

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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Parish Priest - Reverend Father Seán G. Wyllie



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



St Mary's
Raploch Road
Larkhall, ML9 1AN

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE
17TH MAY 2026

DIGNITATIS HUMANAЕ

On the penultimate day of the Second Vatican Council, 7th December 1965, Pope Paul VI gave his official approval to the Council's declaration on religious freedom, *Dignitatis Humanae* (translated as *On the Dignity of the Human Person*). The brief document deals with the important topic of religious liberty. This came at a time when religious liberty and freedom was under fierce attack by Communist Russia which had spread its errors and persecution to other European countries.

The key paragraph of the document reads: "It is in accordance with their dignity that all men, because they are persons, that is, beings endowed with reason and free will and therefore bearing personal responsibility, are both impelled by their nature and bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth. They are also bound to adhere to the truth once they come to know it and direct their whole lives in accordance with the demands of truth. But men cannot satisfy this obligation in a way that is in keeping with their own nature unless they enjoy both psychological freedom and immunity from external coercion".

The notion of human dignity is often regarded as an invention of the modern mind, but it is actually derived from Christian tradition, which calls on all people to be received as children of God, without distinction between male and female, Jew or Greek, slave or free. The document is very clear that the fullness of truth is found only in the Catholic Church when it states: "It leaves untouched traditional Catholic doctrine on the moral duty of men and societies toward the true religion and toward the one Church of Christ".

Dignitatis Humanae played a pivotal role in the Catholic Church's stand as the world's premier institutional defender of basic human rights.

The document deals with the question of the relationship between Church and State. It emphasises the importance of religious freedom and the state's role in protecting it, reminding us of the Lord's words "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

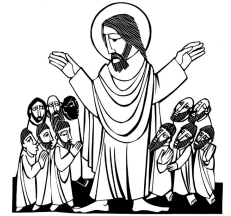
Sadly, this document is as relevant today as when it was written. In our own country we see freedom of religion and expression being stifled. The following words from *Dignitatis Humanae* can give us some courage and encouragement:

"In human society and in the face of Government the Church claims freedom for herself in her character as a spiritual authority, established by Christ the Lord, upon which there rests, by divine mandate, the duty of going out into the whole world and preaching the Gospel to every creature. The Church also claims freedom for herself in her character as a society of people who have the right to live in society in accordance with the precepts of the Christian faith... For the Church is, by the will of Christ, the teacher of the truth. It is her duty to give utterance to, and authoritatively to teach, that truth which is Christ himself, and also to declare and confirm by her authority those principles of the moral order which have their origin in human nature itself".



THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

Sunday 17th May (St Mary's 9.00am - 4.00pm; OLSJ 11.00am - 5.45pm)
10.00am Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass for the Seventh Sunday of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)



Monday 18th May (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 Seventh Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
12.25pm Novena in honour of St Peregrine (St Mary's)

Tuesday 19th May (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 Seventh Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)
9.55am Novena in honour of St Anthony (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 20th May (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 Seventh Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)
6.30pm Recitation of the Holy Rosary & May Devotions (Our Lady & St John's)
7.00pm Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 21st May (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 Holy Mass for Thursday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 22nd May (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 Friday of the Seventh Week of Eastertide (St Mary's)



Saturday 23rd May (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 Pentecost (St Mary's)

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Novena to the Holy Spirit is the most ancient nine days of prayer that we have in the Church. The apostles prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit after the Ascension of the Lord to Pentecost (nine days). This novena will be prayed at the conclusion of the Gospel at all Masses this week in preparation for Pentecost Sunday next weekend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS

Our parish stall has a selection of First Holy Communion cards available as well as many other cards for various occasions. Why not have a look after Mass today? Most cards are £1.00.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

The young people who were enrolled to receive their First Holy Communion in our parish received the Sacrament on 9th May (Blackwood) and 16th May (Larkhall). We congratulate the boys and girls who have prepared for this special moment by coming to Sunday Mass, working through their workbooks and learning more about the Holy Eucharist and its importance in the life of the Church and our own personal lives. Fr Wyllie would like to thank the parents/carers, teachers, school staff, families, prayer partners and parishioners who have supported our young people on this journey to their First Holy Communion.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

We need help to maintain the community garden from April - September. We appreciate everyone is busy, so in an effort to make this task more manageable, we are looking for people to take on responsibility for a small area. If anyone would like to help, there will be a 'map' at the back of the church. Please contact Vivien on greenferns1@hotmail.com with any questions.



