

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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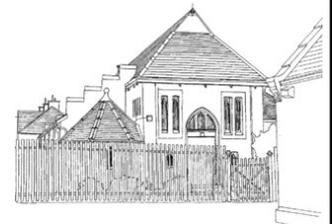
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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
1ST MAY 2022

MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR LADY

In our observance of the month of Our Lady we should take into account the season of the Liturgical Year which largely corresponds with the fifty days of Easter. Our pious exercises could emphasise Our Lady's participation in the Paschal mystery and in Pentecost when the Church began. The pious exercises connected with the month of May can easily highlight the earthly role played by the glorified Queen of Heaven, here and now, in the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

The following practices which are recommended by the Church are offered as suggestions for honouring Our Lady during Her special month.

The Regina Coeli

The Church addresses this antiphon to Mary for the Resurrection of her Son. It refers to, and depends on, the invitation to joy addressed by Gabriel to the Lord's humble servant who was called to become the Mother of the saving Messiah.

The Rosary

Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God. Thus, "the Roman Pontiffs have repeatedly exhorted the faithful to the frequent recitation of this biblically inspired prayer which is centred on contemplation of the saving events of Christ's life, and their close association with the Virgin Mother."

Litanies of the Blessed Virgin Mary

These consist of a long series of invocations to Our Lady, which follow in a uniform rhythm, thereby creating a stream of prayer characterised by insistent praise and supplication. The most famous of the Litanies to Our Lady is the Litany of Loreto.

Consecration and Entrustment to Mary

The Roman Pontiffs have frequently expressed appreciation for the pious practice of "consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary" and the formulas publicly used by them are well known. Only a few weeks ago, Pope Francis asked the whole Church to use the Consecration and Entrustment to Mary for peace in our world and to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

The Brown Scapular and other Scapulars

The scapular is an external sign of the relationship established between the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Queen of Mount Carmel, and the faithful who entrust themselves totally to her protection, who have recourse to her maternal intercession, who are mindful of the primacy of the spiritual life and the need for prayer.

Medals

These are witnesses of faith and a sign of veneration of the Holy Mother of God, as well as of trust in her maternal protection. The most famous and popular being the Miraculous Medal. The Church blesses such objects of Marian devotion in the belief that "they help to remind the faithful of the love of God, and to increase trust in the Blessed Virgin Mary."



MAY DEVOTIONS WILL BE HELD IN OUR PARISH EACH SUNDAY EVENING

EASTER OCTAVE IN OUR PARISH

Sunday 1st May

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)
6.00pm	May Devotions concluding with Benediction (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 2nd May

11.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Memoria of St Athanasius (St Mary's)

Tuesday 3rd May

9.00am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for the Feast of St Philip & St James (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 4th May

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 an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 5th May

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 of the Third Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
12.30pm	Holy Mass for the residents of Auchlochach (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 6th May

9.30am	Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass with enrolment for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion (St Mary's)

Saturday 7th May

12noon	First Holy Communion Mass (St Mary's)
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

Our Parish Stall has a variety of First Holy Communion cards and First Holy Communion Gift bags for sale. The cards are priced at £1.00. Why not have a look after Mass today?

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

A second collection will be taken up at all our Masses next weekend for the Sick & Retired Priests Fund. This fund assists with the care of those priests who have served the people of the diocese during their priestly ministry. Please be as generous as you always are.

MUSIC LITURGY IN THE PARISH

The meeting proposed to take place on Wednesday 11th May is postponed as a number of the musicians and cantors were unable to attend the meeting. Another meeting will be scheduled for some time before summer. If you can play a musical instrument or can hold a tune then please speak with Fr Wyllie if you'd be willing to help with the music in the parish. It is also our intention to start a children's choir, look out for more information in the coming months.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Next Sunday the whole Church throughout the world earnestly comes together to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. At all Masses next weekend we will offer our own prayers for an increase in vocations and ask the Lord to place into the hearts of many young men the desire to serve him as priests in our world today.

LATEST EDITION OF SCOTTISH CATHOLIC MAGAZINE AVAILABLE NOW.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Over the past two years we have been very blessed in this parish to have received nine adults into full communion with the Catholic Church, in 2021 we had four candidates - Harvey, Mark, Carole & Jack, and this year we had five - Gillian, Emily, Helder, Paulo & Josè. The RCIA programme will begin after the summer holidays, so if you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a Catholic then please ask them to speak with Fr Wyllie as soon as possible. An information evening will take place soon, when we know if there is anyone interested.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£1,030.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£200.00
Stall:	£40.00
TOTAL:	£1,270.00

Many thanks for your very generous support

BAPTISM

Please make contact with Fr Wyllie regarding the Sacrament of Baptism for any infants and young children who have not yet been baptised. You can speak to him after Mass or email the parish.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Next weekend seven children from St Mary's Primary School will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time. We keep the boys and girls very much in our prayers over these next few days and we wish them well for the day itself. We hope God will be good to us and let the sun shine on the young people as they celebrate this special day. The children will have their confessions heard during the course of this week in preparation for the special day. We also look forward to the next First Holy Communion on:

Saturday 21st May - First Holy Communion at 12noon for the pupils of St John's Primary in Our Lady & St John's Church.

