

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE 5TH MAY 2024



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

MAY - THE MONTH OF MARY

The Blessed Virgin Mary's path of faith and hope serves as an example to all.

This is just one of the reasons that the Universal Church dedicates the Month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month serves as an opportunity to reflect upon the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Therefore, time should be taken to reflect on Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost with which the Church begins.

Pope Francis said "the message of hope contained in God's blessing was fully realised in a woman, Mary, who was destined to become the Mother of God, and it was fulfilled in her before any other creature." The Holy Father added that "our journey of faith is the same as that of Mary, and so we feel that she is particularly close to us."



May is also the time when young Catholics often receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. Parishes and Catholic Schools in the Diocese have May Crowning ceremonies in which a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is given a crown of flowers, or a beautifully decorated crown is placed on her head.

The Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianise the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion. Pope Francis, in his 2018 Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, described the Blessed Virgin Mary as follows: "She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us." For this reason, Pope Francis has called upon the faithful to consecrate themselves to Mary. The Vatican's Dicastery for Divine worship defines consecration to Mary as an overt recognition of the "singular role of Mary in the mystery of Christ and of the Church, of the universal and exemplary importance of her witness to the Gospel, of trust in her intercession, and of the efficacy of her patronage."

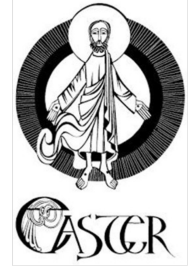
In the past, several popes have consecrated the Church and the world to Mary. Pope Pius XII consecrated the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 31st October 1942.

St John Paul II – who consecrated the entire Church and world to Mary three times during his pontificate – taught that by consecrating oneself to Mary, we accept her help in offering ourselves fully to Christ. Pope Francis consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 25th March 2022, which each parish throughout the world took part in at the same time. Let us consecrate ourselves, our families, the Church and the world to the handmaid of the Lord.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 5th May

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



Monday 6th May

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)

Tuesday 7th May

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 8th May

9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Sixth Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 9th May

8.00am Brief Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (St Mary's)
9.30am School Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)
10.30am School Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 10th May

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday after the Ascension (St Mary's)

Saturday 11th May

12noon First Holy Communion Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)



ASCENSION THURSDAY - HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

We celebrate Ascension Thursday on 9th May. The Masses in our parish will be as follows:

8.00am (St Mary's)

9.30am (OLSJ)

10.30am (St Mary's)

7.00pm (OLSJ)

MINI VINNIES

The young people from St Mary's Primary School are to be enrolled as members of the Mini Vinnies, the youth arm of the St Vincent de Paul Society. We wish the children well as they embark on this time of service of God and others. Fr Wyllie would like to thank the boys and girls for their prayers for him last week and the beautiful posters they made for him.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

We are very fortunate to have a great volunteer cleaner who cleans our Parish Hall before/after functions, however, during the months of May and June we have a function on almost every weekend and therefore are looking for other volunteers to help with the cleaning. The event dates are: 11th, 18th, 25th, 30th May; 1st, 2nd, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 27th, 28th June. If you're able, please give a hand or why not get a little group of friends together to help? Hoovering, mopping, sanitising the tables, emptying the bins and cleaning the toilets.

SECOND COLLECTION

A second collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend for the work done by the Diocese of Motherwell and the Catholic Church in Scotland in communicating the Faith, particularly for the work done in TV, radio and online which helps to spread the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Faith. That weekend there will be a box at the back of the church for you to make contributions to this collection.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£815.00
Standing Orders:	£1,441.00
Stall:	£40.00
Total:	£2,296.00
SCIAF Wee Boxes:	£828.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**
Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

HIRE OF THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall is available for private functions, community events, regular lets 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, then please contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**



FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

We celebrate the Feast Day of our parish patroness, under her title of Our Lady of Fatima on Monday 13th May. The 12noon Mass that day will be a special celebration to which all parishioners are warmly invited. To come together on that day to celebrate Holy Mass and to place ourselves under the protection of Our Blessed Mother is right and fitting. The Rosary will be prayed at 11.30am as normal followed by Mass at 12noon.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

The young people from St John's Primary who have been enrolled and been preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will receive the Sacrament at a special Mass on Saturday 11th May at 12noon in Our Lady & St John's. The young people from St Mary's Primary who have been enrolled and preparing for the Sacrament will receive Holy Communion at a special Mass on Saturday 18th May at 12noon in St Mary's. We keep the boys and girls along with their families, teachers and school staff in our prayers over the next few weeks.