PARISH FINANCES

Offertory Collection & Donations:	£900.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers:	£530.00
Stained Glass Collection:	£300.00
Digital Giving:	£187.00
	£1,917.00

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**

**BOOK
ONLINE**



PARISH FINANCE TEAM

The next meeting of the Parish Finance Team will take place on Tuesday 9th June at 2.30pm in the **Parish House**. Members of this team are: Fr Wyllie, Gerry McCaughey, Mary McDermott, Irene McGoldrick & Margaret Weir. Any points you'd like raised, please speak with one of them.

HALL TEAM MEETING

The Hall Team will meet on Wednesday 27th May after the 7.00pm Mass. The members of this team are: Fr Wyllie, Christine & Matt Dobbin, Fiona & John Gibney, John Higgins, Margaret Laird, Pauline Martin, Bob McDermott, Stevie Reilly, Vivien Stewart & June Walker.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to the parishioners who responded to the appeal to tidy up the parish grounds. Your time and energy is much appreciated. If you could help please speak with Stephen Fleming (Larkhall) or Bert Lynch (Blackwood).



PARISH FRIDAY DRINKS

The Parish Hall

EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.00pm - 9.00pm

Card Payments preferable



PARISH SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

Bar open from 12noon, Kick off 3.00pm

Tickets £5.00, includes Pies & Snacks Names on list



PARISH LUNCH CLUB

The Parish Hall

THURSDAY 28TH MAY

Mass at 12.30pm

Followed by lunch in the Parish Hall



PARISH LADIES DAY

The Parish Hall

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

12noon - 6.00pm

Includes the Abba tribute duo, prosecco Tea & Bar.

TICKETS - £20.00

Available by emailing: BlackwoodHallBookings@outlook.com



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK - Margaret Mitchell, Meg Finlayson, Cathy Caven, Sheila Coffield, Margaret McCormick, Marjory McMurray, Louise Gonnella, Faith Lindsay, Pat Whalin, Declan McDonald, Paul McMurray, Aaron Mulligan, Stephen Fleming, Marion Bryson, William Young, Andy McGarvey, Julia Brassington, Maureen Crank, Robbie Frew, George Murphy, Phyllis Fleming

RIP - Linda Callison (Burnbank)

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Mary Gallacher, Ignatius Keane, Danny Cunningham, John McMurray, Jane McMurray, Margaret & Hugh McCann, Bernard Smith Snr & Jnr), Mary Ellen Smith (McCafferty), John McPolland (Snr), Robert (Bobby) Smith, Anne & Alec Morton, Frank Smith, Frank & Annie McCaffrey, Helen & Robert Smith, Connor Smith, Eileen McLaughlin, John Mitchell

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Last Sunday we celebrated the baptism of Aoife after the 12noon Mass. We send our prayerful congratulations to her parents and godparents as they assist this child in her journey of faith as a child of God and an heir to everlasting salvation.

GIFTAID ENVELOPES

The current sets of Giftaid envelopes will run out in a few weeks time. The new sets will be available at the back of the church for those who contribute to the weekly collection through the Giftaid envelopes. Please pick up your set of envelopes over the next few weeks.

CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

A reminder that both our churches are open throughout the day for private prayer, reflection and to spend time with the Lord in silent prayer. St Mary's is open Monday - Friday from 9.00am until 4.00pm, on a Saturday 9.00am until after the Vigil Mass and then a Sunday from 9.00am until 4.00pm. Our Lady & St John's is open Monday - Friday from 8.00am until 4.00pm and on a Sunday from 11.00am until after the 5.00pm Mass.

COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

As Catholics we are commissioned to go out into the world and spread the Good News of Salvation in Christ. The Catholic Church in Scotland has a media office who helps with the spreading of the Gospel and propagation of the Catholic Faith on our behalf. A box will be available at the back of the church for those who wish to contribute to the work they do.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL MOBILES & DEVICES ARE SWITCHED TO SILENT IN CHURCH

OFFERINGS TO THE PARISH

We now have the digital giving machines up and running in both churches. This allows parishioners who do not carry cash to contribute to the collection, pay for candles and stall items through their bank card, apple pay or google pay. It's very simple to use. When you tap the screen you'll see several options (these options are: Offertory Collection; Building Fund; Votive Candles; Stall; Second Collection). You just tap the tab which you wish to make a contribution to and then select the amount, or you can enter the amount manually. Please double check the amount before you present you card or phone. If you are in the Giftaid scheme you can Giftaid your donations through the machine, you only have to enter your details once and the system will remember your information. If you have any issues or are unsure how to use the machines please don't hesitate to ask. We have a new QR Code for those who wish to donate to the parish through this means. You just scan the code with your phone camera open and then select the link which will appear beneath the code. Select the tab which you'd like to donate to (Offertory, Votives, Stall etc.) and then type in the amount. At the top of the payment screen you select Apple pay or Google pay and then follow the instructions.



TAP TO PAY

