

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**

Scottish Charity Number - SC011041

Telephone - 01698 884017

Email - ourladyoffatima@rcdom.org.uk

Facebook - [catholicparishourladyoffatima](https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishourladyoffatima)

Twitter - OLOFP parish Instagram - olofparish

Website - parishofourladyoffatima.com

Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION
16TH AUGUST 2026**

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Pope Pius XII formally defined and promulgated the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in his encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus* (15th August 1950). The fact of the Assumption was stated this way: "It is a dogma revealed by God that the Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven." But we must also ask what the Holy Father hoped would be the pastoral benefit for the people of God.

Why did Pope Pius think this was an important moment to proclaim Mary's assumption? Most Catholics rarely connect the proclamation of this dogma with the world events during Pius's pontificate. But in the year 1950 the world was still reeling from the devastating effects of World War II. The inhumanity of the Nazis in Germany had decimated European Jews, as well as slaughtering millions of Christians and other Gentiles who attempted to resist their demonic policies.



The German military invaded almost every European country; Italy was one of the last to be invaded. During the entire war, Pius XII spoke out against the inhumanity perpetrated by the German juggernaut. From the beginning of his pontificate in 1939 to the end of the war in 1945, Pius had defended the weak by speaking out against man's inhumanity to man and by covertly arranging the protection of thousands of Jews in Italy.

With the memory of this human devastation still fresh in his mind, Pius XII encouraged a detailed study of Marian doctrine in the late 1940s in anticipation of proclaiming a new dogma for the benefit of humanity. The actual language used in the encyclical *Munificentissimus Deus* actually alludes to those events:

It is to be hoped that from meditation on the glorious example of Mary men may come to realise more and more the value of a human life entirely dedicated to fulfilling the will of the Heavenly Father and to caring for the welfare of others. We also hope that while materialistic theories [such as Communism] and the moral corruption arising from them are threatening to extinguish the light of virtue, and by stirring up strife, to destroy the lives of men, the exalted destiny of both our soul and body may in this striking manner be brought clearly to the notice of all men.

Pius XII clearly expresses his hope that meditation on Mary's assumption will lead the faithful to a greater awareness of our common dignity as the human family. The Pope here reflects a truly Catholic perspective that has characterised those pontiffs who were great teachers, such as John Paul II and Benedict XVI. He, like his successors, thought that the real cause of such inhuman brutality could be found in the false ideas and sentiments that motivated the aggressors during the war.

Knowing that oppression is an ever-present danger, Pius was convinced that only inner transformation of the person could bring about the social results that lead to "caring for the welfare of others." What would impel human beings to keep their eyes fixed on their supernatural end and to desire the salvation of their fellow human beings? Mary's assumption was a reminder of, and impetus toward, greater respect for humanity because the Assumption cannot be separated from the rest of Mary's earthly life.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 16th August (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (OLSJ)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the BVM (OLSJ)



Monday 17th August (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 Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 18th August (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 Tuesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 19th August (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 Wednesday of the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)

Thursday 20th August (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 St Bernard (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 21st August (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 the Memoria of St Pius X (St Mary's)

Saturday 22nd August (St Mary's 9.00am - 5.45pm; OLSJ Closed)
4.15pm Confessions until 4.45pm (St Mary's)
5.00pm Vigil Mass for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (St Mary's)



FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

20th August - Memoria of St Bernard - St Bernard was born in 1090 near Dijon. He became a Cistercian monk at Cîteaux in 1112 and abbot of the new monastery of Clairvaux in 1115. Noted for his asceticism, his knowledge and his eloquence, he is regarded as the last of the Fathers of the Church. He founded more than seventy monasteries, drew up the statutes of the Knights Templar and kindled enthusiasm for the second Crusade. He was deeply pious and a skilful teacher of the Faith, as well as an uncompromising opponent of those who disagreed with him. He died in 1153 and is the patron saint of beekeepers, candlemakers and Cistercians.

21st August - Memoria of St Pius X - St Pius X was born in 1835 of humble parents in Riese, near Venice. Giuseppe Sarto was ordained to the priesthood in 1858 and successively became bishop of Mantua in 1884, Cardinal Patriarch of Venice in 1893, and Pope in 1903. He fostered liturgy as a pastoral gift, encouraged frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist and decreed that First Communion should take place around the age of seven. The movement called Modernism became widespread in various areas of the Church and Pius X issued a severe condemnation of it and excommunicated several prominent adherents. He died in 1914 and is honoured as the patron saint of First Communicants and pilgrims.

22nd August - Memoria of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Pope Pius XII instituted this Feast in 1954, to conclude what was then the Octave of the Solemnity of the Assumption. We remember that the Blessed Virgin reigns in Heaven, together with her Son; she reigns not because she is equal to her Son but because she is mother of Christ our King. All her privileges come from her Motherhood of God and the unique role she played in our redemption.

