OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



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

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Our Lady & Saint John's Blackwood
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St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS
1ST NOVEMBER 2026

HOW SCOTLAND LOST ITS CATHOLIC SOUL



Scotland was once a profoundly Catholic nation. For centuries, the Catholic Church stood at the heart of Scottish life, shaping not only the religious belief of the people but also their education, employment, healthcare, culture and everyday existence. The Church was not simply somewhere people went to worship on Sundays. It was the foundation upon which much of Scottish society had been built.

Before the Protestant Reformation of 1560, Scotland's great monasteries and abbeys were centres of prayer, learning, charity and economic activity. Places such as Melrose, Kelso, Arbroath, Paisley and Jedburgh were not just magnificent religious buildings. They were places where people worked, where the poor received assistance, where travellers found hospitality and where the sick and vulnerable could receive care.

Monks cultivated the land, developed agriculture, preserved books and manuscripts, and provided employment for craftsmen, farmers, builders and labourers. Monasteries and other religious foundations supported schools, hospitals and charitable institutions. Long before the existence of the modern welfare state or National Health Service, the Catholic Church was helping to provide for the physical, educational and spiritual needs of the Scottish people.

Indeed, Scotland's three ancient pre-Reformation universities – St Andrew's, Glasgow and Aberdeen – were all established under the Pope's authority. The Church was instrumental in creating the foundations of higher education in our country. The Catholic Church did not simply preach to Scotland. It helped to educate, employ, feed and care for Scotland.

Yet all of this was profoundly disrupted by the Protestant Reformation. Under the leadership of John Knox and the influence of powerful Scottish nobles, the ancient Catholic faith was rejected by the Scottish Parliament in 1560. The authority of the Pope repudiated, the celebration of the Holy Mass prohibited, and the religious institutions which had served Scotland for centuries were dismantled. Many of Scotland's beautiful abbeys eventually became the ruins which tourists admire today. The loss was not simply religious or architectural. The disappearance of the monastic communities disrupted established networks of employment, education, hospitality and charity. The wealth from the abbeys passed into the hands of powerful landowners rather than continuing to serve ordinary people.

One often-forgotten consequence of the Reformation was the suppression of the Catholic calendar of feast days. Medieval Scotland's year was marked by days set aside for prayer, coming together as a community, rest and recreation. Even the celebration of the day of Christ's birth was abolished. Hogmanay replaced the Solemnity of Christ's birth and Christmas Day wasn't observed until 1958.

We admire the ruins of our ancient abbeys yet often forget the monks and faithful people who prayed within them. We celebrate Hogmanay enthusiastically yet frequently neglect the deeper meaning of Christmas. We enjoy education, healthcare and charitable provision, yet seldom remember the Catholic Church's enormous contribution to their development. Scotland's Catholic heritage is not simply something to remember with pride and nostalgia. It is something we have a sacred duty to preserve, practise and pass on.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH



Sunday 1st November *(St Mary's 9.00am – 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)*
10.00am **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (Our Lady & St John's)
1.30pm Cemetery Service (Larkhall)
5.00pm **Holy Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints** (Our Lady & St John's)

Monday 2nd November *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am – 7.45pm)*
10.00am **Holy Mass for All the Faithful Departed (St Mary's)**
11.30am Recitation of the Holy Rosary (St Mary's)
12noon **Holy Mass for All the Faithful Departed (St Mary's)**
12.25pm Novena to St Peregrine (St Mary's)
6.30pm **Holy Mass for All the Faithful Departed (Our Lady & St John's)**

Tuesday 3rd November *(St Mary's 9.00am - 8.00pm; 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 St Martin de Porres (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 4th November *(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 Charles Borromeo (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 Charles Borromeo (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 5th November *(St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 8.00am - 4.00pm)*
9.30am School Mass for Thursday of the Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
12.30pm Holy Mass for Thursday of the Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 6th November *(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 for Friday of the Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



Saturday 7th 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 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time** (St Mary's)

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

1st November – Solemnity of All Saints – The celebration of All Saints began in eastern Christendom and later took place also in the west. In Rome, the feast was celebrated when Emperor Agrippa's Pantheon ('temple of all gods'), was renamed the church of Sancta Maria ad Martyres and Pope Boniface IV placed there many relics of martyrs from the catacombs.

2nd November – All Souls Day – On this day following the celebration of all the saints in heaven, we commemorate the dead who are in purgatory, awaiting their entry to heaven. It is a day of remembrance and of prayer for them, as well as of Masses offered especially to God for 'the holy souls in purgatory'. In many places, today is also an occasion for visiting the local cemetery and praying for the dead at their graves.

3rd November – Memoria of St Martin de Porres – St Martin was born in 1579 in Lima, Peru, of mixed race. He became a Dominican lay brother, devoted to the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated to care of the sick and poor, renowned for his humility and charity. He died in 1639 and is the patron saint of social justice, mixed-race people (and racial harmony), barbers and hairdressers, public health workers, animals, and the poor.

