

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

**TWENTY-SIXH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
28TH SEPTEMBER 2025**

THE SACRAMENTS - CONFESSION

Christ's love for us is shown in the fact that he seeks the lost and heals the sick. That is why he gave us the sacraments of healing and restoration, in which we are freed from sin and strengthened in our physical and spiritual weakness. The sacrament of Confession is also called the sacrament of penance, of reconciliation or of conversion.

Baptism snatches us from the power of sin and death and brings us into a new life of the children of God, but it does not free us from human weakness and the inclination to sin. That is why we need a place where we can be reconciled with God again and again. That place is confession.

Jesus himself instituted the sacrament of Confession when he showed himself to his apostles on Easter Sunday and commanded them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22a-23). The parable of the Prodigal Son beautifully expresses what happens in Confession: we go astray, we are lost and can no longer cope. Yet our Father waits for us with great, indeed, infinite longing; he forgives us when we come back; he takes us in again, forgives our sins.



God alone can forgive sins. Jesus could say "Yours sins are forgiven" (Mark 2:5) only because he is the Son of God. And priests can forgive sins in Jesus' place only because Jesus gave his apostles that same authority. Many people say "I can go directly to God, I don't need a priest". God though, wants it otherwise. We can rationalise our sins away or like to sweep things under the carpet. That is why God wants us to tell our sins and to acknowledge them in a personal encounter and receiving absolution "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and Holy Spirit".

The insight (through our conscience) into our personal guilt produces a longing for to better ourselves; this is called contrition. We arrive at contrition for our sins when we see the contradiction between God's love and our sins; we resolve to change our lives by God's help. We do penance for our sins by prayer, fasting and giving help and alms spiritually and materially.

Every Confession must consist of the following essential elements: an examination of conscience, contrition, a firm purpose of amendment, confession and penance.

The Church calls upon all of us to confess at least once a year. Everyone must go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion if they have committed a mortal (or serious) sin.

The Sacrament of Confession is protected by "the sacramental seal", meaning that anything mentioned during the sacrament cannot be told to anyone by the priest. Any priest who would tell another person something he learned in the confessional would be excommunicated. Even to the police, the priest cannot say or suggest anything. So important is the seal of Confession.

Confession reconciles the sinner with God and the Church, we are reconciled, at peace.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 28th September		(St Mary's open 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	(Our Lady & St John's)
Monday 29th September		(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 St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael	(St Mary's)
Tuesday 30th September		(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 Jerome	(Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am	Novena in honour of St Anthony	(Our Lady & St John's)
Wednesday 1st 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 the Memoria of St Therese of Lisieux	(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 the Memoria of St Therese of Lisieux	(Our Lady & St John's)
Thursday 2nd October		(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	School Mass for the Memoria of the Holy Guardian Angels	(Our Lady & St John's)
Friday 3rd 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 in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary	(St Mary's)
Saturday 4th October		(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ closed)
4.15pm	Confessions until 4.45pm	(St Mary's)
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	(St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

29th September - Feast of St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael - Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael are three archangels: Michael, the leader of the heavenly host, a warrior against enemies, especially Satan and his angels; Gabriel brought God's message to Mary at the Annunciation; Raphael guided young Tobias. In a special way, the work of the three archangels shows God's providence for us all. St Michael is the patron saint of soldiers, police officers, paramedics, sailors, and the dying. St Gabriel is the patron saint of messengers, communication workers, and postal workers, St Raphael is the patron saint of healing, travellers, blindness, happy meetings, medical workers, nurses, physicians, and Christian marriage.

30th September - Memoria of St Jerome - St Jerome was born around 342 and was an ascetic and a scholar, ordained priest at Antioch in 379, he went to Constantinople where he and St Gregory Nazianzen became friends. In 382 he moved to Rome, becoming secretary to Pope Damasus and being known for his sanctity, learning and eloquence. He chose to live in Bethlehem in 386 and to complete his writings: letters, treatises, commentaries on Scripture and, especially, the 'Vulgate' translation of the Bible into Latin. He died in 420 and is one of the Fathers of the Church. He is the patron saint of translators, librarians, scholars, and students.

1st October - Memoria of St Therese of Lisieux - Born in Alencon in Normandy in 1873, St Therese was permitted to enter the nearby Lisieux Carmel in her mid-teens. Not of robust health, she practised humility, simplicity and trust in God. In her autobiographical *Histoire d'une ame*, she writes of her 'Little Way' by which ordinary and insignificant people can be saints through a childlike approach to God. She died in 1897 at the age of 24, was canonised in 1925, declared patroness of the mission in 1927, a patron of France in 1947 and a Doctor of the Church in 1997.

