

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



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
25TH JANUARY 2026**

SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM

Sacrosanctum Concilium (translated as *This Sacred Council*), was the first of the Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. It was approved by 2,147 bishops to 4, and was promulgated on 4th December 1963. It highlighted the importance of the liturgy for the Church.

The liturgy (the public prayer of the Church) is the heart of the Church's life. Through it, the faithful unite with Christ in his redemptive sacrifice, participating in the mysteries of the faith, and receive the grace necessary to live as missionary disciples. The first document of the Second Vatican Council focussed on the liturgy and reminds us:

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, and at the same time, it is the source from which all her power flows" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 10).

In the 20th century, the Second Vatican Council sought to renew the liturgy to make it more accessible and understandable for the faithful. The liturgy is the encounter between God and his people. The faithful were encouraged to have a "full, conscious, and active participation" in the Mass. This is not so much everyone having a role in the Mass but rather opening their hearts and minds to a full, conscious, and active participation in what is happening during the liturgy.

The liturgy is a treasure that the Church has entrusted to us. It is our responsibility to care for it, protect it, and celebrate it with the reverence and love it deserves. The Council Fathers wished for the Church to rediscover and appreciate the following points:

- Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. No other action of the Church can equal its power. It is the source and summit of the Church's life
- The People of God are to be led to a fully conscious, and active participation in the liturgy as is their right and their duty by reason of their baptism
- There must be no innovations to the words and form of Mass unless the Church permits it
- Sacred Scripture should form a major part of the Mass and Sacramental Rites
- "The Latin language is to be preserved with the faithful being able to say or sing together the parts of the Mass in the Latin language", but the vernacular is also encouraged
- The Sacraments, blessings and their meaning should be accessible for the people
- The Divine Office (Prayer of the Church) should be sung or said in monasteries, abbeys, cathedrals and churches by priests, religious and the lay faithful
- Sacred music is to be preserved and fostered. Gregorian chant is to have pride of place at Mass and the organ is to be "held in high esteem as it adds a wonderful splendour to the Church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man's mind to God and higher things"
- Sacred art, architecture and images are to be fostered and encouraged in churches "as they are oriented toward the infinite beauty of God" and help to raise our minds to him.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

10.00am Holy Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)

1.00pm Baptisms (Our Lady & St John's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (OLSJ)



Monday 26th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Timothy & St Titus (St Mary's)

Tuesday 27th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Holy Mass for the Patronal Feast of St John's Primary (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 28th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (Our Lady & St John's)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Thomas Aquinas (St Mary's)

6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

6.30pm Confessions until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Thomas Aquinas (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 29th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

No Adoration & Confessions

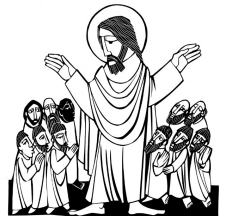
No 9.30am Mass

12.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the Third Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 30th January (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)

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



Saturday 31st January (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

26th January - Memoria of St Timothy & St Titus - St Timothy and St Titus were both apostles of St Paul, who addressed to them three of his Epistles. St Timothy, who died in 97AD, accompanied the Apostle on many of his journeys and eventually became bishop of Ephesus. According to tradition, he was beaten to death by a mob when he opposed the worship of Emperor Dionysius. St Titus, who died around 96AD, seems to have served as the first bishop of Crete. St Timothy is the patron saint of stomach and intestinal disorders and St Titus is the patron saint of Crete and the United States Army Chaplains Corp.

28th January - Memoria of St Thomas Aquinas - St Thomas Aquinas was born around 1224 and became a Dominican friar who became one of the most important Christian philosophers and theologians. Known as the 'Angelic Doctor', he had an astonishing mastery of scholastic theology and a profound holiness of life. His greatest work, the Summa Theologica, is still widely used. He died in 1274 and was declared patron saint of Catholic schools.

