

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1ST FEBRUARY 2026**

LUMEN GENTIUM

Lumen Gentium (translated as *Light of the Nations*), was promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 21st November 1964, and is one of the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council. It is the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; what it means to be Church, and addresses the nature, mission and structure of the Church from both a theological and pastoral perspective.

Lumen Gentium is organised into eight chapters that delve into key themes:

The Mystery of the Church: The Church is presented as the universal sacrament of salvation, a mystery in which the visible community and divine grace are intertwined.

The People of God: It emphasised that all the baptised, not just the clergy (pope, bishops, priests and deacons), are an active part of the Church's mission.

The Hierarchy: It reaffirms the authority of the Pope and bishops in communion with him, highlighting episcopal collegiality.

The Laity: An unprecedented acknowledgment of the role of the lay faithful in evangelising and sanctifying the world.

The Universal Call to Holiness: All the faithful, regardless of their state of life (clergy, religious, married, single etc), are called to be holy.

Religious Life: It expressed the value of consecrated life (monks, nuns, religious brothers and sisters) as a prophetic testimony to the Kingdom of God.

The Eschatological Nature of the Church: The Church is on a journey towards fulfilment until the end of time in God's Kingdom in heaven.

The Blessed Virgin Mary: It defined Mary's role as Mother of the Church and model for all of us of faith and charity.

For centuries, the Church was viewed as hierarchically structured with the Pope at its apex. However, this document shifted the focus to the Church as the People of God, a community in which every member plays a vital role. This approach does not diminish the importance of the hierarchy but situates it within a broader perspective: the Church is a communion in which everyone, from the Pope to the humblest person, shares the same baptismal dignity and missionary mandate and commission. We are all called to preach the Good News to the world.

Lumen Gentium invites us to delve deeper into the mystery of the Church as a community of love and service. It reminds us that by uniting in Christ, we can become true witnesses of his light in a world that longs for redemption, a light for the nations. We are called, all of us, to live our faith authentically, build communities of love, and promote a more just and reconciled world as part of the one Church which Christ founded on the rock of Peter.



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 1st February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 2nd February (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 the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (St Mary's)

Tuesday 3rd February (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 the Memoria of St Blaise with blessing of throats (Our Lady & St John's)
10.00am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 4th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)
9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.25am (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Confessions until 9.50am (Our Lady & St John's)
10.00am Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Confessions until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 5th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
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 the Memoria of St Agatha (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 6th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)
9.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am School Mass for the Memoria of St Paul Miki & Companions (St Mary's)



Saturday 7th February (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

2nd February - Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - The Presentation of the Lord, popularly known as Candlemas, traditionally concludes the celebration of Christmas. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple forty days after his birth, an occasion when offerings were made and the mother was ritually purified. Simeon's prophecy referred to Jesus as 'a light to enlighten the pagans', summing up the Christmas theme of light coming into the darkness, but also points towards the Paschal Mystery, for he was 'destined to be a sign that is rejected'. This day is also observed as the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

3rd February - Memoria of St Blaise - St Blaise, bishop and martyr, was a doctor before becoming the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He was martyred under Emperor Licinius in the year 316. Cures were attributed to him and it is custom to bless throats on his feast day.

5th February - Memoria of St Agatha - St Agatha was born in 231 and lived in Sicily. Aged 15, she resisted the amorous advances of a public official because she had consecrated herself to Christ. When the Roman Emperor Decius initiated a persecution against Christians, the public official had her brought before him and he committed her to prison. Here she died after undergoing unspeakable tortures - including having her breasts cut off. She is honoured as the patron saint of breast cancer patients and rape victims.

6th February - Memoria of St Paul Miki & Companions - St Paul Miki was born in 1565. He and his twenty-six fellow martyrs were crucified at Nagasaki in 1597. In an outburst of anti-foreign sentiment, both of people and influences, the authorities set about a persecution of Christians. The group of martyrs comprised religious brothers and sisters, priests and lay faithful, including children. When missionaries were allowed to return in the 1860's, they discovered thousands of Catholics in the Nagasaki area to whom the Faith had been secretly handed down over 250 years. St Paul Miki is the patron saint of Japan.

SCIAF BOXES AND MATERIALS FOR LENT ON THE TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £995.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £247.00
Stall: £10.00
£1,252.00

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**

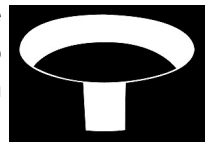


BAPTISMS

Congratulations to James and Ryan who were baptised into the faith of the Church last Sunday. We ask God to keep them close to him as they live out their Christian vocation in our world, and also to help their parents and godparents to lead by good example and show the faith by what they say and do. Anyone wishing baptism for their child(ren) should speak with Fr Wyllie.

THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?

The next Vocations Evening will take place this evening (Sunday) at 7.30pm in the Cathedral House, Coursington Road, Motherwell. It is important that those who feel called to priesthood come forward now so that there is sufficient time through the coming months to carry out the necessary discernment.



BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

The next collection for the Building Fund will take place on the weekend 14th/15th February. Please be as generous as you can be to help us maintain our parish buildings and grounds.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00PM - 9.00PM



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm
Fr John McFadden on *Life in the Missions*



PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

6.30pm - Late

Menus for those attending to be handed in by today



PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT EVENT

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00pm - Late
Bar & Live Music

Tickets £10.00 - Names on list



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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 - Paul McGoldrick, Esther Connelly, Frances McGeechan, Ronnie Watson, John Chapman, Veronica Hood, Irene Reilly (Shieldmuir, Wishaw), Mary Irvine (Motherwell)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Thomas Taylor, Tom Girvan, Sadie Girvan, Cornelius Weir, Patricia Weir, Catherine Deerin

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

THE 100 CLUB

There are still a number of places left to be in with a chance of winning £100.00 a month. If you wish to join please set up a standing order for the following account for £5.00 a month - **Larkhall 100 Club**, Sort Code - **80-22-60**, Account Number - **17418369**. **There is a list at the back of the church for you to place your name beside the number(s) which you would like.**

PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The Parish Finance Team will meet on Wednesday 4th February at 2.30pm in the Parish House. The members of the Team are: Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Gerry McCaughey, Irene McGoldrick & Margaret Weir. Please note the date change for this meeting.

PARISH HALL TEAM MEETING

A meeting of the Hall Team will take place on Tuesday 3rd February at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall. Anyone who is willing to help with the running of the Hall is invited to this meeting. The current members of this Team are: Fr Wyllie, Stevie Reilly, Fiona Gibney, John Gibney, John Higgins, Vivien Stewart and Margaret Laird. We thank Suzanne Sherry for her dedication and hard work.

PARISH CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

On Friday 13th February we will hold our annual Church Workers Social as a way of thanking those who give of their time and talents in the various aspects of parish life. Please hand in your menu choices before the end of today (Sunday).

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

On Tuesday after Mass there will be the blessing of throats on the feast of St Blaise. On Thursday after Mass there will be a special prayer for those with breast cancer, on the feast of St Agatha.

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 two of this bulletin. Very many thanks to those parishioners who have already set up a standing order in favour of the parish.

WORKS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

The following work will be carried out soon to our parish buildings and grounds:

Damp in the Blackwood House: The ceiling at the gable end of the house in Blackwood is letting in damp through the wall into the sitting/meeting room. This will need to be sorted.

Excess Water: There is a big puddle at the back of St Mary's which will need to be cleared and cemented over to prevent the accumulation of water on the ground behind the church.

Exterior Lights: Three exterior lights around St Mary's will be replaced on the church and house.