

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
18TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

WHO WAS ST BERNADETTE?

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her First Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 16th July. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked scepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Bernadette, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on 25th March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realise who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Bernadette suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonised in 1933. She is honoured as the patron saint of the sick, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes.

Over three million people visit the shrine in the southern French town of Lourdes, heeding Our Lady's call, through St Bernadette, to come in procession and bathe in the waters.

St Bernadette's relics are in Carfin until Saturday morning in the parish church of St Francis Xavier.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 25th September

10.00am

Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon

Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

NO 5.00PM MASS DUE TO NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE DAY AT CARFIN GROTTA

Monday 26th September

11.30am

Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)

12noon

Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 27th September

8.30am

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Vincent de Paul (Our Lady & St John's)

9.00am

Recitation of the Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Vincent de Paul (Our Lady & St John's)

6.00pm

Reception of Body (St Mary's)

Wednesday 28th September

8.30am

Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

10.00am

Requiem Mass for Philip Bryson (St Mary's)

6.30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm

Holy Mass praying for Vocations to the Priesthood (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 29th September

12.30pm

Holy Mass for the Feast of the Archangels (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 30th September

9.30am

Recitation of the Rosary (St Mary's)

10.00am

Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Jerome (St Mary's)

1.00pm

Wedding Mass of Ben Fitzgerald & Amy Logan

Saturday 1st October

4.15pm

Confessions until 4.45pm

5.00pm

Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

27th September - Memoria of St Vincent de Paul - St Vincent de Paul was born in 1580 in Gascony and ordained a priest in 1600. He was captured on a voyage in 1605, sold as a slave in Tunis, escaped and returned to France in 1607. He set up associations for helping the sick, leading to the foundation of the Congregation of the Missions (known as the Vincentians) in 1632, and then the Daughters of Charity in 1634 (the first female religious to work outside their convents). He is the patron saint of charitable organisations.

29th September - Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael, the Archangels - Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael are the three Archangels: Michael, the leader of the heavenly host, a warrior against enemies, especially Satan and his angels; Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at the Annunciation; Raphael guided young Tobias. In a special way, the work of the three angels shows God's providence for us all. St Michael is the patron of the military, the police, the fire service and people who work in dangerous conditions. St Gabriel is the patron saint of communications. St Raphael is the patron saint of those in need of healing.

30th September - Memoria of St Jerome - St Jerome was born around 342. He became an aesthetic and a scholar and ordained a priest at Antioch in 379. He went to Constantinople where he and St Gregory Nazianzen became friends. In 382 he moved to Rome, becoming secretary to Pope Damasus and being known for his sanctity, learning and eloquence. He chose to live in Bethlehem in 386 and to complete his writings: letters, treatises, commentaries on Scripture and, especially, the 'Vulgate' translation of the bible into Latin. He is honoured as one of the Fathers of the Church, and died in 420. He is the patron saint of translators and scholars.

VIGIL MASS TIME CHANGE

From next weekend, the Vigil Mass in St Mary's will move to the earlier time of 5.00pm.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE

Today the bus will leave Blackwood at 1.30pm and Larkhall at 1.50pm. If you don't have your name on the list you are still welcome. The bus will leave Carfin at 5.15pm.

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Each year we celebrate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4th October. He is the patron saint of animals and ecology. Many parishioners have pets at home which mean very much to them, so Fr Wyllie is suggesting that after the 7.00pm Mass the following day, Wednesday 5th October, there will be a special blessing of pets in the carpark of Our Lady & St John's beginning around 7.30pm. All parishioners are welcome to bring their pets to be blessed on that evening. A very simple and short prayer service will begin shortly around 7.30pm and then owners are invited to bring their pets forward one at a time for a special blessing. Fr Wyllie will bless Baloo safely in the chapel house on the Tuesday so there are no fights or scuffles with other pets. He's hoping that the blessing will maybe make Baloo a bit more tolerant of other animals. St Francis of Assisi, pray for him.



PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£775.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£364.00
Votive Candles:	£286.00
Stall:	£65.00
TOTAL:	£1,490.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

BAR STAFF FOR PARISH HALL

Fr Wyllie is appealing for parishioners to help with serving at the bar for functions in our Parish Hall. If you would be able to help out on occasion with joining a pool of other parishioners who already help, then please speak with him or email him at: ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Over the past few weeks there has been much happening in the church to prepare for the 140th anniversary Mass. The recycled parquet flooring was laid, sanded and lacquered; the pews have been fixed to the floor and the pews have been polished to fix the damage done to them by the Covid cleaning materials. The work is now complete on the tiling of the floor and we hope that you will appreciate the difference that it makes to the whole appearance to the church. Radiator covers will be attached to the radiators in the coming weeks to finish the works.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS

The next Mass with the residents of Auchlochan and anyone else who would like to come along for the Mass and the tea afterwards will take place in Our Lady & St John's this Thursday, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, at 12.30pm.