2nd October - Memoria of the Holy Guardian Angels - The Guardian Angels, according to tradition, guard and assist us at every moment. Each person has such a Guardian Angel and we rightly rejoice in their company.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£845.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers	£215.00
Stall:	£140.00
Total:	£1,200.00

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**



MANY THANKS

Many thanks to Louisa and Bethany who sold their delicious homemade jams and scones after the 12noon Mass last weekend. All the jams and scones were sold and the girls are delighted to share that they raised £353.05 for the Blackwood conference of the St Vincent de Paul. Thank you to the girls for their hard work and effort and also to everyone who supported their efforts.

WRAPPING UP

As the weather becomes much colder heading into the winter, Fr Wyllie encourages all parishioners to wrap up when attending Mass, maybe an extra jumper or a heavier coat. The heating has been off in all parish buildings from 1st April this year and we hope to keep the heating off as long as possible. So far this year, together with all other parishes in our diocese, we have witnessed a huge increase in the price of our energy bills. To date, this year, our parish has paid over £16,000.00 in gas and electricity bills.

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Wednesday begins the month of October, traditionally dedicated to praying the rosary. Please set aside some time each day to pray the rosary either as an individual, as a family, as a school community or come along to the recitation of the rosary before weekday Mass. Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV asks all Catholics to pray the rosary daily during October for peace in our world.

THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?

An initial meeting will take place on Monday 6th October in St Mary's Parish House at 6.30pm for those who wish to begin the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) with a view to being received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please contact Fr Wyllie if you wish to begin this course. So far seven adults have met with Fr Wyllie expressing an interest.

CHRISTMAS STOCK

In the past, a number of parishioners have commented that it would be good to have the Christmas cards etc available in the stall earlier than November. Therefore, there is now a selection of Christmas cards, gift bags, cribs and Christmas Mass Bouquet cards available to purchase. Please try to keep Christ in Christmas by purchasing religious Christmas cards and, if you don't have one already, purchase a crib for your home.

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday, when we pray for the Church in mission lands and offer our material support for them, will take place on 19th October. A second collection will be taken up that weekend.

PARISH HALL TEAM

The Parish Hall Team will meet this Wednesday in the Parish Hall after the 7.00pm Mass. The Hall Team includes Fr Wyllie, Suzanne Sherry, John Higgins, Brian Dempsie, Stevie Reilly & Vivien Stewart. If you would be willing to get involved with the Parish Hall please come along.

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 - John McPherson (Coatbridge), Eileen Lennon (Wishaw), Tracy McCauslan

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES - Monsignor Thomas Canon Fehily, Agnes Mannion, Jim Walker, Betty Hamilton, Patricia Weir, Jimmy Laverty, Ella Laverty, Christina Connor Kerr, Jimmy Craighens, Robert Maguire, Ian Quinn

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

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Our next Theology on Tap will no longer take place this month, unfortunately. We are hoping the next session will take place late in October with the evening beginning at 6.30pm and the talk beginning at 7.00pm. Fr Wyllie is just waiting on confirmation of the speaker and the subject, and also the finalising of the date, but will publish the details when he has them.



GIFTAID

Many thanks to all those who contribute to the parish through the Giftaid scheme. It is a wonderful way for us to claim back 25p for every £1.00 donated by those in the scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer please consider joining the Giftaid. There are forms available on the table at the back of the church. Please place your name, address and National Insurance number, and if you wish to set up a standing order fill out the bank mandate and return to the church.

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 and including 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 to Mass on those Wednesdays and join together in asking Our Blessed Mother to pray for us, for our world and for the intentions we carry in our hearts.

AUCHLOCHAN MASS & LUNCH

Last Thursday the monthly Auchlochan Mass and lunch took place providing an opportunity for the residents of Auchlochan to come to Mass with parishioners and to have some social time together in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to the volunteers who make this possible each month, your time and commitment to this is very much appreciated. New volunteers are always welcome, please speak with Betty McGonagle. The date for the next Mass is 30th October.

PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY

2.00pm - 9.00pm

All welcome



PARISH FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Parish Hall

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER

7.00pm - Late

Music, Traditional Halloween Fun & Games,
Bar & Prize for best costume

