

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

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
17TH MARCH 2024**

VEILING FOR PASSIONTIDE

The custom of veiling crosses and images has much to commend it in terms of religious psychology, because it helps us to concentrate on the great essentials of Christ's work of absolute Redemption. However, the historical origin of this practice probably derives from a custom in Germany from the ninth century, of extending a large cloth before the High Altar from Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The cloth, called the "Hungertuch" (hunger cloth), hid the altar entirely from the faithful during Lent and was not removed until the reading of the Passion on Holy Wednesday at the words "the veil of the temple was torn in two."

Today the duration of such veiling varies from place to place. The custom in many places is to veil from before the vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent while others limit this veiling from after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. In some places images and statues are actually removed from the church and not simply veiled, especially after the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. Crosses are unveiled after the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion. All other images are unveiled shortly before the Mass of the Easter Vigil. Neither the Stations of the Cross nor stained glass windows are ever veiled.

The veils are usually made of lightweight purple cloth without any decoration or in sackcloth or plain unbleached linen. The custom of veiling the images during the last two weeks of Lent hails from the former liturgical calendar (pre 1970) in which the Passion was read on the Fifth Sunday of Lent (hence called "Passion Sunday"). For this reason, the period following the Fifth Sunday of Lent was called Passiontide. A remnant of this custom is the obligatory use of the first Preface of the Lord's Passion during the Fifth Week of Lent.

The rule limiting veiling to Passiontide came later and does not appear until the publication of the Roman Catholic Church's Bishops' Ceremonial of the 17th century. After the Second Vatican Council there were moves to abolish all veiling of images, but the practice survives, and is being re-introduced in many parishes.

A mystical interpretation of the Gospel which, in former times, was read on Passion Sunday: As Christ hid himself from the rage of the Jewish authorities (John 8:59), so now he is hidden from the world in preparation for the mysteries of his passion. The awful hours of our Saviour's passion led the afflicted mother [the Church] to veil the image of her Lord: the cross is hidden from the eyes of the faithful. The statues of the saints, too, are covered; for it is but just that, if the glory of the Master be eclipsed, the servant should not appear.

The veiling symbolises the darkness without faith. Without the invisible made visible, the Incarnation and Christ's Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection, there would be no saints, no Mass, no Christmas, no Easter, no feasts or celebrations. By shrouding the sacred images we are encouraged to imagine the bleakness of a world without Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross and focus on the great gift of Life the Passion bestowed on humanity. At the Easter Vigil, the veils are removed. New light and new life is brought into the church to inspire new hope. The veiling of the images represents a connection between the temporal and the eternal, life on earth, dim and clouded versus life in heaven with God and the saints, which is bright and glorious.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 17th March

9.15am	Confessions until 9.45am (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
10.35am	Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
12.35pm	Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Vespers & Benediction (St Mary's)



Monday 18th March

11.30am	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fifth Week in Lent (St Mary's)
6.00pm	Confessions until 6.50pm (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph (St Mary's)

Tuesday 19th March

8.30am	Morning Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 20th March

8.30am	Morning Mass for Wednesday of the Fifth Week in Lent (St Mary's)
8.45am	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 Fifth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm	Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fifth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 21st March

9.00am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Confessions until 9.20am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Fifth Week in Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 22nd March

9.30am	Stations of the Cross led by the pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Fifth Week in Lent (St Mary's)



Saturday 23rd March

4.00pm	Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

19th March - Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary - St Joseph is shown in the Gospels as the wise and just man, who had worked out the kindest way to deal with Our Blessed Lady's mysterious pregnancy, and who could then accept the will of God which pointed out a different path even when it contradicted his life plans. He has acquired many titles: Husband of Mary, Foster-Father of the Child Jesus, Guardian of the Holy Family, Protector of the Church, patron of a happy death. He is honoured as the patron of the universal Catholic Church.

SCIAF COLLECTION

Many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the SCIAF collection at all Masses last weekend. This collection is to aid SCIAF in the work they do on our behalf to help our poorest brothers and sisters throughout the world. Through your generosity we were able to forward on £980.00 to SCIAF. May God reward you for your kindness.

WEEKDAY MASSES & LITURGIES

As we enter the last two weeks of the Season of Lent, please make a special effort to come along to our weekday Masses and Liturgies. This is a powerful and sure way to help us build up our relationship with the Lord as we prepare for the commemoration of his dying and rising.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations: £766.00
Standing Orders: £155.00
Total: £921.00

SCIAF Collection: £980.00

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**

Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

MANY THANKS

The Auchlochan Mass & lunch took place on Thursday of last week. We thank the volunteers who give so much of their time and talents in making the monthly Mass & lunch such a success and providing an opportunity for us to come together for prayer and socialising. The next Mass and lunch is scheduled to take place on Thursday 25th April at 12.30pm. If you would like to come along or could volunteer to help out on the day, please speak with Betty McGonagle over the next few weeks.

