

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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St Mary's
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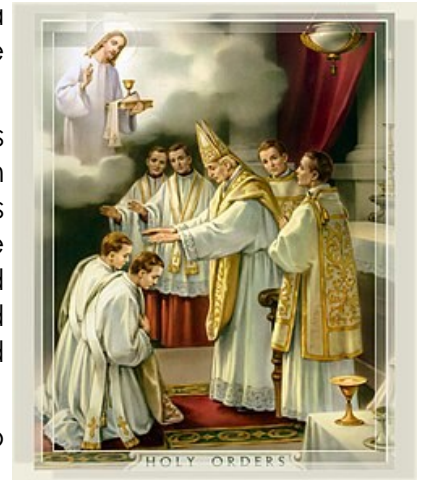
**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
26TH OCTOBER 2025**

THE SACRAMENTS - HOLY ORDERS

Someone who is baptised and confirmed can receive moreover a special mission in the Church in two sacraments and thus be enlisted in the service of God: Holy Orders and Matrimony.

The man who is ordained receives a gift of the Holy Spirit that gives him a sacred authority that is conferred upon him by Christ through the bishop. The priests of the Old Covenant saw their duty as mediating between God and his people. Since Christ is the "one mediator between God and men" (1 Timothy 2:5), he perfected and ended that priesthood. After Christ there can be an ordained priesthood only in Christ, in Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, and through a calling and apostolic mission from Christ.

The sacrament of Holy Orders has three degrees: Bishop (episcopate), Priest (presbyterate), Deacon (diaconate).



In episcopal ordination (ordination of a bishop) the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders is conferred upon a priest. He is ordained a successor of the apostles and enters the college of bishops. Together with other bishops and the Pope, he is from now on responsible for the entire Church. In particular the Church appoints him to the offices of teaching, sanctifying, and governing. The bishop, who exercises his pastoral ministry together with priests and deacons as his ordained assistants, is the visible principle and the foundation of the local Church (diocese).

In priestly ordination the bishop calls down God's power upon the candidates for ordination. It imprints on the souls of these men an indelible seal that can never be lost. As a collaborator with his bishop, the priest will proclaim the Word of God, administer the sacraments, and, above all, celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

In diaconal ordination the candidate is appointed to a special service within the sacrament of Holy Orders. For he represents Christ as the one who came, "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). In the liturgy of ordination of a deacon we hear the words: "As a minister of the Word, of the altar, and of charity, he will make himself a servant to all".

The rule that only men may receive Holy Orders in no way demeans women. In God's sight, man and woman have the same dignity, but they have different duties and charisms. The Church sees herself bound by the fact that Jesus chose men exclusively to be present at the Last Supper for the institution of the priesthood. Pope John Paul II declared in 1994 "that the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitively held by all the Church's faithful".

Jesus lived as a celibate and in this way intended to show his undivided love for God the Father. To follow Jesus' way of life and to live in unmarried chastity "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:12) has been since Jesus' time a sign of love, of undivided devotion to the Lord, and of a complete willingness to serve. The Roman Catholic Church requires this way of life of its bishops and priests, while the Eastern Catholic Churches demand it only of their bishops.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 26th October (St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)

10.00am Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

12noon Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

5.00pm Holy Mass for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 27th October (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 Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Tuesday 28th October (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 Feast of St Simon & St Jude (Our Lady & St John's)

9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 29th October (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 Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

10.30am Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (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 Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 30th October (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)

NO 9.30AM MASS

12.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 31st October (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 (St Mary's)

Saturday 1st November (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ closed)

4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)

5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

28th October - Feast of St Simon & St Jude - Little is known of the apostles St Simon and St Jude. Each of them has a more formal name: Simon the Zealot and Jude Thaddeus. It is said that they were martyred together, but where? Some authors think Beirut and others Persia. There is a short epistle in the New Testament by Jude. Tradition holds that Simon died a martyrs death by being sawn in half, and that Jude died a martyrs death by being beheaded with an axe. St Simon is the patron saint of saw workers, tanners and woodworkers, and St Jude is the patron saint of hopeless cases and things despaired of.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS & COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS

Due to 1st November falling on a Saturday this year, we move the Solemnity of All Saints to the Sunday, and therefore All Souls Day will take place on Monday 3rd November.

