

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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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
22ND FEBRUARY 2026**

GAUDIUM ET SPES (PART TWO)

Gaudium et Spes (translated as *Joy and Hope*) was promulgated on 7th December 1965 and is the longest Constitution produced by the Second Vatican Council. It addresses many various issues in modern culture and how the Church should respond:

Holistic View of the Human Person: The document emphasises the interconnectedness of human faculties and the importance of developing the whole person - intellectually, morally, spiritually, and socially.

Value of Diverse Cultures: It recognises the richness and validity of different cultural expressions,

acknowledging that there is no single correct way to be human. It also highlights the role of every individual and community in shaping culture and contributing to the common good.

Scientific & Technological Advancements: The Church recognises the immense potential of science and technology to improve human life, alleviating suffering, and fostering greater understanding of the world and fostering the common good. It also cautions against an overreliance on science and technology, warning against a materialistic worldview. Theology & science can and should work together.

Mass Culture & Communication: The rise of mass media and increased communication technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for the Church to spread the Gospel, but the document acknowledges the potential for mass culture to erode cultural identities and must promote authentic human expressions and dialogue.

Modern Culture: Gaudium et Spes recognises the complex and dynamic nature of modern culture, identifying the opportunities and challenges it presents for the Church. It delves into the relationship between faith and reason (religion and science) "two orders of knowledge", saying they are not in conflict but can mutually enrich one another, reflecting both human dignity and Christian values.

Tradition: Tradition is also a key theme, preserving tradition while embracing progress. It calls for a dynamic fidelity to tradition and an openness to progress. The second part of Gaudium et Spes suggests that the Church's role in society is not to control or dominate culture, but to accompany, guide and engage with it. Catholics are called to engage with contemporary culture with their faith in action.

It is suggested we do this by encouraging a missionary spirit (preaching the Gospel), promoting a culture of encounter (building bridges), inspiring a commitment to justice & peace (working for a more just and peaceful world) and nurturing a sense of hope (that Christ is the ultimate source of hope for humanity) and that we, by virtue of baptism, are called to be bearers of that hope in the world. This is not merely an option but a vital aspect of our Christian vocation.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 22nd February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

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



Monday 23rd February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross led by school pupils of Room 4 (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)
6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Monday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 24th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
10.00am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm First Confessions (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 25th February (St Mary's 8.15am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

8.30am Brief Mass for Wednesday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)
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 First Week of Lent (St Mary's)
1.30pm First Confessions (St Mary's Primary)
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 First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

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

8.30am Brief Mass for Thursday of the First Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
NO 9.10AM MORNING PRAYER
NO 9.30AM MASS TODAY
12.30pm Lunch Club Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

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

9.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the First Week of Lent (St Mary's)



Saturday 28th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

LENTEN PROGRAMME

Lent is all about opening up our hearts to God and seeking to make more space for him in our lives. Throughout the season of Lent there are additional opportunities for Mass, devotions, prayer and confession. Fr Wyllie has tried to come up with a programme that will make it easier for parishioners to make a special effort to come along to the additional Masses, liturgies and periods of confessions. Why not consider coming along to Mass or the other scheduled liturgies/devotions throughout Lent to give God more time in our lives and to show our love for him?

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the second collection last week for the Building Fund. The total collected was £980.00. This will help with the costs of some of the repairs and maintenance which has taken place over the past few weeks.

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST PEREGRINE

St Peregrine is honoured as the patron saint of those who suffer from cancer and those who suffer from incurable and life-threatening illnesses. All of us will know or have known someone who has or had cancer. From this Monday a novena will take place each Monday after the 12noon Mass to St Peregrine, praying for all those who have been diagnosed with cancer, for their families, for consultants, doctors and for the nurses who treat those patients.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£945.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£495.00
Church Building Fund:	£980.00
Stall:	£20.00
	£2,440.00

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**



THEOLOGY ON TAP

Many thanks to those parishioners who came along to the Theology on Tap led by Fr John McFadden. It provided us with a great insight into the life of missionary priests with the challenges and successes it brings, and also wonderful to hear of the flourishing and dynamic churches in these lands bearing much fruit in spite of persecution. We are hoping the next Theology on Tap will take place on Tuesday 17th March with the talk being given by Fr Philip Caldwell.

SACRAMENTS FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Primary 3 children who have been enrolled for the Sacrament of First Confession will receive the sacrament this coming week. The boys and girls of St John's will receive theirs on Tuesday evening at 6.30pm and the boys and girls of St Mary's will receive theirs on Wednesday at 1.30pm. We keep the young people, their parents/carers and teachers in our prayers.

On Wednesday 11th March, Bishop Toal will visit the parish to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the young people in Primary 7 of both schools at a special Mass in Our Lady & St John's at 7.00pm. We keep them all in our prayers as they prepare for this special moment.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00PM - 9.00PM



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Mass at 12.30pm followed by lunch in the Parish Hall

Please let Betty McGonagle know if you are attending



PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT EVENT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late

Bar & Live Music

Tickets £10.00 - Includes a Pie. Names on list



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH (TBC)

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm

Fr Philip Caldwell (TBC)



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Stephen Neal, Marjory McMurray, Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, 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 - Bernard Cosgrove (*Requiem Tuesday 10th March 9.30am*), Joan Meade (*Requiem Mass Thursday 12th March 9.30am*), John Cameron, Tommy McGeechan (Craigneuk), Alice Kelly (Uddingston), Mary Hughes (Lanark), Sister Paula Bradshaw DOC, Isobel Morgan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Peter, Agnes & Jo Maguire, Guy Mitchell, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Robert Maguire, The Maguire Family, Ian Quinn

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

BAPTISM

Congratulations to Daisy Freda Marshall who was baptised last Sunday, becoming a child of God and an heir to everlasting life. We pray for Daisy, for her parents and godparents, that walking as a child of God and always aware of her baptismal dignity she will love God with all her heart throughout life and know his love and presence with her.

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. Very many thanks to those parishioners who have already set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLICS

We are very blessed in the diocese to have a large Syro-Malabar community, these are Catholics mainly from Kerala, India. Over the years their base has been St Bride's Cambuslang, St Cuthbert's Burnbank, St John Ogilvie Blantyre and St Anthony's Rutherglen. They are looking to purchase the former Craigneuk & Belhaven Church of Scotland for their Masses and liturgies. There are raffle tickets at the back of the church to help them in this endeavour.

PRIVATE PRAYER

Please remember that both our churches are open during the day for private prayer and personal visits to the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In a busy and fast paced world it is good for us to take some time for meditation, quiet and peace before the Lord in the tabernacle.

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

Churches up and down the country and throughout the world have installed digital giving devices for parishioners to make donations to the parish through contactless and chip & pin. In the current situation we find ourselves in, with no bank in our parish and relying on volunteers to carry the collection to the bank each week, Fr Wyllie is exploring the possibility of installing one of these electronic giving devices in both churches to make it easier for parishioners to contribute to the collection digitally. It is hoped that more information will be available soon as to the feasibility of getting these machines in both our churches. More details to follow.

SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING LENT & HOLY WEEK

It is customary during the season of Lent to take up three second collections. One is for the diocese, the other is for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, and one for the Holy Places in the Holy Land. Below you will find the details of these upcoming collections:

Sunday 1st March	Sick & Retired Priests	2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 15th March	SCIAF	4th Sunday of Lent
Friday 3rd April	Holy Places	Good Friday