, there have also been various synods focusing on local regions of the world, such as America (1997), Europe (1999) and Africa (2009). In each situation the group of bishops discussed particular issues and made suggestions as to how the Church could approach various problems. However, in most cases the solutions were primarily focused on new approaches, rather than binding law. The Synod meets in different types of Assembly: in an Ordinary General Assembly, for matters concerning the good of the universal Church; in an Extraordinary General Assembly, for matters of urgent consideration; in a Special Assembly, for matters which mostly concern one or more specific geographical regions.

Pope Francis has convoked multiple synods during his pontificate, and in 2021 initiated a synod on the theme "For a Synodal Church." This synod will include both an Ordinary General Assembly and local Diocesan synods connected to it. This synod will end in 2023, concluding a two-year synodal process. The media have portrayed this as a move to change Church teaching and doctrine - but as they say - don't always believe what you read in the papers.

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

## Sunday 17th October

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
2.00pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
2.40pm	Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	October Devotions concluding with Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

## Monday 18th October

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Feast of St Luke (St Mary's)

## Tuesday 19th October

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

## Wednesday 20th October

9.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.30am	Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

## Thursday 21st October

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

## Friday 22nd October

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St John Paul II (St Mary's)

## Saturday 23rd October

	<b>NO MORNING MASS IN ST MARY'S</b>
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

## Sunday 24th October

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

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**18th October - Feast of St Luke** - St Luke was a Greek, possibly from Antioch, who trained as a doctor. He converted to Christianity, became a disciples of St Paul and wrote both a Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. His vivid descriptions of the childhood of Jesus has led some to believe that he was close to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He is believed to have died in his old age, and may have been martyred; he is patron of doctors and artists.

## MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 77

10.00am - 83

12noon - 61

5.00pm - 36

**Total - 257**

## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Pope Francis has called for a Synod on Synodality to take place at the Vatican in 2023. He wants the voice of all Catholics to be taken into consideration and for the Church to listen to the views and opinions of the lay faithful, priests and bishops. Each parish should have two representatives for the Diocesan discussions which are being headed up by Fr Tom Magill. Anyone interested in being a part of this group please speak with Fr Wyllie.

## MONSIGNOR MILLAR

Fr Wyllie will be away from the parish from Friday 22nd October until Saturday 30th October. Monsignor Millar, who many of you will know, will be home from Oscott and has kindly agreed to look after the parish that week to allow Fr Wyllie to get away. When Monsignor Millar is back in the Diocese of Motherwell he will make Our Lady of Fatima his base, we look forward to welcoming him back and making our parish his home when he is here in Scotland.

### RCIA 2021-2022

It is hoped that we will begin the RCIA Programme for 2021-2022 at the beginning of November with a view to receiving new converts into full communion with the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday next year. If you have thought about becoming a Catholic please contact Fr Wyllie over the next few weeks to begin the preparation for joining the course in November.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy will resume in Our Lady & St John's on Sunday 31st October at the 12noon Mass. The children will be taken to the Parish Hall as was previously the case. The Children's Liturgy is only available to children in P1-P4. We look forward to welcoming the children back to their Liturgy of the Word.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The whole parish community extends our prayers and best wishes to Mary Somerville who celebrated her 90th birthday on Friday 15th October. We pray for Mary as she marks this important milestone and assure her of our best wishes and prayerful congratulations. Ad multos annos! (To many more years!)

### SECOND COLLECTION

Next Sunday we will take up a second collection at all our Masses for our brothers and sisters in the mission lands. The financial assistance we offer to the Church in the poorest countries of the world will help to train priests, support religious communities, provide for the material needs and spiritual needs of these communities. Please give generously.

### ALL SOULS DAY

On All Souls Day, when the Church calls on all of us to pray for the souls of those who have died, our parish will have two extra Masses to allow as many as possible to come to Mass.