31st January - Memoria of St John Bosco - St John Bosco was born in 1815 in Piedmont (Italy) and devoted his life to Catholic education. This 'Apostle of Youth' founded the Salesian Order, named in honour of St Francis de Sales, and, with the help of St Mary Mazzarello, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. Despite much opposition, his aim was, above all, to educate through love. He died in 1888 and is the patron saint of young people, especially the poor and disadvantaged, as well as youth, students, apprentices, and juvenile delinquents.

PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENTS

From this weekend the boys and girls who are preparing for the Sacrament of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be joining us for Sunday Masses in the weeks and months leading up to the celebration of the Sacraments. All children are invited to come along with their parents/families so that their faith may be strengthened and that they come together with us at Mass to join with this community of faith in praising and worshipping Almighty God.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £970.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £425.00
Stall: £40.00
£1,435.00

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 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**

**BOOK
ONLINE**



ST JOHN'S PRIMARY PATRONAL FEAST DAY MASS

The Feast of St John is celebrated on 27th December, when the schools are on holiday. Therefore, each year we celebrate the Feast of St John for the staff and pupils of St John's Primary in January with a special Mass. This year the Mass will take place this Tuesday with Mass at 9.30am in the church followed by a Coffee Morning in the school. Everyone welcome.



PATRONAL FEAST DAY COFFEE MORNING

St John's Primary School

THIS TUESDAY AFTER 9.30AM MASS



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00PM - 9.00PM



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THIS THURSDAY AT 12.30PM



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm
Fr John McFadden on Life in the Missions



PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm - Late

Menus for those attending to be handed in by 1st February



PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT EVENT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late

Bar & Live Music

Tickets £10.00 - Names on list



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, Jane Hamilton, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Lara Markson, Brian Peacock

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Charles Morrison, The Maguire, Morrison & McStay Families, Ella Lavery, Jimmy Lavery

THE 100 CLUB

To be in with a chance of winning £100.00 each month, our 100 Club is starting up again. If you wish to join please set up a standing order for the following account for £5.00 a month - **Larkhall 100 Club**, Sort Code - **80-22-60**, Account Number - **17418369**. **There is a list at the back of the church for you to place your name beside the number(s) which you would like.**

PARISH FINANCIAL RETURN FOR 2025

In the Diocese of Motherwell our financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December. The 2025 accounts have been collated, processed and sent to the diocese for auditing and recording. A statement of our parish finances from 1st January through to 31st December 2025 will be available in the next few weeks for parishioners to take home with them. The Parish Finance Team will meet on Tuesday 3rd February at 2.30pm in the Parish House. The members of the Team are: Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Gerry McCaughey, Irene McGoldrick & Margaret Weir.

PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

On Friday 13th February we will hold our annual Church Workers Social as a way of thanking those who give of their time and talents in the various aspects of parish life. Those who are invited to the evening are: adult servers, readers, extraordinary ministers, musicians and cantors, florists, cleaners, grounds workers, stall workers, collection counters, bar volunteers, catechists, those who clean the sacred vessels, brasso, clean the altar linen, bar volunteers, the members of the Parish Pastoral Team, the Finance Team, the Wellspring Team, the Parish Hall Team, the SSVP, the Lunch Club helpers, housekeepers and those who open and lock the churches. The evening will include the bar, DJ and a chip van which will serve the food. **The menus are available at the back of the church, please fill one out if you intend on coming along and hand it back before 1st February.** This is a great occasion for us to come together as one parish community to enjoy some socialising and food, and also to recognise the many roles and responsibilities carried out by parishioners. All those who are involved in the above are very warmly invited.

HALL TEAM MEETING

A meeting of the Hall Team will take place on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. Anyone who is willing to help with the running of the Hall is invited to this meeting. The current members of this Team are: Fr Wyllie, Stevie Reilly, Fiona Gibney, John Gibney, John Higgins, Vivien Stewart and Margaret Laird. We thank Suzanne Sherry for her dedication and hard work.

OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall has closed, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page two of this bulletin.

THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?

The next Vocations Evening will take place on Sunday 1st February at 7.30pm in the Cathedral House. It is important that those who feel called to priesthood come forward now so that there is sufficient time through the coming months to carry out the necessary discernment.