OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



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

Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood
Scottish Charity Number - SC011041
Telephone - 01698 884017
Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk
Facebook - catholicparishourladyoffatima
Twitter - OLOFParish **Instagram** - olofparish
Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25TH OCTOBER 2026

A GIFT WE CAN TAKE FOR GRANTED



At the very heart of our Catholic faith is the celebration of the Holy Mass. It is the greatest gift that the Lord has given to his Church, the moment when we gather as God's family to listen to his Word and encounter Jesus Christ, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Yet, because Mass is so readily available to us, perhaps we sometimes forget just how precious that gift really is.

Here in our parish, we are blessed to have the opportunity to attend Mass regularly, in beautiful churches, in safety and freedom. We can walk through the doors of St Mary's or Our Lady & St John's without fear of arrest, persecution or violence. We can gather around the altar, hear the Scriptures proclaimed and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. These are blessings we should never take for granted.

Throughout history, however, countless Catholics have not enjoyed the same freedom.

Many of us will be familiar with the remarkable story of the Mass Rocks of Ireland. During periods of religious persecution, particularly in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when Catholic worship was illegal and priests faced death, faithful Catholics gathered secretly in remote glens, forests and hillsides to celebrate Holy Mass. Large stones or natural rock formations became makeshift altars, and the faithful would travel, sometimes considerable distances, to take part in the Eucharist. These gatherings were not without danger. Priests risked imprisonment, exile and even death, while those who sheltered them or gathered for Mass could face serious consequences. Yet, despite the risks, ordinary men, women and children continued to come together, often in the cold and rain, because they understood that the Holy Mass was worth the sacrifice.

Imagine for a moment what that must have been like. Families leaving their homes quietly, making their way through the countryside, mostly before dawn, to gather around a simple stone altar. No beautiful church building, no pews, no heating or shelter from the weather. Only a priest, a small gathering of faithful people, and the greatest treasure of all: Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

They did not come because it was convenient. They came because they believed that the Mass was essential to their lives. Their faith was so precious to them that they were prepared to risk everything to practise it. And this is not simply a story from the distant past.

Even in our own times, Christians in different parts of the world continue to suffer persecution, violence and even death because of their faith. Churches have been attacked during Mass, priests and parishioners have been murdered, and communities have been forced to gather in secret or under the threat of violence. In countries such as Nigeria and Pakistan, Christians have experienced terrible attacks, sometimes simply because they had gathered to pray.

Perhaps their witness invites us to reflect upon how much we value the Mass in our own lives. We are not asked to risk our lives to attend Sunday Mass. Usually, the sacrifice required of us are much smaller: setting aside time, arranging our weekend commitments, or simply making the effort to come along.

The faith that sustained those who gathered around the Mass Rocks centuries ago is the very same faith that brings us together today. For what others have risked everything to receive, we are blessed to receive so freely. May we never forget just how precious the gift of Holy Mass is.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Sunday 25th October *(St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)*
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)

Monday 26th October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

Tuesday 27th October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

Wednesday 28th October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am – 4.00pm)*
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

Thursday 29th October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

Friday 30th October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
NO MASS IN THE PARISH

Saturday 31st October *(St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)*
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm **Vigil Mass for the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)



Sunday 1st November *(St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am – 5.45pm)*
10.00am **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (Our Lady & St John's)
1.30pm Cemetery Service (Larkhall)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (Our Lady & St John's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

28th October – Feast of St Simon & St Jude – Little is known of the apostles St Simon & St Jude. Each of them has a more formal name: Simon the Zealot and Jude Thaddeus. St Simon is usually called 'the Canaanite' and 'the Zealot', suggesting he belonged to the Jewish party of the 'Zealous of the Law'. St Jude or Thaddeus has a short epistle in the New Testament ascribed to him and is popularly invoked as the patron of hopeless causes. Tradition says that after Pentecost they evangelised, Simon in Egypt, Jude in Mesopotamia, and then together in Persia, where they were martyred.

ALL SOULS DAY

On Monday 2nd November we commemorate all the faithful departed, a day of praying for our departed loved ones and for all the souls in Purgatory. There will be an additional two Masses on that day. Masses will be offered at 10.00am and 12noon in St Mary's and 6.30pm in Our Lady & St John's. Please make a special effort to attend Mass on this day to pray for our beloved dead.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the second collection last weekend for the work of Missio Scotland. The total collected was £875.00. This will be forwarded to Missio for their work in helping the young and persecuted parts of the Church. May God reward your generosity.

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The month of November is the month when we pray in a special way for our deceased relatives, friends, fellow parishioners and all those departed souls who need our prayers:

November Lists – are available at the back of the church and should be filled out and returned to the church, traditionally with a donation, by the beginning of November.

Cemetery Services – Larkhall Cemetery Service will take place at ***1.30pm on Sunday 1st November***; Lesmahagow Cemetery Service will take place at ***1.30pm on Sunday 8th November***. All welcome to come along and pray for those buried in our two cemeteries.

