

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood

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Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
21ST AUGUST 2022

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

OUR LADY, THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN

Mary's title as "Queen of Heaven and Earth" is a scandal to many non-Catholic Christians. After all, the Bible doesn't mention anything about there being a queen in God's kingdom. All this royal attention Catholics give to Mary - whether it's singing "Hail, Queen of Heaven" or portraying Mary in statues and paintings with a crown on her head - seems to many non-Catholics to detract from the royalty of Christ, who alone is King of Kings. How could Mary be a queen, since she is not the wife of Jesus?



One biblical theme sheds light on these questions and serves as a key for unlocking the mystery of Mary's queenship: the Old Testament tradition of the "queen mother" in the Davidic kingdom. In the monarchy of King David, as well as in other ancient kingdoms of the Near East, the mother of the ruling king held an important office in the royal court and played a key part in the process of dynastic succession. In fact, the king's mother ruled as queen, not his wife as nowadays. A number of Old Testament passages reflect the important role of the queen mother in the Davidic kingdom. For example, almost every time the narrative of 1 and 2 Kings introduces a new monarch in Judah, it mentions the king's mother as well, showing the mother's intimate involvement in her royal son's reign.

Probably the clearest example of the queen mother's role is that of Bathsheba, wife of David and mother of Solomon. Scholars have noted the excellence of Bathsheba's position in the kingdom once she became queen mother during Solomon's rule. Compare the humble attitude of Bathsheba as spouse of King David with her majestic dignity as mother of the next king, Solomon. As spouse of the king, Bathsheba bows with her face to the ground and does obeisance to her husband, David, upon entering his royal chamber. In striking contrast, after her son Solomon assumed the throne and she became queen mother, Bathsheba receives a glorious reception upon meeting with her royal son. This account reveals the sovereign prerogatives of the queen mother. The king rises and bows as she enters. Bathsheba's seat at the king's right hand has the greatest significance. This passage regarding Bathsheba also shows how the queen mother served as an advocate for the people, carrying petitions to the king.

The Gospel of Matthew has often been called the "Gospel of the Kingdom." Matthew emphasizes that Jesus is "the Son of David," who is the true King of the Jews establishing the "Kingdom of Heaven." With all this kingly imagery, it should not be surprising to find queen mother themes as well. Matthew singles out the intimate relationship between the mother and her royal son by using the phrase "the child and his mother" five times in the first two chapters, recalling the close association between queen mother and royal son as described in the Books of Kings. Just as the queen mother was constantly mentioned alongside the Judean kings in 1 and 2 Kings, so Mary is frequently mentioned alongside her royal son, Jesus, in Matthew's Gospel.

We have seen how the Old Testament queen mother tradition serves as an important background for understanding Mary's royal office. Indeed, the New Testament portrays Mary as the queen mother par excellence. Thus, prayers, hymns, and art giving honour to Mary are most fitting for Christians. In honouring her as queen mother we do not take anything away from Christ's glory, but rather we exalt him even more by recognising what he has done in her and through her. She is our Mother and our Queen, it is right to praise and love her.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 21st August

- 10.00am Holy Mass for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 22nd August

- 12noon Holy Mass for the Memoria of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's)

Tuesday 23rd August

- 9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 24th August

- 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 the Feast of St Bartholomew (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 the Feast of St Bartholomew (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 25th August

- 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 Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 26th August

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

Saturday 27th August

- 4.45pm Confessions until 5.15pm
5.30pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

22nd August - Memoria of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Pope Pius XII instituted this Feast in 1954, to conclude what was then the Octave of the Assumption. We remember that the Blessed Virgin Mary reigns in Heaven, together with her Son; she reigns not because she is equal to God but because she is mother of Christ the King. All her privileges come from her Motherhood of God and the unique role she played in our redemption.

24th August - Feast of St Bartholomew - St Bartholomew was originally from Cana in Galilee and is usually identified with Nathanael, who was introduced to the Lord by St Philip. According to tradition, after Pentecost he preached the Gospel in Arabia, India and Armenia, where he was flayed alive. He is thus the patron of tanners.

A BIG THANK YOU

Last weekend we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption by coming together for two very special events, the Parish BBQ on the Saturday evening and the Solemn Choral Vespers on the Sunday evening. Both events were a huge success. That is down to the hard work and effort of a number of people. For the BBQ, thank you to those who cleaned the equipment, went shopping for the food, to those who cleaned tables and chairs and set them up, those who built up the gazebos, organised the raffle, cooked and served the food and tidied up and cleaned up afterwards. The hard work and effort which was put in to making the BBQ such a success certainly paid off. Many thanks to all those who came along and supported the event. Fr Wyllie is hoping, with the help of the Parish Pastoral Planning Team, to establish a Social Team to plan and organise various parish events throughout the year.

On Sunday evening we were very fortunate to welcome the Schola Benedicti to our parish to lead us in prayer at the Solemn Choral Vespers. Almost 100 people turned up to take part, which was a wonderful number. As well as thanking all those parishioners who came along, Fr Wyllie would also like to thank John Pitcathley who accompanied the Schola on the organ, to Paul Robertson who co-ordinates the Schola and to the members of the Schola for using their God-given talent to help raise our hearts and minds to God. God bless you all for your support.