8.15am St Mary's

9.30am Our Lady & St John's

7.00pm St Mary's

### PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,035.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£425.00
Legacy	£1,656.62
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£3,116.62</b>

**Many thanks for your very generous support**

### PRAYING FOR OUR DEAD

This weekend you will find November Lists at the back of the church. A box is available at the back of the church for you to place your completed November Lists in time for November. Mass will be offered each day during the month of November for all those named in our November Lists, the Book of Remembrance will be blessed on All Souls Day. Praying for our dead has always been a much loved and popular devotion of Catholics so please remember your dead loved ones.

### PARISH STALL

With just ten weeks to go before Christmas arrives, the Parish Stall has a selection of Christmas cards available. These will be available from next weekend. Please support our parish stall and help to keep Christ in Christmas by purchasing religious cards from the parish.

### ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

On Tuesday 23rd November at 7.00pm in St Mary's there will be a special Mass to pray for all the dead of our parish but to remember in a special way those who have died over the past twelve months. The next of kin of those who have died over the past twelve months will receive an invitation to this Mass but you are all warmly invited to pray for our dead.

### NOVENA TO OUR LADY

Our Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will begin on Tuesday 26th October in St Mary's at 7.00pm. At the conclusion of the Novena we will have Benediction. The Novena will begin on Wednesday 27th at 6.30pm in Our Lady & St John's followed by Holy Mass at 7.00pm.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SICK** - Pat Tierney, 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** - Elizabeth Tervit (East Kilbride), Matt Timmons (formerly Larkhall), Susie Tierney

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Joseph Wedlock, Mary Goodwin

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

### HALL COMMITTEE

With most of the restrictions lifted we can begin to plan and prepare for getting the social aspect of parish life back off the ground. A meeting of the Hall Committee will take place on Wednesday 3rd November in the Hall after the 7.00pm Mass. All members of the Hall Committee are asked to attend.

### CATECHETICS & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

An initial meeting will take place for the Parish Catechetical Team and the leaders of the Children's Liturgy on Tuesday 2nd November after the 7.00pm Mass in St Mary's. The purpose of this meeting is to get ideas of how we can push forward with plans to provide a catechetical programme for the Sacraments.

### CHILDREN PRAYING THE ROSARY

On Monday of this week, 18th October, Aid to the Church in Need have asked all parishes and schools to join in a Rosary Campaign. Our parish will have the Rosary as normal at 11.30am so please make a special effort to come along and join us as we join with millions of other Catholics in praying Our Lady's special prayer. The pupils in our two primary schools will also be taking part in this Rosary Campaign, many thanks to Mrs Colgan and Mrs McCart for arranging this for the young people of our parish.

### ENROLMENT FOR FIRST CONFESSION

Fr Wyllie will send a letter to the parents/carers of the children in Primary Three to invite them to enrol their children for the Sacrament with the parish. Enrolment for the Sacraments will no longer take place through the school, rather the parents/carers who wish their child to receive a Sacrament will meet with Fr Wyllie to begin the process of preparation for the Sacraments. This will allow Fr Wyllie the chance to get to know the families in our parish better and will hopefully encourage more young families to return to the practice of their faith.

### ST MARY'S CHECK-IN

Checking people in as they turn up for Mass in St Mary's will not be required now, so from this weekend please just make your way into the church once you have picked up your bulletin and hymn sheet. The QR code will still be available for those with smartphones to check themselves in. Many thanks to those who have helped to check parishioners into Mass over the past few months. This is another step towards normality.

### FOODBANK COLLECTION

Our monthly collection for the local foodbank will take place on the weekend of 30th/31st October. Last month the foodbank collection realised the cash sum of £180.00 and the food & toiletries weighed in at 103.14kg. Many thanks to all those who gave so generously. As a parish community we should be conscious of the number of families and individuals who struggle to make ends meet. Please give generously to this month's collection.

## CHURCH OPENING TIMES

### ST MARY'S: Sundays

9.00am-4.00pm or after evening Liturgy

### Mon-Fri

8.00am-5.00pm or after evening Liturgy

### Saturday

9.00am until after Vigil Mass

### OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S Sundays

11.00am until after evening Mass/Liturgy

### Mon-Fri

8.30am-5.00pm or after evening liturgy

### Saturday

Church closed