

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

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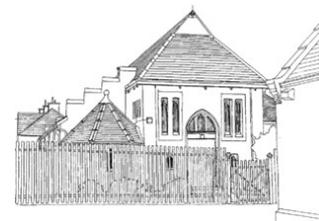
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Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19TH SEPTEMBER 2021

THE COLOUR CODED MASSES

Last weekend we marked the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York. Some news outlets reported on various Masses and services which took place all around the world to mark that dreadful moment. In St Patrick's Cathedral, New York, there was a special Mass which included the first responders - Fire Brigade, Health Care workers and Police Officers, this was nicknamed the 'Red, White and Blue Mass'. Red for the Fire Brigade, White for the Health Care workers and Blue for the Police. But did you know that these colours correspond to Masses which go back much further and another which is very recent?

The Red Mass is a Mass in which judges, sheriffs, QC's (Queen's Counsel), lawyers, procurators, law students and government officials mark the opening of the judicial year. Through prayerful petition and thanksgiving the Red Mass requests guidance from the Holy Spirit for all who seek justice, and offers the legal community an opportunity to reflect on what Catholics believe is the God-given power and responsibility of all in the legal profession. The Red Mass originated in Europe during the High Middle Ages, the Red Mass is so-called from the red vestments traditionally worn in symbolism of the tongues of fire (the Holy Spirit) that descended on the Apostles at Pentecost. Its name also exemplifies the scarlet robes worn by royal judges that attended the Mass centuries ago and still do to this day.



The White Mass (so named for the white coats of the physicians) were traditionally celebrated on the Feast of Saint Luke (the patron Saint of physicians) in hospitals, chapels, parish churches, cathedrals, and everywhere that the physicians routinely gathered with their chaplains. White Masses honour all those who work in health care – from nurses and physicians to clerical staff, paramedics and lab workers. These Masses implore God to bless the work of all those who give their lives to saving and aiding other lives. In recent years this Mass has focussed on the primary task of health care workers to save life rather than end it, as is the case in many countries in our world today where Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia is undertaken by health care professionals.



The Blue Mass is much more recent. It is celebrated for all those who work to protect public safety - police officers, prisons guards etc. The colour blue relates to the typical blue uniform of the police force. The first Blue Mass took place in America in 1934. The Mass normally takes place on 29th September, the Feast Day of St Michael, patron of police and the military.



The first "Gold Mass" – for scientists – was held on November 15, 2016, in the chapel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The colour gold was chosen because it represents the alchemy of science and it is the colour that is worn – at graduation ceremonies – on the hood of those who are being awarded bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degrees in the academic discipline of science. The date of November 15 was chosen because it is the feast day of St Albert the Great, a Dominican doctor of the Church who is the patron of scientists.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

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)

Monday 20th September

- 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions (St Mary's)

Tuesday 21st September

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

Wednesday 22nd September

- 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 Fifth 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 Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

Thursday 23rd September

- 9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 24th September

- 10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Twenty Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Saturday 25th 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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Sunday 26th September

- 10.00am** Holy Mass for the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
1.00pm Baptism (St Mary's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

20th September - Memoria of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon & Companions - The Korean Martyrs testify to the presence of the faith in that region from the eighteenth century and the terrible persecutions during the nineteenth century. Outstanding among them were St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon (1821-1846), the first Korean-born priest who was tortured and beheaded near Seoul in 1846, and St Paul Chong Ha-sang (1794-1839), a lay catechist who was crucified on 22nd September 1839. More than 8,000 Christians from all walks of life lost their lives during the persecution and 103 of them were canonised in 1994.

21st September - Feast of St Matthew - St Matthew, also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus. He worked as a tax collector for the Romans, a despised profession, when he was called by the Lord at Capernaum. Nevertheless, Jesus Christ called him to be an apostle. After the Ascension he may have travelled to Persia or to Ethiopia; wherever it was, he was martyred. St Matthew's Gospel stands first in the New Testament and his name appears among the other apostles in the Roman Canon. St Matthew is the patron saint of bankers and accountants.