NOVEMBER LISTS

The month of November is dedicated to praying for the faithful departed, our departed friends, families, fellow parishioners and those souls who need our prayers. November Lists are available at the back of the church for parishioners to list their deceased loved ones and for Mass to be said for them throughout the month of November. Please take a list and an envelope to complete and make a donation, and then return to the box at the back of the church over the next few days.

ANNUAL REQUIEM MASS

The annual Mass to pray for those from our parish who have died over the past twelve months, as well as clergy and lay faithful who have made up our parish over the decades, will take place on Wednesday 19th November in Our Lady & St John's at 7.00pm. All parishioners are invited.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£800.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£450.00
Stall:	£162.00
Total:	£2,245.00
Mission Sunday:	£1,655.00

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**

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**



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Suzanne Sherry will stand down as Hall & Events Co-Ordinator at the end of this year. We need someone or some people to replace Suzanne, who will take on the roles and responsibilities which Suzanne currently carries out just now. Unfortunately, if we cannot find someone/group of people to take this over then the social life of the parish will suffer greatly. If you would like to find out more information please email: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com or speak to Suzanne.

DEFENDING LIFE FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH

A box will be available at the back of the church next weekend for the work of the Pro-Life movement. When the sanctity of life is being undermined we are asked to lend our support.

ANNUAL MASS ATTENDANCE CENSUS

The annual Mass attendance census has been moved this year from the first weekend in November to the last weekend in October (this weekend). The data collected provides the Bishop and the diocese with the number of parishioners attending Mass in each parish throughout the diocese for future planning and organisation of our diocese.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY BINGO NIGHT

The Parent Council of St Mary's Primary are organising a Bingo Night on Friday 7th November in the Parish Hall beginning at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced at £1.50 for adults and 50p for children. The evening will include a raffle and bingo tickets for sale, cash only. All parishioners are invited.

MISSION SUNDAY

Many thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the second collection last weekend for MISSIO Scotland and the work they do on our behalf in the poorest parts of the Church throughout the world. The total collected was £1,655.00 which has been forwarded on to MISSIO. This is a wonderful testament to the generosity of the people in this parish and your commitment in propagating the Catholic faith in our world today. May God reward you all.

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday 29th October we will begin the novena in preparation for Christmas to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This novena will be prayed after the 10.00am Mass in St Mary's each Wednesday up to Christmas Eve. This is a very special way to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the Lord's birth at Christmas. Please try to come along on those Wednesdays and join together in asking Our Lady to pray for us and for the intentions we carry in our hearts.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

On Tuesday 4th November we will have our next Theology on Tap beginning at 6.30pm and the talk commencing at 7.00pm. The speaker will be Anne-Marie Clements who will share her story of the destructive force of social media and how her faith got her through a very difficult time.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - 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, Joe Murphy (Dubai)

RIP - Ann Curivan (*Receiving - 2nd 6.30pm, Requiem - 3rd 12noon*), Stephen Higgins (Carfin), June Sneddon Fraser, Catherine McGlynn (Blantyre), Cathie Brolly, Tommy Girvan (Canada)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Jimmy Mulhearn, Martin McPolland, George Lyons, John & Letty Gonnella

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

PARISH FINANCE TEAM MEETING UPDATE

- There is currently a **water leak** at the back of the church in Larkhall which is producing copious amounts of water, work will start on this over the next few weeks
- There is a blockage in one of the **downpipes** at St Mary's, so this will hopefully be sorted at the same time as the leak. A few **exterior lights** need replaced/repaired too
- The **new church boiler** was installed at Our Lady & St John's on 10th October, this was the last of the three boilers (house, hall and church) to be replaced over a five year period in Blackwood. The new boilers are much more efficient and eco friendly
- We currently have £105,386.78 lodged in the **Diocesan Pastoral Investment Fund**, to ensure we have money saved for the future for major repairs/works and other necessary expenses, we will bank £4,000.00 into this account from next year as will every parish in the diocese



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER



ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNING

St Mary's Primary School

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Please join us for a coffee morning after the 10.00am Mass



THEOLOGY ON TAP

The Parish Hall

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

Bar open 6.30pm; Talk at 7.00pm



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

CANCELLED THIS WEEK & 7TH NOV



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

7.00pm - Late



PARISH GROWN-UPS CEILIDH

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

7.00pm

Tickets £10.00 (includes pie)

