

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

**SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS
2ND NOVEMBER 2025**

THE SACRAMENTS - HOLY MATRIMONY

Someone who is baptised and confirmed can receive moreover a special mission in the Church in two sacraments and thus be enlisted in the service of God: Holy Orders and Matrimony.

God disposed man and woman for each other so that they might be "no longer two but one" (Matthew 19:6). In this way they are to live in love, be fruitful, and thus become a sign of God himself, who is nothing but overflowing love.



The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony comes about through a promise made by a man and a woman before God and the Church, which is accepted and confirmed by God and consummated by the bodily union of the couple. Because God himself forms the bond of sacramental marriage, it is binding until the death of one of the partners. A sacramental marriage has three necessary elements: (a) free consent, (b) the affirmation of a life-long, exclusive union, and (c) openness to children.

Not everyone is called to marriage. People who live alone can have fulfilment in life. To many of them Jesus shows a special way; he invites them to remain unmarried "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:12).

As a rule a wedding must take place publicly. The bride and groom are questioned as to their intention to marry. The priest or deacon blesses their rings. The bride and groom exchange rings and mutually promise "to be true in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health" and vow to each other: "I will love you and honour you all the days of my life". The priest ratifies the wedding and administers the blessing.

If a Catholic wishes to marry a non-Catholic Christian Church approval must be obtained for the wedding. This is because so-called "mixed marriages" requires from both partners a special fidelity to Christ and that any children from the marriage are raised in the Catholic faith.

For Catholic believers, to enter into and live in marriage with a person who belongs to another religion ("disparity of cult"), a dispensation must be obtained.

The Church has great respect for the ability of a person to keep a promise and to bind themselves in lifelong fidelity. Every marriage can be endangered by crises. Someone for whom marriage has become unbearable, however, or who may be even exposed to spiritual or physical violence, may civilly divorce but the sacramental marriage remains valid. There are also cases in which the crisis in the marriage ultimately goes back to the fact that one spouse or both was not capable at the time of the wedding or did not fully consent to the marriage. Then the marriage is invalid. In such cases an annulment procedure can be introduced.

Anyone who divorces after being married in the Church and then remarries (with no annulment), during the lifetime of the spouse obviously contradicts Jesus' clear demand for the indissolubility of marriage. The Church cannot abolish this demand, hence someone in this situation cannot receive Holy Communion unless an annulment has been obtained. Someone who is divorced but has not remarried or in an intimate relationship is free to receive Holy Communion.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 2nd November (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (Our Lady & St John's)
 Reception of Body & Rosary (St Mary's)



Monday 3rd November (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.15pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Commemoration of All Souls (St Mary's)
12noon Requiem Mass for Ann Curivan (St Mary's)
6.30pm Holy Mass for the Commemoration of All Souls (Our Lady & St John's)

Tuesday 4th November (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 Memoria of St Charles Borromeo (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 5th November (St Mary's 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 Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
10.30am Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (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 Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 6th November (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.30pm School Mass for Thursday of the Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm Reception of Body & Rosary (St Mary's)

Friday 7th November (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

10.00am Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Gold (St Mary's)

Saturday 8th November (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

2nd November - Solemnity of All Saints - The celebration of this feast began in eastern Christendom, and later took place also in the west. In Rome, the feast was celebrated when Emperor Agrippa's Pantheon (temple of all the gods), was renamed the Church of Sancta Maria ad Martyres and Pope Boniface IV placed there many relics of martyrs from the catacombs. In one single celebration we commemorate all those men, women and children in heaven.

3rd November - Commemoration of All Souls - On the day following our celebration of all the saints in heaven, we commemorate the dead who are in purgatory, awaiting their entry to heaven. It is a day of remembrance and of prayer for them, as well as of Masses offered especially to God for 'the holy souls in purgatory'. Throughout the world, today is also an occasion for visiting the local cemetery and praying for the dead at their graves.

4th November - Memoria of St Charles Borromeo - St Charles was born in 1538 at his father's castle on Lake Maggiore in the north of Italy. With family influence, became Cardinal Archbishop of Milan when aged 21. Nevertheless, he was a splendid churchman, influential in the success of the Council of Trent, he also drew up the Council's official 'Roman Catechism', was renowned as a reformer in the archdiocese and internationally in defence of the faith. He founded seminaries in Milan, sought good religious education in schools and was very active during the famine of 1570 and the plague of 1576, visiting the sick and offering spiritual and material support. He died in 1584 and is the patron saint of bishops, cardinals, seminarians and catechists.