CABARET NIGHT

Sadly, the Cabaret Night planned for Friday 29th April had to be cancelled as only 15 tickets were sold. The Hall Group work hard to arrange events to bring the parish together socially and we should try our best to support them in their efforts. With the number of people we have attending Mass in our parish and the strong community links we have in the Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill area it is disappointing that we were unable to go ahead with this event. Please try your best to support these ventures in the future, as it not only brings us together socially but builds up our sense of community too. The date of the next event will be published soon.

MAY DEVOTIONS

The Church traditionally dedicates the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is part of our Catholic tradition and heritage to celebrate May Devotions on the Sundays of May. These devotions include the Holy Rosary, Litany to Our Lady and concluding with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

May Devotions will take place on:

Sun 1st May - Our Lady & St John's at 6.00pm

Sun 8th May - Our Lady & St John's at 6.00pm

Sun 15th May - Our Lady & St John's at 6.00pm

Sun 22nd May - St Mary's at 6.30pm

Sun 29th May - St Mary's at 6.30pm

Please make a special effort to come along to honour our Blessed Mother during her special month and to commend ourselves, our families, our parish, the Church and the world into her maternal hands. *'O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee'*.

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

The Parish Pastoral Planning Team will meet on Monday 9th May at 7.00pm in St Mary's Chapel House to discuss the responses to the Synod Questionnaire and to begin to make plans to implement the suggestions and ideas which were expressed. The members of the group would be pleased to hear your opinions and suggestions so please speak to them before the meeting. The members of this group are: Fr Wyllie, Russell McAllister, Suzanne McCaughey, Scott Smith, Laura Steele (Kennedy), Ciaran Reilly & Suzanne Sherry.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Parish Finance Committee will need to be rearranged for another date. If you have anything you would like raised at the meeting then please speak to Fr Wyllie, Mary McDermott, Gerry McCaughey, Patricia Weir or Irene McGoldrick before then next meeting so it can be discussed at the committee.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - John Leonard, Anne Colligan (Blantyre)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Eileen Woods (Seagrave)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This time last year, Fr Wyllie proposed establishing several groups in the parish, and would like to begin to take this forward before the summer holidays. Below is a list of various groups which he would like to be established in the parish. If you would be interested in helping to form one of these groups or being a part of one or more of these groups then please speak with him soon.

Gardening/Grounds Team - We are very blessed at both churches to have gardens and considerable grounds, but with that also comes the responsibility to maintain them and keep them tidy and presentable. If you can sweep, weed, mow the lawn or generally keep the grounds tidy then please consider joining these groups which look after our parish grounds.

Men's Group - Fr Wyllie is keen to set up a Men's Group in the parish for men of all ages to come together for some socialising, prayer and to take part in various other activities.

Young Adults Group - Before the first lockdown we were all set to have our first meeting of the Young Adults Group, but sadly that never happened. This group will be a mixture of socialising, praying and getting to know more about the Catholic Faith. This group will be for those aged 17-35 (or a wee bit older).

Pro-Life Group - The greatest scandal of our society today is the discarding and murder of the innocent baby in the womb. It would be good to have a group in our parish to meet frequently to pray for this issue and to organise events to raise funds for the promotion of life.

Caritas - Sadly, the interaction we have had with our secondary school parishioners has been very limited but if there are any young people in our parish who are looking to sign up to the S6 Caritas Award for next year, please contact Fr Wyllie.

Women's Group - To bring women of all ages together from our parish for prayer, socialising, outings and other activities.

Church Cleaners - We currently have a great group of volunteers who clean our churches on a regular basis. If you have some spare time then please contact Mary McDermott (Our Lady & St John's) or Kitty Steele (St Mary's) if you could lend a hand to clean our churches.

Light Bite after Mass - We are hopeful of restarting the light bite after the 12noon Mass. If you can help then please be generous with your time. So far we have 6 volunteers.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN GROTTO

A pilgrimage for our parish will take place to Carfin Lourdes Grotto on **Thursday 2nd June**. This year the Grotto will be raised to the status of Scotland's National Marian Shrine as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Grotto back in 1922. All parishioners are invited to come along and to share in this day of pilgrimage to the very special and beautiful Grotto at Carfin dedicated to Our Lady & Lourdes & St Therese of Lisieux. **A list is available at the back of the church for you to place your name down for the bus and for the lunch.** The itinerary for the day is as follows:

10.00am Bus leaves Blackwood
10.20am Bus leaves Larkhall
10.45am Bus arrives at Carfin
10.50am Tea & Coffee with biscuits or cakes at the Xavier Centre?
11.20am Rosary Procession from the Lourdes Shrine
12noon Visit to the Reliquary
12.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Glass Chapel
1.00pm Holy Mass in the Glass Chapel
1.45pm Lunch at the Xavier Centre
3.45pm Leave for Larkhall & Blackwood

