

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

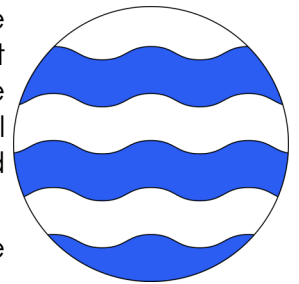


St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

PROJECT WELLSRING

On Wednesday 13th September, the priests and deacons of the diocese gathered together in Motherwell with Bishop Toal to roll out 'Project Wellspring'. This project will be introduced to the whole diocese over the next few months in order to help us establish a version of the future which will aim to galvanise us and to address three critical and interconnected components for the future (10 year horizon).



As we grapple with the reduced number of clergy to staff parishes, the declining number of parishioners attending Mass throughout the diocese, the ageing population attending Mass, as well as the growing costs of maintaining and sustaining our buildings, the bishop is inviting us all to begin this journey of igniting a pastoral plan, looking at the financing & fabric of our properties and effectively delivering this pastoral plan over the next few years.

Fr Wyllie is keen for us to mirror the same kind of project here in the parish - concentrating on how we can build on and pull the talents, gifts and skills of our parishioners to grow our parish to help make it a dynamic community of faith moving into the future.

This project will be presented by Fr Wyllie at the Parish Pastoral Planning Team (PPPT) meeting this coming Tuesday and be fed back to parishioners to map a plan ahead. There are a few areas which Fr Wyllie will be proposing to look at over the next few months, they are listed below. If you have any ideas, suggestions or thoughts please let any member of the PPPT know:

CATECHETICAL FORMATION

It would be hoped that for the young people preparing for the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation a catechetical programme would be in place to compliment the Religious Education the children receive at school. Good catechesis and formation will help families and young people feel they are part of our parish community.

FINANCE & FABRIC

Although we currently have a Finance Committee, it is maybe the right time to also branch this committee out to include the maintenance and fabric of our parish buildings. Any new projects, repairs or essential maintenance will be brought to that meeting and a five year plan will be drawn up to ensure that our buildings are safe, compliant and looking their best. Good stewardship of our parish properties will be essential going forward into the future.

PARISH ASSEMBLY

A questionnaire and suggestions form, similar to the ones for the Synod, will be handed out in a few weeks time to ask your opinions on various aspects of parish life. It will give everyone an opportunity to express their views and opinions on how we can become an engaging and dynamic parish, what we do well and what we need to work on.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE LAITY

The data is suggesting that over the next 10 years our diocese will have 45 active priests to serve 59 parishes and 72 churches, which will result in priests having more of a remit and wider areas to cover. This will mean that parishioners in each parish will have to take responsibility for various aspects of parish life to free up the priest to concentrate on the Sacraments and management.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 24th September *St Mary's open 9.00am until 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am until 5.45pm*
10.00am **Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 25th September *Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm*
11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 26th September *Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm*
9.00am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 27th September *St Mary's open 9.00am until 4.00pm, OLSJ 9.00am until 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 the Memoria of St Vincent de Paul (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 Memoria of St Vincent de Paul (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 28th September *Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm*
NO 9.30AM MASS
12.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 29th September *Both churches open 9.00am until 4.00pm*
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael (St Mary's)

Saturday 30th September *St Mary's open 9.00am until 6.00pm; OLSJ closed*
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm **Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Sixth 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 around 1580 in Gascony, France, he was ordained in 1600, 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 or Lazarists) in 1632 and the Daughters of Charity in 1634 (the first female religious order to work outside their convents). He died in 1660 and is the patron saint of all charitable organisations.

29th September - Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael - This Feast celebrates the three archangels named in Sacred Scripture, reminding us of the angelic world and of their constant ministrations to the world. St Michael (meaning 'Who is like God') is venerated as captain of the heavenly army, victor over Satan, protector of the Church and helper of the sick and dying. Today's Feast originated as that of the dedication of a Roman basilica in his honour. St Gabriel (meaning 'Strength of God') announced both the birth of St John the Baptist (to Zecharia) and of Jesus Christ (to the Blessed Virgin Mary). His greeting at the Annunciation, 'Hail, full of grace', has become one of the most familiar prayers. St Raphael (meaning 'God heals') took care of Tobias on his journey, as described in the book of Tobit, and is often associated with the angel of the sheep pool in the Gospel of John. He is the patron of the blind, travellers, physicians and nurses.

30th September - Memoria of St Jerome - St Jerome was born around 342, an ascetic and a scholar, ordained priest at Antioch in 279, 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 one of the Fathers of the Church. He died in 420 and is honoured as the patron of translators and librarians.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: R/. THE LORD IS CLOSE TO ALL WHO CALL HIM.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£940.00
Standing Orders:	£390.00
Votive Candles:	£405.00
TOTAL:	£1,735.00

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.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Fr Wyllie would like to encourage parishioners to attend the weekday Masses in our parish particularly if you are retired, unemployed, on a day off or on holiday from work. It is a beautiful tradition to attend Mass during the week to grow in our relationship with the Lord and to receive his grace and his Body in Holy Communion. If you are working please remember the Wednesday evening Mass.