PLAQUE

A plaque will be ordered over the next few weeks to be placed at the back of Our Lady & St John's. Each of the patterned floor tiles are dedicated to those individuals and families entered in the Sponsor a Tile fundraiser and their names will be listed on the new plaque.

140TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Toal will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the 140th anniversary of the opening of Our Lady & St John's on Thursday 13th October at 7.00pm. All parishioners are warmly invited to the Mass and the celebration afterwards in the Parish Hall. This special milestone should have been marked in the December of 2020, but due to Covid we were unable to celebrate it in the way we should have. If you would be able to help in any way with the organisation of this celebration or getting the church organised then please speak with Fr Wyllie over the next few days.

DIRECTIVE FROM THE BISHOPS OF SCOTLAND

Here in our parish all restrictions have been lifted for some time, thank God. The Bishops have issued guidance to all parishes that all restrictions are now ended, with the following advice:

- At most Masses it will not be possible for the congregation to receive the Precious Blood, but at Masses with a small congregation, parishioners may receive Holy Communion by intinction, meaning the priest will dip the Host in the Precious Blood and place directly on the tongue of the communicant. Self intinction is strictly not allowed
- In confessional boxes where ventilation and space is restricted, caution should continue to be taken. A problem we gladly don't have to worry about in either of our churches.

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 - Philip Bryson (Reception - Tuesday at 6.00pm; Requiem Mass - Wednesday at 10.00am)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES -

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

SAINT BERNADETTE RELICS AT CARFIN GROTTA

Sunday 25th September

9.00am Holy Mass
11.00am Holy Mass
3.00pm Scottish National Pilgrimage
6.00pm Torchlight Procession
9.00pm Night Prayer
10.00pm Church closes

Saturday 1st October

7.00am Holy Mass
8.00am Relics depart

*Diocese of Motherwell's Pilgrimage day is
Friday 30th September.*

Monday 26th- Friday 30th September

8.00am Church opens
9.00am Confessions
9.15am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Rosary
10.00am Holy Mass & veneration of the relic
11.00am Confessions
12.30pm Holy Rosary
12.30pm Confessions
1.00pm Holy Mass &
veneration of the relic
3.00pm Liturgy of Water (Grotto)
8.00pm Torchlight Procession (Tuesday-Friday)
9.00pm Holy Mass
10.00pm Church closes

CONVALIDATION OF MARRIAGE

Over the past few months, a number of couples who were married out-with the Church have approached Fr Wyllie to have their marriage convalidated (to be married in the eyes of the Church). This is a very simple process which means that both Catholics, or the Catholic partner, can receive Holy Communion again. If you find yourself in the situation of being married out-with the Church, and have not been married previously, please speak with Fr Wyllie and he will be more than happy to go through the simple paperwork with you and plan a date with you to convalidate your marriage.

WEEDING & TIDYING UP THE PARISH GROUNDS

It would be wonderful to get a team of volunteers to weed and tidy up the grounds around the church and carpark in St Mary's (particularly behind the church), and also at Our Lady & St John's around the church, house and hall. Please speak with Fr Wyllie if you could help.

GLAINNE-MARA MHICHEIL

Michael Smith, one of our altar servers, is raising money for charity by making upcycled craft items using sea glass, slate and shells. Some of these have been gathered from the islands of Barra and Vatersay, others from more local beaches. He is holding a sale of his work in the Hall after 12noon Mass on Sunday 16th October and will donate all funds raised that day to the St Vincent de Paul. Examples of the crafts can be seen on his Facebook page, Glainne Mara.

THE LITTLE CHILDREN'S MARKET

The Little Children's Market is coming to Larkhall. We bring you quality, preloved baby & children's items to support the local community. Our next event is in Larkhall Leisure Centre on Sunday 9th October, 11.00am - 12:30pm. All parishioners are invited along. We are also collecting baby toiletries to help families in need which can be handed in on the day. If anyone would like to book a table, please contact Dana Hill on 07841610100. Your support is greatly appreciated.