8th November - Memoria of Blessed John Duns Scotus - He was born around 1265 in Duns Berwickshire and joined the Franciscan Friars Minor. He was sent to study at the University of Oxford and to teach at the University of Paris. He was a prominent advocate of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. He was sent to teach in Cologne and died there in 1308. Although not a canonised saint, he is a patron of theologians.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£955.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£235.00
Stall:	£90.00
Total:	£1,280.00

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**



MASS ATTENDANCE CENSUS

A census of the numbers attending Mass was taken in all Catholic churches in Scotland last weekend. Below you will find the statistics for those attending Mass in our parish last weekend:

5.00pm - 95	10.00am - 130	12noon - 72	5.00pm - 38	Total - 335
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DEFENDING LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH

A box will be available at the back of the church this weekend for the work of the Pro-Life movement. We are asked to lend our support for the work of the prolife charities in Scotland. Please give as generously as you are able to this very worthwhile and pressing cause.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY BINGO NIGHT

The Parent Council of St Mary's Primary are organising a Bingo Night on Friday 7th November in the Parish Hall beginning at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced at £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. The evening will include a raffle and bingo tickets for sale, cash only. All parishioners are invited.

ENROLMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTS

The parents/carers of the children in P3, P4 and P7 have now received the Enrolment forms and a letter from Fr Wyllie if they wish to present their child(ren) for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. These forms should be returned to the Parish House no later than Thursday 20th November. If any child requires Baptism please speak with Fr Wyllie asap.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

The annual Mass to pray for those from our parish who have died over the past twelve months, as well as clergy and lay faithful who have made up our parish over the decades, will take place on Wednesday 19th November in Our Lady & St John's at 7.00pm. All parishioners are invited. An invitation to the families of those who have died in the past twelve months has been sent through the post.



NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

The Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help began in our parish last Wednesday morning. This is a very special way to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Lord's birth at Christmas. Please try to come along on those Wednesdays and join together in asking Our Lady to pray for us and for the intentions we carry in our hearts.

THEOLOGY ON TAP - "TRUST IN GOD STILL"

This Tuesday, 4th November, we will have our next Theology on Tap beginning at 6.30pm and the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Anne-Marie Clements who will share her story of the destructive force of social media and how her faith got her through a very difficult time. Please make a special effort to come along and hear this powerful story.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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, Joe Murphy (Dubai)

RIP - Ann Curivan (*Receiving* - 2nd - 6.30pm, *Requiem* - 3rd - 12noon), Elizabeth Gold (*Receiving* 6th - 6.00pm; *Requiem* - 7th - 10.00am), Linda Ferguson (*Stirling*), Patricia Rae (*Glasgow*), Carolyn Illingworth (*nee Paterson*), Matt McLernon (*Bothwell*)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Patricia Weir

NOVEMBER LISTS

The month of November is dedicated to praying for the faithful departed, our departed friends, families, fellow parishioners and those souls who need our prayers. November Lists are available at the back of the church for parishioners to list their deceased loved ones and for Mass to be said for them throughout the month of November. Please take a list and an envelope to complete and make a donation, and then return to the box at the back of the church over the next few days. "It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for our dead".

CEMETERY SERVICES

Fr Wyllie will lead cemetery services in Larkhall and Lesmahagow cemeteries during the month of the Holy Souls. The **Larkhall service will take place on Sunday 16th November at 3.00pm** and the **Lesmahagow service will take place on Sunday 23rd November at 3.00pm**. An additional service will take place at the **Co-Op Funeral Home, Larkhall, on Thursday 27th November** for those whose funerals have been carried out by the Co-Op over the past year. This service will be an ecumenical service led by Fr Wyllie and the Reverend Fiona Anderson of Dalsersf Parish Church.

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

The next Building Fund collection will take place on the weekend of 15th/16th November. This collection provides for the various essential repairs and maintenance of our parish buildings and grounds. Please give as generously as you always do.



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Bar open 6.30pm; Talk "Trust in God still" at 7.00pm



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

CANCELLED THIS WEEK



ST MARY'S PRIMARY BINGO NIGHT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

6.30pm All welcome £1.00 adults, 50p children



PARISH GROWN-UPS CEILIDH

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

7.00pm

Tickets £10.00 (includes pie)

