

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Our Lady & St John's
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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT (A) 12TH MARCH 2023

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.



The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have travelled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mount Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 12th March *St Mary's open from 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am until 6.45pm*
10.00am Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm Evening Prayer of the Church concluding with Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 13th March *Churches open from 9.00am until 4.00pm*

11.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Monday of the Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 14th March *St Mary's open from 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ from 8.15am until 4.00pm*

8.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
9.05am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 15th March *St Mary's open from 8.15am until 6.00pm; OLSJ from 9.00am until 7.45pm*

8.30am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third 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 Third Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.30pm Reception of Body (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 16th March *Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm*

NO 9.30AM MASS TODAY
11.00am Requiem Mass for Freda Davies (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Confirmation Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 17th March *Churches open at 9.00am until 4.00pm*

10.00am Requiem Mass for Hugh Steele (St Mary's)

Saturday 18th March *St Mary's opens at 9.00am until after Vigil Mass*

4.00pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST JOSEPH

St Joseph's Feast day will be celebrated this year on Monday 20th March, due to the Fourth Sunday of Lent taking precedence this year on 19th March. A parish novena will be prayed after all Masses from this weekend until Sunday 19th March. St Joseph is a very powerful intercessor for us and for the whole Church, so if you have any petitions or prayer requests please try to pray this novena. On days when there are funerals please say the novena privately.

CONFIRMATIONS

On Thursday of this week, His Lordship Bishop Toal will be in the parish to confirm the young people who have been enrolled for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We keep the young people, their families and schools very much in our prayers as they prepare for this Sacrament.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

A brief meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, 15th March, for those who intend on travelling to Lourdes with us for the Diocesan Pilgrimage from 14th - 21st July. At this meeting the necessary forms will be handed out and a decision taken regarding which hotel we will stay in while in Lourdes. All parishioners are very welcome to travel with us. If you would like more information then please come along to the meeting on Wednesday evening.

SCIAF COLLECTION

The annual second collection for the work of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, will take place on the weekend 18th/19th March. This collection is forwarded to SCIAF to help them in the work they do on our behalf to assist the poorest people of our world.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£965.00
Standing Orders:	£365.00
TOTAL:	£1,330.00
Sick & Retired Priests:	£720.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

To set up a Standing Order for your collection:

Account Name - **Our Lady of Fatima Parish**

Account No - **00499758** Sort Code - **800877**

Giftaid forms available at back of the church.

PRIVATE PRAYER IN CHURCH

Both our churches are open during the week for private prayer (times can be found on the weekly Mass schedule). If you are passing by the church please pop in for a little prayer. Time spent before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is never time wasted.

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

A Fairtrade Coffee Morning will take place in St John's Primary on Friday 10th March from 9.30am until 10.30am. The school invites parishioners to join them as part of their Fundraising Fridays initiative. There will be tea/coffee, treats and more available on the morning. Please show your support and head along if you are free.

LUNCH CLUB

The next Mass & Lunch Club will take place on Thursday 23rd March beginning at 12.30pm. All welcome. No 9.30am Mass that day.

SCHOOL CONFESSIONS

Fr Wyllie will hear the confessions of the P3-P7 pupils in St John's Primary & St Mary's Primary at the beginning of this coming week to prepare the children spiritually for Holy Week & Easter.



Family Quiz & Pizza Night

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

Friday 14th April

7.00pm until late - Free Entry



GROWN-UP'S FUNDRAISER

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall for School Funds

Saturday 29th April

7.00pm until late



LIGHT BITE AFTER MASS

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S PARISH HALL

SUNDAY 7TH MAY - AFTER 12NOON MASS



SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE

Cup Final on Big Screen, Draught Lager, Pies at Half Time

£5.00 entry



Sparkling Afternoon High Tea

Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall

SATURDAY 17th JUNE

2.00pm - 6.00pm

Sandwiches, Sausage Rolls, Quiche, Desserts & Tea & Coffee
Glass of Prosecco on arrival or Bottle on table for groups of 4+

RAFFLE & MUSIC TOO Tickets - £ 20.00



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Vida Wilson, Alice Pisacane, Anne O'Neill (Belfast), Jimmy Crawford (Belfast), Joanne Kennedy, Anne Dempster, Joyce Heeley, Phyllis Nicholson, Selina Gold, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Freda Davies (*Receiving - Wednesday at 6.30pm; Requiem Mass - Thursday at 11.00am*), Hugh Steele (*Requiem Mass - Friday at 10.00am*), John Dunne

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Charles Morrison, The Morrison, Maguire & McStay Families, John Gowans, Mary Gallacher, William Lynch, Frank Reilly

HOLY WEEK & SACRED TRIDUUM IN OUR PARISH

VIGIL OF PALM SUNDAY

5.00pm Vigil Mass with Blessing of Palms (St Mary's)

PALM SUNDAY

10.00am Holy Mass with Blessing of Palms (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass with Blessing of Palms (OLSJ)

5.00pm Holy Mass with Blessing of Palms (OLSJ)

6.30pm SOLEMN CHORAL VESPERS LED BY THE SCHOLA BENEDICTI (St Mary's)



MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

11.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass (St Mary's)

7.00pm Holy Mass (St Mary's)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

9.00am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)

9.30am Holy Mass (Our Lady & St John's)

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK (SPY WEDNESDAY)

9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

10.00am Holy Mass (St Mary's)

6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Our Lady & St John's)

7.00pm Holy Mass (Our Lady & St John's)



HOLY THURSDAY

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

With the church open for watching at the Altar of Repose until

10.00pm Night Prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane (St Mary's)



GOOD FRIDAY (DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE)

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

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

7.00pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)



HOLY SATURDAY

NO 5.00PM MASS

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

EASTER SUNDAY

10.00am MASS OF EASTER SUNDAY (St Mary's)

12noon MASS OF EASTER SUNDAY (Our Lady & St John's)



A full timetable for Confessions during Holy Week will be published over the next few weeks.

SOLEMN SUNG VESPERS

On Palm Sunday at 6.30pm the *Schola Benedicti* will lead us in a Solemn Sung Vespers in St Mary's. This will be a great way for us, as a parish, to enter into Holy Week led by the beautiful singing from the *Schola Benedicti*. It would be wonderful to have as many parishioners there as possible, not only to deepen our spirituality as we begin Holy Week but also to support the Schola who will use their great talent for singing to help us as a parish enter into the mysteries of the Lord's entrance in Jerusalem, his betrayal, passion, death and resurrection. The *Schola* have led us in Vespers a number of times: the Assumption and for the Forty Hours.