

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
6TH APRIL 2025**

PASSION SUNDAY

Covering crosses, statues and images or "veiling" with unadorned violet opaque cloths begins on the Saturday before the Fifth Sunday of Lent. It is an older custom of the Church that remains to this day. The exact era it began no one is sure, but the origins seem to come from a medieval tradition of the "hunger cloth" which was a huge violet cloth hung in front of the altar to keep the congregation from viewing the altar. Originally Lent was a time that public sinners were "banished" from the church and had to do a public display of penance. Over time the understanding that everyone is a sinner prevailed and sinners were no longer restricted from the liturgy in church, but the hunger cloth gave all attending a "fast of the eyes." The cloths over time changed to smaller sizes and with more decorations.



In the 1962 calendar (and before), Lent had a division, so that the last two weeks was considered "Passiontide"—time more focused on the passion and death of Christ. The Fifth Sunday of Lent was called "Passion Sunday." This was when the images were covered. Even in the revised liturgy, these last two weeks, especially Holy Week do continue to dwell more closely on the sufferings of Christ, but the name of Passiontide was removed.

In Dioceses throughout the world, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

The custom of veiling crosses and images in these last two weeks of Lent has much to commend it in terms of religious psychology, because it helps us to concentrate on how the Lord's divinity was hidden, and when the Masters image is hidden, so must his servants too, hence the veiling of the statues and pictures of the saints.

The cloths are to be plain fabric, preferably light material, with no decoration. Before the Vigil Mass or Evening Prayer I of the Fifth Sunday of Lent all statues and images except the Stations of the Cross and stained-glass windows are veiled. After the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00pm all crosses are unveiled. In the Ordinary Form, the coverings are removed without any liturgical ceremony before the Easter Vigil begins. Sometimes in the Extraordinary Form the images are not uncovered until the Gloria is sung and the bells ring out at the Easter Vigil.

The Triduum is so near. Last Sunday we celebrated with great joy that we had reached the halfway mark, and this Sunday we have a visual that reminds us that we are only two weeks away from Easter. The covering of sacred images is a beautiful custom that can perhaps lead us to greater contemplation as we walk with Jesus through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Our eyes are not drawn away to other objects and we can turn our focus to the altar and inwardly to contemplate Christ who will suffer so much for love of us.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 6th April (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

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)
 5.35pm Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 7th April (St Mary's open 9.00am - 7.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross led by pupils of St Mary's (St Mary's)
 12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
 12.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 2.45pm (St Mary's)
 12.30pm Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

Tuesday 8th April (St Mary's open 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 Fifth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
 9.55am Novena to St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)
 10.00am Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 9th April (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)

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 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 of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 10th April (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Morning Prayer of the Church (Our Lady & St John's)
 9.30am Holy Mass for Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
 9.55am Confessions after Mass (Our Lady & St John's)
 7.00pm Talk by Fr Andrew Robinson (The Parish Hall)

Friday 11th April (St Mary's open 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 Fifth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
 10.30am Confessions after Mass (St Mary's)

Saturday 12th April (St Mary's open 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

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



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The next Theology on Tap will take place this Thursday evening, 10th April, beginning at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall with the talk beginning at 7.00pm. This month the speaker will be Fr Andrew Robinson, Scripture Scholar and New Testament Lecturer at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham who will be opening up the Passion Gospel of St Luke, which will be read on Palm Sunday. Fr Wyllie encourages and invites all parishioners to make a special effort to come along to this evening as Fr Andrew is travelling up from Birmingham especially for this talk. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn more about the events recounted in St Luke's Gospel regarding the trial, the passion and death of the Lord.



PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTO

Our Parish Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto will take place on Thursday 8th May with the bus leaving around 9.30am that morning and returning back to the parish mid-afternoon. The day will include tea/coffee on arrival, time for personal prayer, a visit to the large reliquary, recitation of the Rosary, Mass, Stations of the Cross and lunch. If you'd like to be part of this pilgrimage to obtain the Jubilee Year indulgence, please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£750.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£1,527.00
Stall:	£30.00
Total:	£2,307.00
SCIAF Collection:	£1,350.00

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**

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**



EASTER EGG APPEAL

Many thanks to those parishioners who very kindly donated to the Henry Dorricott Funeral Directors Easter Egg appeal for needy children in our area. They have now been picked up by Dorricott. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

BIG THANK YOU

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to tidy the grounds around Our Lady & St John's. A power of work was done on Saturday but also last Thursday too in preparing the garden and grounds for Easter. Again, many thanks to everyone who helped.

EASTER REMEMBRANCES

Easter, when the Lord broke the chains of death through his resurrection, is a beautiful moment for us to remember those whom we have loved and have been called from this world. In our Easter bulletin there will be a special section for Easter Remembrances. If you'd like your deceased loved ones remembered at the Easter Masses please hand in by Holy Thursday.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY - BINGO NIGHT

The Parent Council of St Mary's Primary are organising a Bingo Night to help raise funds for the school, to help with the cost of outings and other necessary expenses for the boys and girls. The Bingo Night will take place on Friday 9th May in Raploch Bowling Club. Tickets are available from members of the Parent Council or from the school office. All parishioners are welcome.

HEATING THE PARISH PROPERTIES

As we are now in spring and the weather, on the most, part is brighter and warmer, the heating has been turned off in both churches, both parish houses and reduced in the parish hall. To date this year (from 1st January) we have been billed £6,162.23 for our gas and electricity. This is an enormous amount of money which is the equivalent of about five weeks worth of offertory collection. At a parish level we are not in control of our gas and electricity suppliers as that is fixed centrally by the diocese. Please be aware that the churches will be cooler.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 25TH APRIL

2.00pm - 7.00pm



PARISH LIGHT BITE AFTER MASS

The Parish Hall

SUNDAY 4TH MAY

After the 12noon Mass



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Annette Thomson, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Moira Corr, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew

RIP - Jim McLaughlin, Jan Holton (Hamilton), Ian Callaghan (Hillhouse), Tommy Ferrie (Wishawhill), Martin Gallagher (Donegal)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Jean Travers, Vida Wilson, James Lyons, Robert Smith, Bernard & Minnie Smith, Frank & Annie McCaffrey, Vida Wilson, David O'Neill, Nancy O'Neill, Sarah Dykes, Betty, Eddie, Wullie & Margaret McCabe, Sweeney & McCabe Families, Frank Hughes, Jim Sinclair, Eleanor Morrison

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

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday the Parish Bar will be opened for a short time after the 12noon Mass for parishioners to come together to enjoy some beverages to celebrate the day of the Lord's Resurrection. All parishioners are warmly invited. Card and cash accepted at the bar.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

At 3.00pm on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27th April, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed in St Mary's followed by Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy Prayer Group invite all parishioners to come and join them for this special time of prayer.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the two second collections we have had over the past few weeks, the first for the Sick & Retired Priests and the second for SCIAF. There are many calls on your generosity so your generosity is very greatly appreciated.

SCIAF BOXES

The closing date for bringing your SCIAF Wee Boxes back to the church is Holy Thursday, 17th April. Over the past few years SCIAF boxes have been handed in for several weeks into the Easter Season, but Fr Wyllie kindly asks that all parishioners return the boxes to the church before the Mass of the Last Supper so that the money can be counted and forwarded to SCIAF asap.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM 2025

HOLY THURSDAY - 17th April

No morning Mass in the parish

Mass of the Chrism in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral, Motherwell at 11.00am

7.00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S LAST SUPPER (St Mary's)

Watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight

10.00pm Night Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)

GOOD FRIDAY - 18th April - A Day of Fasting & Abstinence

12noon Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

3.00pm LITURGY OF THE PASSION & DEATH OF THE LORD (St Mary's)

6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

HOLY SATURDAY - 19th April

No 5.00pm Vigil Mass

8.30pm EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF THE RESURRECTION (St Mary's)

