

# 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

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
15TH FEBRUARY 2026**

## GAUDIUM ET SPES (PART ONE)

Gaudium et Spes (translated as *Joy and Hope*) was promulgated on 7th December 1965. It was the last and longest document produced, reflecting the Church's desire to dialogue with the whole human family. Since everyone, followers of Christ and not, share the same hopes, joys, sorrows, anxieties, the Church shows her love and solidarity by addressing these issues to foster true fraternity. All problems and situations are answered and given meaning in Christ.

The document tells us that the Church looks at the "signs of the times" by the light of the Gospel. The opening words of this Constitution on the Church in the modern world are beautiful and profound: "The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ".



Part One of this Constitution focuses on several aspects of being Catholic in the world today:

*Human Dignity & Worth:* The dignity of the human person flows out of the fact we are made in the image and likeness of God. This dignity is recognised in human intellect, conscience and freedom. We are social beings who find meaning in relationships. Despite sin, humans retain inherent dignity as our bodies and souls form a united being made and loved by God.

*The Search for Truth & Meaning:* Humans have a natural capacity for intellectual understanding and discovery. True wisdom which is written in our hearts guides us to seek truth and goodness with our conscience playing a crucial role in guiding our moral choices.

*Freedom & Responsibility:* Authentic human freedom allows us to choose good and reject evil, we are responsible for our choices in life before God who will judge the human race.

*Facing Death & Hope for Life:* Death is a natural part of life but we can fear death, but faith offers solace and hope for eternal life in communion with God.

*Atheism:* The document acknowledges various forms of atheism and the factors that contribute to it. It emphasises that even when a person denies God it doesn't diminish their human dignity, which is ultimately rooted in God whether they recognise it or not.

*Importance of Faith:* Faith connects us with God, the source of our dignity and purpose. It offers answers to life's deepest questions and provides hope.

*The Revelation of Christ:* Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the ultimate revelation of God's love and his purpose for humanity. Through Christ, we can understand our true potential and destiny.

*The Call to Live in Christ:* Christians are called to live a life transformed by the Holy Spirit, following the example of Christ. This includes a commitment to show love, perform good works and facing challenges with hope.

*The Universality of God's Grace:* The document acknowledges God's grace working in all people of goodwill, even those outside the Church and outside the Christian faith.

# THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Sunday 15th February** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)  
**10.00am** Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)  
**12noon** Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)  
 1.00pm Baptism (Our Lady & St John's)  
**5.00pm** Holy Mass for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)



**Monday 16th 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 Monday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

**Tuesday 17th 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 Tuesday of the Sixth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)  
 10.00am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

**Wednesday 18th February** (St Mary's 7.50am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 7.45pm)  
**8.00am** Brief Mass for Ash Wednesday (St Mary's)  
**9.30am** Brief Mass for Ash Wednesday (Our Lady & St John's)  
**10.30am** Holy Mass for Ash Wednesday (St Mary's)  
**7.00pm** Holy Mass for Ash Wednesday (Our Lady & St John's)



**Thursday 19th 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 Thursday after Ash Wednesday (Our Lady & St John's)

**Friday 20th February** (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)  
 9.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)  
 10.00am Holy Mass for Friday after Ash Wednesday (St Mary's)



**Saturday 14th 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 First Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)

## FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

**18th February - Ash Wednesday & beginning of the Season of Lent** - Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting & Abstinence. This means that all Catholics aged between 18 and 60 are required to have only one square meal that day and two snacks; those aged between 14 and over are required to abstain from meat. Lent prepares us for Easter, for the Lenten liturgy disposes us to celebrate the Paschal mystery as the centre of the liturgical year and of the Christian life. Purple/Violet is the colour of the season. Flowers are not used in the church and musical instruments are only used to support singing. Lent was originally devised as a period of catechesis for those becoming members of the Church at Easter. The Sunday readings are dominated by truths of faith and Baptismal themes. The readings for the weekday Masses of Lent are all about changing our hearts and minds to respond to God in the way we live.

## BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

The next collection for the Building Fund will take place at all Masses this weekend. Please be as generous as you can be to help us maintain our parish buildings and grounds.

## CHURCH WORKERS SOCIAL

The Church Workers Social took place on Friday evening and was a great success. Many thanks to all those who came along and to those who organised the event and made it such a good evening. A great night was had by all.

## DAY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ABUSE

Each year on the Friday after Ash Wednesday, the Catholic Church in Scotland observes a special day of prayer for those who have suffered abuse, particularly those who suffered abuse from members of the Church. Mass that day will include special prayers for all those innocent children and vulnerable adults who have suffered abuse.

## PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £952.00  
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £320.00  
Stall: £59.00  
**£1,331.00**

**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**

**BOOK  
ONLINE**



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Fr John McFadden, a Holy Ghost Father who is well known to us in the parish through supplying the Masses when Fr Wyllie is on holiday will lead our next **Theology on Tap this Tuesday** in the Parish Hall. He will be speaking about his experiences, challenges and joys of working in the missions. The bar opens at 6.30pm with the talk beginning at 7.00pm. Please come along.

## PREPARING FOR LENT

On the table at the back of the church you will find our parish Lenten programmes detailing all the Masses, liturgies and services taking place throughout Lent and Holy Week. The SCIAF Wee Boxes are also available too for you to contribute to the wonderful work SCIAF does on our behalf in the poorest and most in need countries in our world today.

In order for us to grow in our relationship with God during the Lenten season, there are some books available priced at £3.95. There are two books in particular from Fr Philip Caldwell about the instruments of the Lord's passion and another about the friends of Jesus, they are great reads and help us to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of the Lord's life, passion and death.



## 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 LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

**THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY**

**Mass at 12.30pm followed by lunch in the Parish Hall**

Please let Betty McGonagle know if you are attending



## PARISH SAINT PATRICK'S NIGHT EVENT

The Parish Hall

**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH**

7.00pm - Late  
Bar & Live Music

**Tickets £10.00** - Includes a Pie. Names on list



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**SICK** - Stephen Neal, 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** - Michael Cassidy, Eleanor Stewart, John Cameron

**MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES** - Jim Higgins, Cyril Bush, Nancy & David O'Neill, Frank McCorry

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. **So far we only have around 50 people signed up. Please consider signing up today after Mass.**

## 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.

## PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Each year a Financial Report is made available for parishioners to see the income and expenditure of the previous financial year. These reports are now available on the table at the back of the church. If you have any comments, queries or questions please feel free to speak with Fr Wyllie or any member of the Parish Finance Team: Gerry McCaughey, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick or Margaret Weir.

## PARISH STALL

The stalls in both our churches have a wide selection of cards and other religious items. First Confession and Confirmation cards can be found at the back of both churches. In the stall you will find Mass cards, thank-you cards, cards for baptisms, passing exams, new baby, new home, wedding, anniversary, get well soon, Mass Bouquet, sympathy cards. Why not have a look after Mass today? Most cards are priced at £1.00.

## LETTERS TO MSPS

On the back of the talk given last weekend at all Masses, there are letters for parishioners to sign, place their address (including postcode) and date. These will be collected and sent to our MSPs. Please take a few moments to sign these letters and join our voices with those who oppose the assisted suicide bill.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING LENT & HOLY WEEK

It is customary during the season of Lent to take up three second collections. One is for the diocese, the other is for the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, and one for the Holy Places in the Holy Land. Below you will find the details of these upcoming collections:

Sunday 1st March	Sick & Retired Priests	2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday 15th March	SCIAF	4th Sunday of Lent
Friday 3rd April	Holy Places	Good Friday