CHURCH BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

A second collection will take place this weekend for the Church Building Fund. A lot of work has been done to make our properties health & safety compliant, tidying up the church grounds and fixing the exterior lighting at both churches. Please be as generous as you always are in helping to maintain our parish properties and grounds.

NO PARISH BULLETIN ON 30TH AUGUST OR 6TH SEPTEMBER.

PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£910.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£255.00
Digital Giving:	£160.00
Stall:	£30.00
	£1,355.00

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**



SSVP AFTERNOON TEA

St Mary's St Vincent de Paul Conference are organising an "Afternoon Tea" for seniors aged 60 and over at Garrion Bridge on Wednesday 16th September at 1.00pm. Please enter your name, contact number and any dietary requirements on the list on the notice board by 6th September.

JAMS, SCONES & BISCUITS FOR AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Louisa and Bethany will be selling their delicious jams, scones and biscuits after the 12noon Mass on Sunday 6th September. All proceeds will go to Aid to the Church in Need.

ASSISTED DYING BILL

The Assisted Dying Bill is to be voted on again by MPs at Westminster on Friday 11th September. There is a letter and also a sheet for you to place your name, address (including postcode) and your signature to show our opposition to this bill. The bill has many shortcomings particularly in regard to safeguards for the most vulnerable in society. As Catholics we have a duty to be a voice against the culture of death which is prevalent in our society today. Please sign the petition at the back of the church by the end of this weekend.

PARISH SUMMER PARTY

In a little change from the normal Parish BBQ we will be having a Parish Summer Party this year instead. The evening will still include burgers, hotdogs etc as well as fun and games for all the family. All parishioners are very warmly invited to come along to the Parish Hall on 22nd August. The event will begin at 6.30pm and the food will be served around 7.00pm. Donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Fr Wyllie asks that you place your name on the list at the back of the church if you intend on coming along. It will greatly help with catering arrangements.



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.



PARISH INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

A highlight of our parish social calendar is the Parish International Night which begins with a Mass at 6.30pm and followed by a meal in the Parish Hall. It shows the diversity of our parish with people coming from many different cultures and countries who make up the life of our parish. Parishioners are invited to cook a dish (starter, main course or dessert or all) from their country of origin and bring it along on Friday 11th September. The hall will be open from 5.30pm for dishes to be set up (please note that dishes cannot be cooked in the parish hall kitchen but can only be heated up). This is a great event to come together as one parish and is always a great evening. If you can cook or provide a dish please place your name on the list at the back of the church.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Patricia Simpson, Gemma Barton, Paul McMurray, Marjory McMurray, Rose M. Taylor, Cathy Caven, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Stephen Fleming, Robbie Frew

RIP - Mary Vallesi (Rooney) (Rome), Oliver Plunkett (Donegal), Terry Doherty (Edinburgh, Tracey Maxwell (Hamilton)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Gerard Wyllie, Anne Wilson, Jimmy Weir, Fr Adrian Noonan, Margaret Girvan

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

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS

Bishop Toal invites the whole diocese to a special Mass at Our Lady of Good Aid Cathedral to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life on Tuesday 25th August at 7.00pm. Please make a special effort to join together as a diocese to implore the Lord to send us more priests to serve our parishes into the future.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CARFIN

The annual National Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto will take place this year on Sunday 6th September with a concelebrated Mass with the bishops of Scotland at 3.00pm. All welcome.

PARISH FORTY HOURS ADORATION

Our annual Parish Forty Hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in St Mary's from Sunday 13th September through to Tuesday 15th September. There are sign-up sheets for watching and praying before the Blessed Sacrament over those days. If you could commit to watching for a half hour slot then please place your name on the list at the back of the church to ensure the Blessed Sacrament is never left unattended. Why not try to come along as individuals or as a family to pray in the church over this time? This is a moment of grace for us as a parish to spend a prolonged period of time in adoring the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

Sunday 13th September

- 10.00am** Holy Mass to begin Forty Hours Adoration
- 10.40am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 7.30pm
- 3.00pm Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3.00pm Confessions until 3.30pm
- 6.30pm** Solemn Choral Vespers led by the Schola Benedicti

Monday 14th September

- 8.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8.00pm
- 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 11.30am Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
- 12noon** Holy Mass with Anointing of the Sick
- 1.00pm Confessions until 1.30pm
- 5.30pm Confessions until 6.20pm
- 6.00pm Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
- 6.30pm** Holy Hour concluding with Night Prayer & Benediction

Tuesday 15th September

- 8.00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm
- 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church
- 10.00am Confessions until 10.30am
- 12noon Angelus & Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
- 12.30pm Confessions until 1.00pm
- 6.55pm** Solemn Benediction
- 7.00pm** Closing Mass of the Forty Hours