BEGINNING OF THE NEW SCHOOL TERM

As the new school term begins we ask God's blessing upon both our primary schools as the teachers, staff and pupils embark on another academic year. The academic year will be marked by various Masses, liturgies, devotions and events, the first of which is the 'Blessing of the New School Year and Blessing of the School Building'. This will take place in St Mary's Primary on Monday 22nd August at 9.30am and in St John's Primary on Thursday 1st September at 11.00am. Please keep the boys and girls, their teachers and school staff in your prayers.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites the whole Diocese to gather for the annual Vocations Mass which will take place on Tuesday 30th August at 7.00pm in Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral. Please make a special effort to attend this Mass to intercede with God to send us good and holy priests.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£900.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£300.00
Church Building Fund:	£840.00
Parish BBQ & Raffle:	£758.00
TOTAL:	£2,798.00

'Sponsor a Tile' Donations to date: £1,910.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

NO 5.00PM MASS

On Sunday 25th September, there will be no 5.00pm Mass in our parish due to the National Pilgrimage Mass at Carfin Grotto. The Bishops invite us all to make a special effort to be there and, as a result, Fr Wyllie will be accompanying the group travelling from our parish to the Mass.

PROPOSED MASS TIME CHANGE

Fr Wyllie would like to hear your thoughts on the possibility of changing the Saturday Vigil Mass in St Mary's from 5.30pm to 5.00pm, taking effect from the beginning of October. At the moment the overwhelming majority of respondents are in favour of changing the Mass time but **let Fr Wyllie know your thoughts by the end of this week** so that a decision can be made at the next Parish Pastoral Planning Team meeting later this month. All opinions and thoughts will be welcomed.

ST MARY'S CEMETERY, LANARK

It is expected that the price of a burial plot will rise to over £3,000.00 from next year. Fr McShane from St Mary's, Lanark is advertising burial plots in the cemetery in Lanark for £1,233.69. Contact him soon on 01555 662234 or email stmarycemetry@rcdom.org.uk

SUGGESTIONS BOX

As part of the Synod deliberations, it was proposed that we have a suggestions box at the back of both churches so that parishioners could give feedback and suggestions on parish life. Fr Wyllie is keen to get this up and running, so from next weekend there will be a suggestions box available for parishioners to tell us their ideas and thoughts. Fr Wyllie would like to emphasise the need for kindness and respect in any submissions which are placed in the box, mindful of being charitable unlike some of the Synod submissions from St Mary's.

PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Our Parish International Night will take place in the Parish Hall on **Friday 9th September beginning at 6.30pm**. There was a good response at the meeting held on Wednesday evening, many thanks to those who came along and offered their help. Raffle prizes would be gratefully received, please hand them into the sacristy. The bar for those attending to purchase refreshments. **All parishioners are warmly invited to come along and enjoy the evening.** So far we have food from Scotland, Poland, Ireland, South Africa, Fiji, the Philippines, Italy, Australia and Germany. We are hoping to encourage some parishioners to provide dishes from the Czech Republic, Brazil, Portugal, Africa, India and England. If you are able to come along, for catering purposes, could you please place your name on the list at the back of the church. If you would like to take part in preparing food from the country of your birth or where your heritage comes from then please contact Fr Wyllie as soon as possible.



PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet on Tuesday 30th August at 7.00pm in St Mary's. Anything you'd like brought up, speak to Fr Wyllie, Russell McAllister, Suzanne Sherry, Ciaran Reilly, Scott Smith or Laura Steele (Kennedy).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Selina Gold, Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Eileen Macaloney (Coatbridge), Delfina Quintiliani, Roma Geraghty,

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - James & Catherine McLaren, Frank McCorry, McLaren, Wedlock & Payne Families, Margaret Girvan, Anne Wilson (Strathaven)

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

CELEBRATION OF THE PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION REVISED SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

10.00am Solemn Mass to begin the Forty Hours
10.50am Blessed Sacrament Procession
around the grounds of St Mary's
11.00am Adoration until 6.30pm
3.00pm Confessions until 4.00pm
6.30pm Sung Vespers with Solemn Benediction

MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Adoration until 12noon
11.00am Confessions until 11.45am
12noon Holy Mass with anointing of the
Sick
1.00pm Adoration until 8.00pm
1.30pm Visits by the school children
2.30pm Confessions until 3.15pm
3.00pm Chaplet of the Divine Mercy
6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm
6.00pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary
7.00pm Holy Hour for Families with Solemn
Benediction

TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

8.00am Adoration until 8.30am
8.30am Holy Mass
8.50am Confessions until 9.30am
8.50am Adoration until 7.00pm
12noon Angelus & Recitation of the Holy Rosary
1.40pm Visits by the school children
5.30pm Confessions until 6.15pm
6.30pm Benediction & Closing Mass



The Forty Hours this year will be led by Fr Gavin Landers, a priest of the Diocese of Salford (Manchester) and a contemporary of Fr Wyllie at seminary. He is currently the chaplain to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, St Mary's Hospital, the Christie Hospital and Trafford General Hospital. Please support Fr Gavin and our parish by coming along to all that you can over the period of the Forty Hours.