

# 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

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE**  
**11TH APRIL 2026**

## AD GENTES & APOSTOLICAM ACTUOSITATEM

Ad Gentes (translated as *To the Nations*) is one of the nine Decrees of the Second Vatican Council. It focuses on the missionary activity of the Church in the world today. The document emphasises the importance of understanding the fundamental mission of evangelisation.

It expresses a clear directive to the bishops and clergy in forming strong Christian communities and lays out guidelines for the training and activities of missionaries.

When bishops from various mission territories, especially from Africa, arrived for the third session of the Council in 1964 they indicated their strong desire for a full document to be devoted to the missions.

The document reflects the main features of the Church's missionary reality, presented in six chapters. It beautifully describes the role of the Church in God's mission. The Lord Jesus "founded his Church as the sacrament of salvation and sent his apostles into all the world just as he himself had been sent by his Father... The mission of the Church, therefore, is fulfilled by that activity which makes her, obeying the command of Christ and influenced by the grace and love of the Holy Spirit, fully present to all peoples and nations".

Ad Gentes asserts that the task of mission is shared by all the baptised: priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful - each according to their own state. "The Christian faithful, having different gifts according to each one's opportunity, ability, charisms and ministry must all cooperate in the Gospel... the whole Church is missionary and the work of evangelisation is a basic duty of the entire People of God".

The Decree, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* (translated as *Apostolic Activity of the Laity*), was approved on 18th November 1965, just three weeks before the end of the Council.

The Decree tells us that although there is a diversity of ministries in the Church there is only one mission. The Lay Faithful by virtue of their baptism have a duty and right to be missionary disciples and share in the triple munera of Christ (priest, prophet and king). It tells us that the laity can participate in the Church's apostolic mission to save mankind through everyday things like culture, family values, economic order, right approach to science and technology, charitable works, all inspired by love of God and neighbour, conforming our lives to Christ.

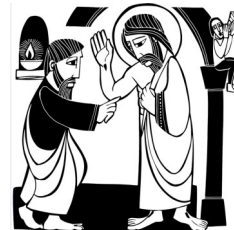
The document also recognises that the Church has a duty to support, direct and promote the lay apostolate and to offer training and formation to fulfil this duty of all the baptised.

The Decree concludes by saying: "The most holy Council, then, earnestly entreats all the laity in the Lord to answer gladly, nobly, and promptly the more urgent invitation of Christ in this hour and the impulse of the Holy Spirit. Younger persons should feel that this call has been directed to them especially and they should respond to it eagerly and generously. Through this holy synod, the Lord renews his invitation to all the laity to come closer to him every day, recognising that what is his is also their own, to associate themselves with him in his saving mission.



# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Sunday 12th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 1.00pm)  
**10.00am Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)  
**12noon Holy Mass for the Second Sunday of Eastertide** (Our Lady & St John's)  
 No 5.00pm Mass today.



**Monday 13th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 No Masses in the parish today.

**Tuesday 14th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 No Masses in the parish today.

**Wednesday 15th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)  
 No Masses in the parish today.

**Thursday 16th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 No Masses in the parish today.

**Friday 17th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 No Masses in the parish today.

**Saturday 18th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)

**Sunday 19th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 11.00am; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)  
**10.00am Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)  
**12noon Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide** (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm Holy Mass for the Third Sunday of Eastertide** (Our Lady & St John's)



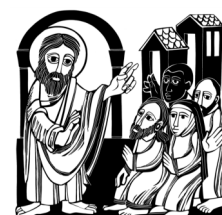
**Monday 20th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Third Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 21st April** (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 Tuesday of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 22nd April** (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 Third Week of Eastertide (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 Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

**Thursday 23rd April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 No Adoration & Confessions  
 No 9.30am Mass  
 12.30pm Holy Mass for the Memoria of St George (Our Lady & St John's)

**Friday 24th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)  
 10.00am Holy Mass for Friday of the Third Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)



**Saturday 25th April** (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)  
 4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide** (St Mary's)

## FEAST DAYS OVER THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

**23rd April - Memoria of St George** - St George was born of Christian parents. He followed his father into the army of the Roman Empire and was rapidly promoted. He was a casualty of the decision of the Emperor Diocletian that Christians in the army were to be demoted and obliged to offer incense to the Roman gods under pain of death. George refused to and was put to death for his firm belief in Christ in 303AD.

## COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES

The collection taken up on Good Friday for the Holy Places of the Holy Land raised £1,045.00. Many thanks for your generosity in the upkeep of the places associated with Our Lord.

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£1,320.00
Easter Collection:	£2,030.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£755.00
Stall:	£35.00
	<b>£4,140.00</b>

### 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**

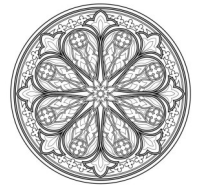


## EASTER COLLECTION

Many thanks to all those parishioners who contributed to the second collection last weekend. Your special offering to the parish at Easter is greatly appreciated. The total collected for the Easter Collection was £2,030.00. May God reward you all for your generosity.