23rd September - Memoria of St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) - St Pius was born in 1887 in Pietrelcina in Campania, Italy and joined the Capuchin community at Morcone. Ordained in 1910, he moved six years later to San Giovanni Rotondo in the Gargano peninsula, this is where he became better known as 'Padre Pio'. Bearing the wounds of Christ's passion on his body (known as stigmata), he became famous for his ministry in the confessional, his spiritual direction and his miracles. In 1956 he opened the 'Home to Relieve Suffering' near his friary. Despite his popularity, he faced much opposition, even from Church authorities. He died in 1968 and was canonised in 2002. Padre Pio is the patron saint of civil defence volunteers, adolescents, Pietrelcina, stress relief, and, believe it or not, the January blues.

POPE FRANCIS FAITH AWARD

Now that some normality has resumed to parish and school life there are two initiatives which Fr Wyllie would like you to know about which the senior pupils of our two primary schools will be involved in. Pope Francis' big concern is how we treat our common home and how we can all work to preserve and safeguard the wonderful gift of creation. With that in mind, the following initiatives will begin soon:

St John's: We are hoping to get a group of parishioners to work alongside the boys and girls to create a nice space for parishioners and pupils to enjoy at the back of the hall. If you would like to help in working with the young people please speak to Fr Wyllie.

St Mary's: The new statue of Our Lady at St Mary's will shortly have some plant pots to sit at the base of the plinth. The senior pupils of St Mary's Primary School will tend these pots.

CARDS FOR THOSE IN RCIA

On Friday 1st October we will celebrate a special Mass to receive four candidates currently on the RCIA programme into full communion with the Catholic Church. If you would like to purchase a card for those who are to be received into the Church that evening, there are a selection of cards for you to choose from in our parish stalls. Please have a look after Mass over the next few weeks.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,035.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£260.00
TOTAL:	£1,295.00
Ecclesiastical Students Fund:	£720.00

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

5.30pm - 74	10.00am - 107	12noon - 61
5.00pm - 46	Total - 288	

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

An initial meeting to discuss how best to establish and take the Catechesis Team forward will take place over the next few weeks. 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.

MOVING TABLES & CHAIRS

If you are able bodied and free to give a hand moving the tables and chairs for the Parish Hall from the garage it would be a great help if you could come along on Wednesday 29th September after the 7.00pm Mass.

CLEANING OUR PARISH HALL

Our Parish Hall is in need of a deep clean before it opens for our first parish function on Friday 1st October. We would be very grateful for any help to Hoover, dust, brush, mop, clean etc. to get the hall looking back to its old self. This will take place on Wednesday 29th September at 7.30pm, after the 7.00pm Mass.

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The proposed date of the next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team is Tuesday 5th October at 7.00pm at St Mary's. The members of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team (PPPT) are: Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Scott Smith, Ciaran Reilly, Suzanne McCaughey & Laura Kennedy.

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 - Annie Reilly, Fr Terry Donnelly (Holy Ghost Father)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary Goodwin, Mary Smith, James Whyte

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

WELCOMING OUR NEW CONVERTS TO THE PARISH

All parishioners are invited to join us as we celebrate the Mass of Reception into the Catholic Church of Carole Cosgrove, Mark Fotheringham, Harvey Perrie & Jack Shanks.

The Mass will take place in St Mary's at 7.00pm on Friday 1st October and be followed by a parish function in Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall.

There is a list at the back of St Mary's for those who wish to go to the function in Blackwood and enjoy a few refreshments. The bus will return to Larkhall after the function. Please place your name on the list at the back of the church if you wish to travel by bus.

All parishioners are warmly invited to come along to pray with and for our new converts and to celebrate with them afterwards in the first parish social event in a long time.

A BUS WILL BE BOOKED THIS WEEK SO PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST BY THE END OF THIS WEEKEND.



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FOODBANK

The next collection for the foodbank will take place next weekend. 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. Over the past few months the response has been quite poor, so please make an extra special effort to donate to the work of 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.