Although the children will have a special class Mass of Thanksgiving the week following their First Holy Communion, all children are invited to Mass on the Sunday in their First Communion garb. Sunday 12th May at 12noon for St John's and Sunday 19th May at 10.00am for St Mary's.

UPCOMING WORKS IN OUR PARISH

On Monday 6th May the work will begin on power-washing around Our Lady & St John's - ramps, steps, mono-blocking etc. Many thanks to Brian Dempsie for taking care of this work.

Work will begin on the power-washing of the mono-blocking at the front of the house at St Mary's over the next few weeks. The painting of the decking and the back fence at St Mary's will also commence over the next few weeks. Many thanks to Tony Agnew for organising this work.

LARKHALL 100 CLUB

The lists which were available a few months ago have been lost. Could all those wishing to join the 100 Club place their name beside their preferred number on the new lists at the back.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Over the next few weeks, six young adults from our parish will be preparing in earnest to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. What a great joy it is to see young people in their late teens and early twenties seeking the Sacraments and wishing to be full members of the Lord's Church. Please keep them all in your prayers as they prepare to be received into the Catholic Church after the summer holidays.

RCIA GROUP

At present Fr Wyllie takes the RCIA candidates for catechesis himself, this can prove to be quite difficult with other commitments and tasks that he can be tied up with on occasion, so he is looking for volunteers to help take the sessions for the RCIA programme. If you could commit to one evening a week to help with prospective converts in their journey into the Catholic Church then please speak with Fr Wyllie. A little team would be the best way forward, to share the task.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Gary Biggar, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Kathleen Brannigan, Anne O'Neil, Aaron Mulligan, Margaret McLaughlin, Kevin Wyllie, Kerry Peterson, Noel Bennetts (Australia), Jeanne Gowans

RIP - Jamie Dunn (*Requiem Mass 13th May at 2.00pm*), Anne Quigley (Hamilton), Bernard O'Donnell, Karen Hudi, Martin Kennedy (Bellshill)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jennifer Cochran, John Corr, Mary Corr, William Tait, Mary Gallacher, David James, Margaret Wyllie, Mary A. Prior,

Please remember to have your dead loved ones prayed for on their anniversary

MASS OF ST PEREGRINE, PATRON SAINT OF CANCER SUFFERERS

Many thanks to all those who came to the Mass for the Feast of St Peregrine last Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to see such a great crowd especially those who came forward for the Sacrament of the Sick. Our thanks also go to the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who transported the sick to and from the Mass and to those who took part in the Mass in any way.

PROPOSED PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI 2025

We are proposing a Parish Pilgrimage next year (the Jubilee Year) to Rome and Assisi. If you would be interested in going on this pilgrimage in 2025 please speak with Fr Wyllie. There are no arrangements at the moment as we need to see how many parishioners would be interested and the costs involved. Please be advised that you would need to be in good health for the walking that will be required in Rome and Assisi.



CARE NOT KILLING

Dr Gordon MacDonald, CEO of Care Not Killing, will give a talk on Tuesday 7th May at 7.00pm in St Bride's Hall, Coursington Road, Motherwell. The talk is titled *Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide: What You Need To Know*. You can register now or you can turn up on the evening.

NEW GIFTAID ENVELOPE PACKS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

THE PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 25TH MAY

2.00PM - 8.00PM (3.00PM KICK-OFF)

£5.00 PER PERSON

GAME SHOWN ON THE BIG-SCREEN; PIES & SAUSAGE ROLLS AT HALF-TIME;

PINTS OF McNABREA - £4.50; PINTS OF TENNENTS - £3.50

ALL WELCOME



PROSECCO AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

2.00pm until 7.00pm

Tickets £20.00 per person

Glass of prosecco or bottle for groups of 4 or more on arrival;

savouries, sandwiches, cakes and scones;

bar, live entertainment and raffle

All welcome