## STAINED GLASS & STONE WORK

We have a serious issue with the large West Window at the front of Our Lady & St John's (facing the carpark) and the rose window on the sanctuary (facing the entrance of the Parish Hall). The West Window's lead is coming away and causing the stained glass to bevel in several areas and detach from the corroding lead. On the sanctuary, the circular window, above the stained glass of Our Lady & St John, has such seriously corroded stonework and plasterwork that there is a gaping hole between the corroding stonework and the stained glass. The St John window is also suffering from badly corroding stonework. Fr Wyllie contacted a company at the beginning of Holy Week regarding this issues. The work will be very costly but we have to preserve the beautiful stained glass and the integrity of the building. To help with the costs of this essential work a second collection will be taken up at all Masses in Our Lady & St John's specifically for this project from the weekend 25th/26h April - 16th/17th May. The proceeds from the bar at the Parish Friday Drinks for Friday 17th & 24th April and Friday 1st, 8th & 15th May will be set aside for this project.



## FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection of foodstuffs for the local foodbank will take place on 25th/26th April. Donations of non-perishable foods and monetary donations can be left at the back of the church that weekend to help those in our local community who are in need of our material assistance.

## COMBONI FATHERS

The Comboni Fathers will be here in the parish next weekend for the annual Deanery Appeal for the work they do in the mission lands. **A second collection will be taken up next weekend** at all our Masses and a Comboni Father will be here in the parish to celebrate the Masses and give us an insight into the work they do. Please be as generous as you always are.

## CHANGE TO MASS SCHEDULE

From this afternoon (Sunday), Fr Wyllie will be taking a post-Easter break. There will be no weekday Masses in our parish this week. The Masses next weekend will be celebrated by the Comboni Fathers who will be here in the parish for the annual Deanery Appeal. Please note that there will be no bulletin next weekend, 10th/11th April. Any intimations or notices should be included in the bulletin for the following week, 18th/19th April.

## 100 CLUB

Please pay your subscriptions directly into the 100 Club account. **Account Name - Larkhall 100 Club, Sort Code - 80-22-60, Account Number - 17418369.**

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

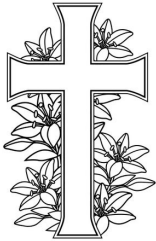
**SICK** - Margaret McCormick, Steven Ross, Marjory McMurray, Phyllis Williamson, Louise Gonnella, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Margaret Craig, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, James Thomson, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

**RIP** - Anne McMillan, John O'Neill

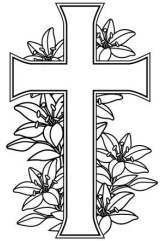
**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jane & John McManus

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

## EASTER REMEMBRANCES



Alice & Cornelius Weir & Family; Michael Simpson, Simon Cheresna; Gerard Wyllie, John & Catherine Deerin, Hugh & Margaret Wyllie, Martin Wyllie, George Wyllie, Kevin Wyllie, Annie Mulhearn, Very Reverend Kieran Canon O'Farrell, Very Reverend William Canon Dunnachie, Very Reverend Giles Canon Goward, Jim McShane, Anne Findon, Frank Lyons, Margaret Douglas, Marion Hoey, Eleanor Morrison; Robert Maguire, Isa & Walter Freeland, Ian Quinn; Very Reverend Henry Canon McGinn; Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas Feehily; Very Reverend Patrick Canon Moss;



Jim Higgins, Higgins Family, Young Family; Marion & Des Houston, Jerry Dunn, Jamie Dunn; Martin Gibney; Lara Markson, Susan Brady, Maureen Brady, Phil Brady, Selina Brady, James Brady, Mary Irvine, Joan Giuri; David Yardley Kennedy, Christina McCluskey, Christina Fuller, Christina Weller, Louis Baron Weller, Gordon Wilson Gardiner Hotchkiss, Graham Grant Hotchkiss, Sharon Campbell, Barry Myles, John McStea, James Hotchkiss, Margaret Hotchkiss, Alexander Young, Robert Kennedy Snr & Jnr, John McCluskey, Teresa McCluskey.

## THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past few days, three young adults approached Fr Wyllie to inquire how to begin the process of becoming Catholic. The first port of call is to meet with Fr Wyllie to have an initial and informal chat, come along to Mass each week and then begin the RCIA programme which will begin at the end of September and run through to Holy Week 2027.

## OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH - AN APPEAL

As more and more of us carry less cash and due to the fact that the Bank of Scotland in Larkhall has closed, if you are able, please consider setting up a standing order to the parish. This would really help those who count and bank our collections too. The bank account name, sort code and account number are available on page three of this bulletin.

## MARRIED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?

Catholics who have not been married in a Catholic Church, or married out with the Church without the permission of the bishop, can have their marriage 'convalidated', to be married in the eyes of the God and the Catholic Church. Catholics who have been married in any place other than a Catholic Church without prior permission from the bishop, should not present themselves for Holy Communion. But this is something very easily rectified. Please speak with Fr Wyllie if you wish to have your marriage convalidated in the eyes of the Church.



**PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS**  
The Parish Hall  
**EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON**



**PARISH LUNCH CLUB**  
The Parish Hall  
**THURSDAY 23RD APRIL**

