

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT
27TH MARCH 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF LENT

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables - the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son - invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean - observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law - before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, he is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree producing no fruit.



Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterise the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

THIS WEEK IN OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Sunday 27th March

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fourth Sunday of the Season of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Vespers & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

Monday 28th March

11.30am	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
6.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 6.55pm
6.30pm	Confessions until 6.50pm
7.00pm	Holy Mass for Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Tuesday 29th March

8.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
9.00am	Stations of the Cross (Our Lady & St John's)
9.30am	Holy Mass for Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Wednesday 30th March

8.30am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
9.15am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9.55am (St Mary's)
9.20am	Confessions until 9.50am (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent (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 Third Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Thursday 31st March

8.30am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
12.30pm	Holy Mass for Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)

Friday 1st April

8.30am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)
9.30am	Stations of the Cross (St Mary's)
10.00am	Holy Mass for Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent (St Mary's)

Saturday 2nd April

	NO MORNING MASS
4.45pm	Confessions until 5.15pm (St Mary's)
5.30pm	Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday of the Season of Lent (St Mary's)

Sunday 3rd April

10.00am	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of the Season of Lent (St Mary's)
12noon	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of the Season of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the Fifth Sunday of the Season of Lent (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm	Vespers & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (St Mary's)

Fr Gerard Maguinness will celebrate the 5.30pm Mass and 10.00am Mass in St Mary's next weekend.

SCIAF COLLECTION THIS WEEK

This weekend at all our Masses we will take up a special collection for the work that SCIAF are undertaking on our behalf in Malawi. The country, already suffering from severe poverty are now faced with the consequences of climate change. Please give whatever you can to help the poor people of Malawi at Masses this weekend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Last Monday evening the P7 pupils from St John's & St Mary's Primary Schools received the Sacrament of Confirmation in a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Toal. The young people were a credit to their families, their schools and their parish. Fr Wyllie would like to thank the young people for their hard work and efforts in preparing for the Mass; to Mrs McCart, Mrs Colgan and all the staff of both schools who helped the children prepare so well for the occasion and for the parents and carers who presented their children for the Sacrament and for meeting with him to prepare for the Confirmations. Thank you too, to all those parishioners who were prayer partners.

THE CHRISM MASS

Each year the priests of the diocese come together in Motherwell Cathedral on Holy Thursday morning to renew their priestly vows on the day that the Lord established the Priesthood and the Holy Eucharist and to gather with the Bishop who blesses the Holy Oils which are used in the parishes for Baptism, Confirmation, Sacrament of the Sick and the Last Rites. It is a beautiful and moving Mass to which all the faithful are invited. It takes place on Thursday 14th April at 11.30am. Please consider coming along to this special Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

Collection & Donations:	£885.00
Standing Orders & Bank Transfers :	£100.00
Votive Candles:	£255.00
Stall:	£110.00
TOTAL:	£1,350.00

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to those who came along to our parish Consecration of Russia & Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday in union with the Pope and all the Bishops of the world. It was wonderful to have the church so full.

OUR LADY & ST JOHN'S CARPARK

On Tuesday of last week, we filled in some holes and cracks which have appeared over time in the carpark of Our Lady & St John's. This has been done with tar and bonded stone, and, rather than filling potholes, we have sealed larger areas to prevent the holes reappearing. It may not be the most visually pleasing but the red stone around the church will be covered with black tar in the next week or so. To sort the whole carpark at once would be very expensive but hopefully over time we will be able to sort it a bit at a time.

CHURCH BUILDING WORK

If any individual or group of parishioners intend on carrying out work to the fabric of the church buildings they must have Fr Wyllie's permission. It is not appropriate for parishioners to take these works on themselves without speaking with him, especially when these works are carried out on the fabric of the exterior or interior of the church building. St Mary's is a listed building and any works to the exterior or interior of the church have to be regulated and permission sought. Our Lady & St John's is sadly not listed but the same rule applies.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

Last week Fr Wyllie sent a letter to all the parents of the children who are due to make the Sacrament of First Holy Communion this May. There has been a great response from parents so far to arrange meetings to enrol their children. All parents and families with children to be presented for First Holy Communion will be asked to attend Mass on a Saturday evening or a Sunday. This seemed to work very well with the families of the young people making their Confirmation and First Confession. We pray and we hope that the Lord will work in their hearts to place great value on attending Sunday Mass and joining with the community in praising God.