Annual Requiem Mass – praying for all priests and parishioners of our parish who have died, particular those who died over the past twelve months, will take place on ***Wed 11th November at 7.00pm***.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2027

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 12th – 19th July 2027. Flights direct from Prestwick to Lourdes and return, accommodation at the Hotels Mediteranee and Alba priced at £995.00 per person full board based on twin/treble rooms, single supplement £280.00. Full programme throughout the week. £350.00 deposit required at time of booking. If you intend on travelling, please speak with Fr Wyllie or email whb.clements1@btinternet.com for more details. 3 interested so far.

NO WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Wyllie will be on pilgrimage to Rome from Monday – Friday of this week. Please note that there will be no weekday Mass in our parish over those days. On Tuesday morning Fr Wyllie will celebrate Holy Mass in the Grottoes of St Peter's Basilica, near the tomb of St Peter. You and your intentions will be remembered at Mass that morning.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection for the local foodbank will take place next weekend. Donations of non-perishable foods and also monetary donations will be very gratefully received. Please leave any bags or envelopes for the foodbank at the back of the church next weekend. Your continued generosity to the foodbank is greatly appreciated.

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Every Wednesday morning in St Mary's we will prepare for Christmas by praying the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots. This is a powerful novena particularly for those who are experiencing problems and troubles in their life. This novena will take place on a Wednesday morning at the conclusion of the 10.00am Mass. Please make a special effort to come along and pray this novena for your needs and intentions.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,030.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£195.00
Digital Giving:	£201.50
Stall:	£20.00
	£1,446.50

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a standing order for the parish:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

HIRE OF THE PARISH HALL



The Parish Hall is available for private functions, community events, regular hires and fundraising events. Please consider having your parties and functions in the Parish Hall to support the parish. If you would like to find out more information regarding the Hall and bookings or information about the hall, speak with a member of the Hall Team or contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**

MONTHLY FAMILY MASSES

Fr Wyllie is keen to begin a special family Mass once a month which will hopefully encourage families with young children to attend Mass more often. All families are invited to join us for a special Family Mass in both churches on Sunday 1st November, St Mary's at 10.00am and Our Lady & St John's at 12noon. Please try to encourage others to come to Mass and join us as a community of faith in receiving the Lord's Word and Body & Blood in Holy Communion.

PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY - CANCELLED

The Parish Family Halloween Party has been cancelled. The normal Parish Friday Drinks will instead be on from 2.00pm – 9.00pm. All the usual great beverages, good company and fancy dress is optional. A Halloween raffle will also take place too. All are welcome to come along.

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

The QR code can also be used to donate to the parish through your phone. Just open your camera app, hold the camera to the QR code and follow the instructions. It's simple and easy to use. Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parish.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK –Murray Brown, Kevin Brown, Margaret McCaughey, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming

RIP – Robbie Frew, Veronica Halligan, Colin Hotchkiss

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES – Ann Curivan, Chris Crumley, Jimmy Mulhearn, George Lyons, Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion regularly take Holy Communion to our sick and housebound brothers and sisters. Could all Extraordinary Ministers hand to Fr Wyllie an updated list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and the day and time of their regular visits with Holy Communion of those who receive Holy Communion. This will ensure that we have an up-to-date list of all those who are being visited and when they are being visited. You can either write this on a slip of paper and hand it into Fr Wyllie, or you can email him at ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL STATEMENT FROM BISHOP TOAL

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing this letter on the Feast of the Guardian Angels, patrons of the Church's Safeguarding Mission in Scotland.

Pope Leo has spoken of the need to safeguard the dignity of the human person and to build a genuine Culture of Care within our communities. These themes reflect the vision of In God's Image Version 2, our safeguarding instruction, which calls us not only to maintain safe practices but to create parish communities where every person is welcomed, valued, respected, and protected.

A Culture of Care begins when we choose to notice the person we might otherwise overlook. It is reflected in the decisions we make every day. It asks us not only whether our activities are successful, but whether they are safe, inclusive, and welcoming. It invites us to consider who may need additional support and how we can ensure that every person is treated with dignity and respect.

When we organise activities for children, young people, and protected adults, a Culture of Care ensures that those entrusted with leadership have been safely recruited and appropriately trained. When we plan pilgrimages and events, it encourages us to think about those who may need particular support to participate fully. In our everyday parish life, it challenges us to look beyond familiar faces and to notice who may be isolated, or simply in need of welcome and companionship.

Perhaps the challenge for all of us is to ask simple questions: Who might be vulnerable? Who has not been heard? Who might be overlooked?

As we continue to embed the vision of In God's Image throughout the Diocese, let us work together to build a Culture of Care where safeguarding is understood as a shared responsibility. By listening with humility, acting with compassion, and remaining attentive to the needs of others, we can help ensure that our parishes are places where everyone know they are welcomed, valued, protected and heard.

I thank our Clergy, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Parish Safeguarding Coordinators, volunteers and all those who contribute to this important ministry. Through your dedication and service, you help ensure that safeguarding remains a lived expression of our commitment to care for one another and uphold the dignity of every person.

With my prayers and best wishes,
Yours in Christ
✠ Joseph Toal

Any safeguarding concerns, contact:
Mrs Veronica McKenna, Diocesan Centre, Motherwell
01698 269114; veronicamckenna@rcdom.org.uk



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm





PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclaimers