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** or speak to Suzanne.



CHURCH WORKERS' SOCIAL

The Church Workers' Social will take place in the Parish Hall on Friday 12th April, with a prosecco reception beginning at 6.30pm followed by a three-course dinner commencing at 7.00pm. All those who work in the church, hall, grounds, are members of groups/societies in the parish are very warmly invited to attend. The evening is open to: readers, extraordinary ministers, cleaners, grounds workers, stall workers, hall volunteers & bar staff, members of the Hall Team, Finance Team, collection counters, Pastoral Team, Wellspring Team, SSVP, Children's Liturgy leaders, musicians and cantors, sacristans, lunch club volunteers and housekeepers. **Fr Wyllie asks that if you intend on coming along that you hand in your menu choices by next Sunday, 24th March.**

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA & LISBON

A meeting has been arranged with Anne Marie Cairns from ALBA Tours to go through the various aspects of the parish pilgrimage to Fatima and Lisbon from 2nd-9th July this year, this meeting will take place **this Wednesday in the Parish Hall after the 7.00pm Mass**. All pilgrims are invited to attend to find out more about the pilgrimage. This is also a good opportunity for us to meet with some of the pilgrims from St Mary's Lanark who will also be on this pilgrimage with us.



PROJECT WELLSRING WORKING GROUP

The first meeting of the new Project Wellspring Working Group took place last Tuesday evening in the Parish House and proved to be very fruitful and positive. The group took time to go over the Parish Questionnaire responses and to map a plan ahead for renewing and working on the five aspects of parish life outlined by the Diocesan Project Wellspring Group - Liturgy, Adult Formation, Youth Formation, Poverty Relief and Catholic Education. There will be another few meetings to explore things in more detail as a group, and then a parish meeting will take place before summer so that all parishioners will have an opportunity to contribute to this discussion and map a way forward for us. A Parish Vision statement will be coming over the next month or so. The next meeting for this group will be Tuesday 16th April at 7.00pm in the Parish House.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL - FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

St Mary's Primary School will be holding a Family Bingo Night on **Friday 22nd March in Raploch Bowling Club**. Tickets are priced at £1.50 per adult/50p per child and can be purchased at the school office. Bingo books will be sold on the night priced at £2.00 per book or 6 books for £10.00. Raffle prize donations will also be gratefully received. All funds raised will support school activities.

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

RIP - William McLearn (*Requiem Monday 25th at 12noon*), Janet McIntosh (*Receiving Tuesday 26th at 5.30pm; Requiem 27th at 10.00am*), Douglas Russell, Anne Marie Rodden (Hamilton), Cathy Dunn (Hillhouse), Lucy Anderson (Ardrossan), Tommy Wedlock Jnr (Sacramento Cal.), Betty Henry, Kathy Naton (London)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Raymond Holmes, John C. Gowans, Ann Grant, Patrick Grant, Jack Hastie, Jim & Helen Grant, Thomas McDonagh, Tony & Mary Goodwin, Frank Reilly, Charles McCorry, Tommy & Tessie Wedlock, James & Catherine McLaren

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

MOTHERWELL DIOCESAN CHOIR

The Motherwell Diocesan Choir will lead a musical reflection entitled "Father, into Your Hands" for Holy Week in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell on Tuesday 26th March beginning at 7.30pm. An evening of choral music, plainsong & traditional hymns contemplating the Passion of Christ. Admission is free and everyone is warmly invited.

SSVP STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Monday 18th March in St Columba's Viewpark at 7.00pm. Light refreshments in Hall afterwards.

COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES - GOOD FRIDAY AT ALL SERVICES

CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR PASSIONTIDE & HOLY WEEK

Monday 18th March 6.00pm	(Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent) Confessions until 6.50pm (St Mary's)
Wednesday 19th March 6.00pm	(Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent) Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
Saturday 23rd March 4.00pm	(Vigil of Palm Sunday) Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
Monday 25th March 6.00pm 7.30pm	(Monday of Holy Week) Confessions until 6.50pm (St Mary's) Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)
Tuesday 26th March 9.30am	(Tuesday of Holy Week) Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 27th March 6.00pm 7.30pm	(Wednesday of Holy Week) Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's) Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)



SACRED TRIDUUM 2024 IN OUR PARISH

HOLY THURSDAY

No morning Mass in our parish. Mass of Chrism at Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral at 11.00am

7.00pm	Holy Mass of the Lord's Last Supper (St Mary's)
8.00pm	Watching at the Altar of Repose until
10.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)

GOOD FRIDAY

12noon	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
3.00pm	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death (St Mary's)
7.00pm	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

HOLY SATURDAY

7.00pm	Easter Vigil & First Mass of the Resurrection (St Mary's)
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TRIDUUM