SYNOD RESPONSES

Many thanks to those parishioners who came along to our final Synod meeting on Tuesday evening. The questionnaires are discussion points will now be collated and a report will be produced for the Diocese and also for Fr Wyllie and the Parish Pastoral Planning Team. **The deadline for all responses to be submitted to the parish is today**, so if you have a questionnaire which hasn't been completed please hand it in to either church today or post through either Chapel House letterbox for inclusion in our final report. The questionnaire is also online on the Parish Facebook page, so please submit it by the end of the day today. Many thanks to all who contributed.

AUCHLOCHAN LUNCH CLUB

The monthly Auchlochan Lunch Club will take place with Mass beginning at 12.30pm followed by food, light refreshments and entertainment in the Parish Hall afterwards. This is a way for the parish to reach out to the residents of Auchlochan but it is also open to all those parishioners who would like to come along. So, all are welcome!

EASTER VIGIL

On Holy Saturday we will receive the two ladies who have completed the RCIA programme, Gillian & Emily, into full communion with the Catholic Church, please continue to remember them in your prayers. At that same Mass we will also confirm three gentlemen, Helder, Paulo and Josè. Please keep them all in your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SICK - Adrienne McEnhill, Kathy Newbound, John Rosato, Ernie Girvan, Pat Whalin, Charles Kennedy (Florida), James Ferguson, Alice Cumming, Janet McIntosh, Annette Thomson, Kathleen Brannigan, Mandy Murray McVie, Kevin Feeney

RIP - Andy McGoldrick, Paul Donnachie (Lanark), Maureen Doherty (Airdrie), Tom McAnna

MONTHS MINDS & ANNIVERSARIES - Sarah Findon, Charles & Monica McCorry, Tommy & Jessie Wedlock, Frank McCorry, James & Catherine McLaren, Simon Cheresna

Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for on their anniversaries & months mind

MOTHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCES

On this Mother's Day we pray for those mothers who have been called out of this world:

Christina McCluskey, Catherine Deerin, Margaret Wyllie, Ellen Mullen, Betty McCabe, Letty Gonnella, Marion Houston, Margaret Girvan, Mary Maguire, Julia Morrison

God of Immeasurable Mercies, by your power, Jesus conquered death and ascended in glory. I entrust my mother into your care, in the name of Jesus Christ. As my mother has departed to live for eternity with you, I thank you for the memories I have. I thank you that she was made in your image and reflected your love. You are the Lord of all life, you brought my mother into existence and you have called her home to be with you. I pray that she will enjoy the fullness of your presence through all eternity. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

HOLY WEEK & SACRED TRIDUUM PROGRAMME

PALM SUNDAY

- 10.00am Holy Mass with blessing of palms (St Mary's)
12noon Holy Mass with blessing of palms (Our Lady & St John's)
5.00pm Holy Mass with blessing of palms (Our Lady & St John's)
6.30pm Vespers & Benediction (St Mary's)



THE SACRED TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY

- (Mass of Chrism in Motherwell Cathedral at 11.30am)
7.00pm **SOLEMN MASS OF THE LORD'S LAST SUPPER** (St Mary's)
Watching at the Altar of Repose from immediately after Mass
10.00pm Night Prayer of the Church (Church closes at 11.00pm)



GOOD FRIDAY

- 10.00am Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
12noon **Stations of the Cross** (Our Lady & St John's)
3.00pm **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION & DEATH OF THE LORD** (St Mary's)
7.00pm **Stations of the Cross** (St Mary's)



HOLY SATURDAY

- 10.00am Morning Prayer of the Church (St Mary's)
8.30pm **SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF THE RESURRECTION** (St Mary's)

EASTER SUNDAY

- 10.00am **SOLEMN MASS OF THE RESURRECTION** (St Mary's)
12noon **SOLEMN MASS OF THE RESURRECTION** (Our Lady & St John's)
NO EVENING MASS

PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO COME ALONG TO THE MASSES AND LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK, PARTICULARLY ON HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, HOLY SATURDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY.