

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

**Saint Mary Immaculate Larkhall &
Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood**

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



Our Lady & St John's
Carlisle Road
Blackwood, ML11 9RZ



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
15TH MARCH 2026

INTER MIRIFICA

Inter Mirifica (translated as *Among the Wonderful*), the Council's Decree on social communication, was promulgated by Pope Paul VI on 4th December 1963. It is one of the key documents from the Council, addressing the role of social communication in the modern world. The Decree recognises the significant impact of media, including the press, cinema, and television, on society and the Church's mission to communicate the Gospel effectively.



The key themes of this document are as follows:

Recognition of media's power: The document acknowledges the potential of media to reach and influence large audiences, making it a powerful tool for education and evangelisation. It highlights that media can serve both the good and the harmful, depending on how it is used.

Moral Responsibility: Inter Mirifica stresses the need for individuals and organisations involved in the media to adhere to moral principles. It calls for a conscientious approach to media consumption and production, ensuring that content promotes truth, goodness, and the welfare of society.

The Role of the Church: The decree emphasises the Church's duty to utilise media for the proclamation of the Gospel. It states: "The Catholic Church, since it was founded by Christ our Lord to bear salvation to all men and thus is obliged to preach the Gospel, considers it one of its duties to announce the Good News of salvation also with the help of the media of social communication and to instruct men in their proper use". It encourages the faithful to engage with media responsibly and to contribute positively to the media landscape by instilling a Christian spirit in their work.

Guidance for Media Users: It provides guidelines for the ethical use of media, urging users to be aware of the moral implications of their choices. It encourages the promotion of sound public opinion and the avoidance of content that could lead to spiritual harm. In addressing media outlets and those who consume the information it says: "The news that is communicated should be true and complete, within the bounds of justice and charity. In addition, the manner in which the news is communicated should be proper and decent. This means that in both the search for news and in reporting it, there must be full respect for the laws of morality and for the legitimate rights and dignity of the individual.

Pastoral Activity: Inter Mirifica calls on Church leaders to guide the faithful in navigating the media landscape, ensuring that they are equipped to discern and promote content that aligns with Christian values. Over sixty years ago, the Decree called upon the bishops of every country to set up a national office for affairs of the press, films, radio and television. At a time when social media is being used by almost everyone and many dangers and opportunities present themselves, it is vital that Inter Mirifica is read and applied in our own day for the good, safety and betterment of all people.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 15th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Vespers & Benediction (St Mary's)

Monday 16th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 7.45pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 5.30pm)

11.30am Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)
6.30pm Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 17th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

9.00am Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Feast of St Patrick (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 18th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 8.30pm)

8.30am Brief Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth 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 Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm (Our Lady & St John's)
6.00pm Confessions until 6.50pm (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 19th March (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

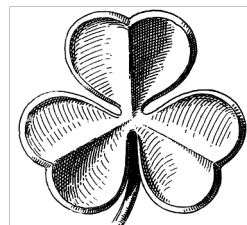
8.30am Brief Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph (Our Lady & St John's)
9.10am Morning Prayer of the Church (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of St Joseph (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 20th March (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 Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Saturday 21st March (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 of Lent (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

17th March - Feast of St Patrick - St Patrick was born in 385 and was kidnapped while very young and taken to Ireland, where he was put to work looking after sheep. On the lonely hillsides he learned to pray. He escaped, already within him a call to Priesthood. There was also an insistent call to return to Ireland and he spent the rest of his life there building up the Kingdom of Christ. He was fearless in facing opposition from powerful pagan rulers; he practised regular penance which became a strong feature of Irish monasticism; he instilled a missionary spirit which has lasted to the present day. He died in 461 and is the patron saint of Ireland and Nigeria.

19th March - Solemnity of St Joseph - Not a single word of St Joseph's is recorded in Sacred Scripture and yet he is one of the greatest and most popular saints, largely because of his humility and his closeness to Our Lord. He died before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and, since he probably died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, is venerated as the patron saint of a good death. Pope Pius IX named him patron of the universal Church, Pope John XXIII added his name to the Roman Canon, Pope Francis added his name into all the Eucharistic Prayers.

SCIAF SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The season of Lent invites us to show our care and concern for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. As a way of responding to this invitation we are asked to contribute to the second collection this weekend for the work of the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF). Whatever you are able to give will be very greatly appreciated. If you have a SCIAF Wee Box at home then please ensure that it is returned to the church no later than Holy Thursday in time for the Mass of the Lord's Last Supper.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations: £1,007.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers £310.00
Stall: £28.00
£1,345.00

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**



CONFIRMATIONS

On Wednesday evening fourteen of our young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Toal. We congratulate the young people on this very special moment in their lives of faith and assure them of our prayers. Many thanks to the young people, their parents/carers, the staff of both schools, the musicians and Youth Choir, readers, altar servers and all those who made the Mass so special. The young people were a credit to their families, schools and parish.

EASTER EGG APPEAL

Henry Dorricott Funeral Directors are holding their annual Easter Egg Appeal again this year. These Easter Eggs will be distributed to the young people and vulnerable adults in our local community at Easter. If you could make a donation of an Easter Egg or a few Easter Eggs, then please bring them along before Palm Sunday and leave them at the back of the church.

EASTER HAMPER

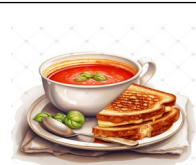
At the back of the church over the next few weeks, raffle tickets will be on sale for the wonderful Easter Hamper that has been prepared to be raffled at the Parish Easter Sunday Social. Tickets are priced at £1.00. To be in with a chance of winning the hamper please buy a raffle ticket after Mass this weekend. Raffle tickets will be on sale until Palm Sunday.



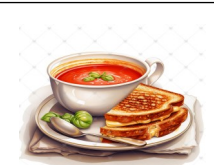
PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS
The Parish Hall
EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
2.00PM - 9.00PM



THEOLOGY ON TAP
The Parish Hall
TUESDAY 24TH MARCH
6.30pm, Talk beginning at 7.00pm
Fr Philip Caldwell - The Last Seven Words of Jesus



PARISH LUNCH CLUB
The Parish Hall
THURSDAY 26TH MARCH



PARISH EASTER SUNDAY SOCIAL
The Parish Hall
SUNDAY 5TH APRIL AFTER 12NOON MASS



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 - Joan Meade, James Keenan, Jim Deery (Strathaven), William McBrearty, Bill Stewart

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - James & Catherine McLaren, Charles & Monica McCorry, Tommy & Tessie Wedlock, Ian Alex MacNeil, Archie MacNeil, Roderick MacDougal, John McManus, Ann Grant, Patrick Grant, Jim & Helen Grant, Jack Hastie, Thomas McDonagh, Tony & Mary Goodwin, Annette Thomson, Frank Reilly

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



MOTHERS DAY REMEMBRANCES

This Mothers Day, we remember those mothers who have been called home by the Lord. May they rest in peace:



Mary Somerville; Sarah Clews; Nan Clews; Kathleen Wallace; Alice Weir;
Margaret Mary Kennedy; Mary Kennedy; All the Kennedy Mothers;
Nancy O'Neill; May McGear; Eileen Walker; Annie O'Neill; Catherine Deerin; Margaret Wyllie;
Marion Hoey; Anne Findon; Margaret Douglas; Betty Hamilton; Madge McNulty; Eileen Laird;
Elizabeth Gold; Anne Dunsmore; Margaret Dougan; Elizabeth Sherry; Isabella Freeland;
Georgina Maguire; Eileen Douglas; Eileen Bateman; Emily Leonard; Marion Houston.

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Since before Christmas our Mass attendance has been encouraging. On the first weekend of each month a count is taken of all those attending Mass. Below are the figures for March:

5.00pm - 131 10.00am - 144 12noon - 86 5.00pm - 45 Total - 406

THE EASTER TRIDUUM IN OUR PARISH

HOLY THURSDAY (2nd April)

No morning Mass in our parish.

Mass of Chrism at Motherwell Cathedral at 11.00am with the Bishop and priests of the Diocese. All welcome.

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

Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight.

10.00pm - Night Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)

GOOD FRIDAY (3rd April)

A day of Fast & Abstinence.

Kissing of the Cross at all of the following:

12noon - Stations of the Cross (OLSJ)

3.00pm - LITURGY OF THE PASSION & DEATH OF THE LORD (SM)

6.30pm - Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)

HOLY SATURDAY (4th April)

Today no Mass is celebrated until nightfall. The Lord is in the tomb and we await the resurrection.

No Vigil Mass at 5.00pm

8.00pm - EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF THE RESURRECTION (St Mary's)



EASTER SUNDAY (5th April)

10.00am - Mass of the Resurrection (St Mary's)

12noon - Mass of the Resurrection (OLSJ)