100 CLUB

We are re-launching the 100 Club due to the changing of the purpose of the fundraising, no longer to build a Parish Hall in Larkhall but to support the parish financially in maintaining and enhancing our buildings in both Larkhall and Blackwood. You will find a list at the back of each church with the numbers which are needing filled to have a full compliment of 100 people paying in. On this list could you place your name and a contact number so that you can be contacted when you win the cash prize. A draw will take place each month and the winner's name will be published in the bulletin. Please consider joining the 100 Club to be in with a chance of winning and also assisting the parish financially.

70's, 80's & 90's NIGHT

The Parish Hall



Friday 3rd November

7.00pm until Late

**D.J, Karaoke, Raffle, Prize for the best costume,
Sausage Rolls & Bar**

TICKETS - £5.00



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** or speak to Suzanne Sherry.

MINI BOUNCE BINGO

The St John's Primary School Partnership Group are holding a fundraiser in the Parish Hall on Saturday 30th September from 7.30pm until late. The Zander Nation Party Night with mini Bounce Bingo Set is to help raise much needed funds to help the Partnership Group assist the school in meeting some expenses over the school year. The tickets for this event are priced at £15.00 and are available from any member of the Partnership Group - Emma Dempsey, Michelle Donnellan, Scott or Katie Smith or Vivien Stewart.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Lots of work has taken place over the past few weeks to ready our Community Garden for use by the pupils of the school and the wider community. The new composite decking has been installed at the back of the Hall and the monobloc is being laid at the centre of the garden. The new statue of Our Lady which was blessed at the conclusion of our Forty Hours will be placed in the reflective area at the back of the garden in the near future too. Well done everyone!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Baby Ayla Skye Hughes, Paul McMurray, Robert Deveny, Paul Totman, Chris Dawes, Heather McMillan, Elizabeth McCann, Sharon Campbell, Douglas Russell, Robert Ferguson, Margo Higgins, Anne O'Neill (Belfast), Jimmy Crawford (Belfast), Joanne Kennedy, Anne Dempster, Joyce Heeley, Selina Gold, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Hugh Gardner, Patricia Martin (Motherwell), Rosemary Hutton (Hamilton), Matthew Carten, Maria Laird (Fox)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Hugh Blair Snr & Jnr, John McLaughlin, Rosina Canavan, Michael Canavan, Maureen Hutchens, Mary Dawson, Alice Watters, Babs McGurk, Jean Gordon, Pat O'Donnell, Tom Campbell

PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet this Tuesday in St Mary's Parish House at 7.00pm. If you have any suggestions, ideas, points or grumbles please speak with Russell McAllister, Laura Steele (Kennedy), Suzanne Sherry, Ciaran Reilly or Scott Smith before the meeting for them to raise anything you wish to be discussed or email Fr Wyllie at ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

BLESSING OF PRIMARY ONE PUPILS

The boys and girls who started St Mary's Primary in August will receive a special blessing at the 10.00am Mass on Friday 6th October. At this Mass we will ask God to pour down his blessings upon all the children but especially the P1 pupils. After this Mass Fr Wyllie will bless the classrooms in St Mary's where the children learn and develop.

ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE

St Andrew's Hospice are opening up a new shop in Lanark to help generate much needed funds to run the Hospice in Airdrie. At present the hospice costs over £100,000.00 to run each week. They are looking for volunteers to help fulfil various roles. There are different shifts which are needing covered throughout the day, 3 hours per shift. If you would be interested in joining the team then please call Julie Wilson on 01236 766951 for further details or call into the store.

FOODBANK

The next collection for food and monetary donations for the local foodbank will take place next weekend. Please be as generous as you always are in helping provide food for those less-fortunate in our community who rely on the foodbank. If you would like to donate money rather than foodstuff then please place an envelope in the offertory clearly marked 'Foodbank'.

LARKHALL SSVP TRIP TO LARGS

The recent trip to Largs organised by the St Mary's St Vincent de Paul conference was a great day out enjoyed by all who went along. The bus was full, an enjoyable time was had by all and the glorious sunshine made it a wonderful first trip since the pandemic. The SSVP would like to thank all those who came along and supported the event. Our thanks go to the SSVP for organising this day trip and providing our parishioners with such a great day away.



PILGRIMAGE 2024

Anne Marie Cairns from ALBA Tours has been in touch after speaking with The Royal Scots College in Salamanca. Unfortunately due to the seminary being a house of formation for the prospective seminarians until the end of June and then various groups visiting in July, the time we had hoped to be there isn't feasible. We are currently looking at going to Lisbon and then Fatima at the end of June/beginning of July and hopefully an itinerary will be drawn up and published in next weekends bulletin.