4th November – Memoria of St Charles Borromeo – St Charles was born in 1538 at his father's castle on Lake Maggiore in the north of Italy. With family influence, became Cardinal Archbishop of Milan when aged 21. Nevertheless, he was a splendid churchman, influential in the success of the Council of Trent, he also drew up the Council's official 'Roman Catechism', was renowned as a reformer in the archdiocese and internationally in defence of the faith. He founded seminaries in Milan, sought good religious education in schools and was very active during the famine of 1570 and the plague of 1576. He died in 1584 and is the patron saint of bishops, catechists, seminarians, cardinals, and spiritual leaders, as well as stomach ailments, dieting, and obesity.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2027

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 12th – 19th July 2027. Flights direct from Prestwick to Lourdes and return, accommodation at the Hotels Mediteranee and Alba priced at £995.00 per person full board based on twin/treble rooms, single supplement £280.00. Full programme throughout the week. £350.00 deposit required at time of booking. If you intend on travelling, please speak with Fr Wyllie or email whb.clements1@btinternet.com for more details. 3 interested so far.

FOODBANK COLLECTION

The next collection for the local foodbank will take place next weekend. Donations of non-perishable foods and also monetary donations will be very gratefully received. Please leave any bags or envelopes for the foodbank at the back of the church next weekend. Your continued generosity to the foodbank is greatly appreciated.

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Every Wednesday morning in St Mary's we will prepare for Christmas by praying the Novena to Our Lady Untier of Knots. This is a powerful novena particularly for those who are experiencing problems and troubles in their life. This novena will take place on a Wednesday morning at the conclusion of the 10.00am Mass. Please make a special effort to come along and pray this novena for your needs and intentions.

MANY THANKS

Fr Wyllie would like to extend a big thank you to all parishioners who handed in cards and gifts on the occasion of his 40th birthday on 23rd October. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated. Many thanks to all those from the parish who played any part in organising, setting up, working the bar and tidying the hall for the celebration held on Friday 23rd October. May God reward you all.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	No info
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	No info
Digital Giving:	£195.00
Stall:	No info
	£195.00

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 hires 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 or information about the hall, speak with a member of the Hall Team or contact the Hall through email: **BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com**

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRES

As previously communicated a number of weeks ago, both our schools will hold Christmas Fayres to help raise funds for our young people. St John's Christmas Fayre will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday 22nd November from after the 12noon Mass. St Mary's Christmas Fayre will take place in the School Hall on Sunday 6th December starting at 11.00am. All parishioners are very warmly invited to these Fayres. Please keep the dates free in your diary.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

Catholic Education Sunday will be observed in our parish on the weekend of 21st/22nd November, the Solemnity of Christ the King. The 10.00am and 12noon Mass that weekend will also be the Enrolment Mass of the children for the Sacraments of Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

QR CODE & DIGITAL GIVING

The QR code can also be used to donate to the parish through your phone. Just open your camera app, hold the camera to the QR code and follow the instructions. It's simple and easy to use. Many thanks for your continued generosity to the parish.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK – Bishop John Keenan, Murray Brown, Kevin Brown, Margaret McCaughey, Mary Carter, Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming

RIP – Rebecca Mooney (Becky O'Donnel), Fr Brian Logue

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES –

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

ALL SOULS DAY

On Monday 2nd November we commemorate all the faithful departed, a day of praying for our departed loved ones and for all the souls in Purgatory. There will be an additional two Masses on that day. Masses will be offered at 10.00am and 12noon in St Mary's and 6.30pm in Our Lady & St John's. Please make a special effort to attend Mass on this day to pray for our beloved dead.

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The month of November is the month when we pray in a special way for our deceased relatives, friends, fellow parishioners and all those departed souls who need our prayers:

November Lists – are available at the back of the church and should be filled out and returned to the church, traditionally with a donation, by the beginning of November.

Cemetery Services – Larkhall Cemetery Service will take place at ***1.30pm on Sunday 1st November***; Lesmahagow Cemetery Service will take place at ***1.30pm on Sunday 8th November***. All welcome to come along and pray for those buried in our two cemeteries.

Annual Requiem Mass – praying for all priests and parishioners of our parish who have died, particular those who died over the past twelve months, will take place on ***Wed 11th November at 7.00pm***.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion regularly take Holy Communion to our sick and housebound brothers and sisters. Could all Extraordinary Ministers hand to Fr Wyllie an updated list of the names, addresses, phone numbers and the day and time of their regular visits with Holy Communion of those who receive Holy Communion. This will ensure that we have an up-to-date list of all those who are being visited and when they are being visited. You can either write this on a slip of paper and hand it into Fr Wyllie, or you can email him at ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

KEEPING HEAT IN THE CHURCH

As the colder weather approaches, it is important that we do all we can to keep the heat inside our church buildings. Although the heating will be on, much of the warmth is lost when the front doors are left open. Please ensure that the church doors are kept closed before and during Mass. The cost of heating and lighting our churches since the beginning of the year is almost £18,000. Keeping the doors closed will help us conserve heat and reduce these costs. Thank you for your cooperation.



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm



PARISH ST ANDREW'S NIGHT

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

Tickets £10.00, Adults Only, Live Music from The Broclaimers. Tickets going fast

Tickets can be obtained from the Hall on Fridays from 2.00pm – 9.00pm